



Decoding African Narratives:

A Longitudinal Corpus-Driven Critical Discourse Analysis of Diachronic Shifts in Irish Media Discourse

(September to December 1998, 2008, and 2018)

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Abstract

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Scholars from non-ethnic minority backgrounds primarily examine discourses surrounding the representation of immigrants in Western media, focusing on asylum seekers, International Protection Applicants (IPA), refugees, and discrimination. Concurrently, there is a notable absence of minority representation and authorship. This study addresses the gap in the literature by employing a blend of methods from Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis. The Discourse Historical Approach (Wodak 2001) and van Leeuwen's (1996) strategies of foregrounding and backgrounding analysed a self-compiled corpus dataset from *The Irish Independent* and *The Irish Times*, amounting to 3,923,355 words portraying Africans across selected periods from 1998 to 2018. The combined methods show the relationship between data triangulation, semantic prosody, and topoi argumentation analysis regarding the perpetuation of racialised power dynamics and the marginalisation of Africans in Irish media discourse. The researcher identified keywords, topoi, and themes that frequently engaged in the form of representational repression, characterised by the systematic exclusion, misrepresentation, and stereotyping of Africans. While these perspectives evolved over time, they remained consistent. Furthermore, although Irish newspapers tended to adopt more covert, negative, and exclusionary representations of Africans, *The Irish Times* demonstrated a greater bias in comparison to *The Independent*. Additionally, a new topos was identified, and a methodological synergy (Baker *et al.* 2008) was proposed based on manual collocation in corpora to uncover journalistic strategies. A public policy approach was suggested, emphasising how marginalised groups implement discursive practices to emancipate themselves and reduce discrimination. Implications and recommendations for future research are also included.

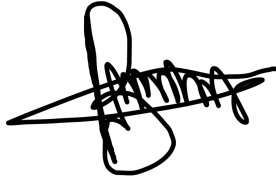
Keywords: African Narratives; Irish media Discourse; Critical Discourse Analysis; Corpus Linguistics; Ideology and Power; Diachronic Shifts.

Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted, in whole or part, by me or any other person to obtain any other qualification. All sources consulted have been appropriately identified and acknowledged, and I have adhered to the principles of academic integrity throughout the process.

Name: Lylian Fotabong

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lylian Fotabong', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 17 March 2025

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to anyone harmed by racism and those who helped me help
those harmed by racism.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction

To understand the othering of minority groups in Western societies, one must consider migration discourses and the role of the media. As societies become more multicultural due to migration, media portrayals of ethnic minorities and migrants are crucial for grasping public perceptions and attitudes. Therefore, this thesis will examine the representation of Africans in migration narratives, where the media serves as a primary source of information, influencing how wider society views migrants and ethnic minorities (Lecheler *et al.* 2019). This is because, historically, media portrayals have often reinforced stereotypes, inadequately represented ethnic minorities, and neglected to challenge prevailing biases (Murphy 1998). This has been extensively documented in scholarly works concerning the evolution of racial and ethnic stereotypes in media and popular culture, particularly focusing on the representation of African Americans in the mainstream media of the United States (Ramasubramanian *et al.* 2023). This has highlighted the need to analyse the representation of minority groups, particularly African individuals, in other countries.

Significantly, a part of discourse and migration studies is largely conducted by scholars from dominant groups (Blommaert & Bulcaen 2000; Brettell & Hollifield 2015; Hollifield & Foley 2023; Levy *et al.* 2020; Sprung 2020). This observation stresses the lack of diverse viewpoints on scholarships. It serves as a

call to action for more inclusive research practices that incorporate voices from various backgrounds, particularly those directly affected by these discourses. When scholars from dominant groups research minority populations without sufficient representation or input from marginalised communities, it can result in a disconnect and the silencing of voices. This happens because the scholarship of dominant groups may not fully comprehend the lived experiences of minority populations due to differing social, economic, and cultural contexts. Such a disconnect can prompt scholars from dominant groups to overlook critical aspects that are important to minority communities, misrepresent, oversimplify, or inadvertently reinforce stereotypes instead of challenging them (Shevlin and Rose 2022). Scholars from ethnic minority communities possess a deep understanding of the complexities surrounding topics related to them; thus, their research can offer unique perspectives shaped by their lived experiences. This authenticity is vital for understanding how media portrayals intersect with identity, self-perception, and societal attitudes towards various ethnic groups.

As a researcher examining the representation of Africans in Ireland, I frequently consider the wider implications of stereotypes and discrimination. The experiences of African individuals in Ireland resonate deeply with my background, especially regarding discrimination based on language (see more in section 1.7). This intersectionality between race and language shapes my understanding of the complications surrounding identity and belonging. It drives me to explore how these dynamics manifest within Irish society and contribute to broader narratives about race and representation. By scrutinising these issues, I

aim to shed light on the nuanced realities experienced by African communities in Ireland while also foregrounding the universal themes of discrimination that transcend borders.

Additionally, I seek to foster discussions centred on our shared humanity rather than on division. In doing so, we can establish spaces where meaningful conversations about race and representation can take place. White audiences need to acknowledge their privilege while also realising their role in advocating for change within media narratives. As will be shown in this thesis, discrimination against Africans in Ireland can be traced back to colonial legacies. The ideologies that justified colonisation — such as notions of racial superiority and cultural inferiority (Bateman 2020) — have not entirely disappeared. Instead, they have evolved into contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia that influence how Africans are perceived and treated within Irish society. This necessitates further academic enquiry. Therefore, it is essential for me to amplify and foreground voices that have historically been silenced and to challenge narratives that sustain inequality in Ireland.

In 2008, Carvalho argued that very few studies, particularly in the media, have incorporated historical backgrounds into their analyses. Moreover, in the context of racial discrimination against Africans, the focus is to highlight the ongoing issues on the African continent, which are not new (Chiamogu *et al.* 2012). For example, Nothias (2013) analysed the front-page article about Africa as a hopeless continent. The discourse was ridden with disease, debt, disaster, and

death. These findings are replicated in other studies (Połowska-Kimunguyi (2022); Bonilla-Silva (2021); Pointer (2021); Eberl *et al.* (2018); Brookes (1995) and many more. Critics may argue that some of this literature is outdated, noting that circumstances differ today and are not the same within the Irish context. This is arguably true; for example, in the early 2000s, Ireland witnessed the emergence of new EU countries (O'Brennan 2010). This increased Ireland's number of previously non-European Union members. Almost immediately, the issuance of work permits to South Africans was reduced. Simultaneously, the number of deportations of immigrants increased due to new government policies in other countries, notably Nigeria (Ruhs & Quinn 2009). Another example is the 2004 Birthright citizenship referendum. It legislated for the social exclusion of mainly non-White and non-European immigrants, including Africans. The Government argued that children of immigrant parents did not have sufficient connections to Ireland to take up Irish citizenship (Ní Mhurchú 2014). Most of the Irish population agreed and voted to deny the automatic entitlement to birthright citizenship in 2004 (Breen *et al.* 2006). This was a vote for sameness – a national identity perspective. Also, research by McGinnity *et al.* (2020; 2018; 2017; 2009; 2006), Michael (2015), NASC (2012) and O'Connell (2019; 2008), the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI 2018; 2008) repeatedly show that discrimination against Africans looking for jobs was persistent and far more severe than against other national-ethnic groups. That Africans were the most discriminated minority ethnic group in Ireland. Black non-Irish people face job market discrimination five times more than others. Black non-Irish people are

discriminated against at work twice as much as others. Discrimination worsened for Africans between 2004 and 2014, a period of significant change in Ireland marked by economic crisis, growth, recession, and recovery. These are merely a few events that emphasise the idea that racial discrimination against Africans continues to be a persistent issue with deep historical roots. As noted, the majority of these studies indicate that discrimination against Africans primarily focuses on economic, sociocultural, and political discourses, with minimal research carried out in other areas.

Fowler (1991) agrees that little research is conducted elsewhere, for example, the "linguistic dimension in current media studies" (pg.8). Interests in media studies have examined language and social media (Akayoğlu 2016), media language (Bell 1995), media linguistics (Perrin 2017), and media discourse (O'Keeffe 2011). In line with Fowler's (1991) thinking, what became immediately interesting to me was how powerful structures and elites, like the media, use language to discriminate against minority immigrant groups. This is despite Bell (1991) stressing the crucial role of the media and the responsibilities of journalists. Whereby, the media not only informs the public about current events but also shapes opinions, influences societal norms, and acts as a watchdog over power structures. This indicates that the media has a significant impact on democracy and public discourse. From great linguists like Fairclough (1995; 1992; 2001) to van Dijk (2016; 2003; 2001; 1993; 1991) to Ruth Wodak (2015; 2011; 2009; 2008; 2000; 2001; 1997) - these scholars have taught us that media discourse employs structures to frame minorities negatively and portray host communities

positively. These discourses are discursive and can influence public opinion and form identities. Simultaneously, literature does not sufficiently represent the voices of power dynamics and resistance - emancipatory discourses. According to Nartey (2022), these discourses provide strategies for challenging existing inequalities and oppressive systems. Therefore, it was relevant for this thesis to address the issues critically.

In 2008, Baker and his colleagues at Lancaster described discursive practices as a form of discourse that generates numerous differing ideologies, suggesting that language is not neutral. Meanwhile, during an online event on Corpus Linguistics and Applied Linguistics research in 2022 and referencing Burr from 1995, Taylor (2022) argued that discursive representations involve multiple perspectives of discourse depending on who is analysing it and from what perspective. Each discourse brings different aspects into focus—one of many possible representations that have real-world implications. Bednarek (2006) presents a critical perspective, asserting that there is inadequate recognition of how linguistic practices function within media narratives or among those in positions of power. This highlights a gap in understanding how language influences representation, particularly for marginalised groups such as Africans. This aligns with the movement of Critical Discourse Analysis, or CDA for short. According to van Dijk (1991), CDA seeks to challenge the dominant and powerful elites who perpetuate social injustices. It "concerns the relations of power and inequality in language" (Blommaert and Bulcaen 2000 p.447). When I consider Ruth Wodak's perspective on CDA (Wodak and Meyer 2001; 2016), it seems reasonable that,

instead of concentrating solely on academic issues, CDA should address existing social problems from the viewpoints of society's most disadvantaged members. This perspective crucially requires that those most affected by social issues such as poverty, lack of access to education, healthcare disparities, and other forms of disadvantage have their voices heard and their needs prioritised in the decision-making processes.

Nonetheless, I remain cautious about the idea that marginalised individuals should solely hold the powerful accountable or resolve the issue. Marginalised groups and scholars ought to emphasise the emancipatory methods they use to reconstruct their identities. Nartey (2022) concurs, arguing that scholars are progressing towards a deeper understanding of emancipatory approaches employed by disadvantaged groups, shifting from a problem-oriented perspective to a solution-focused approach. In doing so, it "demonstrates why CDA must not only expose and resist inequalities and injustices in society but, more crucially, also adopt an activist-scholar posture to advocate for positive social change" (pp. 459–464). This also aligns with Wodak's (2001) perspective of CDA as shown in van Dijk (1986): "prevailing social problems and thereby chooses the perspective of those who suffer most, and critically analyses those in power, those who are responsible, and those who have the means and the opportunity to solve such problems. (p.4). This is also my fundamental belief.

As empirical evidence is crucial for establishing facts, personal experiences play a significant role in understanding complex social phenomena since these

discursive representations implicate them most. This is a holistic approach, and to achieve it, my broader perspective is to decolonise research, commit to co-creating knowledge with disadvantaged communities and empower future generations through academic activism. This is alongside the necessity for effective solutions to address the issues through a methodological synergy of Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis.

My thesis is neither intended to celebrate Irish media for its coverage of immigrants, including Africans nor to criticise it for its pejorative portrayals of Africans. It investigates conflicting research interests, containing both positive and negative aspects of media presentation, and examines how representation and educational approaches inform society about language use. The aim is to demonstrate that emancipatory efforts by marginalised groups can aid in reconstructing their identity while aligning with the fundamental objective of CDA, as outlined in section 1.2. As previously demonstrated (Ramasubramanian *et al.* 2023), topics concerning immigrants are well-documented as polarising and contentious, often making news headlines (Agovino *et al.* 2022). This viewpoint remains accurate today, particularly with greater access to various media, including newspapers, television, websites, and social media (Deacon *et al.* 2024). In this multifaceted context, the use of language and the portrayal of groups significantly influence public perception (Mykhailiuk & Pohlod 2015). This is because "as individuals, we are all influenced; our opinions are shaped, reinforced, and altered by our exposure to the media" (Maccaro 2002, p.1 as cited in O'Keeffe 2006). In other words, the linguistic features employed to represent

immigrants contribute to the public's perception of this group and assist audiences in building a relationship with them, whether consciously or not. For this reason, my study aims to emancipate and empower future generations through academic activism.

This thesis is situated within a period that shows a notable increase in the number of Africans in Ireland from 20,981 in 2002 to 67,546 in 2022 (CSO 2022). The data emphasises that, in just two decades, the number of Africans migrating to Ireland has more than tripled. This expansion signifies a considerable demographic shift within Ireland. On this basis, this thesis is (a) conducted and analysed by a CL and CDA researcher from a minority background, (b) examining how research on marginalised groups can serve as sites for the construction and legitimisation of national identity, (c) exploring how the portrayal of Africans illustrates the discourse of difference between majority and minority groups, (d) the first study featuring a specialised corpus comprising authentic texts about Africans in selected Irish newspapers over a period of time, highlighting how news writers use language discursively to discriminate, thus contributing to the status of Africans as the most discriminated group in Ireland, and finally, (e) how elite groups actively and frequently perpetuate injustices and unequal power structures within a society like Ireland.

Given that discourse is vital for identifying and understanding the power dynamics and societal disruptions present in various contexts (van Dijk 1995), it is essential to examine racism directed at specific minority groups who face direct

discrimination. This issue must be explored from the viewpoint of scholars who belong to these minority communities. Recognising the significance of diverse scholarly perspectives, particularly from members of minority groups, is needed for a comprehensive analysis of racism and its impact on society. Thus, it is crucial to outline two key points from the outset. First, this thesis acts as a form of social action and is examined comprehensively from an academic activist perspective. In doing so, it highlights patterns of discursive practices during specific periods. It employs combined methods to analyse the coded language of racism, discriminatory intent, and negative portrayals of Africans in selected Irish newspapers to generate knowledge about societal issues and promote social and public reform. Secondly, it is important to examine how language functions to uphold power structures. This examination can assist scholars and members of specific host communities in investigating issues related to diversity, inclusion, and discrimination, such as the benefits of language proficiency in society (Stanat & Edele 2016). Language proficiency enhances effective communication and social integration, fostering cultural understanding within diverse communities (Mouboua *et al.* 2024). Although language proficiency is not the focus of this study, certain identified events (see section 1.2 below) exemplify the interconnectedness between studying language and understanding it within a foreign environment. These discourses will be situated against the backdrop of a transforming Ireland before transitioning into a more detailed investigation of language use in the media.

In conclusion, my journey as a Black woman arriving in Ireland has been marked by both tests and triumphs. By exploring African representation in Irish media, I aim to foster greater understanding among diverse audiences and encourage curiosity rather than defensiveness. I invite questions while sharing personal narratives that illustrate broader societal issues. Pursuing inclusivity in media and all areas of society will ensure that every voice is heard and valued.

1.2 Language as an Agent for Change

In 2017, the Irish Minister of State for Equality and Immigration and Integration, David Stanton, launched a report on Language and Migration in Ireland by the Irish Research Council (IRC). During the event, he said that while language research can help to foster the inclusion of all people, immigrants need to understand and speak the language because it is a vital part of integration and a way for immigrants to "reap the benefits of living in Ireland" (Stanton quoted in Immigrant Council of Ireland – ICI, 2017). Editor Kim Bielenberg echoes the same sentiment in *The Irish Independent (Independent)*. She argues that non-native and non-fluent English-speaking migrants need to learn English because this is fundamental in integration (*Independent.ie* 2017). Before then, in an opinion piece in 2008, former Irish politician, Minister of State, senator and member of the European Parliament (MEP), Brian Hayes, made a call in *The Irish Times (Times)* that immigrant children must understand the language before enrolling in mainstream classes so that they 'can get the most from the system' (para 3). These two examples indicate that while examining language can reveal social structures and challenge oppressive systems, the capability of immigrants

to understand and speak English is also a growing discourse within socio-political discussions in Ireland. The discourses illustrate that if migrants understand the host's language, they can break down barriers that prevent them from accessing resources, services, and opportunities in education, healthcare, and the workforce where diverse communities feel valued, heard, and supported, and reduce welfare dependency (Hoesch 2023). Thus, language is an agent for action, and failure by an immigrant to understand the host society's language can lead to problems, including exclusion from groups, lack of power, media visibility, and social equality. Over time, such challenges can evolve into the perception of the other or 'them'. It can also alter the relationship between an immigrant's ability to speak the host's language and their sense of belonging. It then becomes a responsibility for migrants to learn the dominant language, which can either reinforce existing hierarchies and foster migrant marginalisation or enable migrants to engage with societal narratives that may empower them. This fundamental relationship between language and societal contexts can enrich the study of how language shapes identities and influences social attitudes, such as those in the changing Republic of Ireland (also known as Ireland).

1.3 The Changing Ireland: Language Interaction in the Media

Migration discourses hold importance and are newsworthy in Western societies, as they oscillate between perceiving immigrants as threats or as contributors to society. According to O'Connor (2018), Ireland has evolved into a multicultural and 'multilingual' society. This transformation followed a buoyant economy in the 1990s, which attracted successive 'waves' of inward migration that have

persisted in recent years (Fanning 2015; Éinrí & White 2008). To this end, researchers and the media are unravelling a range of discourses, one of them being how immigrants and minority groups are portrayed in the media (Bleich *et al.* 2015; Conzo *et al.* 2021; Kumar and Hooda 2024). Some scholars propose that the visibility of immigrants in the print media (in Ireland) is characterised by sensational language (Pollack 1999; Ging & Malcolm 2004; Devereux *et al.* 2006). Others argue that "overall, a broad range of discourses from the Irish press links illegal immigration to numerous forms of danger" (Burroughs 2015, p.178), indicating that such discourses are not isolated but form part of a larger narrative of Ireland. The significance of the media in shaping these narratives is evident. They play a crucial role in influencing public perceptions of immigration through their depictions of immigrants.

In reporting on immigration and immigrants, newspaper writers reflect and reinforce their ideologies through their linguistic choices, particularly given the "discursive" (Dijk 1991, p.23) nature of news reporting and the "signifying power" (Fairclough 1995, p.2) that they possess. Journalists exploit this multi-layered interaction of language, context, and social practices to construct implicit messages which create 'us' and 'them' identities. These linguistic choices can reveal an ideology that much of the public accepts, resulting in imperial and disproportionate consequences to power and societal relations. Gradually, the ideologies can change, and newspaper writers adjust. The awareness of the power of language is what "contributes to the domination of some people by others" (Fairclough 2001, p.193). This suggests that newspaper writers employ language that carries implications not just semantically but also grounded in more sinister

ideological frameworks. It directly affects how minority groups are viewed and treated within society.

1.4 Research Aims

In line with the thinking that language is "action, socially shaped, and socially shaping" (Fairclough 1995, pp.54-55), The overarching aim of this thesis is to investigate how the *Independent* and *Times* newspapers, in covering news from September to December in 1998, 2008, and 2018, employed discursive strategies that reflected their underlying beliefs and ideologies about Africans. This primary aim comprises five interrelated objectives.

Firstly, this thesis aims to demonstrate that uncovering power dynamics and ideologies embedded in language can contribute to creating a world free from discrimination based on "sex, colour, creed, age or social class" (Caldas-Coulthard and Coulthard 1996, p.xi). Accordingly, this thesis will investigate representation, a term commonly used in discourse (van Dijk 2002), which often foregrounds certain events, people and opinions over others (Baker *et al.* 2023). The study will track how textual patterns transform and adapt to changing historical and cultural processes and socio-political landscapes. The chosen periods provide significant insights into trends of migration. For example, immigration to Ireland was relatively minimal before the 1990s because a fall in the economy saw an upsurge in emigration in the late 1980s (Éinrí & White 2008, pp.152–154). From the 1990s, the economic progress resulted in many changes in Ireland, including a decline in emigration and an increase in net immigration in which many Irish emigrants and their children returned home. Also, before

1998, work permit applications were fewer than 5,000 per year. After that, the number of applicants rose steadily (Éinri and White 2009). The emerging immigration trends and changing demographics in Ireland (Ruhs and Quinn 2009) rendered it intriguing to start this study in 1998. Also, the rapid economic growth, popularly known as the Celtic Tiger (Luibhéid 2013), transformed Ireland between 1994 and 2008 (McAleese 2000; Laurencich 2023). Ireland went from a nation drained by centuries of emigration to one sought by immigrants. However, a reversal occurred in the late 2000s following the global financial crisis. According to Fanning & Munck (2016), this period witnessed high unemployment among Irish and immigrant workers and increased outward migration. Ireland grappled with the effects of the global financial crisis, which began in 2007 and worsened in 2008. This crisis prompted a reassessment of immigration policies and attitudes towards immigrants, particularly those from African nations. These socio-political and economic factors rendered the period from September to December 2008 a significant time to examine how minority groups (specifically Africans) were portrayed in Irish media and public discourse. The findings can offer insights into broader societal attitudes towards race and immigration. Recently, Ireland has experienced significant demographic changes, particularly regarding its ethnic composition. By 2019, the population of 'White Irish' individuals was reported to be around 210,000, while those from other ethnic groups reached approximately 250,000. When compared to 2011, data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO.ie 2011 & 2019) indicated that a total of 17% of the population was born outside Ireland. The 2019 data reflect the highest recorded population growth in Ireland among individuals who are not

White Irish and highlight an increasing trend in diversity. In addition, in December 2018, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination assessed Ireland's adherence to international norms regarding racial discrimination (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission 2019). The review underlined issues such as racial profiling, hate speech, and discrimination against ethnic minorities, including individuals of African descent, across various sectors, including health, education, and employment. By examining these dynamics in contemporary Irish society, systemic barriers that impede integration and social cohesion were identified. These changes help to make these periods suitable for a diachronic paper.

Secondly, this thesis examines newspaper writers' linguistic choices, focusing on how contexts and implicit biases influence audience perceptions of reality, social constructs, and portrayals of Africans. Bednarek (2006) argues that although there is a wealth of research about the media in general, much of it is either "non-linguistic or of a limited scope" (p.5) and offers little in terms of a systematic analysis of media language. Also, given that media messages in their communicative context provide versions of reality influenced by the decision-making processes of media producers and the technical constraints of the medium (Bennet *et al.* 2006), a study of discursiveness in language use, on the one hand, will reveal a collective 'ingroup' identity that is predicated on an 'outgroup' bias. To date, earlier literature has not focused on the discursive media representation of Africans, despite the existing studies on discursive strategies in discourses surrounding racism and discrimination against minority groups (van Dijk 1992; Wodak & Reisigl 1999; Dasli 2014; Whitehead 2017; Krzyżanowski

2020; Gebhard *et al.* 2022). That is to ask, how are persons, objects, phenomena/events, processes, and actions of people who experience systemic disadvantages named and referred to linguistically? What characteristics, qualities, and features are attributed to social actors, objects, phenomena/events, and processes? What arguments are employed in the discourse in question? (Reisigl & Wodak 2001).

Thirdly, this thesis challenges traditional assumptions of the objectivity of newspaper writing by studying how ideological influences manifest in news reporting. According to Cotter (2010), journalists must obey impartiality "as a matter of course, rules of communicative practice that are taught explicitly in the classroom and the newsroom and reinforced implicitly through daily doing" (p.23). This adherence is intensified by the fact that media representation functions as a backdrop to our social lives. It shapes our individual and collective imaginations in consequential ways, yet "we take them largely for granted" (Orgad 2012, Preface). By challenging the notion of objectivity in news reporting, this thesis advocates for journalists to acknowledge their biases and strive for responsible and transparent journalism instead. This raises the important issue of impartiality, which embodies the balance and objectivity of news. Wahl-Jorgensen *et al.* (2016) regard impartiality as the cornerstone of public service broadcasting principles. To assess impartiality, Cushion *et al.* (2016) carried out a comprehensive investigation into whether broadcasters reported stories favoured by left- or right-leaning newspapers during the 2015 General Election campaign in the United Kingdom (UK). More broadly, the study evaluated whether editorial decision-making was influenced by news values—criteria that

journalists employ to prioritise one story over another in specific newspapers. Borrowing from Mazor (2018), this thesis views impartiality as news articles that are devoid of racism, sexism, and bias against religious, national, or ethnic groups. They should avoid explicit editorialising and remain unswayed by indebtedness to specific parties involved in the story.

Fourthly, this study aims to present evidence on how newspaper language shapes Africans' representation in Ireland, extending beyond simply mirroring realities. As Bennet *et al.* (2006) assert, representation is an integral part of all human communication - news stories can convey ideas, beliefs, and values through language to positively shape the public's perception and promote inclusivity or negatively and perpetuate stereotypes. Heritage and Taylor (2024) support this view, asserting that representation is tied to (in)explicit language to influence groups, perceptions, etc. Underscoring the importance of representation, this study was the first linguistic work to examine the portrayal of Africans using corpus in the Irish context. It examined if there were similarities/differences or (un)equal representations of Africans in two different newspapers. Also, the thesis explored and compared how this representation changed over time in the selected newspapers, shaping audiences' worldviews and including or excluding social actors. Whereby social actors may be a group, community, or nation that shares identities, be they physical, social, or religious, with each other (Machin & van Leeuwen 2005) and constructs them through language as included or excluded groups to present a one-sided reality (van Leeuwen 1996). According to van Dijk (2017), excluding certain social actors in discourse is seldom an innocent

and unintended omission but premeditated to marginalise, dominate, or create fear and discursively influence the notion of collective identity.

Finally, to advocate for the recognition and validation of research conducted by non-dominant and non-White analysis of discriminatory discourses targeting ethnic-minority groups, this thesis aims to integrate methods in CL and CDA approach to language use. This integration of methods builds on previous literature concerning how the daily press is like "most other institutions in White society that portray ethnic and racial minority groups as negative or stereotypical" (Dijk 1991, p.ix). Thus, this thesis will present evidence within the broader contexts of historical, political, and socio-cultural changes. The analyses will illustrate an interconnective relationship between the media and societal structures and institutions, such as the government. The effects of this relationship can, on the one hand, provide the media with the power to frame narratives and shape public discourse. On the other hand, institutions can rely on the media to disseminate their messages and reach their desired audience. Some key events that illustrate this type of relationship and are featured in this thesis include changes to the Irish constitution, migration issues, and safety concerns, primarily arising from political instability in foreign countries and the global financial system.

1.5 Research Objectives

This thesis combines methods from Corpus Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine the discursive representation of Africans in two Irish newspapers over selected periods of 30 years. This objective will be

achieved by (1) investigating and critically comparing patterns of frequency regarding the representation of news coverage of African issues in the *Independent* and the *Times*, (2) uncovering the newspapers' ideologies by analysing their linguistic choices that carry implicit implications not always apparent to readers, and (3) in line with diachronic analysis, ascertaining whether language or constructions vary over a three-decade period, thus contributing to the legitimisation of dominant discourses related to marginalised groups.

1.6 Research Problem

The significance and relevance became evident in addressing and clarifying the issues that instigated this thesis. Prior studies and occurrences show that discrimination against Africans takes place beyond the media. For example, Michael (2015), NASC (2012), O'Connell (2019), and O'Connell & Kelly (2013) find that between 2004 and 2010, discrimination against African job seekers was persistent and far more severe than with other national-ethnic groups. Similarly, in 2018, McGinnity *et al.* found that Black non-Irish people were discriminated against at work twice as much as others and that between 2004 and 2014, discrimination worsened for Africans. This period featured numerous transformations; for instance, the economy fluctuated from periods of economic growth to recession and, subsequently, to recovery. McGinnity and his colleagues called for a detailed investigation into the discrimination suffered by African migrants.

Meanwhile, in 2008, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI) found that Black non-Irish people

faced job market discrimination five times more than other ethnic groups. Long before that, in 2004, the Birthright citizenship referendum indicated and legislated for the social exclusion of non-European immigrants, including Africans. The Government argued that children of migrant parents did not have sufficient connections to Ireland to take up Irish citizenship. A 2004 referendum agreed on this, and most of the population voted to deny the automatic entitlement to birthright citizenship. The vote took effect on January 1, 2005, and was the 27th amendment to the Irish constitution (Ní Mhurchú 2014).

The events cited above illustrate aspects of discrimination against Africans, Africa, and Blacks (and other immigrants), which are mainly found in economic, socio-cultural, and political discourses. There needs to be more research elsewhere. As cited above, Fowler (1991) opines that a lot remains unrepresented in media reports of immigrants, and the media – print - have a crucial responsibility to "unambiguously" (para. 1), fairly and truthfully represent what they present or write about. Meanwhile, Bell (1991) argues that journalists are professionals whose daily occupation is to produce news language since media language contributes to different disciplines. This means that the intersection of journalism with academic disciplines has focused chiefly on migrant or disadvantaged groups and dominant discourses (Sprung 2020), leaving gaps in other fields. This thesis combined tools from academic, professional, and personal life experiences to identify additional areas, such as the study of specific marginalised groups.

In writing this thesis, I reflected on my lived experiences. I am a trained journalist in radio and newspapers, and I realised that in my previous roles, I focused primarily on fulfilling my job responsibilities. However, when I embarked on my PhD study in Applied Linguistics, I enhanced my proficiency and acquired skills in designing and analysing corpora, investigating language use, and considering the implications of my work and contributions to society. Consequently, I examined language use with the recognition that historically, most critical discourse analysis (Discourse Historical Analysis) studies have focused on dominant discourses, particularly investigating how ideology in discourse functions to produce and reproduce unequal power structures, as well as to exclude and discriminate against groups in society (Wodak 2011; van Dijk 1991). It was also evident that most literature overlooks emancipatory discourses, which include the perspectives of disadvantaged groups and discourses that emphasise ways to resist unequal power dynamics (Nartey 2022).

Following the above, this thesis focuses on two key areas supported by available and applicable literature. The first concerns a comprehensive analysis of the portrayal of a specific immigrant group in the media. The second considers studies conducted by individuals with lived experiences from marginalised backgrounds investigating discourses of discrimination and resistance practices of emancipation to challenge unequal power structures effectively. These areas stress the significance of addressing discriminatory practices across various sectors while foregrounding (1) the critical influence of the media in shaping public perceptions about Africans and migrant groups and (2) decolonising

research methodologies as a commitment to co-create knowledge with disadvantaged communities.

1.7 Personal Motivation

As a researcher investigating the representation of Africans in Ireland, I find myself contemplating the wider implications of stereotypes and discrimination. The experiences of African individuals in Ireland resonate deeply with my background, particularly regarding the discrimination faced by English-speaking individuals in my home country, where French speakers are the majority. This personal connection serves as a powerful motivator for my research.

As an African with Irish nationality, I possess first-hand experiences and insights into the migration and representation of Africans in Ireland. I arrived in Ireland over 22 years ago as a Black woman with journalistic experience, and my journey has been filled with both challenges and opportunities. The transition from my home country to this new environment was not merely a geographical move; it involved an emotional and cultural shift that required me to navigate complex social dynamics. I draw upon my lived experiences to contextualise the representation of Africans in Irish media for a predominantly White audience. When I arrived in Ireland, one of the first things that struck me was the reminders of the discrimination in my home country, Cameroon. According to the 2023 statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO), approximately 28 million people reside in Cameroon. Of this total, roughly 7.5 million are English-speaking. This group faces marginalisation due to their first official language,

which was introduced during colonisation (Anchimbe 2018). Often called 'Africa in miniature', Cameroon encapsulates the continent's rich diversity, showcasing a variety of cultures, languages, and landscapes. It is also renowned as the 'home of football's finest' due to its fervent engagement with the sport and considerable contributions to international football. Furthermore, it is termed the 'basket of Africa' because of its agricultural richness and diverse produce (Tchawa 2012). Despite its vibrant identity, Cameroon confronts significant challenges related to discrimination. This discrimination manifests in various forms, including ethnic, linguistic, and social disparities. If one identifies as an English-speaking native Cameroonian (as I do), one is subjected to pervasive structures of discrimination (Ndeffo & Niekou, 2023). The individual is marginalised in nearly every aspect, from media representation to employment opportunities, education, and resources. In simple terms, one may feel insignificant, and their life can either be at risk or come to an end (Amnesty International 2024). This was my first encounter with discrimination. These insights highlight not only the demographic aspects but also the importance of recognising the diverse cultural identities within African nations.

I arrived in Ireland—the Emerald Isle, a country renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, significant contributions to literature and sport, and warm hospitality (Holfter & Migge 2019). It is no mere coincidence that I settled in Limerick; I was destined to call the 'Treaty County' (de Ginkel 2005, 2010) home due to my affinity for the city's profound history. This is one of the Irish locations where enslaved Black individuals and Africans have been

present since the 18th century. In 2000, Rodgers argues that as far back as the 18th century, Limerick City, alongside Dublin and Waterford, was one of the few places where a small number of enslaved Black people and Africans were brought. This indicates historical significance tied to Limerick's role in the context of slavery. Although there is no evidence to suggest that Ireland was involved in the transatlantic slave trade or colonisation, Ejoh (2007) contends that European colonisation of African nations in the 19th century facilitated the Irish expansion of church missions to 'civilise' Africans. Missionary enthusiasm stemmed from a belief in the superiority of European civilisation (Stanley 1983). Irish missionaries participated in this narrative, framing their efforts as compassionate and kind (Bateman 2020). However, this often led to the imposition of foreign values and systems upon African societies. The historiographical academic writing concerning Ireland's role in the Black Atlantic (Rodgers 2016) illustrates that this facet of history must not be overlooked. It should not be forgotten simply because Ireland did not colonise any territories. This history is crucial for understanding how colonial attitudes persist in contemporary society.

The beauty of Ireland is undeniable, yet, as a Black woman, I often felt like an outsider. The lack of visible diversity in many areas, including the media, emphasised that my presence was not commonly encountered. This initial feeling of alienation was further compounded by moments when I faced microaggressions or outright obliviousness regarding my background and identity. Culturally, I had to adapt to significant differences. In conversations, I discovered that many individuals were unaware of the intricacies surrounding

race and identity in Africa (Adhikari 2009). This lack of understanding occasionally led to awkward interactions in which stereotypes were inadvertently reinforced.

The parallels between these two contexts fuel my passion for this research. In my home country, English-speaking individuals have historically been marginalised due to their linguistic minority status. This discrimination has given me a profound understanding of how language and culture can influence one's identity and social standing, while also offering me a distinctive perspective through which to perceive the challenges faced by Africans in Ireland. Just as English speakers have had to navigate a landscape shaped by majority language dominance and cultural hegemony, so too do Africans contend with a societal framework that often overlooks their contributions and identities. These similarities emphasise the importance of representation—how visibility within society can impact self-perception and community cohesion. I recognise the responsibility that comes with storytelling and view these moments as opportunities for education and dialogue. Therefore, it is essential for me to amplify and foreground voices that have been historically silenced and to challenge narratives that perpetuate inequality in Ireland.

When discussing African representation in Irish media, the impact of the media on either reinforcing stereotypes or providing nuanced portrayals of diverse communities is given considerable attention. Also, it is well-documented that issues pertaining to immigrants and immigration are polarising and contentious,

frequently making news headlines (Agovino *et al.* 2022). This perspective remains pertinent today with greater access to diverse media, including newspapers, television, websites, and social media (Deacon *et al.* 2024). Mass media have been criticised for constructing the idea of the 'other'. According to Ross (2019), "Mass media have a huge reach in society and serve as a key filter through which people learn about one another. Yet, countless studies demonstrate that these media continue to reproduce ethnic and racial stereotypes, often with harmful effects" (p. i). Consequently, scholars have advocated for the media to become enablers rather than mere preservers of cultural diversity (Fürsich 2010). This shift can prevent the dangers of a singular narrative or perspective dominating public perception about a person, group, or culture. To illustrate this point, Chimamanda (TED Talk 2009) argues that "the single story creates stereotypes, and the issue with stereotypes is not that they are untrue but that they are incomplete. They make one story the only story." This highlights the significance of avoiding a dominant and partial understanding of reality, which can perpetuate misconceptions and bias. My experiences have shown that when African stories are told authentically, they can foster empathy and understanding among audiences who may not have direct exposure to these realities. As a journalist, I am acutely aware of the responsibility that accompanies storytelling. Media outlets in Ireland must include voices from the African community—not merely as subjects but as storytellers themselves. This inclusion can help dismantle stereotypes and promote a more accurate representation of our experiences. Furthermore, by framing discussions around shared humanity rather than division, we can create spaces where meaningful

conversations about race and representation can occur. White audiences need to acknowledge their privilege while also understanding their role in advocating for change within media narratives.

My thesis neither celebrates Irish media for its coverage of immigrants, including Africans nor criticises it for its negative portrayals of Africans. Instead, my paper challenges the prevailing discourse regarding African representation in the media, characterised by a series of stereotypes and negative narratives that perpetuate a distorted understanding of Africa and Africans. This discourse often emphasises themes of helplessness, dependency, and suffering, which are common in news reporting and other media representations. Therefore, I investigated conflicting research interests, the positive and negative aspects of media presentation, and how representation and educational approaches inform society about language use. This demonstrates that the emancipatory efforts of marginalised groups can aid in reconstructing their identity while aligning with the fundamental objectives of CDA, as outlined in section 3.3. In this complex context, the use of language and portrayal of groups significantly influence public perception (Mykhailiuk & Pohlod 2015). This is because "as individuals, we are all influenced; our opinions shaped, reinforced, and altered by our exposure to the media" (Maccaro 2002, p.1 as cited in O'Keeffe 2006). In other words, the linguistic features used to represent immigrants contribute to the public's understanding of this group and assist audiences in forging a connection with them, whether consciously or not. Consequently, my study aims to emancipate and empower future generations through academic activism.

In conclusion, my journey as a Black woman arriving in Ireland has been characterised by both tests and triumphs. By sharing my lived experiences in the context of African representation in Irish media, I aim to foster greater understanding among diverse audiences, encourage curiosity rather than defensiveness, and invite questions while sharing personal anecdotes that illustrate broader societal issues. I hope that this thesis can help us strive for inclusivity—not only within media but across all aspects of society—to ensure that every voice is heard and valued.

1.8 Research Questions

Three overarching hypotheses framed and backed the research questions. Hypothesis one (H1) suggested that the corroboration of quantitative evidence of the presence of Africans in Irish society (CSO 2002, 2006, 2011, 2018, and 2022) would lead to actual coverage of African-related issues in the selected media under study. In this context, frequency pertains to the regularity with which news stories about Africans are reported or covered in the INC within a specific timeframe.

In H2, the following suggestions were made: (a) both newspapers were recognised as credible sources of global news coverage, including migration issues (Burroughs 2015), and (b) Ireland's extensive history of migration and emigration due to factors such as the Great Famine in the mid-19th century when millions of Irish people left in search of greener pastures abroad (Kennedy &

MacRaild 2022). These make the Irish News Corpus (INC), the title chosen for the final corpus employed in the quantitative and qualitative analyses of this study, aimed at (a) highlighting words and phrases that circumvent stereotypes and exclusion in the portrayal of migrant groups in Ireland, such as Africans. and (b) opting for language that forges a connection with lived experiences, providing more relatable news coverage, and exhibit resilience, diversity, humanity, and the positive contributions made by Africans to society - positive representation with 'ingroup' discursive elements about Africans.

In H3, it was possible to hypothesise that, due to the desire to prioritise economic growth and market-oriented solutions (O'Regan & Riordan 2018; see Section 3.8 for further details), to emphasise the interests and opinions of the public over those of migrants, and to establish a cautious approach to social change, the *Independent* might adopt a linguistic ideology that excludes Africans. Conversely, being regarded as the newspaper of record for Ireland and liberal (O'Brien 2008), one could suggest that the *Times* would make linguistic choices that tended to be more sensitive to issues of diversity, implicitly portraying 'us' more than 'them', avoiding stereotypes, discrimination, or polarisation, and foregrounding diverse voices in news stories, including those of Africans, while also engaging in comprehensive, accurate, and *Independent* representation. This overarching hypothesis included two sub-hypotheses designed to address different facets of the research questions and provide deeper insights into the study's objectives. Sub-H1 proposed that influenced by various factors such as history and the legacy of colonialism; the INC would portray Africans in a more negative light and utilise more 'othering' strategies. Sub-H2 maintained that by recognising the media's

power to influence opinions and the strengths of the chosen methodologies, the likelihood of accurate answers is considerable.

As a result, the general research problem was analysed using relevant analytical tools and literature, confirming that Africans represent one of many minority groups in Ireland. For instance, in 2016, the total number of people with Black or Black Irish African ethnic backgrounds in Ireland was 57,850 out of a total population of 4.755 million (CSO 2016). This indicates that Africans are part of a multicultural and diverse Irish society, supporting the expectation that a proportion of newspaper articles would address African issues. The analytical tool employed for the questions was the Sketch Engine (*SkE*) software package (Kilgarrieff *et al.* 2004). This is "a computer programme used to access and sort data from the corpus" (Bennett 2010). Among its many uses, *SkE* was used in this thesis to generate frequency wordlists based on the number of occurrences. The outcome provided a useful indication of grammatical items that warranted further investigation (Bambrook 1996). According to Vessey (2015), identifying words of both high and low frequencies, along with the frequency of linguistic patterns, can reveal language ideology in corpora. A wordlist function, for example, can "indicate the prominence of certain topics and ways of discussing them" (Vessey 2015, p.282).

Based on these hypotheses, this thesis presented two overarching research questions that resulted in quantitative (CL) and qualitative (CDA) answers. It also addressed how the current study used a synergy of methods in CL and CDA to effectively disclose power abuse and social disparity in society (Koteyko *et al.*

2013). According to Baker *et al.* (2008), this provides "a general framework for problem-oriented social research" (p.279), thus emphasising a structured approach within social inquiry.

The first question was quantitative: How did the frequency of representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods spanning 30 years? The answers established which newspapers and periods produced more coverage of Africans within the INC and identified semantic classifications of nodes. According to Heritage and Taylor (2024), discourse categories can be systematically devised from existing discourses or perceived groupings from wordlists or collocates. This stresses the importance of language based on real-life usage rather than arbitrary meanings. In this thesis, semantic categories were developed from nodes (see Table 4.3), keywords (see 7.2.1), and collocates (see Table 7.12). Three sub-questions emerged:

- I. What was the frequency of representation of Africans in the sub-corpora of individual newspapers?
- II. What was the frequency of representation across different periods in the Irish News Corpus (INC)?
- III. How did the overall combined frequencies of representation compare between the two newspapers during selected periods across 30 years?

The second overarching question was qualitative and discourse-focused: How did attitudes towards the representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods throughout 30 years? This question involved the following assessments: the quantitative presentation of keywords in the INC, a qualitative

analysis of the keywords based on DHA strategies, a quantitative analysis of collocation results focusing on key collocates by frequency, an analysis of ideology based on DHA strategies (nomination, predication, and argumentation), discourse topics derived from 50 salient collocates, the most important consistent collocates present in all sub-corpora, and discourse topics resulting from the study of contexts in concordances, as well as an analysis of two specific collocates (**african** and **republic**) with their topoi and prosodies.

1.9 African Migration to Ireland

According to Rodgers (2000), African migration to Ireland goes as far back as the 18th century when a small number of individual and enslaved Black people and Africans started to settle in Ireland, mainly in Limerick, Waterford and Dublin. African migrants to Ireland served mostly as servants, while others were primarily traders, soldiers and musicians. By the mid-20th century, the Irish government set up initiatives to attract and increase the number of students from Africa. More patterns of African migration to Ireland can be traced through contemporary data shown in the next section.

1.9.1 Data of Africans in Ireland

There is limited literature assessing African migration to Ireland, especially considering that there was no ethnicity category in the census in Ireland until 2006 (O'Mahony 2006). Another reason is that the options for Africans to relocate to Ireland are quite restrictive. The primary routes include study, work, civil partnership, marriage, close family relationships, and asylum (Gilmartin,

2014; MacFarlane *et al.* 2009). Among these routes, the most comprehensive available data pertains to asylum seekers, although "asylum seekers constitute a tiny proportion of migrant flows" (Gilmartin 2014, p. 7). In this thesis, the terms 'asylum seekers' and 'International Protection Applicants' (IPA) are used interchangeably to refer to individuals seeking protection as refugees outside their countries of origin. (Cambridge Dictionary 2024). The data below is compiled by this analyst with assistance from works by Joyce (2007, 2008, 2017, 2018), ESRI (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018), and the Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants (2011). The statistics illustrate an example of migration flow to Ireland based on the number of IPAs.

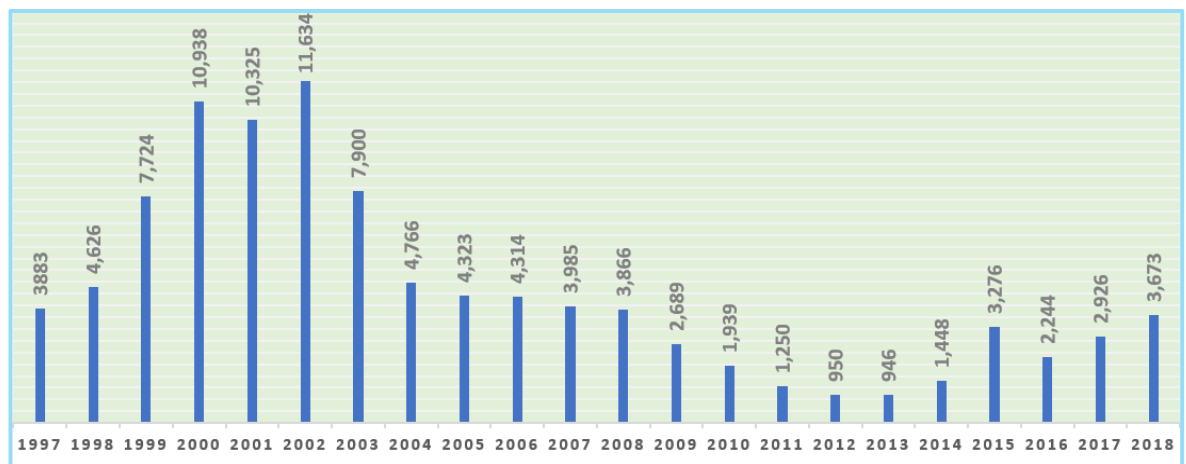


Figure 1.1: Number of asylum applications in Ireland between 1997 and 2018

The data in Figure 1.1 shows the number of IPA in Ireland between 1997 and 2018. Regarding African applicants, for instance, by 2004, the majority came from Nigeria, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia, Zimbabwe,

and Malawi (Joyce 2007). Despite the extensive data presented, significant migration patterns identified in 2002, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2022 Censuses conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) indicate that by 2002, there were as many as 20,981 Africans in Ireland, representing 0.5% of the total population of 3,858,495 million. In 2006, the number of Africans in Ireland rose to 35,326, comprising 0.8% of the total population of 4,172,013. By 2011, there were 58,697 individuals of Black Irish and Black African nationality, representing 1.3% of the total population of 4,525,281. In 2016, there was a slight decrease to 57,850 individuals of Black Irish and Black African origin, which accounted for 1.24% of the total population of 4,689,921. There were seven main ethnic groups in Ireland (CSO 2016). The Black Irish or Black African, numbering 57,850, were the fourth largest group, following the White Irish with 3,854,200 or 82%, the Other White group at 446,700, and the Other Asian group at 79,300. This was succeeded by the Irish Travellers at 31,000, the Chinese at 19,400, and Other Blacks at 6,800 (CSO 2016 Census). As of the time of writing this thesis, the CSO (2022) published data indicating that, for the first time in 171 years, Ireland's population exceeded five million. By April 2022, the number of people in Ireland had reached 5,149,139, reflecting an increase of 387,274 individuals or 8% since April 2016. Of this figure, the number of people who identified as Black or Black Irish with African heritage increased by 17% from 57,850 in 2016 to 67,546 in 2022. This census is significant because it introduced new ethnic classifications, which means that groups such as those in the Mixed or Other categories are not directly comparable with previous studies (CSO 2022). It is, therefore, possible that some Black or Black Irish individuals of African ancestry were included among the

64,992 people identified in this category, given Ireland's heterogeneous population. The figure below presents data on the African population in Ireland from 2002 to 2022.

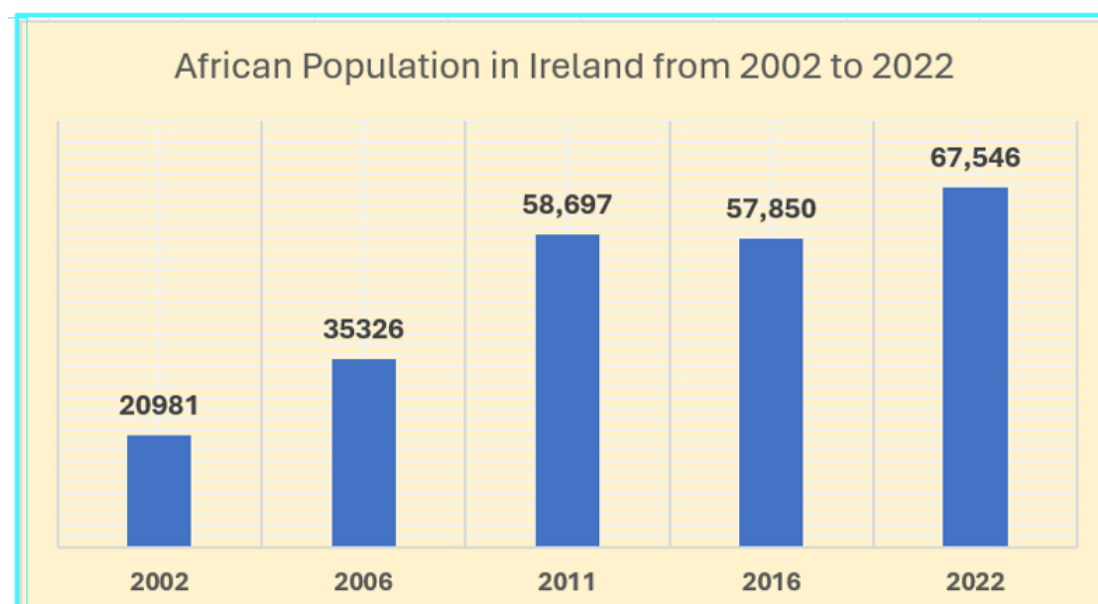


Figure 1.2: Population of Africans in Ireland from 2002 to 2024

Figure 1.2 above illustrates the population dynamics of individuals of African ancestry in Ireland, rising from 20,981 in 2002 to 35,326 in 2006, 58,697 in 2011, 57,850 in 2016, and 67,546 in 2022. For clarity in this study, the figures used refer to those of Black Irish or Black Africans in Ireland. This quantitative information is significant as it highlights the wider non-linguistic contexts of the discourse being examined. By emphasising this non-linguistic context, evidence of diachronic changes in the population of Ireland becomes clear. It suggests that Africans represent a subgroup within the multicultural and diverse society of Ireland, despite being a minority. According to Fahey *et al.* (2019), Creighton *et*

al. (2022), and McGinnity *et al.* (2020), not only do many European (EU) migrants form a substantial portion of immigrants in Ireland, but the country is also emerging as a new destination for an increasingly diverse immigrant community, encompassing varied race/ethnicity, origin, country, language, and religion. This is the first comprehensive dataset about the African population in Ireland presented in a single repository, one centralised location. The data confirms that Ireland is increasingly a destination for people of African heritage, leading to the expectation that African issues will feature in Irish media.

1.9.2 Socio-political and Historical Contexts of African Migration in Ireland

Beyond the quantitative aspects of African migration to Ireland, this study also examines the socio-political and historical contexts. The significance of contextual information in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) studies aligns with Hardt-Mautner (1995), who asserts that rather than approach a CDA study naively, researchers should "conduct background research and formulate hypotheses in advance" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.284). These elements enabled this thesis to identify several discursive strategies within socio-political contexts. For instance, Ejorh (2007) highlights the historical connections between Ireland and various African countries. He argues that although Ireland did not colonise any country, the European scramble and colonisation of African nations in the early 19th century facilitated the expansion of Irish church missions aimed at 'civilising' Africans. The intentions of Irish missionaries in Africa were often depicted as benevolent because of their contributions to education and

healthcare; however, their presence also facilitated cultural imposition that undermined local traditions and social structures. This suggests that they were involved in systems that profited from exploitation, playing a role in the wider colonial agenda of cultural assimilation and control. Furthermore, numerous Irish non-missionaries came as economic migrants to various sub-Saharan countries. For instance, South Africa offered employment opportunities in agriculture and mining, particularly during the gold rush, for numerous Irish missionaries seeking improved lives amidst dire circumstances back home. These political, social, religious, and economic contexts provide an informed perspective on historical narratives concerning Irish activities in Africa during colonisation. These activities covered a variety of motivations and impacts—both positive and negative.

Further historical aspects link the African educational system with several Irish writings, for example, Yeats, Beckett, and Joyce. These provide accounts of Irish struggles against colonial oppression and liberation, which Africans shared. Together with Ireland's humanitarian and developmental initiatives in Africa, including Irish Aid, GOAL, Concern, and Trócaire, these historical accounts illustrate that Ireland has a powerful influence in and over Africa (Ejorh 2007).

Other contexts emerged from changes in the Irish Constitution, particularly those concerning citizenship. A significant understanding of governing a country informed this study in selecting data for investigation and formulating research questions. The Irish citizenship laws discussed below concentrate on the Irish Born Child Scheme (IBCS), work permits, and asylum-seeking, along with related

issues such as repatriation agreements. The literature extensively references Ruhs and Quinn (2009), who establish that the main sources of the increased number of Africans in Ireland were the IBCS, work permits, and asylum-seeking. For instance, asylum applications peaked between 2001 and 2004 (Ruhs & Quinn 2009), compared to any other period in the state's history. One could argue that the increase stemmed from the IBCS, detailed below.

1.9.3 Irish Born Child Context

The socio-cultural and political migration in Ireland from 1998 to 2008, based on the Irish Born Child Scheme (IBCS), can be categorised into three distinct timeframes. The first timeframe is before 1998. According to Ruhs & Quinn (2009), in Ireland prior to 1999, the Irish Constitution permitted Irish citizenship solely to individuals who were citizens of the Irish Free State. Little literature existed during this period concerning African migration to Ireland. Consequently, it remains unclear how this law affected migrants. The law changed with the Nineteenth Amendment of the Irish Constitution, which is addressed in the second timeframe.

The second timeframe spans from 1998 to 2004. This period experienced minimal migration concerns; thus, no regulations were deemed necessary regarding immigration (Ruhs and Quinn 2009). As a result of one aspect of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 (McSweeney 1998; Ó Rálaigh 2023), Irish Citizenship was granted to all individuals born in Ireland, including those from Northern Ireland and African immigrants. Following this change, the number of births in Ireland in 2002 was the highest in over two decades, with up to 15% of

children born to non-national mothers. African parents of Irish-born children likely contributed to this increase. This percentage increased to between 40% and 50% in 2004. The 19th constitutional amendment was viewed as the primary reason for the record number of children born in Ireland, particularly to non-national (EU) mothers at that time. It was widely reported that non-EU nationals gave birth to children in Ireland to secure Irish citizenship for their offspring (Ruhs & Quinn 2009). This prompted the Irish Government to advocate for changes to "close this constitutional loophole," as Ireland was the only country in the EU to grant citizenship by birth (Seanad Debate 2004). In January 2003, a Supreme Court ruling denied parents automatic residency based on their Irish-born children (Quinn 2006), paving the way for a referendum. Consequently, the Government suspended the scheme. On June 11, 2004, almost 80% of Irish citizens voted to deny the right of Irish citizenship based on children born in Ireland to non-EU citizens (Referendum Commission 2004). This became law in December 2004, the 27th amendment to the constitution known as the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 2004, which had immediate consequences. Before the referendum, 16% of children born in Ireland were to non-EU parents, including Africans, but after the referendum, this dropped to 5% (Mancini & Finlay 2008).

This substantial decline in the number of children born in Ireland immediately following the 27th Amendment indicates a strong temporal connection between the referendum and the shift in the demographic profile. The referendum altered the legal framework surrounding immigration, citizenship eligibility, public sentiment, and the social atmosphere for non-EU citizens. It became more

restrictive and less welcoming, aiming to deter non-EU families from migrating to or starting families in Ireland. Over time, this also affected the composition of families living in the country. According to Joseph's (2024 keynote address), the referendum and the subsequent period were adversarial, compelling several African women to postpone family planning decisions and reduce long-term settlements. She suggests that the referendum can be viewed as a form of 'sterilisation of Black women', which not only resulted in a decline in the number of children born to African mothers in Ireland but also compelled women to delay childbirth. Joseph contended that this postponement led some African women to reach menopause without having had children, primarily due to concerns regarding the lack of Irish citizenship, even if their children were born in Ireland. Consequently, this diminished the number of children born to African families, thereby affecting the cultural and demographic landscape of Ireland. In this context, the extent of the change, from 16% to 5% of children born to non-EU parents, strongly suggests that the referendum played a significant role in directly or indirectly altering immigration patterns in Ireland.

The third timeframe is between 2005 and 2008. Following the suspension of the IBCS, a 2005 scheme regularised claims made before the 2004 law (Coakley 2012). This new scheme granted permission to remain in Ireland to non-Irish parents of Irish-born children, including Africans whose applications were suspended in 2003. Out of 18,000 applications for this scheme, the Government approved about 16,700. A further 14,117 applications were granted under the same scheme by the end of 2008 (Ruhs & Quinn 2009). Between 2005 and 2008,

Irish citizenship was given to about 30,817 applicants of good character who provided honest and complete residency details with their Irish-born children and made the necessary statutory declarations (Quinn 2006). Africans were among the beneficiaries, although more literature is needed to highlight the breakdown of this data.

1.9.4 African International Protection Applicants in Ireland

African migration to Ireland can also be observed through two asylum-related issues. The first concern is the rise in the number of IPAs. Statistics increased every year between 1997 and 2002 (Joyce 2008). From 1998 to 2002, the number of asylum seekers rose from 4,626 to 11,634. This figure declined steadily each year from 2002 to 2006 before peaking again in 2008 (Crowley *et al.* 2008). In 2003, the number fell to 7,900, further to 4,766 in 2004 and 4,314 in 2006 (Joyce 2008). A breakdown by countries of citizenships indicated that Africans had the highest number of applicants. Out of 4,314 asylum applicants in 2006, most African asylum seekers were from Nigeria at 1,038, followed by Sudan at 308 and then the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe, and Malawi (Joyce 2008, 2009, 2010; Gilmartin 2012). Meanwhile, the majority of Africans holding work permits were from South Africa (Ruhs & Quinn 2009).

The second asylum-related issue was the repatriation agreement signed between Ireland, Nigeria (relevant to this study), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in 2001. This accord was referred to as the "Refugee Deal" (Byrne 2001) and was signed between Ireland and Nigeria in 2001. It facilitated the voluntary deportation of individuals from Ireland to enhance Irish aid to

Nigeria. This represented a significant diplomatic effort to address issues surrounding migration, asylum seekers, and the return of individuals to their home countries. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) played a pivotal role in facilitating this agreement. The organisation plays a crucial role in promoting humane, safe, and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It assists governments in developing policies and practices that uphold human rights while addressing national interests. Moreover, the IOM's involvement in this agreement encouraged dialogue between the two nations. Byrne (2001) argues that in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Ireland experienced a rise in asylum applications from various countries, including Nigeria. The Irish government recognised the need to manage this influx while also addressing humanitarian considerations and international obligations concerning refugees. According to Byrne (2001), the following agreements were reached under this deal: any repatriation of Nigerian nationals from Ireland was voluntary, meaning that individuals had the right to choose whether or not to return home, thereby respecting their autonomy and dignity. Provisions were made for support services for those who chose to return to Nigeria, and this proposed reintegration assistance included financial aid and housing support. Job placement services were also offered to help deportees and returnees reintegrate effectively into their communities. Additionally, regarding asylum procedures, an agreement facilitated the sharing of information about asylum claims to ensure that both countries adhered to international standards for refugee protection. A monitoring scheme was established to ensure compliance with the terms of the agreement, enabling both parties to evaluate the effectiveness of its implementation and

ascertain whether it achieved its intended objectives. Subsequent to these agreements, the IOM supported initiatives for public awareness campaigns targeting potential migrants. These campaigns educated individuals about their rights and options under the agreement, as well as safe migration practices while discouraging irregular migration routes that could lead to exploitation or danger. This agreement established a precedent for future accords involving other nations facing similar challenges related to migration. For Ireland, it facilitated the management of immigration flows, while for Nigeria, it created an opportunity for citizens living abroad to return home safely with established support systems. The scheme increased the number of people deported from 188 in 2000 to 599 in 2004 and from 135 in 2007 to 454 in 2008. (Ruhs & Quinn 2009).

1.9.5 African Work Permit Holders in Ireland

This study also examined African migration to Ireland in relation to work permits. The only discernible pattern was the issuance of work permits predominantly to South Africans. According to Ruhs & Quinn (2009), in 1998, as many as 178 work permits were granted to South Africans. This number increased to 2,305 in 2001, peaking in 2003 when 2,468 permits were issued. The total dropped from 1,719 in 2006 to 1,461 in 2007 (Quinn 2009). The decrease was attributed to the accession of new European Union (EU) countries to Europe. With the inclusion of ten new EU members, economic growth led to unprecedented trends, with an influx of immigrants from the EU to Ireland, particularly notable between 2004 and 2007 (Tindall *et al.* 2009). By 2006 and

2007, approximately 100,000 immigrants arrived annually in Ireland, although this number fell during the recession in 2008 (Barrett & Kelly 2010).

1.9.6 Other Contexts Influencing African Migration to Ireland

One context considered in this thesis occurred in 2007. Like the rest of the world, Ireland experienced the Great Financial Crisis, with Black Africans being the most affected (O'Connell 2008). Approximately 20% of non-Irish nationals lost their jobs compared to 7% of natives (Barrett & Kelly 2010). Meanwhile, between 2004 and 2010, there was significant discrimination against Africans seeking employment compared to other national-ethnic groups (Michael 2015; O'Connell & Kelly 2013; O'Connell 2019). A second factor was the increase in deportations of immigrants due to new government policies in other countries, particularly Nigeria. The third issue concerned international political changes. For example, in 2008, the American landscape changed when the first ever African American became America's president. The issue of race was not overtly addressed during the election, as Mr Barack Obama was careful not to "appear too Black" (Smith 2013). Instead, discussions of religion took precedence over his racial identity, and he was 'othered' in the context of national security and terrorism (Smith 2013). In Ireland, there was scepticism regarding President Obama's inspirational election. Cormaic (2008) argues that the election of the first African American to the highest office in America was unlikely to change the political underrepresentation of minority candidates in Ireland. Across Europe, however, many Black Europeans viewed the election of President Obama as a solution to their underrepresentation in European politics (Brown 2008).

Another event examined in this thesis was the role of non-governmental organisations, such as the EU and the African Union (AU), during the Second Congo War, which began in 1998 and re-ignited in 2008. The conflict displaced and killed millions of people, prompting many Congolese to seek refuge in Ireland. Similarly, the xenophobic attacks in South Africa in 2008 resulted in the deaths of numerous individuals from various nations and left the country grappling with considerable socio-economic and humanitarian crises (IOM 2008; Human Rights Watch 2008). Moreover, in 2018, there were ongoing discussions regarding Ireland's relationship with minority groups. A monitoring report on integration revealed that Africans constituted the most discriminated minority ethnic group (O'Connell 2018). For instance, in 2008, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, alongside the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI), reported that Black non-Irish individuals were five times more likely to experience discrimination in the job market and more than twice as likely to face discrimination at work. Some crucial issues uncovered in this report indicated that experiences of discrimination changed between 2004 and 2014, following economic shifts, growth, recession, and recovery. This study has led to calls for identifying barriers to the full employment of human rights and equality for discriminated individuals (McGinnity *et al.* 2018).

The literature mentioned above is part of an extensive body of research focused on refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland, although there is very little investigation into the opinions of ethnic minorities (Cotter 2004). Moreover, few efforts have been dedicated to studying various African migrant groups. This lack of interest can result in under-representation, invisibility, discrimination, and

social exclusion. Additionally, there is little to no literature concentrating on African representation in Irish media. The only evidence indicates that Africans are an ethnic migrant group in Europe (Ireland), thus forming part of the collective in ongoing discourses. The absence of more detailed background information regarding other aspects of African migration to Ireland during the periods under study constrained this thesis to assume that migration studies about immigrants and migrants to Europe, such as refugees and asylum seekers, also pertain to Africans.

In this light, it was evident that some research on media representation has been conducted regarding immigration in the Irish context (Honohan & Rougier 2016; Éinri & White 2008), alongside a few cross-linguistic CDA and corpus studies of migrant representation in the media. For instance, Burroughs (2015) examines the discursive representations of illegal immigration in Irish newsprint media, employing Foucault's theory of power and the CDA framework. The study shows how the government's control of immigration was linked to and influenced by the idea of national identity. Also, combining CL and CDA methods, O'Regan and Riordan (2018) employ 4.349 million words to investigate the representation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Irish and UK Press. This study is explored in detail in Chapter Two.

Other studies have been conducted beyond Ireland. In this thesis, the primary literature included works by the following scholars: Baker *et al.* (2008); Baker & McEnery (2005); Gabrielatos & Baker (2008); Reisigl & Wodak (2001); Wodak (2008); Wodak *et al.* (1999); Wodak *et al.* (1995); van Dijk (1991, 1987). This

thesis relies heavily on the 140-million-word corpus study by Baker *et al.* (2008), which investigates the discursive portrayal of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants from 1996 to 2005. The theoretical and methodological frameworks used in this research, commonly known as the RASIM study (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.273), are methods linked to approaches in CL and CDA. The RASIM study employs the DHA approach of CDA and utilises the topoi strategy to analyse the data.

To contribute to the existing body of work, this thesis combines historical, linguistic, and computational approaches to investigate how meaning was constructed and to examine the discursive representation of Africans in Ireland. It considers the similarities and differences in the representation of various political orientations, namely liberal versus conservative. Evaluating different ideological positions was crucial as it enabled this study to assess the data critically. It analysed "contradictory positions along with their persuasive character based on principles of rational argumentation and the underlying manipulative strategies" (Reisigl & Wodak 2017).

This chapter, along with Chapter Three, discusses the overarching research questions, the basis of assumptions, and the formulation of research questions. It also highlights the contextual background and other literature consulted for this thesis. The information gathered illustrates the manifestations of power imbalances that resulted in the political and social exclusion of certain 'outgroups', particularly African immigrants, which shapes the focus of this thesis.

1.10 Thesis Outline

This study focuses on media discourse. It integrates CL and CDA methods and centres on the discursive representation of Africans in selected Irish newspapers over specific periods of 30 years. It brings long-delayed attention to examining linguistic discrimination against non-dominant groups and research by a member of such a group. This thesis is divided into eight chapters. The first section sets out the context of the study, including the research problem, research aims, research objectives, research questions, personal motivation, the structure of the thesis, and information regarding African migration to Ireland. The second section consists of an examination of works on media representation, fundamental theories and concepts, such as the portrayal of Africans in the press and newspapers in Ireland. The third section outlines the theoretical and conceptual frameworks, including Corpus Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), and their contributions to the study of migrant portrayal. Three main approaches are introduced: Fairclough's dialectical-relational approach, van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, and Wodak's discourse-historical approach. It discusses in detail the adopted framework in this thesis. It critically assesses the Discourse Historical Approach (DHA), offering unique insights into operationalising DHA's framework, reasons for choosing DHA as the theoretical framework and the analytical tools (CL and CDA), Referential/Nomination, Predication, Argumentation, and Foregrounding/Backgrounding (van Leeuwen). The fourth section details and justifies methodological choices and presents specifics of the data and corpus and how the study was conducted, with step-by-step guides to ensure transparency, credibility, and replicability. The fifth section

explains the triangulation of methods, offering comprehensive examinations of the complex process of integrating CL and CDA approaches to reduce the issues of subjectivity and bias. It demonstrates the quantitative proof of nodes in two data sources in the INC. It also demonstrates the performance of the researcher's model in triangulating different tools to gain a more thorough understanding of the research problem and paradigms. The model advances a holistic and complementary approach, with no approach considered subsidiary. In a crucial two-part section, the sixth and seventh sections logically focus on the core results of each research question. In doing so, it offers interpretations backed by evidence and literature and discussions of the meaning of the data and observed outcomes. Chapter Six directly investigates evidence of representation based on the corpus and answers the first research question. Chapter Seven is the central qualitative aspect of the study, which includes evidence from keyword, collocational, concordance and semantic prosody analyses. Finally, Chapter Eight synthesises all findings from all chapters to wrap up the thesis and offers a comprehensive overarching conclusion highlighting the significance of this research, particularly emancipatory practices by non-dominant groups, stating limitations and offering recommendations for future research.

At this stage, it is essential to define some key concepts that appear in this thesis. One such concept is the keyword; in Corpus Linguistics, it denotes a word that occurs unusually frequently in a specific corpus compared to another, typically larger reference corpus (Scott 2010). As a textual feature, keywords are context-dependent and provide clarity regarding specific texts. In discourse, repeated terms can be employed to foreground or emphasise a particular agenda and help

reveal ideology as well as cultural and political shifts. In this regard, keywords play a role in shaping societal narratives.

Another concept is collocation – it refers to the co-occurrence of two or more words within a specific span of a node in concordance, making it significant in datasets. In discourse, recurrent word pairings reveal how context influences meaning and can reflect dominant ideologies by framing social issues in particular ways. Certain collocational pairs become ingrained in discourse and carry distinct connotations related to established practices that represent people and actions. For instance, Stubbs (2002) examines 'gossip' and observes that it predominantly appears alongside terms associated with females. This suggests that only women gossip, potentially reinforcing a stereotype. Collocations are not ideologically neutral. This indicates that combining words is not merely a question of grammar but rather an expression of inherent biases or assumptions that strive to uphold specific worldviews or power dynamics. Consequently, the study of collocation is vital for understanding the world.

Meanwhile, concordances are systematic arrangements of occurrences of a word or phrase within a text corpus. Each instance of the word is presented alongside its immediate context (Jaworska 2016). This enables researchers to analyse how the word or phrase is used in various contexts, thereby facilitating the study of patterns, meanings, and linguistic structures. Typically, the concordance displays the search term at the centre, with surrounding text (co-text) on either side. It provides a vertical approach to language analysis, allowing analysts to swiftly

identify and observe collocations and contextual variations within discourse that may otherwise be challenging to detect. Alongside the analytical strategies, particularly nomination, predication, and the robust topoi tool in argumentation, these concepts will highlight significant evidence of the discursiveness of the INC. Considering these factors, Chapter Two will thoroughly examine the existing literature.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents five main sections. The first section highlights interconnected themes relevant to this thesis: the genre that this study is based on, media language, newspapers in Ireland, media representation of marginalised groups and representation of Africans in Western media. The second section provides a framework for understanding significant theoretical concepts. It explores and highlights the roles of this paper's three key concepts: discourse, discrimination, and semantic prosody. A comprehensive overview of the literature on discursive mechanisms of discrimination and race follows this. The next section examines previous works that have used CDA approaches to analyse media discourses of migration issues. This highlights intersectionality through the lens of language, race, racism, media, and power. Following this, a concluding summary recaps the main arguments and insights presented throughout the literature. This literature helps to position this thesis within the broader academic discourse, build on existing knowledge, identify gaps, and offer effective methodologies to ensure a credible and successful dissertation. The following section begins with pertinent background information related to this thesis.

2.2 Media Representation of Immigrants

This section addresses aspects such as the genre on which this thesis is based, linguistic practices in media, newspapers in Ireland, literature regarding media representation of minority groups, and portrayals of Africans in Western media.

2.2.1 Reasons for selecting the newspaper medium

When studying language in the media, it is essential to recognise that various genres of communication exist, including newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and newer fields such as online journalism. This paper explores the print media, specifically newspapers, which possess a structure that includes editorial content, advertising, production, and circulation, all overseen by the publisher (Merrill *et al.* 1994). The choice of the newspaper medium for this analysis is due to its significant social power to inform thousands of people about global happenings (van Dijk 1996b). In so doing, newspapers have an influence and persuasiveness to control and shape how the public thinks and acts. Lader (2007) highlights the considerable role of newspapers on society in her study of public attitudes towards development. She finds that in the United Kingdom (UK), for example, 47% of knowledge about Africa is from UK newspapers. This finding emphasises two issues. Firstly, newspapers have a dominant influence over the information audiences consume about Africa. Secondly, it draws attention to how this information is produced and transmitted. When combined with its power to shape the social identities of participants and social relations (Fairclough 1995b), newspapers possess a significant advantage in portraying world views, including representing Africa, both within the UK and beyond. In all of this, the nuances of

language are critical to how news is perceived and interpreted. In this regard, it is fundamental to understand how the media use words, tones and contexts to shape the perception and interpretation of news.

2.2.2 Linguistic Practices in Media

This thesis cites substantially from Teun van Dijk. He is a prominent Dutch linguist and an authority in media and discourses, particularly on social issues such as racism, power, and discrimination. References are made to Roger Fowler, who is also a significant contributor to Critical Linguistics and news discourse and how language mediates and distorts information and influences public perception. Equally, insights about media language from Allan Bell, a linguist and journalist, will show that journalists and editors create stories rather than mere articles.

According to van Dijk (1991), news reporting and newsworthy events are determined by influential professionals and elite groups with partial control over newsgathering and access to powerful institutions. Often, the powerful elite's descriptions, opinions, quotes, and newsworthy topics are generally respected in news-making and news structures. Thus, power structures indirectly control the production and reproduction of news, and the press actively participates in the reproduction of power. The result is that dominant narratives about evidence and reality overshadow those of other non-dominant groups. The position of the Press "allows them to produce and reproduce the White ethnic consensus" (van Dijk 1991, p.43). This is supported by Lirola (2008), who asserts that journalists create discourses and that their position is somehow contained in the text. This view can

be likened to Mirrell *et al.* (1994), who argue that journalists, even straight news reporters, are propagandists because they intentionally propagate their biases and opinions to affect audiences in predetermined ways. For example, in writing headlines, Bell (1991) argues that journalists go beyond grabbing attention to confirm the ideological stances that newspapers wish to maintain in the readers' minds. van Dijk (1991) takes a strong position and argues that "most White people, including White journalists, resent being called racist" (p. 21); as an elite group, they are complicit in the reproduction of racism. This contributes to concerns that the Press have the power to present a set of assumptions about their ideological beliefs by choosing what stories to cover, how to frame them and which voices to foreground and amplify. These concerns are valid. Fowler (1991) makes the important point that studies must seek to understand how linguistic practices can contribute to ideological positions and influence public opinion, particularly in contentious issues. He posits that it is not often always the case that the media shape what people think and have a significant role in grabbing the reader's attention with good writing and valuable information and that journalists must be truthful, unbiased, complete, and fair (Fowler 1991, p.1 -12). This argument emphasises that the media also mirrors society in which journalists accurately and truthfully reflect events, opinions, and public sentiments. It can be argued that although the media serve as a mirror reflecting society and public interest, tensions exist between ideological influences and journalistic integrity. Consequently, news events are often swayed by those in power, and journalists may align their ideologies through specific discourses,

which can lead to potential bias in news stories. This necessitates a critical analysis.

Following the discussion of media language influences, the next section explores data sources and newspapers in Ireland.

2.2.3 Newspapers in Ireland

As in many countries, newspapers in Ireland cater to the diverse social perspectives and political views of their audiences' leanings. According to Hoewe & Peacock (2020), there is a proliferation of ideologically driven news media, which plays a crucial role in shaping audiences' beliefs. So, when media organisations align themselves with specific political ideologies, they serve audiences with similar views. In turn, audiences gravitate towards media organisations that confirm and reinforce their existing beliefs, biases, and views rather than challenge them. This often leads audiences to experience fragmented and limited views on vital societal issues.

According to the Press Council of Ireland (2024), several newspapers exist in Ireland. Eight national daily newspapers are available in print and digital editions, and the most well-known ones are *The Irish Independent (Independent)* and *The Irish Times (Times)*. Regarding readership, some of the most recent figures by Media Ownership Monitor Ireland (2023) found that more than 2.58 million (65%) people in Ireland read a print newspaper title once a week in 2023. This suggests that, despite challenges faced by the newspaper industry, for

example, declining circulation and technological changes, millions of people in Ireland still rely on newspapers for news and information.

Regarding the two prominent Irish newspapers, the *Independent* is one of "Ireland's largest, national, most influential, and reputable newspapers" (Burroughs 2015, p.89) with a mid-market conservative ideology (O'Regan & Riordan 2018). It was founded in 1905 by William Martin Murphy, and later, in the 1970s, the former Heinz Chairman, Tony O'Reilly, took over and made the newspaper more market liberal and right-wing in contentious economic issues. In 2012, Irish billionaire Denis O'Brien bought most of the shares of the newspaper's parent company. In 2019, a Belgian media group, Mediahuis, took over the parent company (Mulligan 2019). The newspaper is based in Dublin and is considered populist, conservative, "pro-business, socially liberal, centrist in its political outlook, and appeals to a middle-of-the-road cross-class readership" (Aughey & Oakland 2013, p.314).

Meanwhile, the *Times* is one of the largest media groups in Ireland and the only privately funded national news organisation that is solely Irish-owned. Now governed by 10 Board of Directors, it was founded by Major Lawrence Knox in 1859 and bought by a Scottish migrant and entrepreneur in Ireland in 1873. In 1954, the majority of the shares were sold to a group of Dublin businessmen on the basis that it remained "tolerant, critical, and liberal." (O'Brien 2008, p.147). By 2023, the *Times* had 1,264,000 print and online readers per week, meaning 251,000 daily readers (*Irish Times.com* 2024).

Burroughs (2015) argues that the *Independent* and *Times* are leading figures in the elite press in Ireland in that they have many readers, including government decision-makers. This suggests that these newspapers possess authority in publicising information, framing narratives, and influencing readers' and policymakers' perceptions and attitudes towards people (Africans) within society. Based on these perspectives, these two newspapers were preferred for data sources, and the *Times* was readily available on a complimentary subscription to the Mary Immaculate Online Databases. Paid subscriptions were made to access the *Independent* and other wide-ranging features unavailable elsewhere. The table below summarises the orientation of both newspapers and the number of articles obtained from databases.

Table 2. 1. The ideological orientation of newspapers and the number of obtained articles

Title	<i>The Irish Independent</i>	<i>The Irish Times</i>
Political Orientation	Conservative	Liberal
Characteristics	Broadsheet	Broadsheet
Period of Study	No of Articles	No of Articles
Sept-Dec 1998	278	1,030
Sept-Dec 2008	658	1,701
Sept-Dec 2018	247	1,582
Total all years	1,183	4,313

Table 2.1 above details the orientation and characteristics of the two newspapers analysed in this thesis. Additional information presents the sub-corpora, including the periods and number of articles per newspaper. In total, 5,496 news articles were collected, with 1,183 articles from the *Independent* and 4,313 articles from the *Times* investigated in this thesis (see Chapter Four for further details). The following paragraphs examine studies on the media representation of minority groups.

2.2.4 Media Representation of Minorities in Society

Media portrayal of different groups often reflects stereotypes and power relations to influence public opinions and attitudes. van Dijk (1991) posits that dominant media have always preserved stereotypes and prejudice about minority groups. This statement will be examined through empirical evidence and theoretical analyses of five aspects of racism or group dominance in various scholarly works. Four out of five examples are highlighted in the book 'Racism and the Press' by Teun A. van Dijk. This book has been praised for its thorough investigation of the press's role in perpetuating existing structures of racial inequality, although it has been critiqued for its descriptive nature in content analysis and for lacking a theoretically informed interpretation (Kivisto 1992). Notwithstanding, the book explores how racism intertwines with media coverage of ethnic issues, highlighting that such issues are deemed newsworthy. An instance of media involvement in ethnic reporting is the immigration of Tamil refugees and other 'Third World refugees' (van Dijk 1991, p.1) to Western Europe in 1985. Like much of Western Europe at the time, van Dijk contends that the Netherlands was facing

challenges related to unemployment, housing shortages, and international crime and terrorism. As a result, the arrival of the Tamil refugees and its aftermath were reported extensively in the media, characterised by negative, inflammatory, and threatening language, which incited media panic. These reactions were foregrounded and legitimised, especially in the conservative media, to advance an anti-immigration agenda, politics, and practice in the minds of the public. On the one hand, the influence of the media raised awareness about the plight of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka. However, on the other hand, their reporting propagated biased ethnic slurs and misinformation that further polarised communities. It shifted the refugee issue from humanitarian discourse to ethnic and political problems, resulting in a policy to prevent non-Europeans or non-White refugees from entering their borders.

Also, in 1985, the prejudice of Blacks as criminals, problematic, and violent was reported and intensified in the British Press (van Dijk 1991). The reports followed social unrest across British cities in impoverished neighbourhoods inhabited by West Indians or Asians. The media, especially the Conservative Press, endorsed the views of political elites that Black inner-city youths instigated the riots. Possibly, this portrayal was driven by an anti-Black ideology and the complexities of portraying ethnic minorities in the media. This necessitated actions to reinforce police efforts to contain these forms of urban unrest (van Dijk 1991).

Elsewhere, van Dijk highlights a content analysis study of Johnson in 1987, also known as the Kerner Commission Report (the report), of the portrayal of Blacks in local media in Boston, United States of America (USA). van Dijk cites from the

report that, firstly, on the one hand, White newsmakers tend to report stories that align with their preconceptions of Blacks as lazy and failing students, drug pushers, thieves, violent, and poor, and on the other hand as only involved in sports or entertainment. Secondly, when Whites and Blacks are portrayed together, White news actors are portrayed as more powerful and in control. Thirdly, on issues of race, the media prefer to interview White experts. Fourthly, racism is seen as historic for many Whites, and the concept of race is considered forbidden in the Press, resulting in journalists referencing victims of racism with euphemisms such as 'disadvantaged' or 'underprivileged' (van Dijk 1991). The Johnson Report (1987) concludes that the media portrayal of African Americans with negative stereotypes reinforces the racial discrimination, marginalisation, and stigmatisation of Black communities in society. The report emphasises the power of the media in shaping public opinions and calls for fair and accurate representation in media coverage. It suggests that the portrayal of African Americans in the media is laden with negative stereotypes and prejudices.

Another study that challenges racial stereotypes suggests that choosing topics about different social groups can reveal the relationship between language, power, and ideology and how they are enacted, (re)produced, and resisted through text and talk. This aspect is seen in the British Press in the second part of 1985. Using his socio-cognitive model of CDA and studying subjects and topics about ethnic minorities, van Dijk (1991) examines the case of the Cuban connection in the *Daily Mail*. He finds that 'ingroups' ('us') are often represented positively and evoke sympathy, while 'outgroups' ('them') are portrayed negatively, often with less attention and prejudices. He concludes that "topics

suggest what information is most important in the text and what is most important in the world" (p.74). In this sense, topics shape the representation readers create in their minds of specific ethnic events and situations. Although the non-Cuban connection spotlights non-Africans, it involves similar narratives of the (mis)representation of minority groups. The media influences and shapes discourses about marginalised groups, political agendas, and cultural norms. What is even more noticeable is that most studies on the media portrayal of Africans and other migrant groups in Western media are conducted primarily by White scholars. It is important to include research carried out by non-White experts whenever possible. This may lead to outcomes pertinent to the communities, as mentioned earlier, and can inform culturally sensitive and effective strategies and interventions.

For example, in a thought-provoking study, South African journalist and linguist, Sisanda Nkoala, conducts a multi-modal (text and images) comparative discourse analysis of African media coverage of global pandemics. Nkoala (2022) examines language use and frequency of publication in 200 news reports from two African newspapers, Nigeria's *Daily Trust* and South Africa's *Sowetan*. The study investigates data over one month in 2014 during the Ebola epidemic and one month in 2020 during Covid-19. The results indicate 'otherness' or the 'us' versus 'them' discourses, especially concerning Ebola. Whereas naming, highlighting humanity, and positive traits portray patients of Western backgrounds, African patients are either anonymised or represented negatively. Regarding COVID-19, the low death rates from the disease in Africa are de-emphasised. On the other

hand, the contributions of Western countries to Africa are emphasised. Nkoala concludes that both newspapers misrepresent Africa and portray Africans as inferior and dangerous (Nkoala 2022).

Although very few studies of this nature exist, Nkoala's research highlights three essential contributions. Firstly, it emphasises that the media, whether Western or otherwise, plays a crucial role in shaping opinions. Secondly, not only are Western media responsible for negative stereotyping of Africans and Africa or community groups, but African newspapers also contribute to injustices against Africans in the media. Thirdly, there is a lack of discourse research of this kind in Africa, with most studies concentrated in only three African regions. South Africa is the source country for this study, reinforcing the view of Nartey & Nwinlaaru (2019) that CDA studies are predominantly conducted in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. Nkoala's (2022) research provides nuanced insights into how some African media discriminate against Africans. Nkoala argues that both Western and certain African media perpetuate discrimination against Africans. This means that media discriminatory practices arise from external and internal factors, although various studies document its prevalence in Western media.

The patterns above focus on stereotypes, racism, and underrepresentation and that minority groups, mainly Blacks, are portrayed more negatively in the media. This aligns with van Dijk's (1991) perspective, which posits that throughout Western history, ethnic characterisations of immigrants from non-Western backgrounds have been employed to delineate 'in'- and 'outgroups' based on a blend of perceived differences rooted in race, serving the purposes of ethnic

dominance or exclusion. van Dijk (1991) contends that while overt and blatant racial discrimination has diminished, it has not vanished; rather, it has evolved into more implicit, indirect, subtle, or less visible forms. Further evidence of this will be presented in the subsequent literature regarding the portrayal of Africans in Western media.

2.2.5 African Representation in Western Media

The limited research on media representation of Africans in Ireland makes it necessary for this study to occasionally reference studies conducted outside of Ireland, including those not focused on migration. One comparative CDA study that attempts such analysis is the investigation of news reports of Africans in two opposing British Press, namely, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Guardian* (Brookes 1995). The study is titled 'Suit, Tie and a Touch of Juju: The Ideological Construction of Africa.' This study by Brookes (1995) finds that Africa is constructed with ideological representations that significantly contribute to neo-colonial, stereotypical and racist views. Brookes endeavours to illustrate how language and media shape public perceptions and reinforce power dynamics by revealing the ways in which a dominant discourse surrounding Africa is constructed. Some of her findings suggest that Africa is portrayed as a homogeneous region of helpless, violent human rights abusers and a place devoid of democracy. Examples of her conclusions are embedded in headlines, such as 'France's black burden', which connotes Africa as homogeneously needy, dependent, and a pest. In a second headline, Africa is seen in 'Suit, tie, and a touch of juju', which connotes Africa as a place where Western outfits entangle with

mystical African witchcraft that is rife. Other topics identified in her study illustrate Africa as a place filled with civil wars and conflicts, HIV/AIDS, politics, crime, and disaster. By portraying Africa as a homogeneous entity defined by neediness and superstition, such narratives perpetuate a simplistic representation that can lead dominant groups to develop a distorted understanding of African culture. This contributes to the normalisation of discrimination, reinforces harmful stereotypes about Africa and its people, and encourages paternalistic government policies that maintain dependency.

Outside the news media, Melina and Irawan (2023) use van Dijk's ideological square model of CDA to observe the discriminatory discourses against African Americans in movie series. The data for the research comprises spoken utterances of between 64 and 88 minutes in length and 69 mentions of positive representations of Whites and negative representations of Blacks. The study finds nine discursive forms of discrimination against Blacks, namely, 'troublemakers', 'animals', 'rapists', 'liars', 'suspects', 'wilding', 'guilty', 'poor', and 'fuckers'. On the other hand, 13 discourse strategies are used by Whites to represent blacks negatively and to present themselves positively. They include problematisation, metaphor, negative attribution and devaluation or the exception of the good characteristics of others (Melina & Irawan, 2023, pp.114 -116).

Meanwhile, in Ireland, the process of racialisation has significantly impacted Africans by subjecting them to immediate categorisation based on their race. In 2023, the Vienna-based Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) examined the experiences of individuals born in Africa and those of second-generation African

descent across Europe. Among EU countries, Ireland ranked as the third highest for racial discrimination against Black people. Furthermore, Ireland recorded the highest rates of racist comments and bullying, as well as physical attacks against Black children. In Ireland, the fear of experiencing a racist attack was almost twice as prevalent at 64% compared to 35% in other EU states. One might suggest that this is a new occurrence. According to Michael (2015), 'Racism against people of African descent is not a new phenomenon at all, but one which has failed to be recognised by the State and wider society, even as it has evolved from colonial times' (pg. 4).

In a 2020 article exploring Africa and 'Blackness' within the Irish imagination, Dr Fiona Bateman, Director of the MA in Public Advocacy & Activism at NUI Galway, provided context for the global protests that erupted following the death of George Floyd on 25 May 2020. Floyd, an African American man, died after a police officer in Minneapolis knelt on his neck for over nine minutes during an arrest. This incident was recorded on video and widely circulated, sparking outrage and calls for justice (Florido *et al.* 2022). Bateman (2020) argues that the widespread protests generated a renewed awareness of the historically sanctioned racism that has shaped the lives of people of colour in the US and other countries across the globe. In Ireland, she notes that issues relating to racism have focused on the treatment of asylum seekers in Direct Provision centres. Alongside this, there has been an increase in personal accounts detailing instances of abuse, exclusion, workplace discrimination, bullying, and disrespect experienced by Black and mixed-race individuals of all ages, many of whom were

born in Ireland. These accounts elicited surprise and shock regarding the presence of racism in Ireland, highlighting that the country is not exempt from such issues. When addressing negative attitudes towards Africa, Africans, and 'Blackness', Bateman (2020) emphasises a non-negotiable opposition between the civilised 'self' and the uncivilised 'other'. These constructed oppositions are fundamental to colonial discourses, which rationalise colonialism as a 'duty' of the more developed peoples to civilise the savage, especially during the Irish missionary movement in the twentieth century. Irish missionaries consistently 'othered' Africans, portraying them as pagans, inferior, and savage. This perception established Africa in the Irish consciousness as a place of darkness, devoid of culture and civilisation, which continues to define the relationship between Ireland and the African continent. Bateman (2020) adds that Irish missionaries did not seek to deconstruct the existing racist attitudes implicit in imperial discourse. Instead, they exploited, embraced, and adapted these attitudes to justify their conversion of African pagans. Foreign missions presented an opportunity for the Irish, long perceived as the uncivilised 'other' by England, to shed their perceived inferiority and define themselves as privileged partners in their relationship with Africans. This prospect, coupled with the need to justify the process of conversion, facilitated particularly negative stereotyping of Africans. Bateman asserts that although Ireland's spiritual empire may have differed in significant ways from other imperial projects, it shared some of the same foundational beliefs, including the assumption of the inferiority of the 'other'. A substantial aspect of Bateman's article (2020) is the issue of skin colour. During the racial hierarchies of the Victorian era, Charles Kingsley described the

Irish in Ireland in 1860 as 'White chimpanzees'. The Irish accepted this as a marker of racial difference; in the context of missionary activities, skin colour and Whiteness symbolised the 'self' and the 'other'. The darkness of skin became associated with the darkness of sin and ignorance, Thus, shedding light on this darkness was an expressed aim of the missionaries.

Another study reinforces Bateman's (2020) perspective. In his 2014 paper, Lenihan argues that Irish missionaries were the key figures in shaping Africa's representation in Ireland between 1900 and 1940. Lenihan's (2014) research investigates the geographical imaginaries associated with the visual and material culture that intersect with colonialism. He posits that these missionaries engaged in various media—such as books, exhibitions, public lectures, magazines, films, and television—to portray Africa actively. This representation was described as a 'transaction' (Lenihan 2014, p. ii) that contributed to an image of Ireland as empathetic towards the issues faced by the Global South. Consequently, Ireland's historical actions and cultural practices are often regarded as beyond criticism, which results in limited critical examination of its past. As a result, Irish representations of Africa have become firmly embedded in the collective consciousness of the Irish people, significantly shaping their perception and understanding of the continent.

Conversely, Irish writers and activists have been actively involved in crafting a narrative that links their historical experiences with those of African Americans. This narrative incorporates a history of Irish identity formed through a prolonged

period of colonisation, oppression, and the struggle for independence, particularly under British rule. The Great Famine (1845-1852) resulted in mass emigration and suffering among the Irish population, which remains a significant part of their collective memory. Parallel to this, African Americans have endured slavery, segregation, and systemic racism. The civil rights movement and ongoing struggles for equality resonate deeply within the African American community. Consequently, writers and activists from both groups have connected these two histories and crafted a narrative that highlights parallels between their experiences of oppression and resilience, emphasising solidarity in the face of injustice. For example, in examining the historical, cultural, and social connections between the Irish and African American communities, Onkey (2011) highlights the impacts of the mid-nineteenth century. This was a crucial period for both the Irish and African Americans in the United States (US). Many Irish immigrants faced oppression, marginalisation, discrimination, and hardship as they settled in America. Simultaneously, African Americans grappled with the legacy of slavery and ongoing racial discrimination. Drawing on literature, Onkey (2011) asserts that Irish writers and activists constructed a narrative about their identity by linking their historical experiences to those of African Americans. They drew on themes of resilience, cultural richness, and collective struggle against oppression to cultivate a deeper understanding of their identities within the framework of colonial history. Likewise, they recognised their shared histories of collaboration in labour movements and civil rights efforts. By embracing this identity, Irish writers and activists drew similarities between their struggles against British colonial rule in Ireland and the experiences of African

Americans under slavery and systemic racism. They admired African Americans not just as fellow victims of oppression and colonialism but also as individuals who embodied strength and vitality in their cultural and emotional expressions. This served as an inspiration for Irish cultural expression. Onkey (2011) further argues that one of the most consistent tropes in the construction of Irish and Irish American identity is established through or in contrast to African Americans. This suggests that identity is not formed in isolation; rather, it is often shaped through interactions with other groups. In this context, Irish and Irish American identities are frequently articulated in relation to African American experiences. This can manifest as a comparison or a contrast, where similarities or differences between the two groups are emphasised to define what it means to be Irish or Irish American.

So far, it has been contended that discrimination and othering of immigrants, particularly African migrants, continues to be prevalent in Ireland, especially within the labour market. This occurs despite the Employment Equality Act of 1998 and 2004 and the Equal Status Act of 2000, which prohibit any form of discrimination. For example, studying evidence from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) to assess disparities between immigrant and Irish participants, Kingston *et al.* (2013) reveal significant differences in the labour market and workplace experiences of various national-ethnic groups. The findings indicate that immigrants, including Black African, Asian, Ethnic Minority EU, White UK, and White non-EU individuals, do not fare as well in the Irish labour market compared to Irish nationals. They face lower employment

opportunities than White Irish nationals. Among immigrant groups, and according to nationality and ethnicity, the 'Black African', 'Ethnic Minority EU', and 'EU New Member States' groups perform worse than other national-ethnic groups in both objective outcomes and subjective experiences of discrimination. Black African individuals, meanwhile, face the highest unemployment rates and the lowest employment and labour force participation rates. They also experience the greatest likelihood of discrimination, both in the workplace and during job searches. The report advocates for a renewed focus on public policy to enhance equality for immigrants and minority ethnic groups—both in the labour market and across society (pg. ix).

It is noteworthy that most of the research on African immigrants in Ireland is carried out by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). This includes the work of McGinnity *et al.* (2006), which examines the experiences of migrants regarding racism and discrimination in the Irish labour market. Their findings report high unemployment rates among African immigrants, particularly those aged 19 to 64 years. Furthermore, significant levels of discrimination exist against non-nationals, especially Black immigrants. They found that although African immigrants had the necessary documentation to seek employment, they encountered greater challenges in the job market compared to respondents from other minority groups. It was also noted that the Employment Permit Acts of 2003 and 2006 favoured Irish nationals, followed by EEA (EU) nationals, before non-EU nationals. This form of social policy excluded and discriminated against Africans within the labour market. Two years after this study, McGinnity and

O'Connell (2008) focused on employment among immigrants. They found that African immigrants were less likely to secure the most privileged jobs in the occupational structure. Strikingly, the study indicated a significant gender wage gap among African female immigrants. They earned 15% less income per month than their male counterparts. In another study, McGinnity *et al.* (2009) discovered that names on Curriculum Vitae (CVs) had a detrimental impact on immigrants seeking employment. They found that migrant workers with similar skills and experience were less likely to receive invitations for interviews from employers because of the names on their CVs. This suggests that names perceived as foreign were significantly less likely to secure interviews compared to those deemed Irish.

Using CSO data from the Quarterly National Household Survey Equality Modules for the years 2004, 2010, and 2014, McGinnity and colleagues (2018) explore whether discrimination changed during the economic boom, recession, and early recovery in the Irish market. They evaluate employment rates, occupations, and the discrimination faced by immigrants and minority ethnic groups, both in their job searches and within the workplace. The report determines if certain ethnic groups encounter higher rates of work-related discrimination than others. The findings indicate that various minority ethnic groups, particularly those of Black ethnicity, experience more negative outcomes in employment and occupational attainment and are at a higher risk of discrimination in recruitment and within the workplace compared to White Irish individuals.

Similar findings are abundant in other studies. The foreword of the 2018 ESRI and IHREC highlighted the significance of workplace equality when examining ethnicity and nationality within the Irish labour market. The Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Emily Logan, remarked that the report's findings 'are particularly timely, as Ireland is due to be reviewed by the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 2019.' Nonetheless, by 2020, it was clear that racism continued to be prevalent in Ireland. McGinnity *et al.* (2020) conducted the first list survey experiment on the support for minority groups in Ireland. They compared hidden and revealed attitudes by identifying and understanding the extent to which negative attitudes towards two specific groups are concealed. They discovered that in direct surveys, respondents were more likely to support Black immigrants in Ireland than Muslims. However, in concealed surveys, 15% did not support the arrival of more Black people in Ireland. The lack of support for the Muslim group was clear and unmasked. This was further demonstrated when respondents indicated that, due to social pressure, they were more tolerant towards Black ethnic groups than towards Muslims. According to McGinnity *et al.* (2020), these findings were consistent with international evidence (Creighton & Jamal, 2015; Creighton *et al.* 2016), which shows that Muslims are often not subject to masking to the same extent that other groups are.

Few studies have explored the lived experiences of immigrants, which indicates a broader issue of underrepresentation in research. However, one study conducted by the Immigrant Council of Ireland in 2004 assessed immigration policies in

Ireland and included 22 participants, consisting of both men and women from the European Union (EU) and non-EU countries. The findings revealed that the immigration policy was underdeveloped and market-driven, offering limited advantages to immigrants. Given these outcomes, one might contend that examining the lived experiences of immigrants provides fresh perspectives on migrant discourses in Ireland that are absent in earlier literature. This foregrounds the significance of minority participation in research and in addressing issues that affect them, as well as the necessity of developing comprehensive immigration strategies that consider not only market demands but also human rights and social integration to create a more equitable society.

In another notable study featuring minority voices, researchers in Ireland focused on gathering immigrants' perspectives about news and media rather than examining how immigrants are represented in the media. Wheatley and Leysi (2023) examined patterns of consumption, perceived barriers, and views on representation and potential stereotyping from the perspective of Polish and first-generation Nigerian migrants who have relocated to Ireland over the past two decades. The research indicated that participants felt that while news in Ireland was informative and useful for understanding current events, the negative stereotyping of migrants was a fundamental issue. Participants noted that this marginalises target audiences.

Further studies continue to highlight the othering of Africans and other immigrants. In 2008, Barrett and Duffy found that immigrants in Ireland were

less likely to work in high-level occupations, and those from Eastern Europe had the lowest occupational attainment, with little evidence of improved attainment over time among this group. McGinnity and Lunn (2011), in their field experiment investigating discrimination in recruitment, found that candidates with distinctly African, Asian, or German names were half as likely as Irish candidates to be invited for an interview. Discrimination among Africans was slightly higher than among the other groups, although this was insignificant in relation to the number of applications tested.

Additionally, analysing semi-structured interviews with Spanish, Polish, and Nigerian immigrants, alongside the Irish 2011 Census and data from an employability programme, Joseph (2017) argues that a 'racial order' exists in Ireland that disadvantages Nigerian (and, by extension, other Black African) immigrants. The White Irish are positioned at the top of this 'hierarchy', followed by West Europeans and then East Europeans. Joseph (2017) affirms that Black workers find themselves at the 'bottom of the ladder', not due to their achievements but rather because of their race. McGinnity *et al.* (2017) also found significantly higher levels of reported workplace discrimination among Black respondents, and the gap between Black and White Irish respondents widened between 2004 and 2014. Conversely, in recruitment, McGinnity *et al.* (2017) found that the gap between White non-Irish and White Irish fell by 2014, and there was no difference between these groups.

Nearer Ireland, a study examining the representation of minorities in UK media found that ethnic minorities received disproportionately little coverage in the British press. Among various findings, Firmstone *et al.* (2009) revealed that ethnic minorities were frequently racialised in the media, with the term 'ethnic minority/ies' often serving as a synonym for Black and Asian groups. In contrast, other ethnic groups in the UK were often rendered invisible or homogenised under the vague, faceless, and indiscriminate label of 'immigrant'. Furthermore, minority groups exerted a significant influence on news agendas surrounding immigration, terrorism, and crime. Additionally, the interplay of ethnic relations and terrorism within British politics, coupled with media practices, established a limited scope of dominant news agendas for framing events. A consistent level of low coverage existed across the pages of national newspapers, including both left-wing and right-wing tabloids and broadsheets. Occasionally, notable efforts were made in broadsheets to include the voices of minority leaders in their coverage, though these instances were sporadic. Furthermore, the overall representation of minorities in all news coverage was minimal, indicating that the visibility of minority leaders and role models was nearly non-existent. When minority leaders and role models appeared in the press, they were almost always Black and, to a lesser extent, from diverse backgrounds. Meanwhile, no minority group in the UK was significantly represented in the British press.

The othering of Africans continues outside Ireland and the UK; for example, Dixon (2000) examined local television news broadcasts in Los Angeles and Orange counties in California. He found that, in comparison to relevant crime

data, African Americans were overrepresented as perpetrators, whereas Latinos and Whites were underrepresented. White individuals were overrepresented among police officers on television despite the significant presence of racial minorities in law enforcement within the examined counties. Dixon argues that these issues have persisted for many years.

In a study of published content-analytic literature regarding race and media, Dixon *et al.* (2019) investigate how media may construct various depictions of social groups. The researchers posit that Black and Latino individuals are often depicted in limited and stereotypical manners across multiple forms of media, including advertising, sports, entertainment, music videos, news media, and video games. They also observe that Black actors are more frequently cast in villainous roles compared to their White counterparts. In advertising, for instance, Black women often exhibit Eurocentric features, such as straight hair. This can be seen as a reflection of societal beauty standards that prioritise European traits. In contrast, Black men are often depicted as unemployed, athletic individuals or entertainers. This reinforces the notion that they can only excel in specific fields. In sports entertainment, journalists emphasise the intelligence of White athletes while portraying Black athletes as naturally gifted yet lacking in intellectual abilities. In music and videos, Black men are often shown as threatening and frequently display darker skin tones, emphasising the colourism present within the Black community. Similarly, music videos sexualise Black women and tend to highlight those with lighter skin tones. Video games tend to portray Black characters as either violent outlaws or athletic figures. This

can limit the range of roles and personalities that Black characters can have. Additionally, news media overrepresent Black criminality and exaggerate the notion that Black individuals belong to the undeserving poor class. This only serves to perpetuate negative stereotypes and reinforce systemic racism.

On the other hand, mass media misrepresents and underrepresents the Latino population. In entertainment, Latinos rarely appear in video games and are often depicted in hyper-sexualised roles and low-status positions jobs. Both news and entertainment media exaggerate Latino criminality, linking it to immigration and portraying it as an economic threat. Citing reasons why creators may produce stereotypical content or inadequately represent racial and ethnic groups, the researchers suggest that, in the United States, a prevalent discourse indicates that ethnic and racial minorities are responsible for their challenges. This narrative can influence both the conscious and unconscious choices made by creators, resulting in biased representations. Furthermore, the allure of stereotypes plays a role; they connect with wide audiences as they are easily comprehensible and digestible. As a result, misrepresenting racial and ethnic groups can be financially rewarding for creators, as it draws viewership and generates revenue. This results in a significant misrepresentation of these groups and explains why most studies focus on racial portrayals. Given the rising African population in Ireland, such patterns, as noted by Dixon and colleagues, can be problematic. Stereotypical portrayals can lead to a distorted understanding of African identities in Ireland and may reinforce negative biases or misconceptions about Africans, which can impact social integration and community relations.

It is also crucial to recognise that while Africans continue to face systemic racialisation—an ongoing challenge rooted in historical and structural inequalities—some research indicates that language acquisition can significantly influence an immigrant's capacity to overcome barriers associated with systemic racialisation. This suggests that failure to acquire linguistic skills impedes their ability to integrate into Irish society fully. The barrier can manifest in various forms, including challenges in communication, understanding cultural nuances, accessing public services, and feelings of isolation and marginalisation. In a study fittingly titled 'From Catastrophe to Marginalisation: The Experiences of Somali Refugees in Ireland,' Moreo and Lentin (2010) find that the language barrier has hindered the integration of some African immigrants into Irish society. It can be concluded that this necessitates African immigrants acquiring linguistic skills to access livelihood resources such as employment.

It is important to consider that while the language barrier affects the integration of immigrants (Africans) in Ireland, the representations of identity and race also impact the legitimacy of organisations led by individuals from ethnic minorities. In a study examining how race affects the legitimacy of international organisations (IOs), Steinberg and McDowell (2024) investigate whether the representation of Black individuals in IO leadership roles influences perceptions of IO legitimacy among both Black and White respondents. Seven survey experiments were conducted in two racially diverse countries, South Africa and the United States, along with three experiments in the predominantly Black nation of Kenya. The findings indicate that Black leadership within international

organisations enhances perceptions of institutional legitimacy among Black citizens but does not significantly affect the legitimacy perceptions of their White counterparts. The findings indicate that enhancing the representation of historically marginalised racial groups within international organisations can elevate their popular legitimacy.

Despite the bleak portrayal of the racialisation and othering of Africans in Ireland and globally as depicted in literature, recognised progress has been observed in diminishing discrimination based on racial backgrounds. For instance, Dixon (2015) analyses a sample of news broadcasts in Los Angeles from 2008 to 2012, including Spanish-language broadcasts (Univision). He explores how representations may be evolving. He finds that there has been some progress concerning the frequency with which different races are portrayed in various roles within the context of crime. The portrayal of Black individuals improved compared to previous research. Black individuals were accurately depicted in multiple roles, including perpetrators, victims, and officers. These findings were unexpected, considering that African Americans were significantly overrepresented as criminals in earlier studies. In contrast, White individuals continued to maintain a dominant position as figures of authority and law enforcement in the news market. In crime reports, Whites and other groups, e.g. Asians, were more likely to be portrayed as homicide victims on local television news than to be victimised by homicide. In a parallel study conducted in the same year and published in the *Journal of Communication* titled "The Changing Misrepresentation of Race and Crime on Network and Cable News", Dixon &

Williams (2015) examine a broader sample of national news broadcasts. The researchers found that African Americans were indeed underrepresented as both perpetrators and victims, while new and concerning dynamics were evident for Latinos and Muslims.

Numerous studies indicate the challenges and progress in combating discrimination, while other research has proposed methods to enhance the integration of immigrants in Ireland. Gilmartin and Dagg (2022) examine the relationship between desired integration outcomes and the provision of settlement services, employing a substantial existing database from Ireland. They identify significant gaps in the availability of appropriate settlement services that could improve key integration outcomes, including work quality, language proficiency, and housing. The findings suggest that to enhance immigrant integration outcomes, the correlation between these outcomes and the provision of settlement services—such as employment, education, and social inclusion—must be coordinated and targeted more effectively to address the structural barriers faced by specific immigrant groups and those residing in particular regions.

The literature above supports the notions that Africa and Africans remain racialised across various sectors of society and continue to be depicted in Western media in ways that reflect and reinforce imperialism, along with colonial and neo-colonial perspectives. These portrayals degrade Africans, their cultures, their continent, and their contributions to the world. However, there is no evidence in this thesis indicating that studies show a lack of or no racism against Africans in

the media. Instead, there is a consensus among studies and experts that there is discrimination against Africans in the media. For example, during the 2005 G8 summit on debt relief, *Making Poverty History and Saving the African continent* - part of the United Nations Development Goals for Africa, the media strategically discriminated against Africa. According to Chiamogu *et al.* (2012), the press ignored the plight of Africa. It failed to address the systemic issues of poverty in Africa or the essential aspects of the contexts of poverty in Africa. Instead, the media portrayed leaders of the world's top eight industrialised nations and the Western elite as saviours of the African continent. Influential Western members of society, including world-famous musicians Bob Geldof and Bono, were celebrated for saving Africa with live concerts. One can only imagine if Europe were described in these terms: "There are no equivocations. Africa and the poor of that continent have got more from the last three days than they have ever got at any previous summit..." (Bob Geldof, Gleneagles post-summit press conference, 2005). Unsurprisingly, Cromwell & Edwards (2005) and Cohen (2001) argue that the media is pervasively reluctant to reveal the natural causes of Africa's problems. Thus, by failing to convey realities, the media adds to maintaining and legitimising power dominance between the Global North and the Global South.

The following sections focus on the theoretical and conceptual frameworks consulted in this thesis.

2.3 Theoretical Concepts Relevant to this Study

This thesis examines language use in perpetuating discrimination against Africans and Africa (together referred to as Africans) by focusing on the meaning of discourse in news reporting in two Irish newspapers. The term discourse is critical here and should be differentiated from other discourses. In addition, discourse depends on the researcher's perspective or the problem under investigation. This means that each discourse can be related to a macro-topic and linked to the argumentation about validity claims, a cluster of context-dependent semiotic practices situated within specific fields of social action, socially constituted and constitutive (Reisigl & Wodak 2009). Not only is discourse dependent on the researcher's perspective or problem, but it is also increasingly being used in the social sciences, which means there are varying definitions. In addition, there is constant confusion on whether discourse is a genre, for example, spoken or written or conversation or news (Bennett 2010), or that discourse is a register, for example, media, racist, gendered, and populist registers (Meyer & Wodak 2015). Hence, the term 'discourse' was defined within the framework of this research.

2.3.1 Discourse

The term 'discourse' is used differently by diverse researchers and in different academic disciplines (Wodak 2006a), for example, as a vital tool of influence and manipulation that is engraved in language (Caldas-Coulthard & Coulthard 1996), used for communicative reason, "principally to affect other people's beliefs and behaviour" (Partington *et al.* 2013, p.5); a "carrier of ideologies and linguistic

practice" (KhosraviNik 2014, p.505); "patterns and commonalities of knowledge and structures" (Wodak 2009, p.7), and as "language above the sentence or the clause" (Stubbs 1983, p.1). This latter definition focuses on studying sentences and how they form discourse. On their own, Brown and Yule (1983) talk about discourse as "the analysis of language in use" (p.1), suggesting that an investigation of news text must combine the linguistic form with the functions of these units. The definition addresses what the text producer does through discourse relating to unavoidable circumstances, such as socio-political, economic, historical, and cultural contexts, and how they affect texts' production and interpretation. This view is closely related to discourse as a "form of social practice" (Fairclough & Wodak 1997, p.259). This means that although ideas within social practice are different, they are linked together in a dialectical relationship. This emphasises the need for explicit power relations and repeatedly obscured and reproduced discursive events to maintain existing situations. This implies that the media's use of language to convey ideas, beliefs, and values, as well as its engagement with diverse topics, can represent and position social actors in a way that shapes them and upholds the status quo. (Wodak & Meyer 2015; Fairclough & Wodak 1997; van Dijk 1998; and Wodak & Meyer 2001).

Considering the outlined perspectives of discourse, in this thesis, discourse is understood as a form of communication involving language use in a social context. It refers to how language conveys meaning, shapes social interactions, and constructs knowledge and power relations. This reflects an understanding of language use across all forms of social life (Reisigl & Wodak 2009). Discourse can take various forms, including written or spoken language, and different

perspectives, such as linguistic, sociocultural, or critical discourse analysis. This study's view of discourse allows for incorporating three elements, namely language and extra linguistics aspects or macro-topic relatedness, including diverse views or pluri-perspectivity, and challenging or justifying validity claims (argumentation strategy or topoi). Adding to this is the idea that contexts shape discourse, while texts influence social and political reality (van Leeuwen & Wodak 1999). This makes clear the difference between discourse and text and, at the same time, foregrounds how discourse operates historically. In this respect, language operates both synchronically, which means to occur at the same time, and diachronically, which means to change over time together with other communicative events that are cooccurring at the same time or that have happened before. To further strengthen the point, Wodak (2009) clarifies that text, unlike discourse, is a genre and "a specific realisation of discourse" (Wodak 2009, p.7). For example, the discourse on exclusion can manifest itself in a television debate, on domestic politics, or in a speech by an expert on migration matters. The notion of discourse in this thesis examines how ideologies and power relations are expressed through language within specific contexts over time, using the topoi strategy.

The topoi strategy is the argumentative scheme that construes an argument for a given conclusion. Topoi is derived from the Greek word place and is attributed to Aristotle in his *Rhetoric* (the Internet Classics Archive). Aristotle fails to provide a proper definition for topoi. However, he states that topos (singular) or topoi are places to look for arguments, a heading where several rhetoric arguments or discourses can be easily found. He adds that the arguments are ready for use and

can be common or general and appropriate for use anywhere. This is the view that writers/speakers create meaning from spatial orientation or associating ideas with places using a single phrase, word, or image. For example, in the phrase 'the American Dream', links are created between the concept of a dream and a specific place, a national identity with cultural and historical significance. This shows how communicators create spatial orientation by associating complex ideas with places. Since the introduction by Aristotle, modern scholars have attempted to define the *topoi* concept.

Take, for instance, Tindale (2007), who refers to *topoi* as lines of argument, while Kennedy (1991) defines it as "strategies of argument" (p.45) and Wodak (2001) refers to it as rules for inferential processes and not just the subject matters of arguments. Wodak (2006) modifies her view and describes *topoi* as "part of argumentation which belong to the obligatory, either explicit or inferred (p.74). Meanwhile, Kienpointner (1992) defines *topoi* as "content-related warrants" (p.194) that link and justify the argument(s) to the conclusion. This assists audiences in understanding how different arguments relate. The *topoi* strategy has been hailed as one of the most outstanding critical perspectives to study discourse and is effective in analysing discourses about racial, national, and ethnic issues (Reisigl 2017). These issues are viewed discursively to be "racist opinions and beliefs that are produced and reproduced using discourse" whereby "through discourse, discriminatory exclusionary practices are prepared, promulgated and legitimised" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.1). This view guided this thesis to investigate the relationship of power that systematically privileges and favours one group over the other in society and the role of language in legitimising

social inequalities. The next theoretical concept explored in this thesis was discrimination.

2.3.2 Discrimination

Discrimination is an increasing focus for critical discourse researchers. It is significant in intercultural communication. It "puts individuals, who are different from others, at a disadvantage" (Reisigl 2007 Chapter 18). It represses, suppresses, decries, discredits, debases, degrades, defames, and establishes unjustifiable social, political, economic, educational, or other inequalities by excluding a specific social group or single members of the group (Reisigl 2007; Reisigl & Wodak 2001). In other words, discrimination is the unjust treatment of individuals or groups based on race, ethnicity, and nationality. It involves treating Africans unfairly or differently, denying them equal opportunities, and subjecting them to negative stereotypes or biases. Discrimination can occur in various social, economic, political, and legal contexts. In this thesis, discrimination occurs through language in a newspaper setting. This means the primary concern about discrimination is the "phenomenon of social discrimination" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.xi), especially racism and ethnicism, which is produced and reproduced discursively by newspaper journalists.

This paper tackles three fundamental questions to analyse the discursive nature of discrimination manifested through linguistic means. They are: (i) How are social actors named and referred to linguistically? (ii) What traits, characteristics, qualities, and features are attributed to social actors? Finally, (iii) What arguments and argumentation schemes do social actors try to justify and

legitimate the exclusion, discrimination, and exploitation? To explore these questions and analyse this form of social discrimination, this thesis argues that the most appropriate theoretical and methodological approach is one that triangulates data, methods, theories, and contextual information (historical dimension) to minimise subjectivity and understand how historical events and social structures influence discourses (Wodak 2015b, 2015a, 2011, 2009, 2001), Reisigl (2017), Reisigl & Wodak (2017, 2009, 2001, 1999).

Moving on, the following sub-section delves into the concept of semantic prosody.

2.3.3 Semantic Prosody

The study of semantic prosody (SP) is better known as the writer's attitudinal stance, judgement, appraisal or "evaluative prosody" (Partington 2015). SP is based on the study of co-occurrence or collocates (Milojkovic 2013). It highlights how neutral words, when evaluated in isolation or with words that collocate with other words, can show the evaluative associations of words, convey meanings and influence judgements. The pioneers of SP are Sinclair (1987) and Louw (1993). Sinclair opines that SP is mainly attitudinal and pragmatic and assessed in a more extended sequence rather than a single word. This differs from Louw (1993), who argues that SP belongs to a word. Louw (1993) first argues that SP is a "consistent aura of meaning with which a form is imbued" (p.157) but later adjusts his definition. In 2000, Louw added that SP is "a form of meaning which is established through the proximity of a consistent series of collocates, often characterised as positive or negative and whose primary function is the expression of the attitude of its speaker or writer towards some pragmatic

situation (Louw 2000, p.60). However, Sinclair (1987) and Louw (1993) agree that SP is attitudinal and polarised by negative or positive distinctions. Also, they contend that frequent co-occurrence of a word with other words can give rise to strong negative or positive meanings whenever the word is encountered. This is exemplified in Sinclair's (1991) study of *set in*, Louw (1993) on *utterly*, and Xiao & McEnery (2006) on *cause* who identify that the words co-occur frequently with other items that do not belong to a semantic category but have a particular attitudinal meaning (Partington 2004). This suggests that most researchers investigating SP measure a collocate by the strength or frequency of occurrence, which makes the process of inferring SP less subjective (Zhang 2020). For example, Wei and Li (2014) hold that the proportion of positive or negative occurrence to the total frequency of the node under study determines the strength of SP.

The study of SP has gained momentum and is progressively being used in CL and language studies and different data (Flowerdew 2012; Hunston 2007; McEnery, Xiao, & Tono 2006; Milojkovic 2013; Partington 2015; Stewart 2010; Stubbs 2001; Zhang 2009). For example, Louw (1993) investigates 'utterly' in the Collins Birmingham University International Language Database (COBUILD) corpus. The concordance indicates that its right collocates (including 'stupid', 'ridiculous', and 'insensible') are predominantly negative, resulting in the word having an “overwhelmingly ‘bad’ prosody” (Louw 1993, p. 160). Likewise, his observation of the phrase 'days' within the same corpus indicates that it is typically followed by negative words such as 'gone', 'over', and 'past'. The concordances for "bent on" and "symptomatic of," similarly drawn from COBUILD also indicate that both

are often followed by negative concepts, such as 'destruction', 'mischief', and 'revenge' in the case of "bent on". As Louw (1993: 166) states, "the pursuits that people are bent on are almost always negative or unpleasant in some way" (Louw 1993, p. 166). However, "build-up" is a particular case; it conveys either a positive or negative connotation depending on whether it is used transitively or intransitively (Louw 1993, p. 171). Specifically, it carries positive semantic prosody when used transitively with a human subject (as in "people build up a better understanding"). Conversely, it exhibits negative prosody when employed intransitively (as in "toxins build up"). Meanwhile, Stewart (2010) performs the examination of semantic qualities on prioritised co-texts and from the "most frequent significant collocates" (p.242). He argues that an analysis of SP can only start when "both intuition and introspection" (p.140) are involved in deciding to search, formulating the search, and eliminating irrelevant elements from the enquiry. Stewart (2009) highlights the dilemma in assessing co-occurrences' semantic qualities. He ponders if a co-occurrence should be evaluated on "its own and with no explicit reference to its relationship with the node in question" or "in terms of its combination with other co-occurrences "of the node in question"? (p.97). Stewart determines that rather than viewing SP as transferring meaning over a period or diachronically or to the co-text of the node under study, it should be studied from a synchronic perspective – the relationship within language at a specific time without historical development or changes over time. While this is valuable, disregarding the diachronic nature of SP may overlook significant historical changes and limit the contextual and cultural nuances of meaning. In addition, Stewart (2009) posits that SP belongs to a unit of meaning, language or

discourse. Louw (1993), on the other hand, contends that a word should be evaluated on its own (Baker *et al.* 2006) without the mention of different aspects of the phrase. This is seen in his evaluation of the word 'symptomatic of' (Louw 1993, p.170), which he assesses to have negative prosody because it refers to, for example, something deeply wrong, clinical depression and deeper and endemic tensions. Also, unlike Stewart (2009), Louw (1993) considers SP diachronic, meaning it semantically changes over time. Following a similar approach as Louw (1993), Sinclair (1987) assesses the phrasal verb 'set in' and finds that it mainly refers to unpleasant states of affairs such as rot, despair, and disillusion. Sinclair (1999, 1996) and Hunston (2007, 2004), however, suggest that SP has an attitudinal and pragmatic function and that it is more significant than a single word – this is the idea that SP is always inferred from both co-texts and their habitual lexical environments. Sinclair exemplifies this in his evaluation of the 'naked eye' and holds that it has a semantic set of difficulties leading to unfavourable SP.

Regarding SP methods, Sinclair (1999) repeatedly selects 30 random concordance lines to test for implicit SP. A concordance line, known as a keyword in context (KWIC), 'lists all occurrences of a specific search term in a corpus' (Gillings & Mautner 2024) to facilitate complex inquiry. Sinclair (1999) advocates testing the first 30 random lines and documenting the SP evidence before selecting another 30 new random lines to test the results of the evidence drawn before. This process is repeated until the results of the semantic prosody inclinations are apparent. This method is suitable for analysing large corpora (Sinclair 1999).

On his part, Partington (2004) studies the verbs 'happen' and 'occur' in one million words academic and four million words newspaper corpora. He observes fifty random concordances and divides the occurrences into three forms, for example, 'occur', 'occurs', and 'occurred'. He categorises them into good, bad, and neutral prosodies and extrapolates his conclusion from the quantitative presentation. He finds differences in how the two verbs are used. 'Occur' tends to be more formal and good than 'happen', which tends to be more conversational and bad.

Although this previous literature to infer SP is helpful in this thesis, it needed more transparent documentation that illustrated step-by-step evaluation choices and theoretical justification. For instance, Hunston & Francis (2000) posit that a word may possess a particular SP if it "co-occurs typically with other words that belong to a particular semantic set" (pg. 137), often within the same semantic field. Hunston and Francis's contributions are significant as they provide a framework for analysing language use more effectively by concentrating on patterns rather than isolated meanings. However, this perspective may not introduce entirely new elements compared to existing theories on semantics and lexical relationships. For example, by drawing on the functionality of a lexical item, along with linguistic choice and communicative purpose, Sinclair (1986) defines SP as "the initial choice of SP is the functional choice which links meaning to purpose; all subsequent choices within the lexical item relate back to the prosody" (pg. 86). Meanwhile, drawing from the collocative meaning of SP, other scholars assert the following. Partington (1998) views SP as "the spreading of connotational colouring beyond single word boundaries" (pg. 68) and as "a

particular collocational phenomenon" (Stubbs 1996, pg. 176). According to Louw (1993), when a word or phrase is used unusually, it implies irony or insincerity. This approach reduces subjectivity; however, critics argue that it presumes a uniformity of meaning, which they deem unacceptable, as demonstrated in the analysis of 'to the point of' (Hunston 2004) and the assertion that SP carries over from one context to another (Whitsitt 2005).

To identify and analyse SP, Hunston (2007) asserts that it is examined through CL. With this approach, an analyst can observe a text's behaviour through 'keywords in context'—concordance lines—which provide a detailed and systematic method. This is seen in the study of 'set in' by Partington (2006), who studies 20 concordances and concludes that it can have positive prosody in a positive environment. One can argue that Partington's approach is simplistic in exploring the positive or negative binary meaning of words, which is why some scholars criticise it. For instance, while Sinclair (2004) agrees with Partington (2004) that meaning contains a broader unit than a single word, he disputes the notion that semantic prosody is an attribute of a word. Sinclair (2004) emphasises that the word merely serves as the core of a longer sequence of co-occurring items that collectively form a unit of meaning, within which semantic prosody is one of the defining characteristics. Furthermore, while recognising the difficulty of providing a precise characterisation for semantic prosody or its attitudinal discourse function, Sinclair (2004) contends that semantic prosody does not exhibit either a positive or negative attitudinal evaluation.

However, employing the principle of triangulation in the Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) has been observed to reduce the risks of critical bias and politicisation (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). The triangulation principle utilises multiple methods, theories, background information, and context to deduce the communicator's meaning. This thesis integrates various approaches, including CL methods such as concordances, word frequency (Pérez-Paredes 2024), and collocations as the foundation. It modified the two-level DHA analysis procedure to examine positive self-presentation and negative other presentation (Reisigl & Wodak 2001).

To add to this body of work, it is crucial to restate that this thesis used a problem-oriented approach to language study for a more emancipatory role in social injustices. By so doing, it explored the importance of applying SP in the writer's "implicit" (*this thesis's emphasis*) attitudinal stance. Specifically, this concept was used to answer the question of attitudes in the INC by inferring the semantic prosodies of collocates. In this thesis and following Partington's (2006) approach, SP was conducted on 30 concordances of each collocate selected from the frequency analysis in INC's concordances (see 4.3). The environment within which each collocate occurred was examined in this enquiry, and a conclusion was made on the SP category. Like Louw (1993), this thesis considered SP to be either negative or positive, and consideration was given to the view that SP is more significant than a word and inferred from both co-texts and their habitual lexical environments (Sinclair 1996). The opinions of these pioneers influenced this aspect of the study. This thesis examined 30 random concordances per collocate under examination, while Partington (2006) studied 20 random

concordances. Also, the collocates were observed using 'keyword in context' concordance lines, and it was argued that as collocates occurred in positive or negative environments, they acquired the prosody, either positive or negative. This formed the basis of negative or positive SP enquiry.

These three significant theoretical frameworks—discourse, discrimination, and semantic prosody—are linguistically interconnected and contribute to broader discussions about language use in relation to Africans in the INC. These terms are examined collectively to facilitate a deeper exploration as a mechanism for social influence. This is demonstrated through the representation analysis (see Chapter 6), collocation and topoi analyses, and the overall discursive examination of the INC.

Thus far, this section has presented evidence of discrimination against Africans. It included a broad discussion of the otherisation that constructs and perpetuates the distinction between certain groups in relation to dominant groups, often leading to exclusion. This thesis may have considered Critical Race Theory (CRT) in analysing the relationship between race, racism, and power, but it was not the chosen framework. This section also explored the discussion of discourse, discrimination, and semantic prosody.

2.4 Concluding Summary

In this chapter, existing literature paved the way for answering two overarching research questions in this study. It provides the key themes in the relevant literature on the representation of Africans in the INC. Firstly, literature on

media, language and migration situates this discourse in newspapers. It indicates that news coverage and newsworthiness are determined by influential professionals and elite groups who (re)produce White ethnic consensus (van Dijk 1991). This is refuted by Fowler (1991). He suggests that because newspapers must grab audiences' attention with good writing, the media mirror society where journalists reflect events truthfully and accurately. Secondly, following an evaluation of the Irish newspaper landscape, the *Irish Independent* and *The Irish Times* are the most suitable newspapers to base this thesis on. Thirdly, existing literature on media representation of minority groups in Western Europe and the USA cited primarily from van Dijk (1991), concludes that racism is entwined with media coverage of ethnic issues. However, Nkoala (2022) presents a contrasting view, showing that, like Western media, some African media also portray Africans negatively, citing examples of coverage of Ebola and COVID-19 in two newspapers in Nigeria and South Africa. No studies suggest that there is no racism against Africans. Instead, van Dijk holds the view that more overt and blatant racism is being replaced by implicit and subtle racism. In addition, a review of key concepts, namely, discourse, discrimination and semantic prosody, provided the framework for understanding these main ideas. The chapter concludes that Africa and Africans continue to be portrayed negatively in Western media through the lens of imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonial beliefs.

Chapter 3: Conceptual Framework

3.1 Introduction

This chapter offers knowledge crucial for understanding how Corpus Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) were used for analysing language data and the socio-political implications of language use. The chapter begins with an examination of CL, some criticisms, and why this thesis was deemed a corpus linguistic study. Next, the chapter introduces Critical Discourse Analysis. It outlines prominent methodological models of CDA, including Fairclough's Dialectical-Relational Approach and van Dijk's Sociocognitive Approach, before an in-depth presentation of Wodak's Discourse-Historical Approach. The methodological concepts and tools allow this paper to identify, examine, and analyse specific ideological portrayals of Africans in selected Irish newspapers. Outlining these details offers the rationale for a methodological synergy in this study, whereby a corpus-driven approach was adopted, and the triangulation advantage of DHA was justified to be the chosen CDA approach. To demonstrate the importance of this synergy, selected studies, notably Baker *et al.* (2008), informed this thesis of the strengths of this integrated approach in the study of discursive representation of immigrants. Notably, this chapter discusses in detail the Discourse-Historical Approach (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) as the conceptual framework adopted to analyse the data of the INC. The methodological concepts and tools of DHA allow this thesis to identify, examine, and analyse discursive linguistic practices at different layers of written texts in the INC to reduce the

chances of bias. Also, within DHA, the principle of triangulation is a distinguishing feature. It helps to minimise risks of subjectivity by considering a variety of empirical observations, data, methods, theories, and background information (Wodak, 2011, p.65). Meyer (2001) supports this triangulation approach. He asserts that in the study of linguistics and social analysis, "there is no typical way of collecting data" (p.23) because of numerous different and accessible sources of data that are analysed from various analytical perspectives (Wodak 2015). The effectiveness of the triangulation approach is evident in multiple studies that have used DHA to conduct studies in CDA.

3.2. Corpus Linguistics (CL)

Corpus Linguistics (CL) is 'the study of language based on examples of real-life language use' (McEnery & Wilson 2001, p.1). It is "a way of using computers to assist the analysis of language so that regularities among many millions of words can be quickly and accurately identified" (Baker & McEnery 2015, p.1). According to Bennett (2010), its principles have been around for about 100 years, with Lexicographers collecting samples of language in use to define words. However, the advent of computers brought about the first computer-based corpus and in 1961, the Brown corpus comprised about one million text samples of American English (Bennett 2010; Rühlemann & Aijmer 2015). However, the term corpus linguistics was only coined in the 1980s by Jan Aarts (Leech 2011; 1992) to refer to the branch of linguistics that uses computers for analysis. Since then, CL has been viewed as one of the fastest-growing areas in language studies to uncover

patterns (Gabrielatos & Duguid 2015) and one of the quickest-growing methodologies in modern linguistics (Greis 2009).

The definition of CL considered in this thesis is taken from McEnery & Hardie (2011) and understood as a compilation of naturally occurring texts stored electronically and available for quantitative and qualitative analysis. This definition encompasses three items that must be present in any corpus study. They are a collection of authentic texts, either written or spoken, followed by a form of technology, computer/software that allows the analyst to search through quickly. Finally, it must provide empirical evidence of language use that "looks different when you look at a lot of it at once" (Sinclair 1991, p.100). These elements were presented as a specialised corpus from written newspaper articles in two Irish newspapers. Secondly, the corpus was stored electronically in a computer and accessed via Sketch Engine (*SkE*). Most CL studies use corpora as the primary data and starting point to search for "probabilities, trends, patterns, co-occurrences of elements, features, or groupings of features" (Teubert & Krishnamurthy 2007, p.6) and to generate results that are accurate and broad-based quickly (Biber 2015). In this regard, corpora or a corpus (singular) is "a set of texts" (McEnery & Hardie 2011, p.1), a sizeable principled collection (Bennett 2010) of "authentic" (Leech 1991, p.8) written or spoken texts (O'Keeffe *et al.* 2007) that have been selected and organised following specific linguistics measures (Sinclair 1996) and stored on a computer (Wray & Bloomer 2012).

Typically, CL seeks to answer two research questions, one that addresses patterns associated with lexical or grammatical features, such as the most frequent words

and phrases (O'Keeffe *et al.* 2007) or the number of words that generally occur in conversations (McCarthy 2004). The second question addresses how patterns differ within language varieties and registers, such as word frequency, word meaning and use, and grammatical frequency (Bennet 2010). While, typically, CL addresses these two questions, it is essential to note that CL's two benefits are directly linked to this thesis. Firstly, the systematic form of discourse analysis allows comparative studies to be replicated (Mullerig 2007), and secondly, using CL with approaches in critical discourse analysis allowed this study to perform keyness analysis, frequency comparisons, collocation analysis and concordance analysis (Gabrielatos & Duguid 2015). The section below will provide more information on the different approaches to CL studies.

3.2.1. Research Approach to Corpus Linguistics

Corpus linguistics is multidisciplinary, and several disciplines have successfully implemented it. Of note are studies in lexicography (Sinclair 1991, 1990; Biber 1993), grammar (Halliday 1993; Biber *et al.* 1999; Hunston & Francis 2000), literary studies (Louw 1993); and critical discourse analysis (Baker *et al.* 2008; Baker 2006; Orpin 2005), to name but a few. CL has witnessed a fast growth in language studies. A generally accepted view is that any CL approach to the linguistic investigation should pursue methodological considerations such as authenticity, variation, frequency, collocation and phraseology, and lexis and grammar (Hunston 2002, p.96). However, like other studies that have been scrutinised, the theoretical contribution of CL has come under scrutiny. One of the biggest debates within modern-day CL lies in the research approaches.

There are two research approaches to CL. One is a corpus-driven approach, and the other is a corpus-based approach. According to Tognini-Bonelli (2001), a corpus-based perspective studies language that investigates previous linguistic categories or "patterns of variation among the full set of written registers in a language" (Biber 2015; 2012). Its main goal is to infer salient patterns in language use in corpora that are previously unknown. In this approach, McEnery & Hardie (2012) suggest that corpus data investigates a hypothesis or theory to validate, refute or refine it. The corpus-based is stronger on annotation, thus offering the chance to support a theory or hypothesis and rely strongly on intuition, making it subjective.

The second CL approach is corpus-driven. It uses the corpus as the only source of evidence to form a hypothesis and to identify new linguistic features. Its proponents reject CL as a method and posit that the corpus itself should be the only source of hypothesis about language – the theory of language (Tognini-Bonelli 2001, pp.84-85). This view focuses the enquiry on frequencies and patterns of co-occurrences of words. It demonstrates that the linguistic descriptions are obtained "systematically from the recurrent patterns and the frequency distributions that emerge from the language in context and without any prior expectations and assumptions about language use" (Tognini-Bonelli 2001, p.87). According to Biber (2012), this approach is more inductive.

From the descriptions of the two approaches, while there are differences, there are also some similarities. The first similarity is that both approaches use a corpus as the primary tool for the collection and analysis of data. Secondly, CL generally

studies any aspect of language, and not every linguist supports the idea that both approaches should be distinguished. Some linguists call for an abolition of the distinction and suggest that all CL works should be characterised as corpus-based (McEnery & Hardie 2012, 2010; McEnery & Wilson 2001). Due to this call for abolishing the distinction between both approaches, the next section will discuss the differences before adopting a CL approach for this thesis.

3.2.2. The distinction between Two Approaches to Corpus Linguistics.

According to McEnery and Hardie (2012) and Tognini-Bonelli (2001), the primary distinction between corpus-based and corpus-driven approaches is whether CL is a methodology or a theory. For this, Tognini-Bonelli (2001) asserts that CL is a discipline or theory because of its scientific approach that uses a set of rules and guiding principles to study the language in use. This theoretical approach favours the corpus-driven perspective of CL and is preferred by linguists, including Sinclair, Tognini-Bonelli, Stubbs, Hunston, and Krishnamurthy, to name but a few.

Meanwhile, other linguists consider CL a research tool or method (Davies 2011; Swales 2006). This means it employs frequency procedures at both micro and macro levels of data analysis, which would otherwise be more challenging to investigate. Gabrielatos and Duguid (2015) support this view and the idea that CL is an exploratory methodology, not a theory, although it has theoretical affiliations. In this context, CL is a methodology that uses a corpus-based approach.

Given the major difference between both approaches, this study embraced two decisions. Firstly, to reduce the chances of subjectivity, the corpus-driven analytical approach was adopted as the CL method to study discourses in the INC. Judging that the researcher of this work is from an ethnic minority background, personal prejudices needed to be kept to a negligible minimum. A corpus-driven approach allowed the corpus to drive the research direction so that inferences were based on the saliency of the corpus rather than on existing hypotheses or theories. In other words, the inductive nature of this approach uncovered and identified recurrent linguistic means and patterns in context that were not evident before any linguistic analysis, making it best suited for this paper. Together with the fact that a corpus-driven paradigm is new and uses several automated aspects, the approach facilitated and reduced the time involved in the quantitative analysis of the electronically stored 3,923,355 words of news articles in the INC. In handling extensive quantitative data of linguistic patterns, this approach demonstrated how CL can be triangulated as a methodology in CDA to produce an analysis that can be replicated, checked, and challenged by other analysts (Stubbs 1997). The corpus-driven paradigm's advantages allowed this thesis to accomplish more compelling conclusions.

The second decision focused on whether CL is a theory or methodology. This thesis agrees with Baker (2011) and Biber (2015) that CL can be both reality (the idea of science) and assumption (the idea of methodology). On the basis that it is science, this thesis used tools such as a corpus and procedures such as frequency distributions to check for patterns of representation and form hypotheses. Using three theoretical concepts, discourse, discrimination, and semantic prosody, they

were investigated in media language to portray Africans, indicate attitudes, and illustrate extralinguistic aspects, such as the historical dimension under which the linguistic constructs occurred. The discourse-historical approach (DHA) to critical discourse analysis (CDA) was chosen for this vital reason. Adding to this, the concept of topoi in DHA justified the negative or positive attributions of the argumentation strategies (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) and answered the research questions. These steps were clearly outlined and operationalised in this paper to allow for replicability by another analyst. By agreeing that this thesis also comprises methodology, key steps, such as balance and representativeness of the corpus, concordances, and wordlists, were considered when collecting and analysing the data. These decisions enabled this paper to design and analyse a well-suited corpus for this study, as shown in the next chapter. Before that, the next section will show criticisms of CL and then operationalise CL as a methodology in this thesis.

3.2.3. Criticisms of Corpus Linguistics

Corpus linguistics is a "powerful methodology" (Parodi 2010, p.69) to discover linguistic meaning. However, its techniques have been criticised by several scholars. One fundamental argument is that corpus data is usage data that cannot inform linguistic knowledge (Chomsky 1967). This suggests that CL overemphasises data while neglecting interpretation. However, Stefanowitsch (2020) disputes this, alluding that there is no way of accessing a speaker's linguistic knowledge – the idea of linguistic competence- without observing real-life texts – the notion of linguistic performance. Second, it is claimed that corpora

data is incomplete (Chomsky 1957), meaning that observing real-life language use or empirical data is inadequate. Agreeing with this notion, Stefanowitsch (2020) states that all corpora are necessarily finite and that linguistic usage is not homogeneous. Stefanowitsch cites similarities of the incompleteness of data in other disciplines, paying particular attention to the fact that not even the one-hundred-million-word - largest currently publicly available linguistic corpus of British English (BNC) – contains every linguistic phenomenon. Stefanowitsch (2020), therefore, opines that this should not be an argument against corpus linguistics; rather, it should be considered while compiling and designing a corpus. A third limitation is that, while corpora reveal patterns within language, they lack semantic and pragmatic meaning (Lakoff 2004). This is the notion that compiling a corpus and extracting words for analysis removes the language from the context, thereby decontextualising the language or meaning-making or interpretation. However, in illustrating the number of lines with suffixes of words with 'ness', McEnery & Hardie (2012) argue that linguistic context can be provided through 'keyword in context (KWIC) in concordance' (Richards & Pilcher 2016). Fourthly, corpora data lacks negative evidence, meaning that "they can only tell us what is possible in each language, but not what is not possible" (Stefanowitsch 2020, p.3). This suggests that corpora lack evidence for ungrammatical sentences, a notion agreed by some corpus linguists (McEnery & Wilson 2001). Nonetheless, (Stefanowitsch 2020) alludes to the significance of statistical testing in CL and asserts that (1) the absence of certain sentences can be equally significant as their presence and lead to underlying ideologies, (2) if a particular sentence recurrently registers infrequent occurrences in large corpora,

it is likely that the sentence is ungrammatical or infrequent within the linguistic community. Other considerations in CL require specialised software for specific research questions. Some well-known CL tools include AntConc, Sketch Engine, WordSmith, Voyant and LancsBox (Altameemi 2024), while other considerations require defining the appropriate corpora for analysis. This is the idea of corpus representativeness and balance (McEnery, Xiao & Tono 2005). See 4.2 in this thesis for more. Despite these limitations, Baker *et al.* (2008) and Adel (2010) argue that corpora work best as a "complement" (p.28). However, it is important to recognise the challenges inherent in CL to better integrate it with other methodologies (Altameemi 2024) such as discourse analysis and computational methods (Baker *et al.* 2008; McEnery 2019; McEnery *et al.* 2019; McEnery & Hardie 2012); Gender and sexuality in language use (Baker 2006a; McEnery *et al.* 2019) and John McHardy Sinclair, a prominent figure in the fields of language in education, discourse analysis and corpus-assisted lexicography (Stubbs 2009). These studies effectively use tools in CL to investigate language uses. So far, this subsection has indicated that although CL has revolutionised language study by providing empirical evidence in huge linguistic data, among many advantages, it has also confronted challenges in its methodologies and applications. The next discussion considers the adopted CL approach in this thesis.

3.2.4. Corpus linguistics as the Methodology in this Thesis

In section 3.2.2, a distinction was made between corpus-based and corpus-driven approaches based on whether CL is perceived as a methodology or a theory. Following this distinction, a corpus-driven approach to CL was adopted for this

thesis, viewed as both a science and a methodology. As a science, it emphasised data collection techniques. Two specific tools and measurements were employed that are easily replicable by another analyst. The first tool was the corpus. This contained close to 5,500 newspaper articles over a three-decade specific period. The second tool was concordances, which is "a collection of the occurrences of a word-form, each in its textual environment" (Sinclair 1991, p.32). This was possible with the help of *SkE*. To the effect that this study was methodology, it focused on naturally occurring language use (Baker 2011; Biber 2015). The real-life language employed a specific discourse of media representation of Africans, whereby a corpus was compiled of newspaper news articles in the English language from the websites of two Irish newspapers.

It is important to highlight that the basis of the analysis (for collocation and word frequencies) was the raw frequencies of words, which were provided by the analytical tool Sketch Engine (*SkE*). The raw counts in a frequency were preferred in analysing the INC because they displayed the precise number of times that each word appeared in the dataset without any manipulation. This facilitated the interpretation of data across sub-corpora, the identification of patterns, and the integrity of the dataset. Although McEnery *et al.* (2005) argue that raw frequency may overvalue common words, it remains the 'most basic statistic used for the calculation of collocations' (McEnery *et al.* 2005, no pagination). This suggests that there are certain limitations in using raw frequency – particularly regarding common and frequently prevalent words (like 'the' and 'is'), which might skew the results when analysing collocation. However, this thesis adopted additional analytical techniques. Firstly, keeping with Rühlemann and Clancy (2018),

information on normalisation was made available, making clear that raw frequencies can be normalised so that they might be compared with corpora of different sizes. These included a manual approach to collocation, which included the omission of certain words and texts that had limited importance in the context of this study. This reduced the chance of less significant words. Secondly, the study examined the same number of concordance lines across subcorpora, which provided a balanced analytical technique. These methodological decisions provided the foundation measure from which further statistical methods were developed. In addition, using raw frequency is not novel in linguistic analysis. In 2024, Öksüz *et al.* focused on raw (absolute) frequencies and counted the co-occurrence of words when examining the psychological reality of collocations in English and Turkish. In addition, Kranich (2010) uses raw frequencies in the first comprehensive diachronic analysis of the English progressive, spanning from Old English to contemporary English. The study emphasises the significant period of grammaticalisation that occurred between the 17th and 20th centuries. The study uses data from the British segment of ARCHER-2 (A Representative Corpus of Historical English Registers, version 2). It reveals intricate details about this extensive grammaticalisation process, documenting how the construction evolved from a stylistic tool into a fully developed aspect marker. So, while it is significant to recognise the usage and limitations of raw frequency when studying collocations, this study incorporated additional analytical techniques alongside basic statistical measures to accurately capture the nuances of language meaning in this context.

Adopting CL as both science and methodology supported this thesis to form generalisations in two ways. Firstly, using *SkE* assisted the quantitative approach in establishing which newspaper used certain words more frequently than the other and obtaining two-word lists. One was the word frequency list for the INC. This established the number of words and frequencies used to talk about Africans in the selected newspapers and periods under study. The list was in rank order frequency rather than the alphabetical order. The rank order frequency list displayed raw counts of the occurrence of each word in the corpus. The list was compared with a reference corpus to obtain the keywords in the corpus. In this case, keywords that occurred with unusual frequency in each text were compared to a reference corpus (Scott 1996). Performing a KWIC analysis was valuable because it is the "first basic corpus analytic technique" (Evison 2010, p.128) aimed at establishing and grouping words in a corpus for "providing a representation of socially important concepts" (Scott 1996, p.233). The keywords were then analysed in concordance contexts to obtain semantic categories and discourse topics.

The second set of lists contained collocates from all sub-corpora under study. These were used to compare data across sub-corpora, to obtain patterns, and to set up semantic categories. The analysis focused on items that were notably both frequent and infrequent. It is to be noted that the sub-corpora were of different sizes and, therefore, required normalisation. The process of normalisation involved extrapolating raw frequencies from different-sized corpora and expressing them using a common factor such as a thousand or a million words (Evison 2010; Fattani 2018). The most considerable sub-corpora size in this study

was more than one million. Hence, the normalisation process was expressed in terms of a million words. Combining words from the keyword list helped form linguistic patterns based on semantic relations. This eased the process of topoi analysis in argumentation, which is discussed throughout this study.

The second way generalisations were formed by adopting CL as both science and methodology concerned the qualitative investigation in this study. This analysis examined the environments of keywords in context (KWIC) and those of concordance nodes. The results were displayed as concordance lines. According to O'Keeffe *et al.* (2007), concordance is a CL tool that uses "corpus software to find every occurrence of a particular word or phrase" (p.8) and to infer useful contextual information (Baker *et al.* 2008) because all instances of a word in their immediate co-texts are presented. In other words, the results in concordance display all the occurrences of the keyword and node in the centre of the screen, along with a pre-set number of words to either side. Analysing the patterns of words around nodes in concordance, for example, assisted this thesis in obtaining collocates, which was relevant in answering the research questions in this thesis.

In summary, the advantage of using concordances confirmed the inductive nature of this thesis, whereby generalisations were gained from the large corpora with the help of machine-assisted tools for analysis (Biber 2015). This allowed the analyst to examine and induce new findings solely from the self-compiled specialised corpus used for analysis in this thesis. This was in addition to obtaining frequency lists, examining KWIC, analysing nodes to obtain collocates,

and drawing on the corpus-driven approach to CL. The following paragraphs show how CL was implemented in this study.

3.2.5. Operationalising Study as Corpus Linguistics

To apply CL in this thesis, the corpus comprised only authentic texts of news articles about Africans from selected newspapers' databases from September to December 1998, 2008, and 2018. The selected newspapers differ in ideology; one is liberal, and the other is conservative. Twenty-five nodes were carefully chosen and examined to obtain only articles with the most frequent and relevant lexical items to collocate with Africans. With the help of the Keyword tool in *SkE*, a keyword list indicated differences in the occurrences of linguistic items that were substantially (in)frequent. This involves identifying words of quantitative importance, called keyness (Scott 199). This methodology provided a departure point for concordance analysis, such as KWIC analysis.

This thesis observed seven measures to analyse concordance data comprehensively. They are initiation, which searches for patterns to the right and left of a node; interpretation, which looks for repeated words and links them by word class or meaning; consolidation, which investigates additional patterns or other variations; reporting, which includes writing a robust and testable hypothesis; recycling, which involves studying the patterns for extended contexts; results, which consists in recording the observations as a focus for further study and hypothesis and repeating the process with more data (Sinclair 2003, pp .xvi-xvii).

The CL techniques used in this thesis were adopted from the RASIM project (Baker *et al.* 2008; Baker & McEnery, 2005). The project focuses on 'positive self' and 'negative other' presentations and combines CL and discourse-historical approach (DHA) techniques in CDA, notably argumentation theory. It analyses 140 million words from British news articles to study media attitudes towards refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants (RASIM). One must bear in mind that though RASIM is referred to by some scholars as a framework (O'Regan & Riordan 2018), it is an acronym that was created "for reasons of economy" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.276) of space in the RAS project to reference migrant groups. As such, this thesis views RASIM not as a framework but as a specific research project employing CL and CDA methodologies. The main CL analytical tools were keyness and collocation, while concordances were used to "supplement the methodological tools" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.277).

In line with the RAS study, this thesis compared similarities and differences between the selected newspapers by investigating the occurrences of nodes, keywords and collocates in concordance. For example, a concordance analysis was performed on the node **African***. The asterisk* was applied as a wildcard to the target word in question to permit the display of all occurrences of the word forms, such as *Africa*, *African*, *Africans* and *Africa's*. To perform the analysis, the most frequent words that co-occur with African* were pre-set to result in three positions on either side. This observed the 'initiate' (Sinclair 2003) stage of reading concordances for analysis. The three positions were tagged L3, L2 and L1 to mean the third, second and first words to the left, or R1, R2 and R3 to tell the first, second and third words to appear on the node's right. This naming

categorisation facilitated the observation of patterns and the manual documentation of all lexical items that occurred with the word under investigation. For example, the query conducted on the node **African*** in the *Independent* between September and December 1998 (also known as 1998) resulted in 171 occurrences. The co-occurring words were grouped based on their semantic relations. This step observed the 'interpret' (Sinclair 2003) stage of reading concordances, which means it was possible to infer from observing concordances the kinds of strategies the selected newspapers used to represent Africans. An example of random concordances of the node **African** from the *Independent* 1998 is demonstrated below.

The screenshot shows the ONCORNDANCE software interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'Corpus1_IrishIndo_1998' and a search icon. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Details', 'Left context', 'KWIC', and 'Right context'. The 'KWIC' tab is selected, showing a list of concordances. Each row represents a concordance, with the word 'African' highlighted in red in the center column. The left and right columns show the surrounding text. The concordances are as follows:

Left context	KWIC	Right context
asures that have been proved to work. In Uganda, the first	African	country to be ravaged by AIDS in the Eighties, infections am
frag him or her. out of the vehicle because so many South	Africans	cradle a pistol on their knees to fight off criminals. Now, with
nmission report, embarrassed many politicians. The ruling	African	National Congress was furious at the findings that it was "me
to join early capacity such as South next year and will be	African	Airlines to join as treated by the alliance as a well. That is pe
ret, Vincent Van Gogh, nature photographers, exotic cars,	African	wildlife. Mother Goose and Grim and space through the eye
137 women and children it said were among thousands of	African	women and children enslaved by National Islamic Front sold
id prices: so much for a Guatemalan child, so much for an	African	. Their clients arc doubtless worthy people. The results for th
serious incident of air rage a Kildarc man on board South	African	Airways 747 was arrestee] after hc ran into lhe cockpit durin
use the victim was "deceitful". Some Pakistani and West	African	respondents said site had "learnt the hard way while many y
ation and mining companies, including Navan Resources,	African	Gold and Arcon. Meanwhile, total losses at Powerscrccn, the
ie will attend a memorial service for thc victims of thc East	African	bombings of US embassies. So confident was Mr Clinton on
lent of perjury. Rebels storm out of Congo summit SEVEN	African	presidents, many of whom back opposing sides in Congo's v
ction vvilh Mir and it was owned by a Charles Ellis a South	African	citizen. The lor mer chairman had i ecom mended lo l heboa

Figure 3.1: Concordances (KWIC) for African* node, Independent, Sept-Dec 1998

In the example of concordances in Figure 3.1. above, the node is displayed in the centre of the screen under the KWIC tool. This concordance technique reveals the broader context of a word under investigation, from where further analysis can be performed, such as topoi analysis. The underlined words are adjacent collocates. These were recorded and combined to form semantic topics regarding Africans and to facilitate the examination of collocates for ideologies. Beyond investigating the occurrence of nodes in KWIC concordances, they were also investigated as *Sentence*. This is a concordance tool that displays complete sentences containing the node. This 'consolidates' (Sinclair 2003) patterns associated with the node, providing quick and easy access to a substantial amount of information that otherwise would have been challenging to accomplish with the naked eye. To illustrate evidence of concordances using the *Sentence* tool, some samples of the enquiry of **African*** above are shown below in Figure 2.2.

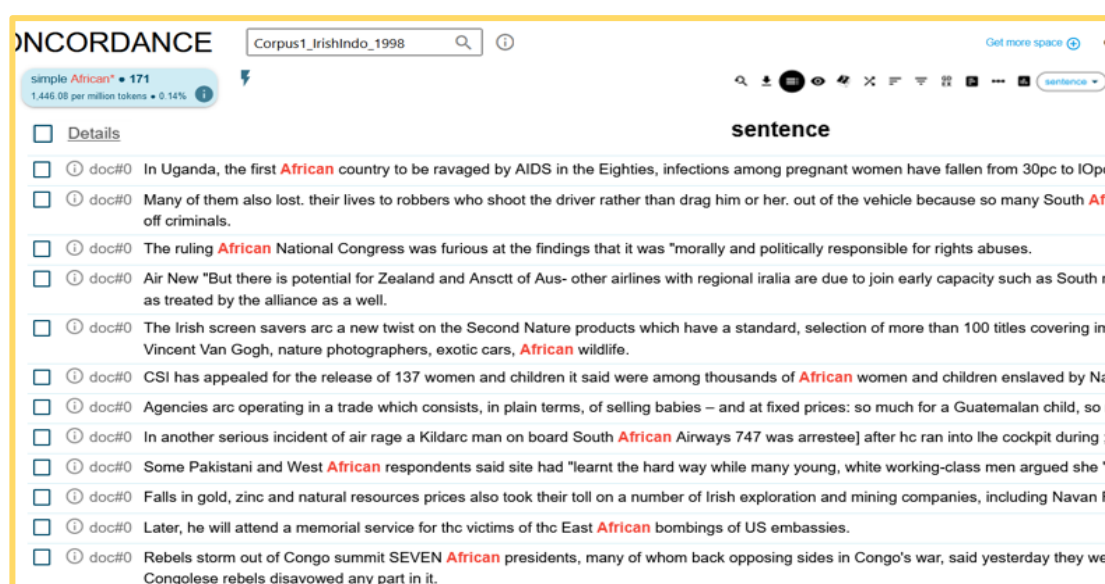


Figure 3.2: Concordances (Sentences) for the node African* in the *Independent*, Sept-Dec 1998

Using the *Sentence* tool in concordances, Figure 3.2. above demonstrates the broader context of the evidence of concordance lines for the node, **African**, in the *Independent* during 1998. It was shown that certain verbs and nouns were predominantly used elsewhere outside of the three-word window to the node. Some verbs included *ravaged*, *lost*, *shoot*, *drag*, *enslave*, *fight*, *arrested* and *abuse*, to name but a few. Some major nouns frequently occurred further from the node, such as *AIDS*, *pistol*, *robbers*, *criminals*, and *rage*. The broader contexts displayed in these examples occurred before and after the node and suggested some form of evaluation. This helped to set up research questions about the ideological stance of newspapers.

The above section discussed the CL approach to critical analysis. It adopted the view that CL is both science and methodology and explained the socio-cultural discourses that constructed "reality, social identities and social relationships" (Fairclough 1992, p.64) in media discourses of Africans in Ireland. In creating these realities, CL combined methods with CDA's problem-oriented perspective of DHA, which seeks to emancipate and transform society. Suggesting that DHA to CDA research is problem-oriented means it acknowledges that social problems are multidimensional and interdisciplinary and rooted in linguistics. However, linguistics is only a part of its research. The DHA approach combines the linguistic dimension with the context, the linguistic relationship to other texts and discourses, the situational context such as space, and the historical and socio-political conditions under which discourses are embedded (Wodak 2016). The approach is discussed in detail in the following section.

3.3. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

The term critical discourse analysis (CDA) is explained differently by scholars and with no single view of what it is (Paltridge 2006). This approach was considered the most influential qualitative path (Gabrielatos & Duguid 2015) in this study because of the following. Firstly, it analyses and critiques power relations and inequality in language to advocate for groups that suffer from social discrimination (Blommaert & Bulcaen 2000). Secondly, this type of analysis helps to uncover the dialectical relationship between discourse and social structure (Fairclough 1992). It unlocks hidden ideologies in texts (Teo 2000), and finally, it offers ways to challenge dominant and powerful elites who perpetuate social inequality and injustice (van Dijk 1993).

CDA is used in this thesis to determine how different newspapers portray the same group of people. In discussing CDA, this section will present the history, founding scholars, general principles, and aims. It will attempt to define CDA from the perspectives of four different scholars, notably van Dijk (2001), Fairclough (2001), Baker & McEnery (2005) and Wodak (2011). For example, for van Dijk (2001), CDA is an analytical approach that studies discourse in the social and political contexts, "especially on the role of discourse in the production and reproduction of power abuse and domination" (p.96). This definition looks at the way social power, abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political contexts (van Dijk 2003). By this, van Dijk emphasises his previous view in 1993 that in CDA, he wants to "understand, expose, and resist social inequality" (van Dijk 1993, p.249) by

investigating power abuse embedded in discourse and its effects on society. Over time, van Dijk moves from wanting to expose and resist inequality (1993) to focusing on critical notions in CDA, notably discrimination, race, power, class, hegemony, gender, etc. (2000), and then to a form of analytical research that studies explicit stances of power resistance (2001). Judging from these views over the years, it can be argued that the central tenets of CDA by van Dijk are language, hidden structures, and ideologies (dominance, control, inequality, and discrimination).

On his own, Fairclough (2001) views CDA as a form of "social practice" (Fairclough & Wodak 1997, p.258; Fairclough 2001, p.21) that identifies and examines the impacts of societal structures and norms on individuals and actions against the problems. Fairclough (2001) underscores the significance of cultural, social, and political contexts in investigating hidden power in language use, suggesting that critical discourse analysts' role is not neutral. By critical, Fairclough (1995) means an unsystematic approach that makes explicit opaque ideologies and focuses on interpreting strategies that legitimise control, power, and inequality to reveal obscured ideologies in text and talk. Another definition is that of Baker & McEnery (2005). The scholars consider CDA a "form of academic enquiry which aims to understand better how societies work" (p.197) and respond to "questions about relationships between language and society" (Rogers 2005, p.365). However, Wodak (2001) posits that rather than focus on academic problems, CDA begins at the level of existing social issues and from the views of the most disadvantaged in society, which critically holds accountable the

powerful in society to solve the problem. Like Fairclough (1995), Wodak (2007) states that critical means:

“... taking things for granted, opening up complexity, challenging reductionism, dogmatism, and dichotomies, being self-reflective in my research, and through these processes, making opaque structures of power relations and ideologies manifest.” Wodak (2007)

In the above definition, Wodak (2007) calls for critical discourse analysts to be objective in their data and analysis while being subjective in their findings by focusing on "self-reflection as scholars doing research" (Wodak 2001, p.9). Also, integrating the entirety of society in its historical context, Wodak (2001) posits that CDA is a "recognisable approach to language "programme" (p.50).

Following the above definitions of CDA, this thesis adopted the view of Wodak (2001) because, as an approach to language programmes, it acknowledges that while empirical evidence is crucial for establishing facts, personal experiences are significant in understanding complex social phenomena. This idea is a well-established movement in the Social Sciences in that it is interdisciplinary with distinctive critical approaches to studying language and how it affects society in terms of power and injustices. To imply that it is interdisciplinary recognises that it emerged from several disciplines, including rhetoric, text linguistics, cognitive science, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics and pragmatics (Wodak 2012). However, the primary concern about this definition is the issue of CDA as a homogeneous entity. This suggests that there is an identical function of CDA, which makes it problematic because there are several schools and approaches, for example, by Fairclough (1985), Fowler (1991), van Dijk (1991), Wodak *et al.* (2007, 1996, 1990). For this problematic issue, this thesis considered it essential

to explore other schools within CDA before adopting a particular approach (school). For lack of time and space in this thesis, three CDA schools will be discussed alongside specific key terms, such as 'power', 'ideology', 'discourse' and 'critical'. Before examining these approaches, it is important to discuss the history and aims of CDA briefly.

3.3.1. History and Aims of Critical Discourse Analysis

Historically, CDA emerged in the 1970s in Critical Linguistics following the works of the Frankfurt School (Meyer & Wodak 2013). This group of social thinkers works within the Marxist tradition to identify and challenge socio-economic injustices. Critical linguists believe that economic and cultural contexts frequently create and maintain power relations and consider that language is a "medium of social domination and serves to legitimise power relations" (Meyer & Wodak 2013, p.2). Thus, critical linguistics is an analytical approach to the study of the connection between language and society, whereby societal structures, including ideologies, are inclined to (purposefully) influence linguistic choices, and these linguistic choices tend to influence behaviour (Fowler *et al.* 1979; Kress & Hodge, 1979). Since the days of the Frankfurt School social theorists, the term critical linguistics has been widely synonymous with CDA. Notwithstanding this significant contribution and to avoid confusion, CDA was used in this thesis to refer to all bodies of research dedicated to critical discourse.

The term critical discourse analysis (CDA) was first used in an article by Fairclough (1985), then in his book 'Language and Power' (Fairclough 1989), and later in his book 'Critical Discourse Analysis' (Fairclough 1995). These books are

some of the most cited books in the study of CDA (Rogers *et al.* 2005), although there is disagreement about who first used this term. Some researchers suggest that the term CDA was coined by scholars in the early 1990s at a symposium to discuss theories and methods of linguistics research (Meyer & Wodak 2013). Notably, Teun van Dijk attended this session, as did Norman Fairclough, Gunther Kress, Theo van Leeuwen, and Ruth Wodak (Machin & Mayr 2012; Meyer & Wodak 2009). Despite the splits on who first used the term, since its formation in 1991, CDA has continued to expand, many schools have emerged, and it is now "multidisciplinary" (Wodak & Meyer 2009). It is multidisciplinary because the concept can be applied in different research fields investigating social problems. It can be interrogated from other contexts, such as historical, social, and political circumstances. According to Wodak (2001), the need for interdisciplinary work in CDA is "to gain a proper understanding of how language functions in constituting and transmitting knowledge, in organising social institutions or in exercising power" (p.11).

In summary, critical discourse analysts investigate how power structures are created and fortified through language use while focusing on issues of discrimination and manipulation within social contexts such as media and politics, for example, in using discursive strategies of right-wing populist parties and the impact of anti-immigrant/racist discourses in society (Wodak & Meyer 2015; Gyollai 2022).

Regarding its aims, Wodak (1995), who is widely cited in this thesis, opines that the goal of CDA is to analyse "opaque as well as transparent structural

relationships of dominance, discrimination, power and controls as manifested in language" (p.204). This is achieved critically by studying language, its interaction with social structures, and the "relationship between the analysis and the practices analysed" (Wodak 1997, p.173). In addition, Wodak & Meyer (2009) argue that CDA aims to offer self-reflection by producing and distributing essential understanding and information that can help society emancipate and liberate itself from different forms of control. According to Baker *et al.* (2013), CDA focuses on "how grammatical systems are related to social and personal needs" (p.20), suggesting that CDA is a movement of critically analysing discourses primarily associated with power, ideology, and domination.

Generally, there are three main stages in CDA. The first stage is text analysis or description, focusing on grammar, vocabulary, textual structure and cohesion to identify ideologies and power relations patterns. Fairclough (2010) states that this stage is still in its infancy. The second stage is the processing analysis or interpretation or discourse practice stage. It examines the processes of text production, distribution and consumption to understand how meaning is constructed and interpreted. This uncovers implicit meanings and is primarily cognitive. Like descriptive analysis, this interpretation stage has received less attention. The third stage is the sociocultural analysis or the explanation stage, which has received the most significant attention due to its socio-semiotic nature (O'Halloran 2003). This third stage involves the relationship between texts and non-linguistics or broader contexts, such as social or cultural contexts, and how contexts influence text interpretation.

In agreement that CDA is problem-oriented, interdisciplinary, and rooted in linguistics, this thesis used methods from previous studies, especially from the RAS project (Baker *et al.* 2008). The second study that influenced this thesis is that of the pioneering work of DHA that reconstructed anti-Semitic stereotypes in 1986 in Vienna (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001; Wodak *et al.* 1990). DHA is also used in the investigation of racist discrimination against Romanian migrants in Austria (Wodak & Janussek 1995, Wodak *et al.* 1998, 2009). However, the study in Vienna of anti-Semitism is the most influential DHA approach (Reisigl 2017). It combines sociolinguistics and studies on narration, stylistics, rhetoric, and argumentation with historical and sociological research to analyse linguistic manifestations of anti-Semitic prejudice in their historical context. Data for this study is obtained from both oral and written genres, including historical expert reports, national as well as international newspapers, statements of politicians, daily news broadcasts, TV news, interviews, TV discussions, hearings, documentaries, and a vigil commemorating anti-Semitism (Reisigl 2017 p.45). This anti-Semitic study contributes to academic research on anti-Semitism and how stereotypes and discrimination are manifested, maintained and distributed within the society. This thesis stands on the shoulders of these giants. In this regard, and to further understand the adopted analytical framework, the following section offers an overview of some key features of CDA, some significant differences, and some benefits of CDA.

3.3.2. Common Features of Critical Discourse Analysis

In the face of varying definitions of CDA and contrasting methodological approaches to language study, this section focuses on three common features of CDA. Firstly, CDA scholars generally study the structural relationships of dominance, abuse, discrimination, and power in language (Wodak 1995) and aim to change society (Wodak & Meyer 2009). This is clear when Wodak (1992; 2001) advances that the main aim of CDA is to analyse hidden, as well as explicit structures of power and dominance and strategies of discrimination and control in language. In addition, Caldas-Coulthard and Coulthard (1996) argue that the fundamental objective of CDA is to make the world a better place where there is no discrimination based on "sex, colour, creed, age or social class" (p.xi). This suggests that CDA aims to produce knowledge that enables individuals to free themselves or others from dominance and discrimination. Secondly, all CDA scholars generally believe that CDA improves the understanding of society by integrating all the major social sciences, such as economics, sociology, history, political science, anthropology, and psychology, to stop social injustice. This explains the interdisciplinary research methodology approach to discourse study. Thirdly, most CDA scholars agree that CDA is not a "method" (van Dijk 2016, p.4). Rather, it is "an area or discipline of study, using many different qualitative and quantitative methods" (van Dijk 2016, p.4). In other words, CDA has a critical attitude and approach that uses distinct methods to interrogate language use (van Dijk 1995, 2016).

To conclude, it is argued in this thesis that CDA "contains two essential elements" (Breeze 2011, p.495). The first element is a political concern of ideology and power in society, and the other element is how language perpetuates and reveals these relationships. This is important because it sets CDA to be about the relationship between language, text and discourse, power, political struggle, inequality, and dominance (Breeze 2011, p.495), making CDA interdisciplinary and highlighting that texts do not occur in isolation. From summarising some standard features of CDA, the following section focuses on the main argument over CDA.

3.3.3. Criticisms of Critical Discourse Analysis

Although CDA aims to make a difference in society (Toolan 1997) and is heterogeneous in methodological and theoretical perspectives, it continues to be confronted by resistance from language analysts. One of the main contentions of CDA is that it is marked with subjective agendas and preconceptions (Widdowson 1995b; 2004), suggesting that researchers select texts that lean towards their political biases and their presumptions. By so doing, Widdowson questions the methodology, ideology, context, epistemology, and concept of CDA. However, Wodak (2011) contests that CDA is subjective. She points out that the principle of triangulation in DHA allows CDA researchers to integrate different aspects such as data, methods, theories, background information, and historical sources in which discursive events are embedded. This form of data triangulation helps reduce the risk of being too subjective by applying the topoi tool, which identifies commonplaces that transmit underlying rhetorical strategies and persuasive

techniques in language to influence and persuade others (Wodak 2015). Meyers (2002) re-echoes this view, adding that CDA is transparent about its positions and commitments and does not hide this bias. This weakness is instead applauded by van Dijk (2001) in that, in education research, it holds particular values for educators, and this is not a bad, biased scholarship because it is based on rigorous scholarship and explicit and systematic methods that are backed by empirical evidence (van Dijk 2001). It is also fascinating that Widdowson (2004) himself counters his criticism when he endorses CDA practitioners for uncovering and exposing the hidden agendas of the dominant elite and manipulating the public for their gains. He postulates that CDA is not only about words but demonstrates how discourse analysis can add to "a critical awareness of how language is used and abused to exercise control and practice deception" (p. ix).

Widdowson (1998) is not the only critic of CDA. Fairclough (1989) and Fowler (1991b) claim that CDA is driven by ideology and affects data selection, analysis, and interpretation of results. In addition to this criticism, Stubbs (1997) calls for a more extensive data size and argues that CDA does not base its claims on evidence. However, these claims need to pay more attention to the contributions of Fairclough (1992, 1995b) and van Dijk (1993), whose approaches are shown in the following section of this thesis. In these, they explain that this is not an ideology-driven research movement with a biased methodology because it employs several analytical methods to uncover subtle ways in which discursive productions of injustices by the dominant elite are enacted, how they affect

targeted audiences and how they can be resisted (van Dijk 1993, Wodak *et al.* 2000).

This thesis posits that CDA applications and interpretations may be influenced by the researchers conducting the analysis. However, CDA is not inherently biased. This is because CDA researchers attempt to be aware of their own biases and focus on the core principles of CDA, which are to uncover power relations and criticise dominant ideologies in social practices. Also, analysts tend to critically analyse and interpret how language is used in various contexts to construct social realities and influence power structures. In addition, because CDA is multidisciplinary, different perspectives are integrated into research, which can reduce biases.

A statement of other criticisms holds that CDA is not critical, that it lacks a theoretical framework or methodology (Hammersley 1997; Stubbs 1997; Widdowson 1998), and that it is "unprincipled" (Toolan 1997, p.110). On the question of context, Blommaert (2001) argues that there is no ethnographic (case studies) basis for analysing context. Meanwhile, regarding replication, Widdowson (1995b; 2003) argues that the analytical models and interpretation criteria could be more specific. In addition, there is no unique approach to CDA (Paltridge 2006). On the issue of CDA being a school, Fairclough and Wodak (1997) and van Dijk (2003) reject this notion because there are too many differences among CDA scholars.

These criticisms highlight problems with the theoretical framework and the objectivity of CDA. For these reasons, this thesis approached the data

systematically and analytically and considered all possible readings before, during, and after data collection and analysis to avoid deducing interpretations from the beginning. This was key because, as a study with a focus on racism and discrimination, its rhetoric is exclusive and different from others, such as debates about integration, inclusion and exclusion, which carry legitimate arguments. To approach data systematically and analytically, this study used a framework and methodology that connected different discursive forms of racist, discriminatory and exclusion rhetoric. The consideration was that racism, discrimination, and exclusion manifest discursively in that they are "produced and reproduced using discourse, through discourse, discriminatory exclusionary practices are prepared, promulgated, and legitimised" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.1). This chapter discusses in detail the DHA approach to CDA in this study (see Chapter Three), but before that, it is fundamental to outline the benefits of the CDA approach.

3.3.4. Strengths of Critical Discourse Analysis

Despite the criticisms of CDA, the approach has merits. One of the most critical strengths of CDA is that it is problem-oriented and concerned with social issues. It seeks to uncover how public discourse propagates discrimination and hidden ideologies and to propose ways in which positive change can occur in society. The consideration here is that language is too complex and that social problems are too multidimensional to make CDA a study of grammar or linguistics (Wodak 2001). Therefore, for language, structure, form, and content to have any meaning, CDA offers methodologies to analyse the interaction of grammar with other non-linguistic phenomena to make meaning. The meaning here is understood through

discourse action, production, reproduction, and consumption. The different methodologies provide an eclectic view of CDA (van Dijk 2001) towards the study of social groups and social structures. This means that methods from disciplines, including discourse studies, social sciences and humanities, can be used to study CDA (Wodak & Meyer 2008). As such, more information and perspectives are used in the analysis. One approach that is well-known for this is the socio-cognitive approach to CDA (van Dijk 2006). In this interdisciplinary approach, van Dijk combines theories from cognitive psychology with systematic linguistic analysis to investigate how discourse influences ideology. Secondly, CDA helps to explore how "discourses, genres and texts change due to socio-political contexts" (Wodak 2009). This allows researchers to track power dynamics, ideology patterns, and the context within which language occurs, such as the historical, socio-political, and cultural processes, structures, and intent. The third contribution of CDA is how it considers language. According to Fairclough and Wodak (1997), language is a social practice, indicating that language and society are interconnected and not regarded as separate entities. It is clear that through language, individuals can do many things, for example, communicate and apply dominance, point to identities, and reinforce inequalities such as ethnicity, race, and nationality, making it very clear that language is indeed a social practice. The connection between this relationship requires specific approaches and tools to study it to uncover social structure. This approach combines linguistics and non-linguistics phenomena, and it is no wonder that CDA firmly establishes itself as a recognisable approach to studying language across different academic disciplines

and intellectual environments. The following subsection presents the basic principles of CDA.

3.3.5. Basic Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis

In discussing the principles of CDA, this section attempts to assess the strengths of compelling CDA research based on some basic tenets suggested by van Dijk (1995). It explores the eight tenets of CDA by Fairclough and Wodak (1997), initially proposed by Kress (1990). Besides serving as the dogma of CDA, these eight principles of CDA highlight how CDA differs from other linguistic methods of discourse, for example, sociolinguistics (Wodak & Meyer 2001) and pragmatics (Levinson 1983) approaches. These latter approaches are concerned with studying the relationship between language and context and focus less on issues of power and dominance in society (Labov 1972; Hymes 1972). In setting itself apart from other linguistic methods and using the eight tenets of CDA, van Dijk (1995) notes that in carrying out CDA research, it is often a challenge to limit particular principles correctly, practices, aims or methods. Some concerns encountered at the beginning of this thesis involved selecting the most suitable approach and the question of bias. The question of bias was hugely important in this study because of potential human predispositions that can be involved in race discourse. This was in addition to the view that CDA lacks attention to positive or transformative use of discourse (Martin 2004).

To mitigate these challenges, this thesis observed van Dijk's (1995) requirements to investigate CDA research effectively. He notes that CDA should study social problems, be inter/multidisciplinary with a focus on discourse and society,

embody an explicitly critical approach, focus on power relations, dominance, inequality and their reproduction in text and talk, study underlying ideologies that support power inequality, abuse, and dominance, aim to uncover opaque meanings by studying different strategies used to reproduce inequality, oppose the powerful elites and those who abuse their power, and should formulate strategies to enact and develop "counter-power and counter-ideologies in practices of challenge and resistance" (Amoussou & Allagbe 2018, p.13). The requirements by van Dijk (1995) were developed in more detail by Fairclough & Wodak (1997) as the tenets of the CDA "programme" (Wodak 2001, p.5). These tenets are explained below.

The first principle is that CDA addresses a social problem in addition to language and language use. To approach this, Fairclough & Wodak (1997) study the issues of dominance and inequality by characteristically focusing CDA on the relationship between linguistic choices and the social and political contexts. It follows an empirical approach to interrogate the obscure power relationships hidden in text and how they legitimate, confirm, or reproduce power abuse in society (Fairclough & Wodak 1997; van Dijk 2015). It is also interdisciplinary because it considers social problems to be multidimensional. This means that CDA recognises that language is not neutral. Instead, it is a powerful tool for influencing societal attitudes and behaviour.

The second tenet considers discourse as historical and focuses on context. CDA studies include linguistics and non-linguistic contexts, such as culture, society, time, space, and ideology. Again, meaning is constructed in social interaction by

integrating these different sources of experience and context (Wodak 2001; Fairclough & Wodak 1997). This reinforces the notion that discourse is not a fixed entity. Instead, it transforms over time regarding social norms and hierarchical structures.

The third principle considers that language can be used for ideological purposes. To achieve this, CDA must also examine the language used in its texts for their discourse practices since ideologies are not only about words. This includes how texts are produced, interpreted, and received and their social effects, such as mediating between language and identities, interactions, and cultural dominance. This adds to the next tenet of CDA, as seen below.

The fourth principle of CDA asks if the link between language/text and society is mediated by "orders of discourse" (Fairclough 1995a). This principle establishes the connections between texts' relationships, sociocultural processes, structures, and properties, foregrounding a socio-cognitive view (van Dijk 2001; Wodak 1996).

The fifth principle is that power relations are discursive. This principle concerns the formation of group relations, social influence, and dominance, as well as the "reproduction of or resistance against dominance or inequality" (van Dijk 1995, p.18). It argues that discourse is the lens through which power structure and disruption in society are viewed, not only in traditional forms such as laws. In this case, language is seen as a primary instrument that legitimises or maintains power structures or challenges power dominance in society.

The sixth principle interrogates if research constitutes society and culture. This questions the impact of language use on the reproduction and transformation of society, culture, and power relations. In posing this question, CDA investigates how language use can reveal discrimination and injustices embedded in, for example, media texts.

The seventh tenet asks if CDA is interpretative and explanatory. This concerns the intent of discourse and questions if it is open to new contextual information following hermeneutic methods and procedures (Wodak & Meyer 2001). By this, Wodak and Meyer argue that meaning is produced by understanding one part of the context, while interpretation depends on detailed explicit linguistics analysis of discourse.

The last tenet requires CDA researchers to question if their study is an action, a form of social action to uncover opaqueness and power relations and change abuses of power. This last point is arguably the most vital emancipatory aspect of the principles. It finds and explains injustices against non-dominant groups and adopts the role of academic activism in what can be described as a social justice approach, which advocates for positive change in society.

Having discussed the definitions, history, aims, stages, similarities, criticisms, strengths, and basic principles of CDA, this chapter will explore three methodological approaches to CDA.

3.3.6. Methodology of Critical Discourse Analysis

There is no single way to conduct CDA because several approaches are underpinned by some main ideas, the most basic being discourse, critique, power, and ideology (Wodak & Meyer 2009). These notions of CDA and their interdisciplinary approach to language and society have paved the way for multiple approaches. These approaches use methods ranging from historical, interpretive, and political to discursive psychology that result in either inductive or deductive analytical methods. In inductive CDA studies, for example, researchers use vast amounts of information for their arguments and interpretations, such as in DHA. In deductive CDA studies, researchers use examples. As varied as the approaches to CDA, Mişcoiu (2008) postulates that there are four prominent schools in the field, namely critical linguistics by Fowler, Kress, Hidge & Trew (1979); the sociocultural approach by Fairclough (1989, 1992, 1995); the discourse historical approach by Wodak (2001, 1996) and the socio-cognitive approach by van Dijk (2002, 1998). On the other hand, Wodak & Meyer (2009) identify at least six distinct approaches. They are adapted and presented below in Figure 3.3.

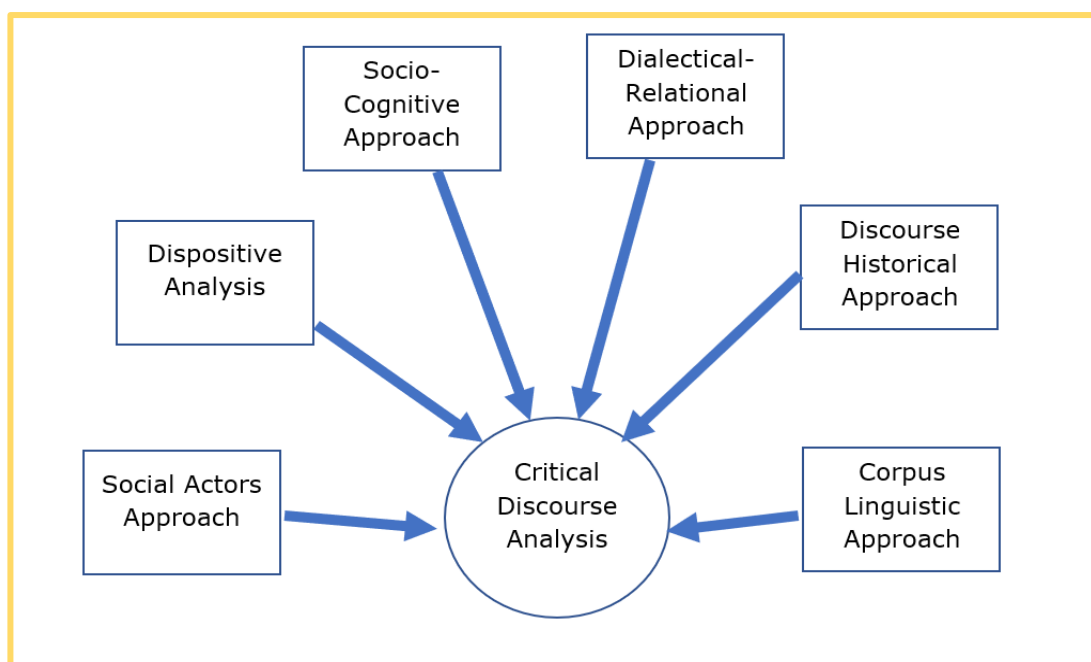


Figure 3.3: Adaptation of approaches to CDA by Wodak and Meyer (2009)

The figure above is an adaptation of approaches to CDA proposed by Wodak and Meyer (2009). They are the Social Actors Approach (SAA) by van Leeuwen (1996), Dispositive Analysis (DA) by Foucault (1997), Socio-cognitive Approach (SCA) by van Dijk (2014a, 1997), Dialectical-Relational Approach (DRA) by Fairclough (1989), Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) by Wodak (2001) and Corpus Linguistics Approach (CLA). However, it is beyond the scope of this thesis to provide comprehensive accounts of all the approaches. Thus, this study will cite and discuss three, namely, Fairclough (1992a, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003), van Dijk (1993, 1997, 2001) and Wodak (1996, 2001).

3.3.7. Approach to Critical Discourse Analysis

This thesis adopted the most effective analytical framework to explain the three approaches and investigate how different aspects of social inequalities are expressed in language about Africans in the INC. The first approach explored in this thesis is that of linguist Fairclough (1989, 1993, 1995b, 2001, 2003).

Fairclough's Dialectical-Relational Approach

Norman Fairclough is considered a pioneer in CDA (Blommaert & Bulcaen 2000). Fairclough (1993) views discourse as "social practice" (p.138) in how people represent themselves and their world views through their activities. In the Dialectical-Relational Approach to CDA, Fairclough (1989, 1995) argues that there is a dialectical relationship – an interconnectedness of various elements within the discourse and social processes - between language and society, where language influences society and, in turn, society is shaped by it. In other words, language use is both socially shaped and socially shaping. Drawn from systematic functional linguistics (Halliday 1985), Fairclough believes that language is socially shaped by contexts and constitutive to shape people's views of events. This stresses that while different discourses may exist within the same genre, the relationship between language use and the conventions is mediated or complex (Fairclough 1995). In this case, language is only a medium used to reproduce the values and beliefs of given societies. Three components are critical in DRA to CDA, namely, text, interpretation and explanation.

As a text, Fairclough (1995) writes that this is the first step in the three-dimensional framework, and it is either spoken, written or visual. The text produces a discursive event whereby rules and beliefs guide production, consumption, and distribution. This is the basis of his analytical framework of intertextuality, interdiscursivity, and hegemony. By intertextuality, Fairclough (1995a) concerns himself with external relationships between texts, before and after, for example, the use of quotations, allusions, and parody. On the other hand, interdiscursivity combines genres and discourses in text, such as implicit or explicit references to other discourses. Finally, hegemony sees the complete control of societal structures by dominant groups, including the political, ideological, and cultural dimensions. Next, Fairclough (1992) proposes that text and discourse analysis proceed in three phases: description, interpretation of the relationship between text and interaction, and explanation of the interactions in the social and cultural context. The part of description relates to text connecting to social practice, whereas text is the "written or spoken language produced in a discursive event" (p.138). Elsewhere, Fairclough (1995a) argues about the multi-semiotic nature of text and adds sounds and visuals or television to his notion of text.

The second of Fairclough's three-dimensional framework is interpretation. This is concerned with the discourse practice of the relationship among three steps, namely, text production, distribution, and consumption (as well as the discursive practices of the text). In this regard, the discourse context shapes and preserves the language. That is, choices of linguistic structures are analysed concerning their functions.

The final level of the communicative event is the explanation. This is the analysis of the social practice. It concerns the relationship between interaction and social and cultural contexts. Here, the chosen language in text production is driven by the ideology of a particular institution to capture readers' attention, also seen as consumers, and reproduce in their minds the idea of inequality of groups. Fairclough emphasises the discursive practices in discourse where the audience's knowledge of the content creator can affect their interpretation of the text. This discursive aspect of discourse is linked to his idea of "orders of discourse" (Fairclough 1993, p.138), where a change in power relations can alter how discourses are structured in a social interaction. He contends that power relations, for example, "ideological ensuring" (Fairclough 2001, p.25) via control, are not static and can change over time. (Fairclough 2003).

Van Dijk Socio-Cognitive Paradigm

Teun A. van Dijk is prominent in studying media, discursive racism and the relationships between ideology, power, context, knowledge, and discourse (Jahedi *et al.* 2014). Although he is well known for his critical perspective, van Dijk (1993) focuses on the socio-cognitive aspects of the discursive context of CDA. He states that CDA should be studied from ideological structures and social relationships of power that are involved in discourse that may be implicit or explicit in text/talk (van Dijk 2000a). Van Dijk draws from cognitive science and social psychology and asserts that social cognition mediates between text and society. This is the belief that social and political realities are constructions or

mental representations of social members which should be taken seriously – the idea of "social constructionism" (van Dijk 2016).

The socio-cognitive paradigm (van Dijk 1993a, 2001a) is unlike other approaches to discourse, such as the DRA (Fairclough 1989), which focuses on linguistic analysis and discursive practices (van Dijk 2006, 2008, 2009). In his model, van Dijk studies CDA from an ideological perspective, focusing on the mental aspects of discourse production and comprehension. This means that ideology is the centrepiece with no direct correlation between discourse structures and social structures. Four principles construct ideology in this paradigm, which are referred to as the "ideological square" (van Dijk 2000a, 2004). The study of the ideological square reveals the polarisation of 'us' or 'ingroup', which is favourable, and 'them' or 'outgroups', which is unfavourable. The principles emphasise positive things about 'us', emphasise negative things about 'them', de-emphasise positive things about 'them', and de-emphasise negative things about 'us' (van Dijk 2000a, p.44). In addition to these principles, three terms are considered, namely discourse, cognitive, and society, or discourse-cognition-society, for short. This is a triangle of ideology which "examines how such cognitive phenomena are related to the structures of discourse, verbal interactions, communicative events, and situations, as well as societal structures" (van Dijk 2009, p.64).

According to van Dijk (2015), discourse refers to the micro and macro structures within which discourse occurs and "unifies" (van Dijk 2015, p.354). At the macro level, the context is on power, dominance and inequality between social,

historical, cultural, and political groups within which a communicative event occurs. On the idea of power, it is either coercive or persuasive and controls by force or uses information and knowledge to influence. The micro level constitutes the environment in which a communicative event occurs. This mental representation assists in the production and understanding of text. Without it, discourse is unexplained - language use, speech, and communication. This leads van Dijk (2003, 2015) to firmly establish macro-micro contexts in his social-cognitive approach, which has an indirect and complex link between society and cognition. van Dijk (2001a) argues that this triangle involves the cognitive structures and processes of discourse and communication, such as belief, evaluation, and emotion. Language users draw from these mental and internalised images of social and discourse structures to express their thoughts in talk or text.

In the view above, van Dijk (2016) indicates that cognition mediates between text or communication and society or interaction. Social and personal cognition refers to "socially shared representations of societal arrangements, groups and relations, as well as mental operations such as interpretation, thinking and arguing, inferencing and learning" (Van Dijk, 1993, p.257). With this, van Dijk theorises that social structures affect and are affected by discourse structures.

The last component of his triangle is society. This is the microstructure of interactions, political systems, and societal structures. Like Fairclough's model of discourse, it connects the way language is created to the social dimension, including power relations (Luke 2002). This ties in with the concept of social

practice and underlines the ideas of ideology and control. For example, groups have power if they can control the minds of other groups. The intention is to create a positive 'self-representation' and a negative 'different' illustration.

It is determined that although this technique is regarded for theorising concepts including understanding, context, and ideology, critics consider it to be a confined cognisance. For example, Wodak (2009) argues that it is mainly interested in the impact of media on the production and reproduction of racism (Wodak 2009). Some examples validate this claim; for instance, in analysing media texts, van Dijk (1991) believes that race and ethnic relations are essential places where discourse produces and reproduces inequality and power relations in society. He opines that "racism is a complex system of social and political inequality that is also reproduced by discourse" (van Dijk 2001b, p.362). He goes further in his 1991 study of Racism and the Press to state that the press is an agent of "the White power structure" (p.20) while ethnic minorities are marginalised and portrayed in news reports as violent, problematic, criminals and with unacceptable cultural differences. These examples tend to validate Wodak's (2009) criticism, suggesting that the SCA ignores the unequal power structures that influence how discourse is (re)produced in society. Still, van Dijk maintains that it is the way power is used in language that creates groups in society, and this is more than the analysis of language or texts, adding that there is no direct correlation between discourse structures and social structures and that discourses function through a cognitive link because "it is not the social situation that influences (or is influenced by) discourses, but the way the participants define such situation" (van Dijk 2008, p.x).

Despite the criticisms of the SCA, it can be argued that in emphasising the cognitive processes in language use, analysts are afforded the knowledge of how language shapes thought and influences behaviour. Thus, language does not function in isolation; it is interconnected with socio-cultural and political outlooks. Also, it can be argued that SCA is critical. This is because it objectively considers different perspectives, establishes judgements based on evidence rather than emotions or bias, uncovers ideological power structures and implicit prejudices, and, importantly, fosters social change. Finally, it can be argued that because SCA integrates different disciplines such as communication, linguistics, sociology, and psychology, it is enriched with various theoretical and methodological frameworks to study language use. This makes the approach interdisciplinary.

3.4 Wodak's Discourse Historical Approach

According to Reisigl (2017), within the framework of CDA, the Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) "is one of the most prominent critical approaches to the study of discourse" (p.44). The approach was developed by Wodak (2001, 2009, 2015, 2009) and Reisigl (2017), who is also a prominent proponent in the study of CDA. Wodak focuses on discourse studies, identity politics, racism, anti-Semitism, other forms of discrimination, and ethnographic methods of linguistic fieldwork (Wodak & Meyer 2001). Her colleagues and students in Vienna devised the DHA in critical discourse studies to study time, identity construction and unfair discrimination in discourses (Reisigl & Wodak 1999, 2009), Wodak (2001, 2009, 2011, 2015) and Reisigl 2017). The DHA is an interdisciplinary and

problem-oriented "pragmatic" (Meyer 2001, p.22) approach that combines several empirically based research discursive practices to study language use and how they replicate broader social and cultural issues over time and across different genres (Wodak 1999). In other words, DHA combines language and discourse analysis with a historical perspective. By focusing on the historical context in which discourses emerge, scholars trace the development and evolution of discourses over time and obtain a deeper understanding of the social, political, and cultural forces that influence language and meaning. In essence, DHA exposes the inherent ideologies and power relations that shape discourses and examines how they are used to build and maintain group hierarchies and social identities. DHA focuses on three aspects, namely, the content of the data, discursive strategies, and linguistics realisation of these contents and strategies (van Leeuwen & Wodak 1999). Discursive here means a form of manipulation of reality by social actors, including journalists, to accomplish a specific goal (Carvalho 2008).

3.4.1. Aims of Discourse Historical Approach

Talking about the intentions of DHA, van Leeuwen & Wodak (1999) assert that DHA aims to "integrate as many of the genres of discourse referring to a particular issue as possible, as well as the historical dimension of that issue" (p.91). This emphasises that CDA is "historical and can therefore only be understood regarding their context" (Wodak & Meyer, 2001, p.15). This is to say that DHA researchers investigate individual texts and contexts to understand how language is socially constructed, how it interrelates with historical and socio-

political situations and how it adds to shape societal norms and beliefs. In addition, DHA raises two critical issues in the historical notion of CDA – discourse and context.

Wodak (2001) describes discourse as "a complex bundle of simultaneous and sequential interrelated linguistic acts, which manifest themselves within and across the social fields of action..." (p.66). Discourse is related to a macro-topic linked to argumentation about validity claims, such as truth and normative validity involving social actors with different viewpoints (Reisigl & Wodak 2008, p.89). DHA considers discourse to be both diachronic and synchronic with other communicative events that have happened, are happening, and might happen in the future.

Regarding context, Wodak (2009) postulates that texts and discourses are linked to the past and the present and to extralinguistic social factors, aiming to reconstruct and explain discursive change diachronically. This notion calls for including socio-political and psychological dimensions in CDA studies. Put differently, DHA recognises that the context of discursive events in which language is used can influence and strengthen power structures.

Discourse Historical Approach (DHA), like other CDA approaches, uses several theoretical and methodological approaches to study language use, is problem-oriented, and criticises power inequality, injustice, and discrimination in society (Reisigl 2017). For example, in studying discursive practices in constructing national identity, Wodak *et al.* (2009) draw on the dialectical relationship between discursive practices and fields of action. In this study, the 'self', and the

'other' use the deictic inclusive 'we' and deictic other 'they' with negative and derogatory ascriptions (pp.141 - 142). In earlier works, Wodak (2001) advances that linguistic choices can be seen as representing "non-discursive and discursive social practices and at the same time as being constituted by them" (p.66). In other words, the discourse environment, for example, situations, institutions and social structures can shape and affect discourses; at the same time, discourses can, in turn, influence discursive and non-discursive socio-political processes and actions. This type of linguistic environment within which discourses occur makes the focal point of DHA in the "field of politics, where it tries to develop conceptual frameworks for political discourse" (Meyer 2001, p.22). Carvalho (2008) agrees with this view that DHA is more centred on politics and calls for studies to be conducted elsewhere. For example, he identifies that very few media studies have included historical backgrounds of discursive events and changes in discourse throughout time. He argues that, so far, media discourse has focused on short periods, and it is mainly because such research is time-consuming and labour-intensive. Consequently, this has ignored the critical aspects of the emergence, evolution of meaning and context of a given period about an issue in public life and "the ways they are interdependent about the media" (Carvalho 2008, p.164). Carvalho believes that this is an essential contribution to CDA.

This thesis attempted to fill this gap by agreeing with Carvalho (2008) that very few media studies have included historical backgrounds in their analysis. It adopted a two-step approach. The first-step approach attempted to investigate the INC, aiming to draw attention to the discursive strategies employed by two newspapers in representing Africans over three periods in 30 years. Secondly, to

highlight the historical transformations of the discourse of African migration to Ireland and re-examine its current discourses. On the second-step approach, this thesis adopted the action-oriented approach of DHA. The aims were two-fold. One was to contribute to critical discourse studies in general and to discourses of Africans in Irish media. The second was to highlight emancipatory techniques in which non-dominant groups reconstruct their identities. Thus, supporting Nartey's (2022) view that highlighting emancipatory discourses of marginalised groups can "demonstrate why CDA must not only expose and resist inequalities and injustices in society but, more crucially, also adopt an activist-scholar posture to push for positive social change (pp.459 – 464).

3.4.2 Central Concepts in DHA

The notions of 'critique', 'ideology' and 'power' are critical in every CDA approach; however, they are conceptualised differently (Reisigl & Wodak 2017). Thus, it is essential to explain how, together with 'discourse', 'text' and 'context', they are considered in DHA and how they were applied in this thesis. They are considered the central concepts in DHA and are discussed in the ensuing paragraphs.

Critique

According to Wodak & Reisigl (2009, 2017), DHA adheres to the socio-philosophical perspective of critical theory, which means it follows the notion of 'critique'. Critique refers to the researcher's ability to interpret the socio-political contexts of data in a self-reflexive manner. The researcher advances arguments for using specific methods to analyse discursive practices transparently (Wodak

& Reisigl 2017). The concept of critique integrates three aspects, namely, text or discourse-immanent critique, socio-diagnostic critique, and future-related perspective critique. Text critique evaluates contradictions, problems, and inconsistencies in text-internal or discourse-internal structures. Socio-diagnostic critique allows researchers to interpret discursive practices' implicit and explicit nature by focusing on inconsistencies between discursive events and other social practices. Lastly, future-related prospective critique is practical and action-oriented. It contributes to the improvement of communication. In this thesis, 'critique' supported the study in clearly stating the objective analysis of all aspects, including the study's object, focus, and the analyst's position. At the same time, the results from the critical analysis were used to unearth power inequalities to achieve fair treatment and equitable opportunities for all people – the idea of social justice.

Ideology

According to DHA, the concept of ideology is a "one-sided perspective or world view composed of related mental representations, convictions, opinions, attitudes and evaluations which members of a specific social group share" (Wodak & Reisigl 2017, p.88). In the DHA perspective, ideology aims to establish how unequal power relations, domination, and exploitation are (re)produced and maintained in society. This can be done by, for example, using specific linguistic choices to arbitrate, dominate or control access to particular discourses (Reisigl & Wodak 2009). Ideology also aims to radically transform power relations by

using linguistic and semiotic practices to uncover how dominant ideologies are (re)produced in society and fight against hegemony.

Power

Wodak and Reisigl (2017) define power as "the possibility of having one's own will within a social relationship against the will or interests of others" (p.88), although language, on its own, is not considered powerful. Instead, its dominance comes from how powerful people use it to gain and maintain control. This can be by physical force and violence, control through threats or promises, power attachments, and technological control through resources, such as means of production, transportation, and weapons (Wodak & Reisigl 2017). In DHA, discourse is used to legitimise or delegitimise power. Power is conversational. Power is discursively employed in both linguistic and extralinguistic forms, specifically "by a person's control of the social occasion using the genre of a text, or by the regulation of access to certain public spheres" (Wodak & Reisigl 2017 p.89). This shapes and influences power relationships, making it possible for researchers to analyse language so that different powerful and hegemonic (dominant) ideologies can be uncovered and resisted.

Apart from critique, ideology and power, the multidisciplinary nature of DHA implies that different data sources, including empirical observations, theories, methods, and background information, are vital in explaining the research questions. As a result, there are several choices and concepts to be drawn from, such as discourse, text, and context that are crucial in any CDA study. These

concepts are considered differently by various approaches. The following section briefly defines these concepts according to DHA.

Discourse

According to DHA, discourse is an "analytical construct" (Reisigl & Wodak 2017, p.89) or an object of investigation, depending mainly on the researcher's perspective. As shown in 2.3.1, discourse is an interplay of numerous linguistic elements—symbols, spoken or written—a rich tapestry all happening simultaneously and "very often as texts" (Wodak 2001, p.66) to construct meaning within specific contexts.

The above definition suggests that discourse constructs social practices, and in return, it is constructed by social practices. It states that discourse is constitutive of elements such as interconnected linguistic practices linked to macro-topic and argumentation (Reisigl & Wodak 2015, p.89). This touches on the idea that discourse operates within linguistic actions in a social context, is open to diverse explanations, and is not seen as isolated texts.

Text

Reisigl and Wodak (2001) posit that in DHA, text can be written or oral. They define texts as "materially durable products of linguistic actions" (Reisigl & Wodak (2001, p.66) and parts of discourses assigned to genres, such as newspapers and television. This definition encompasses a clear distinction between text and discourse, whereby text is part of discourse and can be assigned

to genres such as TV debates, speeches, or lectures. In addition, Wodak (2001) argues that a common feature of texts is that they have obscured meanings.

Context

As shown above, in 3.5, 'context' in DHA considers four levels (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.90). By intertextuality, DHA claims that texts are connected to other texts in the past and present, while interdiscursivity means discourses are linked to each other in various ways. Discourses frequently refer to other discourses. The above section discussed key concepts in CDA and from a DHA perspective. The ensuing section describes three critical analytical tools that are involved in DHA.

3.4.3 Overview of three Key Analytical Tools in DHA

In DHA's analytical framework, discourse strategies use five categories of analytical tools. Three were used in this thesis. The analytical tools demonstrate how an analysis of semantic and discourse prosodies is conducted in terms of DHA argumentation strategies. This occurs in combination with objective quantitative corpus linguistics approaches. The analytical tools provided a robust methodology for uncovering dissimilar/similar representations between two newspapers. It is hard to overstate the concept of critique in CDA studies; therefore, for this study to be critical and to answer the research questions, it employed a three-dimensional discourse analytical approach (Reisigl & Wodak 2017) as a guiding procedure.

This means that any DHA study must first identify the first dimension, which is the specific data content, macro-topics, and related subtopics. To align with this

framework (Wodak *et al.* 2009), this thesis identified all content and topics related to Africans in the selected period and selected newspapers. It also focused on historical contexts, including African migration to Ireland.

The second dimension investigates the aim of the text/talk producer and how they achieve the goals. This involves discursive strategies employed in the discourse to implicitly or explicitly express power structures and represent 'us' and 'them'. Reisigl & Wodak (2017) say this can be achieved using any strategy: referential/nomination, predication, perspectivation/framing, representation, intensifying/mitigation, and argumentation (see 3.12 for details). This thesis was concerned with the strategy of argumentation (topoi) – shown in 2.4 - to be a theory found in the triangulation principle. This theory was chosen for this study because it is considered one of the most influential strategies to uncover discursive practices in 'in'-and-'outgroups' narratives and discourses about "racism, ethnicism and nationalism" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.44). Since this study was about the discursive practices employed by selected Irish media in the representation of Africa/Africans over specific periods in 30 years, it considered the view by Reisigl and Wodak (2001) that:

“... racism/discrimination/exclusion manifests itself discursively: ‘racist opinions and beliefs are produced and reproduced using discourse ... through discourse, discriminatory exclusionary practices are prepared, promulgated, and legitimised” (p.1).

Hence, the strategic use of nomination and predication as linguistic indicators to construct 'in' and 'outgroups' was fundamental to political (and discriminatory) discourses in all settings.

The third dimension examines the "linguistic means as types and the specific, context-dependent linguistic realisation as tokens" (Reisigl & Wodak 2017, p.94). This focuses on the "linguistic, pragmatic and rhetorical devices used to realise the intended meaning" (Datondji & Amousou 2019, p.8). This third dimension seeks to address five questions (Wodak 2015a) that identify the linguistic means by which individuals face discrimination. The questions are found in the infographic in Figure 3.2. According to Cambridge Dictionary (2024), an infographic is a visual representation showing or explaining information. The illustration is self-designed to summarise the linguistic and rhetorical strategies for establishing power dynamics. This study focuses on nomination, predication, and argumentation devices employed by the INC to achieve aims, whether political, social, cultural, or linguistic. They are fully explained below. Moving on from here, the following section discusses the fields of research interests in DHA.

3.4.4. Fields of Research Interest in DHA

The historical dimension is substantial in DHA. However, DHA mainly concerns eight research areas (Reisigl 2017). The following is a list of fields of research interests in DHA that guided this thesis in selecting specific pathways to answer the research questions. According to Reisigl (2017), research in DHA can be conducted in the following ways:

- The first is discourse and identity, including national and supranational/European and linguistic identity.
- The second area is discourse and history, which includes National Socialism, fascism, commemoration, and history of discourse studies.

- The third area is concerned with discourse and discrimination.
- The fourth area is language barriers in social institutions.
- The fifth is discourse and politics/policy.
- The sixth area is discourse in the media, including print media and new social media.
- The seventh is discourse and ecology, which is mainly about climate change
- The eighth area is organisational communication (Reisigl 2017).

This research questions situated this thesis in two DHA research interest fields: discourse in the media, which includes print media (but without new social media), and discourse and discrimination. This thesis has established that the data for analysis employed news articles from two newspapers. In this sense, the discourse of this thesis can be considered discourse in the print media. Also, it belonged in the field of discourse and discrimination and discourse and identity because the focus was on issues including racism, ethnicism, discrimination, nationalism, linguistic identity, and xenophobia. Hence, this thesis is the media discourse and discrimination of Africa/Africans in Ireland over selected periods. The following section will explain the different principles of DHA, which have progressed over time.

3.4.5. Principles of DHA

The approach to investigating this thesis's research questions was characterised by ten DHA principles (Wodak 2015a; Reisigl & Wodak 2017). In the following

paragraphs, the principles will be listed alongside a summary of the approach used by this thesis to study power structures in language and the main criticism of topoi analysis. The principles are:

- For any study to be considered DHA research, it should be interdisciplinary. The investigation is conducted from varying perspectives, including diverse "theories, methods, methodologies, research practice and practical application" (Amoussou & Allagbe 2018, p.73).
- The study should be problem-oriented. This means the research should address the problems of social inequality.
- The study should combine theories and methods.
- The study should incorporate fieldwork and ethnography.
- The study has recursive movements between theory and empirical data.
- It studies relationships between various genres and institutions, as well as intertextual and interdiscursive.
- It considers text interpretation and discourses in the historical context.
- It has flexible categories and tools based on problems under enquiry.
- The grand theories (general social theories) often serve as a foundation; however, middle-range theories usually produce a better theoretical basis.
- The results are made available to and applied by experts and be publicised.

One of the key principles of DHA is triangulation, which strengthens the rigour and credibility of research by using different data sources, methodologies, and contexts. This principle is the linguistic technique that persuades and appeals to

audiences, and it is known as argumentation. It uses 'topoi' to analyse this principle, as content-related warrants connecting arguments with conclusions or the claim (Reisigl & Wodak 2017, p.102). It should be mentioned that though topoi are not always obvious, they can be made apparent as "conditional or causal paraphrase such as if x, then y or y, because of x" (Reisigl & Wodak 2017, p.102). Also, topoi can be reasonable or fallacious, but it is not always easy to discern the argumentation schemes - emphasising that topoi heavily depend on context. This makes it the main limitation of using topoi analysis.

Using the topoi concept in discourse is a crucial analytical procedure in DHA. However, opponents of this idea maintain that it is oversimplified and fails to reflect more productive elaborations. For example, Žagar (2010) contends that Wodak (2009) fails to provide any theoretical or methodological tools for finding topoi. This means topoi do not construct or reconstruct arguments from the discourse fragments they analyse, only referencing names of concepts within argumentation analysis, meaning there is no basis to suggest that topoi analysis warrants connecting arguments with conclusion. Žagar (2010) explains this because Wodak (2009) only hints or refers to topoi without explicitly phrasing arguments and conclusions. Žagar (2010) himself proposes that this limitation can be resolved by clearly identifying arguments and conclusions in specific discourses and indicating how topoi may correlate to the arguments.

This criticism seems to be rejected by Reisigl & Wodak (2001) when one considers the definition of the concept itself. Topoi are "content-related warrants or conclusion rules which connect the argument or arguments with the conclusion,

the claim" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.74). Judging by this definition, the names of concepts within argumentation are not referenced. Instead, this is a framework to investigate frequent commonplaces that construct, present, and evaluate different discursive arguments. To further respond to this criticism, Richardson (2004) argues that topoi are "reservoirs of generalised key ideas, from which specific statements or arguments can be generated" (p.230). These counter-claims suggest that context is important, allowing both positive and negative attributions to be justified. Taylor (2021) stresses the importance of classifying negative versus positive representation (justification). She emphasises that one must clarify what constitutes a positive perspective for the communicator and the person being described. Also, Kienpointner (1996) alludes that the central role of topoi lies in its "seemingly convincing fallacious arguments which are widely adopted in prejudiced and discriminatory discourses" (p.562). This suggests the complex rule-like to determine whether a given conditional leads to acceptable or unacceptable conclusions. It is, thus, essential to understand the different types of topoi as there are several lists of topoi by various scholars, such as those by Wodak (2009) and Krzyzanowski (2009).

Wodak (2006) argues that each topos states a premise and is supported by a warrant that leads to a conclusion. She proposes a list of topoi to negotiate specific agendas in meetings or convince an audience of one's interests, visions, or positions. Meanwhile, Krzyzanowski (2009) theorises social change in Central and Eastern Europe and offers another list of topoi. However, the list of topoi by Wodak (2006, 2009) provides the most suitable tools to analyse typical content-related argument schemes in this thesis. The list offers "the most common topoi

which are used when writing or talking about 'others' specifically about migrants" (Richardson 2008, p.4). It includes Topos of Usefulness, Advantage, Uselessness, Disadvantage, Definition, Name-interpretation, Danger and threat, Humanitarianism, Justice, Responsibility, Burdening, Weighting, Finances, Reality, Numbers, Law and Right, History, Culture, and Abuse. These topoi are explored throughout this study.

The preceding sections have discussed the principles of DHA and focused on the principle of triangulation, which uses topoi (Wodak 2006). Before that, the earlier sub-sections reviewed approaches to CDA and situated DHA as the suitable methodological framework to investigate how power relations were entrenched in the representation of Africans in articles taken from two Irish newspapers over selected periods.

In summary, the preferred approach to uncover media discourses about Africans was based on DHA's triangulation principle. One of the reasons was the capability of DHA to reduce the risk of bias, especially given that the discursive nature in this thesis is the discourse of immigration, which is characteristic of national, socio-political, economic, and cultural issues. Secondly, the linguistic choices employed in articles about Africans were analysed to obtain similarities and differences between the newspapers and their ideologies from a discourse historical viewpoint. Next, the focus is on the eight procedures usually involved in efficiently implementing a DHA critical discourse analysis approach and how they were operationalised in this investigation.

3.4.6 Operationalising DHA's Theoretical and Analytical Framework

According to Reisigl and Wodak (2017), eight steps are typically and recursively involved in analysing a DHA study. These steps were adopted in this thesis considering the main criticism of topoi, which was used as an analytical tool. The steps are explored and operationalised below.

Activated and consulted preceding theoretical knowledge

The first step in a DHA study is to activate and consult prior theoretical knowledge. In other words, to conduct a literature review. This thesis was influenced by a series of contributions to media representation of immigrants, mainly from a critical approach. The most relevant and available works do not deal directly with African ethnic groups. The literature focuses on immigrants and immigration to Europe, including African immigrants in Ireland. Therefore, other background contexts were crucial in contextualising the term immigrant, including Irish migration statistics, constitutional changes, and African migration insights. In defining the term immigrant, a simple online search showed that this was "a person who has come to live permanently in a country that is not their own" (Oxford Learners Dictionary). Wodak (2009) goes further by incorporating the aspect of migrant status to mean "coming from a certain host country" (p.4), making this view more suitable, together with the relevant migration-related information and the broader contexts of African portrayal in the media.

The shortage of information about Africans in Ireland before the 2006 census indicates that little was written about African migration to Ireland then. Some non-linguistic facts about African migration in Ireland are found in data (see Fig 1.2) that explicitly includes Africans as a collective in terms of asylum-seeking. Other aspects of the data indicate the general number of migrants in Ireland at specific periods. For example, between 1996 and 2000, most immigrants in Ireland were mainly from other European countries, and the United States of America (USA), while the rest of the world was 10%. The only African country listed was South Africa. The significant migration patterns of Africans show that (see Chapter Two for more) between 2002 and 2016, the population of Africans in Ireland rose from 20,981 to 57,850. This was an addition of 36,869 Africans during this period. Between 2016 and 2022, the number increased by 9,696, indicating that by 2018, the population of Africans in Ireland continued to rise. These diachronic changes in population sizes embody a phenomenon of the changing Irish ethnicity, set against the backdrop of 'Afrophobia' in Ireland – a term that describes Irish manifestations of racism against people of African descent, whereby African migrants have been described in Irish national media as "tidal wave", an "army of illegals" (Michael 2015). For example, the birthright referendum raised concerns that it targeted immigrants, including Africans and increased racial intolerance and prejudices towards minority groups in Ireland. It was argued that the government took advantage of the well-established anti-immigrant/immigration feelings of the electorates to schedule the referendum (Mancini and Finlay 2008). The government blamed foreign women for overwhelming the health care system, which purportedly led to a crisis in the

maternity hospitals in Dublin, leaving hospital administrators and the public to demand a change (Mancini & Finlay 2008). For Africans living in Ireland at the time, this created legal challenges to their rights. On the other hand, the broader context of the 2004 European Union Ascension countries favoured and granted free access to residency and citizenship in Ireland to ten new EU members. This further highlighted significant discrimination against Africans in comparison.

Systematically collected data and context information

The second step in any DHA study is to collect relevant data and context information. This considers the research questions, discourses, discursive events, genres, and texts. To do so, data was taken from specific periods and examined from newspaper reports (genres) about Africans. The dates considered the availability of newspaper reports and the varying contexts, such as migration trends and economic, socio-cultural, and political changes. These contexts are continually discussed in this thesis, including the Irish constitutional changes about migration and citizenship, African migration to Ireland and discourses of asylum-seeking and related issues, the 2007 Great Financial Crisis, and rising rates of racism against Africans in Ireland. At the international level, key events included the 2008 election of the first African American president in the US and the 1998 Great Congo War. These events formed contexts that foregrounded the linguistic manifestations of discrimination against Africans in Ireland. In terms of constitutional and immigration flows, for example, the periods from 1997 to 2002 witnessed a surge of long-term immigration to Ireland of people seeking asylum, especially Nigerians, Congolese, Sudanese, and Zimbabweans (Ruhs &

Quinn 2009; Joyce 2008). This resulted in discourses of new policies by the government to deal with residency and asylum applications.

Selected and prepared data for the specific analysis

The third step in any DHA study is to select and prepare data for specific analysis. For example, this considers the data size according to relevant criteria. In this thesis, this stage designed a specialised corpus. The following stages were observed: data selection, preparation, and examination. The *Times* and the *Independent* were selected based on their digital availability and suitability for the needs of the research question, given that they were likely to cover the same topics and were more likely to use the same production procedures. These broadsheet newspapers are among the most powerful and trustworthy publications in Ireland, and they strongly influence the discourse in the country (Burroughs 2015).

Specified research questions and formulated assumptions

The fourth step specifies the research question(s), formulates assumptions based on the literature review and scans the data. It has been suggested that (proper) representation of Africans by Western (media) depends on how Africans view themselves (Poncian 2015). Thus, this paper set out to decolonise research and identify emancipatory efforts by marginalised groups to empower and recreate their identities. As already shown in previous literature, including Nartey (2022), this thesis makes explicit how inequalities and injustices are expressed,

reproduced and resisted through language in society while adopting an activist-scholar approach towards positive social change.

Most context information was obtained outside the Republic of Ireland to specify research questions and set assumptions. It was argued that the underrepresentation of Africans in discourses, as well as underexplored emancipatory discourses by marginalised groups in CDA, assist the persistent negative media presentations of identities. In addition, using SkE to analyse the INC made obvious that discourses about Africans were present in the corpus and that ideological clashes were underpinning the representation of Africans in selected Irish newspapers. As in the previous steps, the contexts of the research questions were set on broader migration discourses, where the present normalisation of xenophobia, 'nativism', populist nationalism, and racism in predominantly White societies will combine with authoritarianism to form a 'new normal', which further embeds racism (Rattansi 2020).

As shown in section 1.8 of this thesis, two overarching research questions are quantitative and qualitative in nature. The discourse-focused qualitative question examines instances of language features for 'self' and 'other' presentation using DHA strategies from keyword analysis. Secondly, a collocation analysis of concordance nodes determined ideological and attributive words for Africans and assisted the study of semantic prosody. This qualitative question expanded the scope of perception regarding society, multiculturalism, and the world, focusing on how Africans and other phenomena related to Africans were referred to linguistically. It was expected that because the chosen Irish newspapers have

different political orientations, the discursive constructions in the representation of Africans would be different and conflicting to reflect individual newspapers' ideologies. These two overarching questions addressed the following sub-questions: How did the frequent topics about Africans compare in the selected newspapers? How did the chosen newspapers' representation of Africans compare in their attitudes towards Africans, for example, in arguing for and against the exclusion or identifying with or distancing themselves from Africans in society? How did the selected newspapers compare using the words 'Africa', 'Africans', and 'Blacks'?

Regarding migration in Europe and the discourse focus question in this thesis, some scholars argue that European racism, ethnocentrism, and xenophobia on the human rights of immigrants, refugees and people of non-European minority groups have gone from extreme right-wing activism to mainstream parties and other public bodies (Wodak & van Dijk 1997) such as the media and new forms of racism in social characterisations. For example, in a study by Bari *et al.* (1990) cited in van Leeuwen & Wodak (1999), Austrian media discourse often depicts immigrants as a threat to the social system, deviant, unable to integrate, criminal, and having different cultures (van Leeuwen & Wodak 1999). This highlights the new racism, which is different from the older kinds in that it is covert and vague. Wodak *et al.* (2008) argue that the new forms of racism are repertoires of justifications in social characterisations such as job protection, welfare benefits concerns, and cultural incompatibilities or differences; for example, migrants lack cultural competencies; they lack tolerance and do not want to integrate.

Described as "xeno-racism" (Wodak *et al.* 2008 p.2), this type of new racism plays into the fear of the other.

As was identified in the 2016 Irish census, Africans are a minority group in Ireland and are now settled in most parts of Europe, yet media coverage of migrants continues to be largely unfavourable (Taylor 2014; Don & Lee 2014; Rasinger 2010). Also, Western media continue to represent Africa and Africans as poor, hopeless, dependent, and ridden with crisis and wars (Poncian 2015; Asante 2013; Ayisi and Brylla 2013; Harth 2012; Adichie 2009; Aschraeder and Endless 1998). Undoubtedly, there are some positive changes in the post-colonial reporting of Africa and African; however, they are mainly limited to the use of news sources (Ezeru 2022), and there continue to be some elements of neo-colonialism and racism in the contents. For example, Chavis (1998) and Meylahn (2017, 2024) advance that Western media portray Africa as a poor, hungry, despotic, primitive, sick, problematic, and war-torn continent within the politics of the global village. Similarly, "describing good leadership in Africa has been confined to what Western media think, which may distort facts to suit one's agenda" (Mlambo *et al.* 2024, p.3).

To approach these issues, two sets of analytical tools were used to attempt these questions. Firstly, *SkE* was used to inspect the corpus using concordances, a program that produces word frequency and keyword lists. Rühlemann and Clancy (2018) suggest that keyword lists feature items with unusual frequency or infrequency and can be used to compare one corpus. The use of the concordance technique, for example, in displaying all instances of the lexical item, handled the

extensive data in the INC and aided objectivity and replicability. This means that the concordance results would be the same regardless of who investigates the INC. In this study, the concordance technique produced frequency information and repeated patterns through a simple concordance search of specific lexical and semantic items. This was significant, as Stubbs (1996, 2001) argues that recurrent patterns produce typical ways in which events or people are represented, which may carry some ideological significance, influence audiences' opinions and enable generalisations to be drawn. An enquiry of a specific word in concordance produces all occurrences of the word and rearranges them in alphabetical order.

The second analytical tool used to operationalise the discourse-focus questions in this thesis was from argumentation strategies in DHA (Wodak 2001). In helping to identify and analyse strategies of 'self' and 'other' presentation and constructing 'in' and 'out' groups using linguistic and argumentation strategies, the DHA frequently analyses nationalist discourse about races, ethnicities, nations or national identities and discursive construction of national identity (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). In addition, it considers the historical contexts of discourses and tracks diachronic changes. It was significant, therefore, to ask the discourse-focus questions with considerations such as the 'unique' historical relationship between Ireland and Africa and their shared experience of economic, social, and political domination, suppressed culture, forced exile and racism and new empirical research based on Africa (Press Statement by President Higgins 2020). Examples of the literature outlined above allowed this thesis to ask the following questions:

Table 3. 1. List of research questions

Number	Research Question
RQ1	How did the frequency of representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over 30 years? Sub-question 1: How did the frequency of representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over 30 years? Sub-question 2: What was Frequency of representation across different periods in the INC? Sub-question 3: How did the overall combined frequencies of representation compare in both newspapers over all periods in 30 years?
RQ2	How did attitudes towards the representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over 30 years?

Table 3.1 contains the list of research questions investigated in this thesis. Having fully described how the research questions were established in this study, the next DHA stage was considered but omitted, as discussed below.

Qualitative pilot analysis (omitted)

The DHA approach follows eight steps in conducting its analysis. The only step excluded in this thesis was Step 5, the Qualitative pilot analysis. This stage refines methodologies by testing categories and first and further assumptions. One reason for the diminished need for this step was because DHA uses well-established tools, techniques and frameworks that have been effectively replicated and validated in similar studies (for example, Baker *et al.* 2013; Baker & McEnery 2015; Baker *et al.* 2008; Reisigl & Wodak 2001; O'Regan & Riordan 2018). Thus, the research instruments were nonessential to "pre-test or try out" (Baker 1994, pp.182-183). Also, the research questions and data were carefully considered within the research framework and objectives to be straightforward

and well-defined to produce credible and valuable findings. As such, extensive method refinement was unnecessary. In addition, this thesis was pursued by only one analyst as a PhD thesis in Applied Linguistics over a short-term duration. Thus, it was challenging to collect and design separate and right-size data for a pilot study. In terms of space, the maximum permitted length for PhD thesis is 100,000 words, and to avoid excessive information, this study focused on other vital aspects of the study, such as the main findings and the methodological synergy. This was a critical aspect in addressing the main criticism of CDA, given that the author of this research is from a marginalised background and investigating discourses of discrimination against marginalised groups. This means the potential for bias was high because of personal experiences and perspectives that could affect the research process. To make this study scientific, transparency was fundamental, even when certain aspects of the study were unperformed. Nonetheless, the interpretation of data or key results was unaffected, all the steps were documented so that any researcher replicating the same study would obtain the same results.

Detailed case studies

The next stage in the analytical framework was a detailed case study. This phase considered both quantitative and qualitative data but focused principally on the qualitative aspects of the research. This thesis started its analysis from a quantitative dimension. This provided the quantitative evidence to investigate further the discursive representation of Africans in selected Irish newspapers. In line with the eight-stage programme of analysing discourses in DHA (Wodak

2001), the quantitative dimension formed the fundamental cornerstone of discourses of identity and difference, which are laden with discrimination. This was achieved by establishing three analysis dimensions. The first dimension integrated all relevant contents or topics or context information. The second dimension involved the investigation of the discursive strategies in the data. This considered all sociocultural, historical, and political contexts (Wodak 2001) identified in Chapter One. Finally, it examined the linguistic types and contexts of the embedded tool of "discriminatory and manipulative relations among power, language, and social structures" (Reisigl 2008, p.101). The five linguistic strategies for discrimination are based on ethnicism or racism. This is illustrated in Figure 3.4 below.

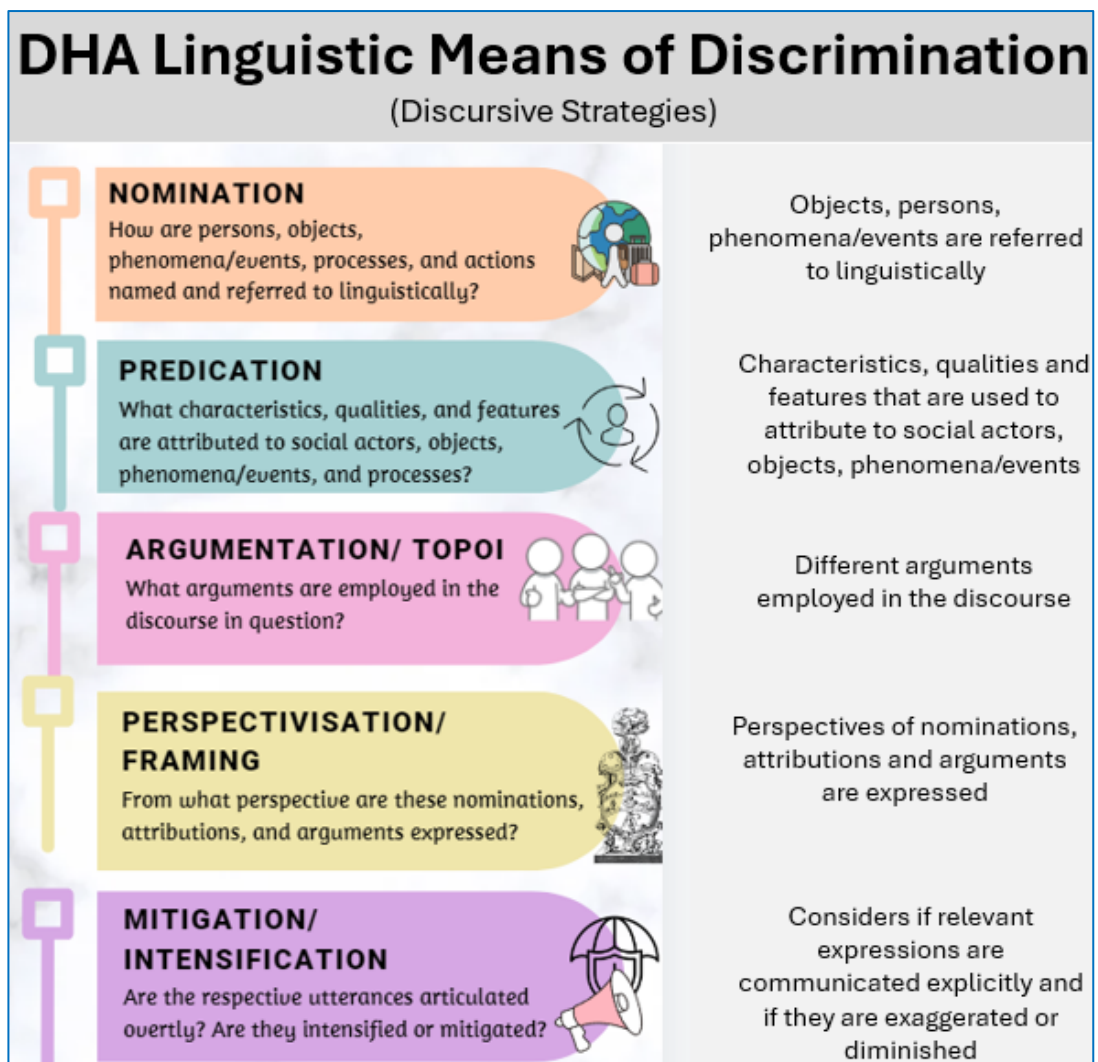


Figure 3. 4. Discursive strategies in DHA (Wodak and Meyer 2009, p.73; Reisigl & Wodak 2001)

Figure 3.4 above illustrates five DHA discursive strategies that measure discrimination. Nomination strategy is how objects, persons, phenomena/events are named and referred to linguistically. Predication considers the characteristics, qualities and features attributed to social actors, objects, phenomena/events, and processes. Argumentation uses topoi as the central tool

to interrogate the different arguments employed in the discourse. Perspectivisation is the outlook through which discourse creators utter their attachment or detachment in discourse, which questions how the perspectives of nominations, attributions, and arguments are expressed. Finally, framing or discourse representation and intensification, mitigation, consider if the relevant expressions are communicated explicitly and if the tone or impact of utterances is exaggerated or diminished, making it either less direct or forceful. These two strategies tend to qualify and modify the writer's expressiveness and persuasive impact on the readers while mitigating or intensifying discriminatory utterances (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). However, they were not addressed in the analysis of the INC.

For this thesis, three discursive DHA strategies were investigated. Referential/nomination, predication, and argumentation are discussed in detail (See section 4.3 of this thesis). In terms of argumentation, the main aim is to justify positive and negative attributions. To carry out these justifications, the strategy uses a device known as topoi. Topoi are "parts of argumentation which belong to the obligatory, either explicit or inferred" (Wodak 2001, p.83) and connect arguments with conclusions. The arguments are analysed on the back of a list of topoi, which can follow an advantage or usefulness versus a uselessness or disadvantage scheme. Using topoi validates political inclusion, exclusion, and discrimination or preferential treatment (Wodak 2001). These strategies are discussed throughout this thesis. Examples of how these strategies were operationalised in this thesis are contained in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3. 2. Discursive strategies and operationalisation in this thesis

Strategy	Objectives	Devices found in current study
Referential/ Nomination	Construction of 'in'/'out' groups	Collectivisation Membership categorisation. Quantification/abstract Militarisation Somatisation (Racialisation) Spatialisation
Predication	Labelling social actors more or less positively or negatively, deprecatorily, or appreciatively	Stereotypical, evaluative attributions Negative or positive traits. Examples of predication in concordances: “... no blacks, <u>no dogs</u> , blacks go home to your jungle...” “... a man <u>who allegedly helped plan the bombing...</u> ” “... so many South Africans <u>cradle a pistol on their knees to fight ...</u> ”
Argumentation	Justification of positive or negative attributions	Topoi to justify political inclusion or exclusion, discrimination, or preferential treatment. For example, in analysing the key term african , the following topoi were found, number, justice, and danger and threat.

The DHA methodology assisted this thesis in uncovering at the very stage of the analysis fifteen different linguistic categories (discourse topics) employed by the INC to represent Africans over selected periods across 30 years. These topics were established by studying keywords in concordances and forming semantic categorisations. The most prominent linguistic categories were 'legality/security/crime', 'sports', 'politics & religion', 'plight', 'economy/business', 'humanitarian', 'quantification/abstract/object', 'media/entertainment', family/humanising/fraternity', 'deixis' and 'animals/resources'. These linguistic categorisations were identified in several topoi, such as Danger and threat, Humanitarianism, Justice, Responsibility, Burdening, Finances, Reality, Numbers, Law and Right, History, Culture, and Abuse. These topoi reproduced and argued for dominance, power inequality, and

social exclusion and discrimination of Africans. The most significant and frequent topos representing Africans was identified as the Topos of Danger and Threat. Below is an explanation of how this argument was obtained.

To demonstrate how the Topos of Danger and Threat was examined and to operationalise the research question in this study, the specific dangers and threats were found embedded in the linguistic category of legality/security/crime. The conditional was that if these specific contents were found, then "one should do something against them" (Wodak 2001 p.84). Similarly, if there were too many immigrants, as seen in the quantification/abstract/objectification of Africans, the conditional was that the native population was unable to cope. As a result, there was hostility. According to Wodak (2001), this argument scheme can lead to a "victim-victimiser reversal" (p.84), where the victims are blamed for the injustices targeting them. This argument was evident in the socio-political and historical narratives about African migration in Ireland in the context of the Irish Born scheme. Following the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, Irish citizenship was granted to parents of all people born in Ireland. This increased birth rates sharply to record-high levels in 20 years, much to the chagrin of the population and the 19th constitutional amendment was blamed for it.

The Topos of Danger and Threat was also evident in semantic prosody analysis involving nodes. In this thesis, the term node refers to the words studied, while collocates refer to any word that occurs in the specified environment of a node (Sinclair 1991). This implies that any word that appears within a defined window

qualifies as a collocate regardless of its frequency, emphasising collocates to be based solely on occurrence within an environment criterion. Collocates are helpful in that they can contribute to the meanings of nodes (Nattinger & Decarrico 1992 cited in Baker *et al.* 2008) and can "provide a semantic analysis of a word" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.278) but can also convey messages implicitly (Hunston 2002 cited in Baker *et al.* 2008, p.278). Given the differing views, Sinclair's (1991) definition of collocate was adopted in this study. For example, McEnery *et al.* (2006) define collocates as words that occur frequently near the nodes rather than would be expected by chance, emphasising the quantitative aspect of collocation. Meanwhile, Baker *et al.* (2008) specify the environment of collocates as "usually five words on either side of the word under investigation" (p.278). This is concerned with the structural and contextual placement without necessarily the frequency or quantitative elements - meaning not all adjacent words can be nominated as collocates except for those within a defined span. Two benefits were attained by adopting Sinclair's (1991) view of collocate. Firstly, this thesis specified the environment of a node to three windows to the left and right of the node. This allowed for flexibility with a more inclusive investigation of language use. Secondly, it excluded the notion of prioritising frequency, leaving the focus on the meaning and function of the collocates. This made it possible to interrogate whether collocates possessed positive or negative semantic prosodies. By semantic prosody (SP), Louw (1993) states that its study can often reveal the stance of writers (Baker *et al.* 2008). Louw (2000) later revises his view of SP to mean "a form of meaning which is established through the proximity of a consistent series of collocates, often characterised as positive or negative" (p.60)

that reveal the hidden attitude of the speakers towards the content, making SP pragmatic (see 2.2.3 for more on SP). In this thesis, words were categorised as positive or negative prosodies to provide insights into newspapers' stances (Baker *et al.* 2008). In addition, the study of SP identified and deconstructed how texts were used to produce power imbalance and social inequalities by using implied utterances and hidden meanings to represent Africans in Ireland. An example of an analysis of SP was conducted on the conjunction **and**. One of the reasons for the analysis was the differing occurrences across the sub-corpora in the study (see Chapter Seven).

Formulated Critique

The seventh DHA step formulates critique to interpret results. When interpreting results, Reisigl and Wodak (2001) consider the relevant context knowledge and refer to three dimensions of analytical tools (see 3.7). Following this, a detailed analysis of the corpora was performed on the three dimensions of text analysis and the strategy of argumentation using topoi analysis. This triangulation principle integrates various empirical observations, theories, methods, and background information on discursive constructions. One of the main aims of the integrative or triangulation approach is to reduce the risk of bias (Reisigl & Wodak 2009). The three dimensions employed in this study identified three main contents of discourses: themes or data content, discursive strategies, and the linguistic means or realisations used to articulate topics of specific discourses (contents) and discursive strategies (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). Though this is mainly a qualitative study, the beginning point was quantitative based on

analysing a self-designed specialised corpus, which provided the quantitative basis for further analysis. Four levels were employed to complete the critique formulation: quantitative analysis, detailed textual analysis, results interpretation and formulation of critique. An overview of the four levels is explained below:

- The first level was quantitative. Firstly, it compared the number of articles published about Africans in the periods under study. Secondly, it obtained a frequency wordlist of the INC and compared it with a reference corpus. Finally, it performed a more detailed analysis of the most frequent lexical items used to identify Africans.
- The second level was a detailed textual/linguistic analysis. The notion that "texts are often sites of social struggle" (Reisigl & Wodak 2009, p.89) was helpful in that it drew on the idea that those with power can use technical means to control people, manifest different ideological fights for dominance and hegemony or "have their will within a social relationship against the will or interests of others" (Reisigl & Wodak 2009, p 88). This level integrated an open-ended amount of relevant contextual information within which discursive events were entrenched.
- The third level interpreted the analysed results. This considered the "historical, social and political contexts of the analysed discursive data" (Reisigl 2008, p.101) and how the discourses were subjected to diachronic change (Wodak *et al.* 1990; 1994; Wodak 2001).
- The final level was the formulation of critique. This was important because this thesis belongs to the field of critical theory. This means it studied how

power structures were embedded in language. This stage integrated three analytical aspects that were systematically and recursively linked to the contextual knowledge. It also allowed for micro and macro descriptions of individual texts and analysis of extensive data. The first analytical aspect linked to contextual knowledge was the reproduction of inconsistencies and contradictions in media texts or what Reisigl and Wodak (2001) call "discourse-internal structures". The second aspect of critique was the manifestation of the manipulative character of discursive practices. The contextual knowledge and social theories facilitated interpretation after a detailed description and contextualisation of all available data was accomplished. The third and final stage of critique was to offer contributions on how different interests were served and recommendations by this thesis on how to fight dominance and improve conditions in society (Reisigl & Wodak 2008). The focus was on how marginalised groups emancipate themselves rather than on how dominant groups seek to emancipate marginalised groups (Noel 2016).

To further explain how this study approached the critique stage of discourse analysis, it was important for the study to decipher the field of research interest it belonged to because the basis of methodologies in DHA depends on the problem in question. Besides the historical dimension of discourses observed in DHA research fields, the empirical data identified this study in discourses of the print media, discourse and identity, and discourse and discrimination. These kinds of discourses uncovered in the data dealt with issues including racism, ethnicism, nationalism and xenophobia. In summary, the three research areas

this study belongs to showcased different discursive forms of inclusion and exclusion, also known as the discursive representations of 'us' and 'them'.

Having established the research problem and research fields, the next step is to consider the appropriate DHA methodology. The suitable method was crucial due to scepticism that CDA lacks logical methodologies and does not conform to certain conventions. For example, Widdowson (2004 cited in Wodak 2009) contends that CDA lacks systematic analysis and representative data, and its proponents are 'unserious scholars'. This assessment suggests that CDA fails to conform to 'conventions of rationality, logical consistency and empirical substantiation' (Widdowson 2004, p.173 cited in Wodak 2009, p.2). The analytical methodology adopted in this study, therefore, tried to respond to these criticisms.

The DHA two-level qualitative analysis approach was adopted to answer the research questions, illustrate how this research belongs in the chosen research fields, and respond to criticisms that CDA lacks logical methodologies and is biased. The approach requires both entry-level and in-depth levels approach to analyse data. The entry-level analysis covers contents and related aspects of data, while the central category is discourse topics (KhosraviNik *et al.* 2012). The two-level analysis approach started as shown below.

At level one, texts with suspected discursive contents were selected and extracted from the corpus's concordances of keywords and nodes. Patterns of different discourse topics were categorised according to their semantic meanings. This was followed by level two, which systematically set out the main discursive strategies

in the linguistic constructions of discourse topics in level one. Along with that, different argumentation strategies were employed to justify the claims. This in-depth level of analysis sought to answer the research questions based on the three discursive strategies of 'self' and 'other' presentation, namely, nomination, predication, and argumentation. In argumentation, the topoi strategy deconstructed the arguments and argumentative schemata implemented to represent Africans in readers' minds.

Applied detailed analytical results

The eighth step in the DHA analytical framework utilises the detailed analytical results, which may be used or suggested for application. This section features Table 3.3 below, which illustrates how the two-level qualitative methodological approach was operationalised in the INC. The table exemplifies the arguments and topoi employed to represent the wildcard African*, alongside other discursive strategies and prosodies.

Table 3. 3. INC text analysis based on DHA two-level qualitative analysis approach

LEVEL 1		LEVEL 2		
Examples of texts from INC	Entry-Level Analysis /Discourse Topics based on semantic categorisations	In-depth Analysis Discursive Strategies & Objective	Argumentation Strategy Topoi Analysis Argumentation	Prosody or argumentation Positive or Negative topos?
Of wildcard African* "In Uganda, the first African country to be ravaged by AIDS in the Eighties, infections among pregnant women have fallen from 30pc to 10pc." (Independent 1998)	Plight The discourse topic was analysed as follows: two social actors were explicitly named as "them": Uganda and Pregnant women, and one main event was constructed, which was diseases. This was constructed by nomination and further augmented by predication strategy. The social actors were qualified.	This argued in favour of positive development in the struggle against AIDS. Then, strategy shifts to characterising and stereotypically labelling a social actor, in this case, Uganda. Predication in "... <u>fallen from 30pc to 10pc...</u> " affirmed the proposition that AIDS was still prevalent in Uganda	Topos (argument) of threat or danger	Negative
"... in mandrax, which has the chemical name methaquaumc, has led to vicious turf wars and left thousands of members of the black and coloured populations with crippling drug dependencies." (Independent 1998)	Legality, security, and crime quantification/abstract/object'	Objectified Africans as numbers – "thousand" and nominated them as drug users, black, coloured populations. This suggested referential and predication "... with crippling drug dependencies"	Topos or argument of danger and threat	Negative
"Just in case we had forgotten about these - mainly African and East European -	Legality, security, and crime	Group association and explicitly used referential/nomination to construct	Topoi of uselessness, disadvantage	Negative

immigrant prostitutes, two things happened last week to remind us." (<i>Times</i> 1998)		Africans as actively undertaking certain activities or have different backgrounds.		
"... concern about an Italy moving towards a new multi-ethnic society in the wake of the waves of east European, Asian, and African illegal immigrants whose clandestine arrival makes daily news headlines; 48.3 per cent of Italians said they feared." (<i>Times</i> 1998)	Legality, security, and crime Multiculturalism	Referential by depersonalisation with the use of metaphors – "waves"	Topos of danger and threat. Explicitly & explicitly used to justify exclusion. More conservative ideology – Subtext was topos of threat of racism with wave as a metaphor for too many, meaning the native population will not be able to cope and will become hostile to Africans	Negative

In Table 3.3. above, the Topos of Danger and Threat most frequently represented Africans in both newspapers. Secondly, the most frequent prosody was unfavourable towards Africans. Out of four texts sampled in 1998 in both newspapers, all four were identified to have negative prosodies. To provide an in-depth view of the analysis, it was observed in text one from the *Independent* in 1998 that social actors were explicitly identified by reference to country names and gender. Using predication, certain communicative events were identified. Social actors were framed as being ravaged by diseases even though the rate of the disease among pregnant women had fallen over time. The term 'ravaged' foregrounded the proposition that Uganda was still under attack. This conveyed a sense of threat and danger and was used to emphasise difference. The Topos of Danger and Threat is inherent in this discourse, whereby if there is a specific

threat or danger, one should do something about it. The historical context was examined to understand this topos and its relevance in this discourse. The context is set on the Third Congo Civil War, or the Great War of Africa, that occurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo after Laurent-Desire Kabila overthrew the government of Mobuto Sese Seko in 1997. Different countries supported various factions in the war, for example, border countries and former allies Rwanda and Uganda, and backed by the USA supported the rebels by providing military, financial and humanitarian assistance (Soderlund *et al.* 2012). More than three million people died during this war, and the region and the economy were destroyed. Arguably, this was the most significant event in Africa between 1998 and 2003. The impact was also felt in Ireland, where between 1997 and 2002, there was a surge of migrants from the African Great Lakes Region to Ireland. Congolese were among the highest numbers of long-term immigrants seeking asylum in Ireland (Ruhs & Quinn 2009; Joyce 2008). Prioritising news reports containing negative or distorted facts about diseases suggested that the newspapers were more concerned about their agenda, for example, the broader societal implications of the infection on the Irish public. This analysis appeared to support the idea that discrimination and stigmatisation were inferred and that readers were confronted with a specific societal threat that must be acted upon.

So far, this section indicated that seven out of eight DHA steps were followed, and it can be contended that this thesis effectively performed a DHA investigation. This means a literature review was conducted, data was collected, data was prepared, and research questions were clearly defined before it skipped to the sixth step to perform detailed case studies, then formulated critique to interpret

the results, and finally, applied the analytical results. The following section discusses the reasons for selecting DHA as the approach to investigate this CDA study.

3.5 Why DHA as the Theoretical Framework

After outlining different approaches to CDA, the Discourse-Historical Approach (Reisigl & Wodak 2001; Wodak 1995) was chosen as the most suitable methodology to investigate the INC. There were three reasons. Firstly, DHA is an integrated approach "useful in analysing discourses about racial, national and ethnic issues" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). The data under study was a typical example of a national issue. The discourse was related to the topic of the problem of immigration and the issue of ethnic identities. It was used to investigate, particularly, racist, discriminatory and exclusion rhetoric against Africans in selected Irish media.

Secondly, the issues of transparency and bias were considered strongly in this study because the analyst is from an immigrant background. Africans are an immigrant group in Ireland (O'Connell 2019), which is the focus of these discourses or texts (Wodak 2010), and they are part of the immigration discourse. As such, it was important for this study to make choices that were backed theoretically, tended to minimise the risk of bias, and were easily understood and replicable (Heritage & Taylor 2024). The triangulated nature of the approach includes data from different dimensions, which provides a reasonable basis for the solution to this problem. Wodak (2010) advocates different discursive strategies in examining the construction of discourse. Three were chosen in this

study as already outlined (see 3.12). The focus was on argumentation - which uses the topoi concept discussed throughout this paper - to connect the argument or arguments with the conclusion (Kienpointner 1992). Within the argumentation model, fifteen "most common topoi" (Richardson 2008, p.4) are used when writing about others. Based on the argumentation theory in DHA, the content-related arguments (Wodak 2006), and concordance analysis explored in this thesis, the semantic categorisations were grouped according to specific words and the number of occurrences was calculated in raw and normalised terms to identify possible linguistic and discourse patterns that regularly occurred in the discourses. The semantic patterns were categorised to form claims, arguments, or a list of topoi. This list of topoi was compared with the list of the most common topoi developed by Wodak (2001; Richardson 2008). It was found that the most frequent topos to occur was that of danger and threat. This was identified to occur more frequently in the linguistic/semantic cluster of legality/security/crime and plight. It was argued, therefore, that any action by Africans that posed a danger and threat was considered negative and must be avoided. So far, this analysis has discussed the significance of analysing themes or topics in discourse (van Dijk 1993; 1991). It also drew attention to what was not expressed in media content rather than what was explicitly stated, which can convey subtle messages that reflect different attitudes and ideological positions.

The third reason for choosing DHA was that this thesis acknowledged the important role of social actors and extralinguistic factors in this discourse. These influences included politics, culture, society, history, and the production, operation, and preservation of power. Using the historical argumentation

methodology, this study presented multiple arguments to justify claims about discourse topics and strategies without being subjective. The procedures were clearly outlined so that the same results would be obtained if the same study was replicated.

At this point in this chapter, it is essential to discuss some analytical tools used in CL and CDA to deconstruct text and uncover underlying meanings and power structures. The ones relevant to this work are discursive strategies analysis, foregrounding and backgrounding, and semantic prosody. These are discussed in the following section.

3.6. Comparing DHA and other CDA approaches

To fully understand the benefits of DHA in this thesis, the following section compares DHA and other approaches to CDA studies. It has already been established that there are several approaches to the study of discourse (see 3.3.7), each designed to answer specific research questions. Therefore, this thesis needed to outline the main similarities and differences among the approaches to assist it in adopting its methodological approach. For this comparison, this section focuses on the similarities and differences between DHA and Fairclough's Dialectical-Relational Approach (1995) and van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, which were discussed earlier in this chapter. This was followed by an explanation for adopting the DHA to study the representation of Africans in Irish media over selected periods in 30 years.

3.6.1. Similarities between DHA and other CDA Approaches

Like Fairclough's (1995) and van Dijk's (1993) approaches, DHA is situated within critical discourse studies. This is because it is politically engaged and application-oriented (Reisigl 2017) towards enlightenment and emancipation, which makes it problem-oriented and, at the same time, multidisciplinary. This means that, like other paradigms, DHA uses different empirical methods to investigate texts because of the complex nature of societal problems. This complex nature can be socio-political, historical, psychological, and economic extralinguistic phenomena involved in texts' production.

Secondly, these three approaches view CDA as involving key terms such as critique, power, ideology and social or cultural change in society where language is the mediator in that it "manifests social processes and interaction" (Wodak & Ludwig 1999, p.12; Wodak & Reisigl 2017, p.87). This stresses the role of ideology in the production and reproduction of discourse – the idea of implicit ways to enact dominant power relations in society and the ways critique uncovers hidden ideologies.

Thirdly, context is mainly understood to mean historical, in which discourse is connected diachronically and synchronically with other communicative events that happened or happened previously. This historical view relates to Fairclough's intertextuality notion (see 2.4.3). Also, discourse is viewed as a form of social practice (Fairclough & Wodak 1997; Wodak 2001) where the discourse environment shapes and affects discourses on the one hand, and on the other hand, the discourses influence linguistic, as well as extra-linguistic (social)

practices. In addition, Wodak and Fairclough consider texts to be the products of discourse, whereby texts are "materially durable products of linguistic actions (Wodak 2001, p.66). From these similarities among approaches, the following sub-section focuses on differences between CDA approaches.

3.6.2. Differences between DHA and other CDA Approaches

Although DHA is like other CDA approaches, it differs in some ways. Firstly, it is considered "one of the most prominent critical approaches to the study of discourse" (Reisigl 2017, p.44) because it contributes significantly to studying time in discourse processes (Carvalho 2008). This is shown in the study of discrimination (van Leeuwen and Wodak 1999) and national identity (Wodak *et al.* 1999). This means that, unlike other approaches, the DHA emphasises the historical context and data triangulation.

Secondly, DHA considers language as action and is closely linked to functional pragmatics, rather than, for example, systematic functional linguistics (SFL) pursued by Fairclough and championed by Halliday (1994, 2004) and Halliday and Hasan (1985) whose primary concern is "the relationship between language and social structure" (Halliday 2004, p.10). SFL systematically analyses the lexical and syntactic features of language employed by a specific genre (Fairclough 2000). It is not interested in the cognitive aspect of language; instead, it focuses on texts and their context while emphasising the function of language rather than its structure. This differs from Reisigl and Wodak (2001), who see language as a "societal action form" (Redder 2008, p.134). This considers that "society is central to understanding language but tries to avoid the danger of

short-circuiting linguistic forms and ideological functions by reconstructing linguistic and mental processes in great detail" (Redder 2008, p.134). Such perspective is not only a part of societal practice but also of the historical journey of language and how it transformed in time. Hence, DHA insists on advancing text-context integration and dialectically between context and meaning-making. This prominence of historical factors helps to place DHA as the only analytical basis for CDA firmly.

Thirdly, DHA uses the principle of triangulation more systematically than other approaches. This principle adopts a range of empirical observations, theories, methods and background information to investigate the relationship between discursive and social practices and structures. It also allows for other interdisciplinary approaches to explore discursive constructions.

In addition, 'context' in DHA is fourfold. According to Reisigl & Wodak (2001), these are (1) the immediate language or text-internal co-text and co-discourse; (2) the intertextual and interdiscursive relationship between utterances, texts, genres and discourses; (3) the extralinguistic social variables and institutional frames of a specific 'context of situation', and (4) the broader sociopolitical and historical context, which discursive practices are embedded in and related to. For example, this thesis combined historical, socio-political, and linguistic assessments to examine the discourses of Africans in media discourse. Also, triangulation was incorporated to analyse the linguistic choices in newspaper articles about social actors over different periods and on discourses surrounding African migration to Ireland, which included extra-linguistic factors. Examples of

this included census information, historical records such as changes in the law, and social, cultural, political, and economic climates. These aspects were missing or present in the texts, which can be considered the argumentative analysis of other genres. Moreover, unlike Fairclough and van Dijk's approaches, context is understood in DHA mainly as historical.

Another main difference is that the theory of argumentation or rhetoric lies at the centre of DHA. Rhetoric involves the use of linguistic techniques to persuade and appeal to audiences. Argumentation in this sense is based on the concept of *topoi*, where *topoi* are plural and are referred to as "parts of argumentation which belong to the obligatory, either explicit or inferable premises. *Topoi* are content-related warrants or 'conclusion rules', connecting the argument or arguments with the conclusion and claim" (Kienpointner 1992, p.194). As such, *topoi* justify the transition from the argument or arguments to the conclusion. In other words, *topoi* are places of argument in texts which seek to preserve and reinforce power and ideologies (van Dijk 2000a; Wodak & Reisigl 2001; Wodak 2011). *Topoi* uncover covert premises of argumentation and different views and ideas. The main characteristics of *topoi* are that they are mainly inferred in text and justify places of arguments but involve less explanation themselves. This methodology was chosen to analyse argumentation in this thesis. Lastly, DHA is unique because it takes different discourse perspectives, including arguments and the relationship between macro and micro fields of action. This suggests the intertextual and interdiscursive relationships between "social actors with different viewpoints" (Wodak & Reisigl 2009, p.89). Having established the similarities and differences between DHA and other CDA approaches, the following section considers the key

analytical tools of Corpus Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Approach (CDA) used to analyse the Irish News Corpus (INC).

3.7. Analytical Tools (CL and CDA)

This section introduced the linguistic patterns considered in the text-semantic analysis of media language about power, ideology, and history in newspaper representation of Africans in Ireland. As already demonstrated in Table 3.3, this included the two-level qualitative analysis, the entry-level analysis, the in-depth-level analysis, and the four-step strategy. This is key to the qualitative analytical methodology of studies of racist and discriminatory discourses (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, 2009). The entry-level is the contents aspect of analysis and pays attention to discourse topics, which are units summarising the meaning of entire or selected texts (van Dijk 1991). Meanwhile, the in-depth analysis uses five discursive strategies of self and other presentation to answer five questions (Wodak 2011; Reisigl & Wodak 2001, 2009). The three DHA discursive strategies employed in this thesis and other analytical tools are explained in the following paragraphs.

3.7.1 Referential/Nomination

The first analytical technique assessed in the INC was nomination/referential practices. This strategy refers to how "social actors" (van Leeuwen 1996, p.67) or-ingroups or outgroups, objects, events, and phenomena are constructed (Reisigl and Wodak 2001). This strategy can be encoded in terms of membership categorisation, references to personal, kinship, and place through deictic

expressions such as 'we', 'they', and 'you'; collectives such as 'people', 'family', and 'countries'. Reisigl & Wodak (2001) add that some referential strategies in DHA are adapted from van Leeuwen's (1993, 1996) system of representation of social actors in discourse because they can be used to accurately describe the more subtle forms of discrimination, as well as positive representation, constructing, identifying, and hiding of social actors. Some strategies include 'backgrounding', categorisation, collectivisation, abstraction and objectivation.

3.7.2 Predication Strategy

The second strategy was predication. It assigns qualities to social actors through "evaluative attributions" (Wodak 2007, p.662) in a deprecatory or appreciative manner to polarise and divide (Reisigl and Wodak 2001). Baker *et al.* (2008) argue that the attributes of a collocate can provide meanings of the node and reveal the writer's stance – the idea of semantic prosody. This strategy is linked to nomination in that it linguistically identifies groups in ways that perform racist or ethnicist evaluation through explicit comparisons, metaphors, and implicit predicates with the help of, for example, predicative adjectives, nouns, pronouns, prepositions, collocations, and stigma and flag words. In this thesis, some of the most distinctive predicates used to assign attribute characteristics of others were flag words such as multiculturalism, integration, freedom, and democracy (Reisigl & Wodak 2001).

3.7.3 Argumentation Strategy

Besides the two strategies above, the primary analytical framework of this thesis was argumentation. The argumentative schemata suggest that if an action – the premise - happens, an attitude can be interpreted as such, leading to the if-then clause employed by Reisigl & Wodak (2001). This is also referred to as "strategies of arguments" (Kennedy 1991, p.45), which help to uncover discursive practices in 'in-and-out-groups' narratives, "racism, ethnicism and nationalism" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.44) and are "widely adopted in prejudiced and discriminatory discourses" (Kienpointner 1996, p.562). Argumentation uses the topoi device to identify familiar places or recurring themes. It is better described by Rubinelli (2006). She considers topoi as:

"a pattern which leads speakers to focus on interpersonal, emotional and linguistic aspects surrounding the production of arguments, including ways of tailoring certain contents according to the audience, the impact of the contents on the public and factors related to the psychology of the speakers and their interlocutors" (p.262).

In Rubinello's (2006) definition of topoi above, the argumentation focuses on the different strategies used in discourse. She argues that if something turns the mind in favour, people should act, but people should avoid it if something turns the mind against it. The focus in this definition is three-fold. First, it suggests that the patterns in topoi should orient the contents of an argument to suit the audience's needs. For example, a more technical language can better fit a specialised audience, while a more straightforward language can better suit a general audience. The second aspect raised in this definition is how the contents of the argument may influence the public's perception. In this case, writers/speakers

should consider if their arguments, persuasive or otherwise, will evoke positive or negative reactions from the readers. The final point in this definition is the awareness by the writer/speaker that their own 'self' ideologies can influence the content of the argument, as well as the receptiveness of the argument. The topoi tool helps to identify different forms of social exclusion and discrimination; however, the procedure to detect a topos has been criticised by scholars. For example, Žagar (2010) states that the technique fails to "explicitly reconstruct possible arguments, conclusions, or topoi connecting the two" (p.10). This criticises the topoi process for lacking clarity on reconstructing and highlighting arguments or familiar places connecting the argument and the conclusion. Meanwhile, Tindale (2007) argues that much of what has been written on identifying topoi is "largely interpretive" (Tindale 2007, p.4). This considers various perspectives of a topos and how it should be recognised, implying that the process is complex and subjective. Despite these criticisms, Reisigl & Wodak (2001) suggest a basic and direct approach to determining a topos in DHA. The procedure was simplified and illustrated below:

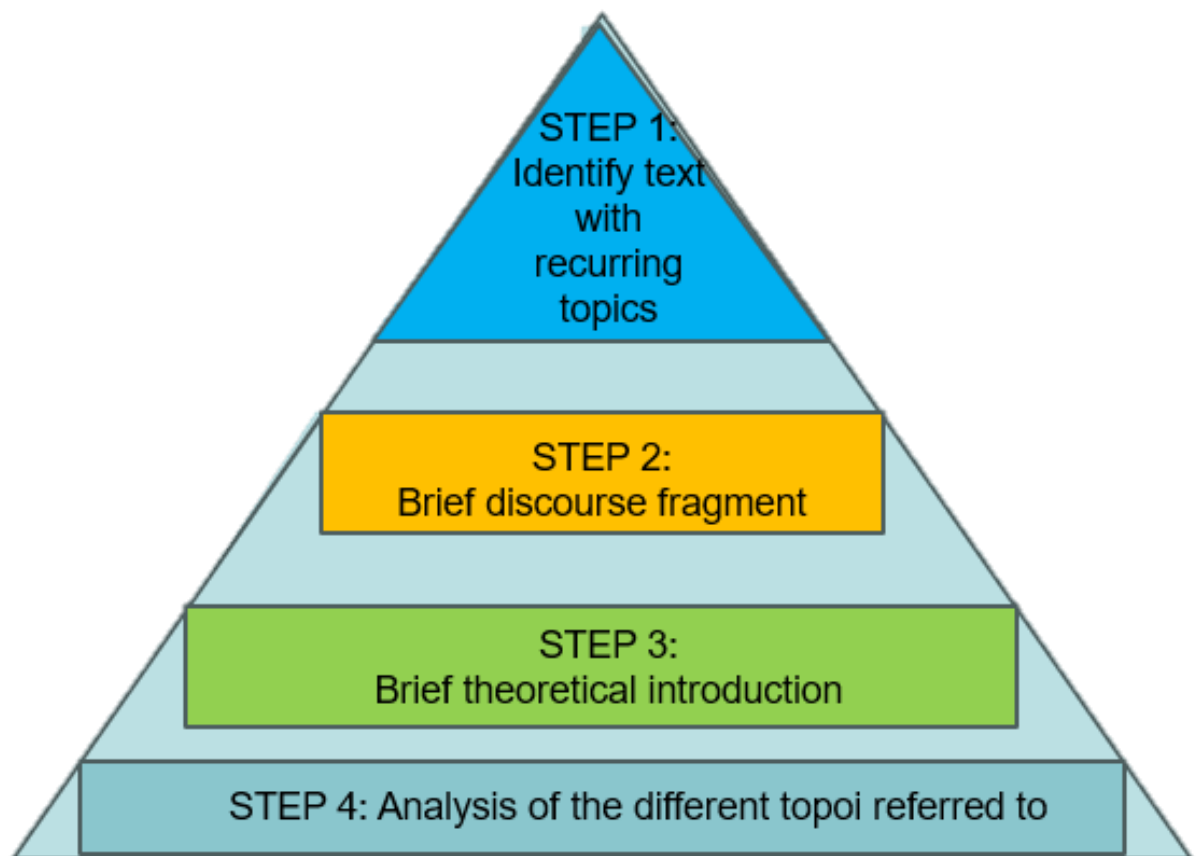


Figure 3. 5. Steps to infer a topos in DHA (Adapted from Wodak 2001 p.75)

Based on Figure 3.5, Reisigl & Wodak (2001) assert a systematic approach to identifying a topos. Firstly, the analyst identifies consistent ideas, for example, keywords or repeated phrases. This is followed by isolating a small text illustrating the specific idea/topic to understand how each theme is presented in the larger corpus. Next is the framework for understanding the identified topoi within a broader theoretical context, including historical backgrounds and prior literature. Lastly, the topoi are investigated for their arguments, interactions with other texts/discourse/semantic topics, and implications before forming

conclusions. The next sub-section discusses the second analytical tool used in this thesis.

3.7.4 Foregrounding and Backgrounding in Socio-Semantic Approach (van Leeuwen)

This is part of other analytical tools applied in this research. These strategies are found in van Leeuwen's (1996) socio-semantic approach (SSA). According to KhosraviNik *et al.* (2012), this approach provides categories or strategies for representations of social actors, such as foregrounding and backgrounding. These concepts involve putting relevant social actors into the foreground/background of discursive representation. All these strategies operate on a local intratextual level and can be incorporated within DHA's referential and predication strategies. These were considered recursively throughout the analysis of the data.

3.7.5 Semantic Prosody

The SP tool is used in CL and CDA to mean how certain words or phrases possess connotations beyond their literal meanings. These words can have negative or positive associations based on their habitual environments and frequent occurrences with specific lexical items, such as collocates. A sudden pairing of a word with a solid negative semantic prosody with a positive word can lead to several effects, including hidden meanings. This regular co-occurrence of a word acquiring a positive or negative meaning can create a nuanced and added meaning to the text (see 2.2.3. for details on SP). Following these discussions,

the next section will offer insights into studies that have examined the discursive representation of immigrants.

3.8. Studies Examining the Discursive Representation of Immigrants

It is worth noting that many studies on the discursive representation of immigrants have mentioned Africa* (Baker *et al.* 2008; Taylor 2014; Blinder & Allen 2015; O'Regan & Riordan 2018). These, however, have been explored in the context of migration, notably on issues of asylum-seeking, refugees and migrants. For example, Baker *et al.* (2008) combine techniques from CL and DHA in CDA and use the argumentation theory to analyse media discourse of immigration in the UK press between 1996 and 2006. The resulting acronym of RASIM (p.276) refers to refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants. In the study, a collocation analysis establishes the newspapers' attitudes towards RASIM as frequently more "negative" (p.286), undesirable and with water metaphors and quantification references. At the same time, consistent collocates (c-collocates) indicate eight main categories(topoi), namely, Provenance/transit/destination, Number, Entry, Economic problems, Residence, Return/repatriation, and Legality and Plight (Baker & Gabrielatos 2008). In light of the RASIM study and focusing on identity issues from a cross-linguistic perspective, Taylor (2009) examines the construction of the 'other' - foreign migrants in the Italian press. She concludes that while immigrants are frequently constructed negatively in the Italian media, "certain nationalities appear more visible and therefore more threatening" (Taylor 2009 p.35). Meanwhile, Blinder & Allen (2016) examine 43 million words in 20 national newspapers in the UK from 2010 to 2012 to

investigate public attitudes towards migration issues. They find that different newspapers use different words to describe RASIM. More distinctive words are used to portray refugees, such as "illegal immigrants" and "failed asylum-seekers" in broadsheets and tabloids - the words vary depending on the type of newspaper. At the same time, the media focuses more on asylum seekers than other migrant groups, such as international students. More recently, and similar to Baker *et al.* (2008), O'Regan & Riordan (2018) conducted a pattern analysis to obtain words that frequently occur with immigrants concerning terrorism. The study uses a corpus-based CDA from a DHA perspective to compare the representation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Irish and UK press between September and November 2015. Sourcing data from Nexis, the study sheds light on how migration issues are depicted in each other's press and how discourses about RASIM are associated with terrorism and security concerns. The computer software AntConc (Anthony 2014) facilitates frequency analysis of the top 30 content words and pronouns. The study finds that the UK press is "generally more negative due to a preoccupation with foreign threats, while attitudes in Irish coverage are more positive or neutral overall with some ambiguity, reflecting a focus on victimhood and burden" (p.22). While this thesis is like the 2018 study by O'Regan & Riordan in that frequency lists, diachronic analyses and three discursive strategies of DHA are employed, they are different.

Firstly, the study of immigrants has been widely done, but studies focusing on a particular group, Africans, have yet to be repeated. Studying a specific group beyond immigrants is crucial because immigrant communities are not homogeneous. Africans and immigrants are often seen as a single, uniform group.

This perspective tends to overlook the diversity within these populations by generalising various categories, such as asylum seekers, refugees, foreign workers, and others, into a monolithic identity. Some studies have identified Africans as part of the Black community, categorising them into the African Diaspora, African Caribbeans, and African Americans (Richardson 2022). In the United States, for example, African immigrants are the least studied and are frequently included in the "Black" category alongside other phenotypically similar groups. This complicates the ability to make critical decisions specifically targeting African immigrants, particularly in healthcare (Omenka et al. 2020). The lack of focused research on Africans, especially in Ireland, signifies that their unique experiences—such as integration into Irish society, access to services, employment opportunities, and social dynamics—remain insufficiently examined. This can result in policies or interventions that inadequately address their needs or challenges. For instance, issues such as racism, gender, systemic barriers, cultural identity struggles, or economic hurdles may manifest differently for Africans in Ireland compared to those in other countries. Likewise, while analysing data at the continental level can yield some insights and a broad overview of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and needs, it lacks the granularity required to understand the nuances within specific continental populations. This is because continent-level data tends to generalise populations and assume homogeneity among groups that may be vastly different—for instance, analysing African immigrants as a single entity overlooks significant cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic differences among countries such as Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa. Consequently, this study may miss the depth of individual experiences by

treating Africans as a monolithic group. However, initiating discussions around African discourses is essential for fostering understanding and addressing the complexities inherent in immigrant populations. This presents an opportunity for a more localised study tailored to specific groups. Such a study can provide richer, more actionable policies and practices that better address the realities faced by these populations. Secondly, the 2018 study focused on the significant refugee crisis in Europe. It addressed how these diverse groups were represented in the Irish and UK press within the terrorism discourse. However, this thesis understood African migration as a multifaceted issue and collected datasets over an extended period to identify the long-term problems, trends and trajectories of change that may not be apparent in short-term studies. Using *SkE*, this thesis focuses on how language and discourse create, maintain, justify, and reinforce racism and discriminatory practices within society. Another difference is that, in obtaining data directly from archives of newspapers' websites, this thesis captured the context of specific events that were reported when they occurred. Therefore, this thesis benefitted from contemporary and historical news coverage initially published in newspapers.

Another recent study on media and immigration from the sociological perspective is that of Alcaraz-Mármol & Soto-Almela (2020). They address the dehumanising language used to reference refugees in the two most widely read Spanish newspapers between 2010 and 2016. The study focuses on the synchronic and diachronic aspects of the constructions of the node *refugee* by identifying semantic preference. They identify four categories or semantic subsets the Spanish press uses to reference refugees: quantification, out-of-control

phenomenon, objectification, and economic burden. The study focuses on types of semantic preference, negative, positive, or neutral and reveals that the noun, *refugee*, frequently collocates with dehumanising or negative words. Of note here is that the frequency of negative collocates was most significant in the 2015-16 period, and they refer to this as seasonal collocates. This term is linked to the RASIM project and pertains to words that frequently appear together concerning the depiction of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants. In this project, seasonal collocates were identified through a diachronic analysis of data collected from 175,000 articles published in 15 UK newspapers between 1996 and 2005. (Baker *et al.* 2008). Alcaraz-Mármol & Soto-Almela (2020) link this occurrence and pattern to the Syrian civil war and other Middle East armed conflicts. This thesis will examine whether these previous portrayals of migrants align with the depiction of Africans in the INC. The final section in this chapter will consolidate all the discussions on the adopted conceptual framework.

3.9 Summary

As seen in this chapter and in keeping with DHA, this thesis concentrated on analysing topics of the specific discourse, discursive strategies, linguistic means, and specific context-dependent linguistic realisations. A general view of mechanisms of discursive discrimination underscores the need for understanding systemic racism within language use and a focal point for contemporary debates related to race. In addition, the argumentation strategy, particularly the use of topoi, was central to the analysis because the arguments and argumentative schemata for and against the discourse under investigation

were linked by the claims and the conclusions (Kienpointner 1992; Reisigl & Wodak 2001). DHA in this thesis facilitated the use of a wide range of verifiable observations and a clear and explicit systematic research methodology. It employed concepts and background information to investigate the linguistic choices used in news articles about Africans. In addition, it highlighted the main discursive strategies through the principle of topoi and examined how these events changed over time. Considering this, this thesis adopted a corpus-driven approach in which the starting point was CL. The corpus evidence provided the basis for research questions (Tognini-Bonelli 2001) to minimise bias. The main tools of investigations started with *SkE* to obtain wordlists and keywords for frequency comparison. Concordances of the most salient keywords and nodes were then investigated for their co-texts (collocates). Examples of co-occurring items were then extracted before they were compared in the selected newspapers. This thesis combines these two approaches with a rigorous approach to studying African representation in Irish newspapers, which goes beyond mere linguistic analysis to examine the complex relationship between language, ideology, and power between society and history. Building on these concepts, the next chapter emphasises the need for a comprehensive investigation of these variables.

Chapter 4: Data and Methodology

4.1 Introduction

Two overarching research questions in this thesis are: How did the frequency of representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods in 30 years? Secondly, how did attitudes towards the representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods in 30 years? This chapter discusses the data and methodological approach used to answer these questions.

The first section of this chapter presents the data steps and corpus used in this thesis. The methodology follows, and the final section provides a concluding summary. Documenting these steps enhances clarity and transparency, allows for replication by other researchers, increases objectivity, avoids polarisation and falsification, and facilitates adjustments in unexpected circumstances outcomes.

4.2 Data and Corpus

The Irish News Corpus (INC) is a self-designed specialised corpus, whereby a corpus is known as a collection of authentic texts which is stored electronically (Baker *et al.* 2006), studied non-linearly quantitatively and qualitatively (Hunston 2002) as a representative sample of the language under study (Sinclair 1996) and typically designed to study linguistic distribution. There are many reasons for using corpus in language study. This thesis chose the corpus tool because it is a powerful and transformative inductive tool to assist empirical language investigations in a way that has revolutionised the "study of language

over the last few decades" (Hunston 2002, p.1). Secondly, corpus assists researchers in avoiding over- and under-interpreting texts (O'Halloran & Coffin 2004). Thirdly, it helps researchers to "objectively" (McEnery & Wilson 2010, p.112) investigate writers' stances by identifying frequently occurring linguistic patterns in corpus samples, concordances, and collocations (Stubbs 1996, p.195). It also helps researchers to identify the semantic prosody of words that provide evidence of social and ideological entities embedded in "texts, context, and pretext" (Widdowson 2004, p.166) and address social concerns and phenomena. In addition, a corpus supports research findings that can be easily generalised because it provides researchers with a large amount of data (Breeze 2011) that can be analysed to obtain empirical evidence rather than base generalisation on speculation.

Despite the considerable role of a corpus in language studies, no existing corpus was suitable for the specific purposes of this thesis. For this reason, this thesis designed a new corpus. Baker (2006) supports the decision for researchers to create a corpus because there is an "urgent need to build more up-to-date corpora" (p.176) since language and society are constantly changing. As a result, discourses are changing, too. Another scholar who supports the need to build new corpora is Hunston (2002). She asks a fundamental question on why a corpus should (not) be built in the first place. She answers, 'why not?' (p.20). Though she fails to state why or when to build a corpus, Reppen (2010) suggests that corpora should only be built when existing ones fail to meet desired needs because even the largest corpora might lead to compromises. Nonetheless, not all scholars agree with the need to build a new corpus because doing so is unfavourable.

Schmitt (2010) argues that "there are as many corpora as there are researchers" (p.91) and that it is undesirable for "those interested in corpus linguistics and its applications to build their corpus" (p.91). He adds that writings about corpus building should not be seen as an encouragement to build own corpora. Instead, researchers should examine and adapt existing corpus to their studies. However, the notion that discourse news corpora tend to represent specific topics, words and phrases (Love and Busso, 2024) necessitates the construction of specialised corpora (Clarke *et al.* 2022; Taylor, 2022a; Baker & Brookes, 2021; McEnery *et al.* 2015).

Incorporating the perspective by Schmitt (2010) that creating one's corpus is not commendable would have been advantageous in the sense that an existing corpus readily available could have expedited the completion of this thesis and reduced the overall cost. Nonetheless, no existing corpus/corpora answered this study's research questions and aims. Consequently, this thesis designed a corpus known as the INC to answer the specific aims of this thesis. Additionally, the new corpus addressed the gap in linguistic studies conducted on racist discrimination in the Irish context, particularly in the United Kingdom (UK), and the European contexts in general. The INC is a large and diachronic corpus compiled to study how Africans were represented in Irish newspapers, *The Times* and *The Independent*. The selected periods span over three decades, from September to December 1998 (1998), September to December 2008 (2008), and September to December 2018 (2018).

The above paragraphs explain the meaning of a corpus, state the reasons for choosing a corpus as a tool to use for analysis in this thesis, and explain why a specialised corpus was designed. Following this are techniques recursively used in the planning and selection criteria and considerations of the corpus quality.

4.2.1 Text Selection Criteria

When choosing the text criteria for the INC, this thesis focused on the type of text, newspaper, domain, demographics, language, and periods. In addition, Hunston (2012) considers that with corpora becoming increasingly more extensive and more diverse and repeatedly used to make decisive statements about language, the issues of representativeness, size, content, and permanence have also become significant. For this reason, the fundamental factors that this thesis considered when designing and improving a suitable corpus were representativeness and related issues such as size and balance, which are discussed next.

4.2.2 Issues in Corpus Design

The design of any corpus has consequences for the trustworthiness of the results. While the specific research goals of this thesis provided the basis for the type of corpora approach to use, the following features were key in designing the INC.

Corpus representativeness

The notion of corpus representativeness is a significant concept in corpus-driven studies. According to Leech (1991), a corpus represents the language variety it is supposed to represent if the findings can be generalised to the language under

investigation. Seen from conceptual and methodological perspectives, Biber (1993) defines corpus representativeness as the degree to which a sample contains the complete range of variability in a population, whereby variability is a corpus process that interacts between situational or domain and linguistic distribution that are unplanned and "cyclical" (p.256). This suggests that corpus representativeness depends on two factors. The first is the target domain, which determines the generalisability of a corpus sample to a larger population of interest (Biber *et al.* 2022). The target domain represents the content or subject field of the corpus, the text selection criteria, or the quality that accords balance to the corpus, for example, the genre of published newspaper articles. The second factor is linguistic representativeness or distribution consideration. This is the frequency of word classes, and the number of texts included in a corpus, whereby token and sample size are big enough in a language (Biber 1993). This second factor determines the suitability of a corpus sample for research purposes (Biber *et al.* 2022). Notwithstanding these practical frameworks for assessing corpus representativeness, Biber *et al.* (2022) suggest that the notion of corpus representativeness is still not explicit or transparent enough and, hence, it has attracted significant attention.

For example, McEnery, Xiao, & Tono (2005) state that it is challenging to measure corpus representativeness. This is because texts or language varieties can be over/underrepresented in the corpus, leading to skewed results. Another problem is the corpus size – it should be large and diverse enough to capture the full range of linguistic features under investigation, or the findings should sufficiently reflect the sampled population (Taylor & Heritage 2024). For

example, a small or homogeneous corpus may be too small to be representative. Another scholar who takes a firm stand on the issue of corpus representativeness is Sinclair (2005). He states that regardless of the size, whether big or small, achieving complete representativeness in a corpus is problematic and that scholars have no consensus on a representative corpus. He points to a language's inherent variability and constant evolution as reasons for this. Pastor and Seghiri (2010) support this view and claim that no expert agrees on quality and quantity despite frequently referencing representativeness as the main distinguishing feature between corpora and other texts. Following these disagreements on whether a corpus can capture all the nuances and complexities of a language in a corpus, this thesis subscribed to the views of Biber (1993) and Sinclair (2004) on the essential steps to take to achieve as representative a corpus as possible. They advocate for two primary considerations (text selection and corpus change over time), three actions, and eight practical approaches to text selection. These are briefly explained first and then operationalised in this thesis.

The first consideration in achieving a representative corpus is text selection. To determine a representative corpus, Biber (1993) opines that the sample for the corpus must include the full range of variability. This means having a diverse and comprehensive sample that can be generalised to a larger population. The second consideration is that a corpus should change over time. This idea is put forward by Hunston (2002), who contends that "any corpus that is not regularly updated becomes unrepresentative (p.30). With this view, Hunston (2002) and McEnery and Hardie (2012) postulate two types of corpora involved when studying language change. Though the two types represent a language or language variety,

they require different approaches and measurements of their representativeness. The first type is a general (dynamic or monitor) corpus. According to McEnery and Hardie (2012), this type of corpus is "dynamic and grows over time and contains a variety of materials" (p.7). This type of corpus allows researchers to observe patterns and trends in language evolution. An example is the British National Corpus, also known as *BNC1994* and *BNC2014* (Busso & Love 2024). These general corpora represent both spoken and written data of contemporary British English. On the one hand, its text or written selection criteria include a variety of relevant representative language samples like domain or content type, time or period of production, and medium or type of text publication. On the other hand, the two criteria for the spoken data are demographics or informal case studies comprising backgrounds and context-governed or formal encounters (McEnery, Xiao, & Tono 2005). The second type of corpora is a balanced (static or sample) corpus, whereby the corpus is static or fixed and 'tries to represent a specific domain or genre, a particular type of language or language variety over a specific period' (McEnery & Hardie 2012, p.8). An example of this approach is the British Academic Written English corpus (BAWE), which represents academic English discourse. Its representativeness is measured at the lexical level or the degree of "closure" (McEnery & Wilson 2001, p.166).

Based on the distinctions between the two types of corpora, this thesis selected the balanced corpus as the sampling frame. English was the only language in the selected published news articles and the final corpus (Bennett 2010). Also, the research questions determined the specific periods from which the text included in the corpus were selected. Once the decisions of the approach for text selection

and type of corpora for analysis concluded, it was then possible to operationalise the three actions that ensure corpus representativeness (Biber 1993; Sinclair 2005).

Firstly, the author is the compiler and analyst of the INC and explicitly documented the corpus design criteria to make them freely and widely available to other corpus users. Secondly, to assist corpus analysis, this thesis constructed claims on the relevance of the corpus, whereby the textual findings and data provided discourse topics and evidence for further study. Thirdly, to interpret the corpus findings, it examined the suitability of methods and the corpus data, emphasising observed (repeated) patterns, such as word occurrences and combination (collocation) over time in concordance. These three actions were adopted, and the next corpus representativeness tactic was on the parameters of text selection.

According to Biber (1993), parameters are the "hierarchical sampling strata" (p.247) or methods of obtaining a representative sample that comprises two criteria. The first criterion is the external, extralinguistic or situational principle: the genres, including setting, author, addressee, format, purposes, and topics. The second criterion is the internal or linguistic perspective, which deals with text types or frequencies of word classes.

Applying DHA eight parameters in this study:

- Texts for the corpus were selected from written news articles in two Irish newspapers and accessed online from well-known and acknowledged websites. This was the primary data source.
- Texts for the corpus were restricted to the English of the UK, printed, and published for distribution, both physically and archived online in Ireland.
- Data was in a public setting.
- Data was for non-present general readers.
- Data was taken from the *Independent* and the *Times* as addressors based in the same geographical area from September to December 1998, 2008, and 2018.
- Data focused strictly on news articles about African issues. News reports were chosen because they tend to report social issues with important outcomes for societies, and the fact that newspapers influence public opinion (van Dijk 1991), and the fact that the effects of the media on an audience accrue over time due to the repetition of images and concepts (Gerbner *et al.* 1986).
- The purposes of the data source were to persuade, entertain, enlighten, inform, instruct, explain, narrate, describe, reveal self, and express attitudes and opinions to a large audience.
- The information was based on topics that require empirical investigations.

Corpus Balance

Following the considerations to make the corpus representative for this study, corpus balance was the second key issue in designing the INC. According to Francis and Kucera (1979), balance is a proportion of sampled elements that reflects their frequency in the language under consideration. This highlights the issue of estimation, where a balanced corpus cannot be determined empirically. This aligns with the argument of Biber *et al.* (2022) that there is no single definition for corpus balance in CL because they serve a specialised purpose; for example, specialised corpora are not necessarily balanced. As such, it is difficult to determine its balance. McEnery, Xiao, & Tono (2005) agree with this view and add that any claim of corpus balance is an act of faith rather than a statement of fact. By this, they maintain that there is no reliable scientific measure of corpus balance. However, they offer a broader perspective that it is possible to achieve corpus balance. They argue that this can occur if the text categories of the language or language variety under study are sampled proportionately before being included in a corpus. A case in point is the *BNC1994* (XML Edition 2007). This is a 100-million-word corpus, comprising 90% written and 10% spoken language (McEnery, Xiao, & Tono 2005) from a wide variety of British English taken from the later part of the 20th Century. Considering the design of the *BNC1994* and that the compilers explicitly documented the design and made the data composition available to other researchers, it is possible to say that the *BNC1994* is a balanced corpus. Taking all of this into account, it is feasible, therefore, to achieve a balanced corpus.

To attain balance in the INC, the main guiding principle was the nature of the research questions, which clearly defined the purpose of the research. To this end, the text type selected to be included in the corpus for this study was general language texts, which were nontechnical and had a mixture of formal and informal text types. This made it easy for most readers/receivers to understand the meanings of the texts. In addition, the language register was homogeneous and taken from the same geographical region, as well as the same historical periods. Besides, there was an emphasis on the approach of data collection. The sampling frame adopted in this thesis was static, also known as the balanced or sample corpus approach, meaning the balance issue was significantly high. McEnery & Hardie (2012) state that a static corpus "tries to represent a particular type of language over a specific period" (p.8). In this thesis, English was the only language used, and a broad range of text categories corresponded with informed judgements. These decisions assisted the INC in comparing sampled elements that reflected the frequency of language use in the corpus.

Corpus Size

The third tenet in corpus design addressed in this thesis was corpus size. As seen with corpus representativeness and balance, there is also no harmony in the ideal size of a corpus (Giouli & Piperidis 2002). Different scholars propose numerous figures for the final corpus. For example, Sinclair (2004a) asserts that a corpus should be big enough and there should be no maximum size (2004b) because size matters (Krishnamurthy 2001). However, big corpora may be no more efficient than small corpora, which is why many years ago, in 1991, Leech disagreed with

Sinclair (2004a) and argued that enormous corpora are not necessarily better and often run into copyright problems. Leech (1991) states that large corpus sizes might be because of a substantial number of written texts when the focus should be on the representativeness of texts rather than significant texts. Similarly, Baker (2006) proposes that in building a specialised corpus to investigate the discursive nature of texts, the quality or "content of the data takes equal or more precedence over quantity issues (pp.28-29). He adds that building a corpus should answer the question of the subject frequency mentioned within the texts. McEnery & Wilson (2006) propose an ideal size of one million, while Friedbichler and Friedbichker (2000) recommend a corpus size between five hundred thousand and five million words per language.

The above has shown that there is no clear academic lead on the divides about the best corpus size, which prompted this work to endorse the good practice guidelines for what a corpus size should be. The study by Baker (2006) is beneficial in this regard. He holds that in investigations of discursive constructions, the focus should be on the frequency of mention of the subject rather than the corpus size. When selecting texts for a specialised corpus such as the INC, a frequently discussed topic indicates its significance in public discourses. Therefore, the focus should be on how often a particular subject appears within the discourse or is equal to the issue of quantity. This was the first guiding factor in this thesis, and to operationalise it, search words were used to interrogate data sources and obtain articles. Secondly, the corpus was compiled based on the availability and accessibility of the material (Giouli & Piperidis 2002). Thirdly, sampling decisions were influenced by the idea that a corpus is

finite in size (Biber 1993), which means that analysing full texts may be "problematic" (Aston & Burnard 1998, p.22) and may not be as balanced as texts of corpus segments. Thus, the analysis of this corpus was based on an automatic simple random sampling technique in concordance. These guidelines assured that the INC held an ideal corpus size for the research aims.

Summary of the specific needs taken to design the INC:

- Data was extracted from published newspaper articles during outlined periods.
- All texts were selected based on the topic (Sinclair 2009; Gabrielatos 2008) of Africa and Africans.
- Data was designed to evaluate the function of the language served within the linguistic domain and to reveal language patterns and specific findings about the target subject or genre of the language under study (Nesi 2016).
- The figures used for analysis were normalised rather than raw frequencies. This was necessary because raw frequencies "mean tiny relative to each other" (Evison 2010, p.126), while normalised figures make data meaningful and unbiased and achieve integrity by ensuring that the corpora sizes are similar.

The above explored the criteria and steps taken to select texts for designing a specialised corpus for this thesis. This guaranteed that decisions about corpus representativeness, corpus size and balance, research questions, and documentation of all steps to design and compile the corpus and meet the general conditions for building a corpus made it possible to draw reasonable conclusions

and make generalisations in the INC. The next paragraphs and Figure 4.1 below display steps taken to collect data and to build a specialised corpus to study how the INC portrayed Africans—a demonstration of the corpus proceeds the table.

4.2.3 Data Collection Steps and Corpus Building

To restrict the analysis of the representation of African issues in the INC to a manageable amount of data, search words were used to extract texts or obtain news files (More information can be found in section 4.2.5 Table 4.3). Bell (1991) argues this is the first step to building a corpus. Figure 4.1 below displays the data collection steps, after which a detailed presentation explains each step.

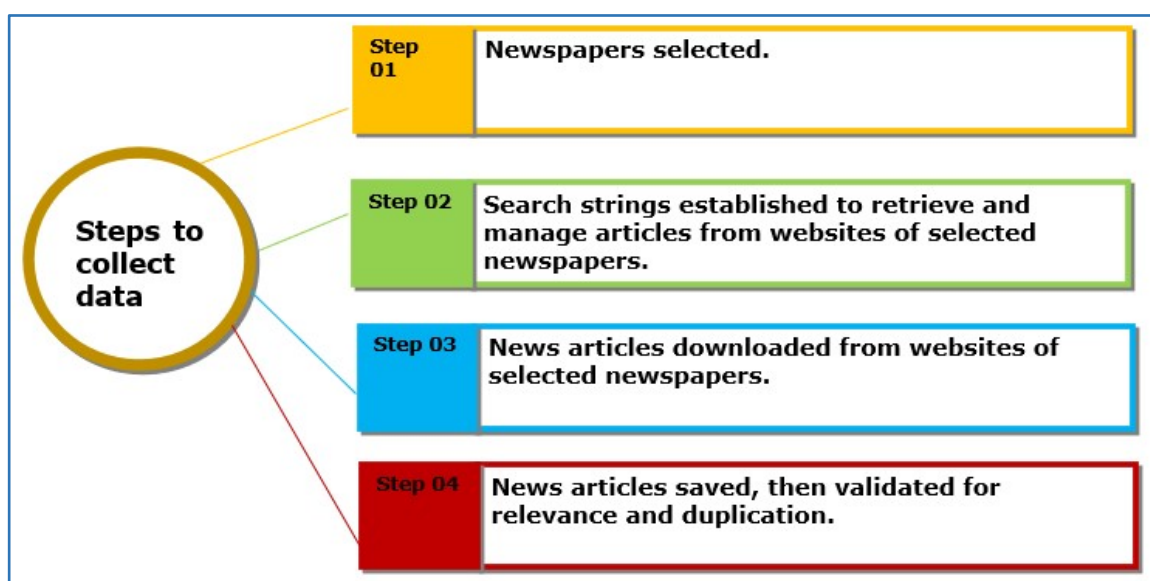


Figure 4. 1. Steps taken to collect data and build the corpus for this thesis

In the steps outlined above in Figure 4.1, the text sources selected were two Irish national newspapers with different ideological stances. The second phase sorted the parameters of text content for analysis in two ways. Firstly, the period was selected. These were the three periods of coverage on which the study is based. Secondly, a list of 25 search words sourced articles and obtained data. The third step involved the actual retrieval of texts from the websites of the selected newspapers. Finally, retrieved articles were archived and further examined for relevance to the topic. The following paragraphs provide details of the retrieved articles used for the corpus in this thesis.

4.2.4 Irish News Corpus (INC) corpora information

To manage the corpus sizes, the Units of Analysis (UA) of representation in this thesis were divided into two quantitative descriptions. The first was the number of words (tokens) used to write about the content. This provided evidence of the space and range of issues, views, and social actors represented in the content and the type of content and language used. The second type of quantitative description was the article size. The number of articles provided measurable patterns of interest and concern for African topics in the INC. In this light, the data described the patterns of quantitative changes in all sub-corpora. They made it possible to observe the overall diachronic change in the frequency of representation in the INC. This was significant because the more attention a topic received, the greater the potential to shape and affect public knowledge and opinion and influence policy (Lahusen & Baur 2005).

Quantitative Composition of INC

The initial number of articles published about Africans and downloaded from the websites of the selected newspapers during the periods under study rose to 9,570. Of this total, 1,426 articles contained 636,754 words from the *Independent*, while 8,144 articles included 6,703,079 words from the *Times*. A process to remove irrelevant data focused on the research questions and aims. This weeding step retained only articles pertinent to this thesis, leading to the final selection of data used for analysis in this study. The data is summarised below in Figure 4.2.

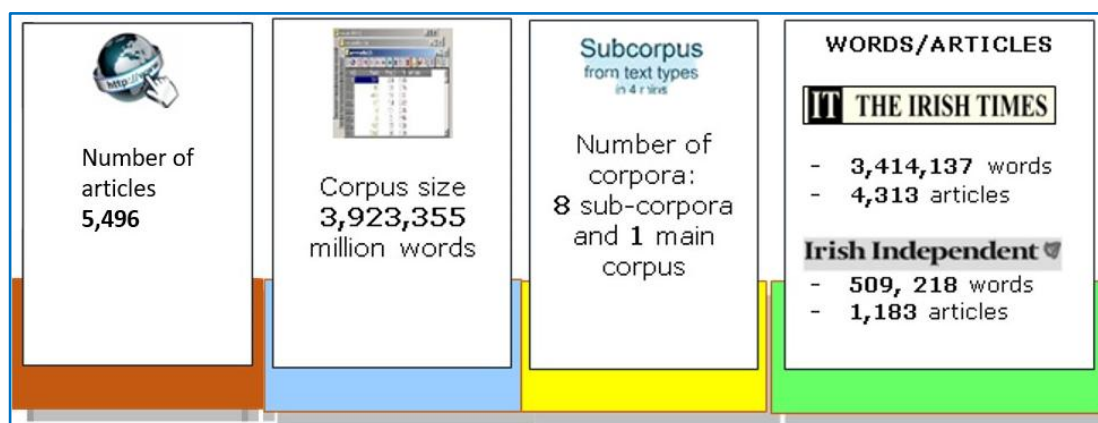


Figure 4. 2. Summary of INC corpus used for this thesis

Figure 4.2 above presents an outline of the corpus used for this study. The total data examined in the INC constituted 5,496 articles with 3,923,355 (three million, nine thousand twenty-three, three hundred and fifty-five) words. Of the chosen number of articles, 1,183 (one thousand, one hundred and eighty-three) articles were deemed relevant in the *Independent* and 4,313 (four thousand, three hundred and thirteen) articles were relevant in the *Times*. The corpus was

subdivided into eight sub-corpora and one significant corpus to ease the analysis (Brookes & Baker 2021). Finally, the evaluation was based on random samples from concordances of data in the INC. This also ensured the corpus was balanced and representative (Biber 1993; Aston & Burnard 1998).

This section has presented and operationalised the steps to design and obtain the corpus. The details below in Table 4.1 simplify the number of articles and tokens in the INC. A description of the content follows the table.

Table 4. 1. Number of articles and token about Africans in the INC

Raw Frequencies		Description of the INC in percentages
Total no of Articles	5,496	100%
Total corpus size	3,923,355 million words	Total number of raw frequencies of words per newspaper divide by total number of raw occurrences of total count of words of all corpora and multiplied by one million e.g.
Total no of corpora	8 sub-corpora & 1 main corpus.	
<i>Irish Times</i> corpus	3,414,137 words	$\frac{3414137}{3923355} \times 1000000 = 87\%$ of words
	4,313 articles	$\frac{4313}{5496} \times 100 = 79\%$ of articles
<i>Irish Independent</i> corpus	509, 218 words	$\frac{509,218}{3923355} \times 1000000 = 13\%$ of words
	1,183 articles	$\frac{1183}{5496} \times 100 = 21\%$ of articles

The data in Table 4.1. above illustrates the UA in the INC for all the years under study. In the *Independent*, 13% of words and 21% of articles were used to publish news stories about African issues in the corpus. Meanwhile, in the *Times*, 79% of

articles and 87% of words emerged as coverage of African topics. Capturing data this way was both innovative and critical - distinguishing between the number of words and the number of articles assisted in comparing word counts across articles or tracking article numbers over time and identifying patterns, trends and relationships in the datasets. This enabled the discursive analysis of the corpus and the evaluation of the collaboration of methods in CL and CDA. This important aspect of the synergy of methods is discussed separately in detail in Chapter Five of this thesis. In addition to the quantitative description of the UA in the INC, the data illustrates the diachronic change in the corpus. The allocation of sub-corpora was based on the "year of publication" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.277) and the newspaper's name. To this effect, three sub-corpora were created per newspaper per year with a collective corpus. This brought the sub-corpora to six, which can be analysed collectively in one corpus known as the INC. The breakdown eased the comparative and diachronic aspects of this study. The final quantitative results were expressed as simplified figures in percentages rather than absolute terms in raw statistics. This made the data more accessible for managing, observing, understanding, and analysing trends and patterns. To obtain figures in percentages, the raw frequencies of articles per newspaper were divided by the total number of articles found in INC and multiplied by one hundred. A random example from 1998 in the *Independent* demonstrates this calculation.

Equation 0:1 The calculation to obtain corpus figures in percentages for the Independent during 1998

$$\therefore \frac{278 \text{ (Raw number of articles in P1)}}{5496 \text{ (total no of articles in both newspapers during all periods)}} \times 100 = 5\%$$

The above equation was the format to calculate percentages for all sub-corpora in this study. The outcomes formed the final data for analysis. To illustrate the outcomes, the results in Table 4.2 below display figures in both original raw figures and simplified data as percentages. The percentage is the mathematical ratio on which this study is based. (The Irish News Corpus 2023 is found in *SkE* and contains the complete list of texts in this corpus.)

Table 4. 2. Breakdown of sub-corpora in raw and simplified figures in the INC

Corpus Name		No of Articles No of Words		Simplified figures		
		No of articles	No of words	Articles	Words	Total coverage
1	Mini-Corpus 1: <i>Independent</i> 1998 (P1)	278	102,478	5%	3%	8%
2	Mini-Corpus 2: <i>Independent</i> 2008 (P2)	658	296,545	12%	7%	19%
3	Mini-Corpus 3: <i>Independent</i> 2018 (P3)	247	110,195	4%	3%	7%
4	Mini-Corpus 4: <i>Independent</i> All Years	1183	509,218	22%	13%	18%
5	Mini-Corpus 5: <i>Times</i> 1998 (P1)	1,030	784,104	19%	20%	39%
6	Mini-Corpus 6: <i>Times</i> 2008 (P2)	1701	1,211,190	31%	31%	62%
7	Mini-Corpus 7: <i>Times</i> 2018 (P3)	1,582	1,418,843	29%	36%	65%
8	Mini-Corpus 8: <i>Times</i> All Years	4,313	3,414,137	87%	87%	82%
9	Corpus 9: Irish News Corpus	5,496	3,923,355	100%	100%	100%

Table 4.2 above is a quantitative presentation of news coverage of African issues in the INC, on which this study's CL and CDA analyses are based. The data from the table have been replicated in a chart for enhanced clarity, enabling easier comparison and offering a clearer visual format.

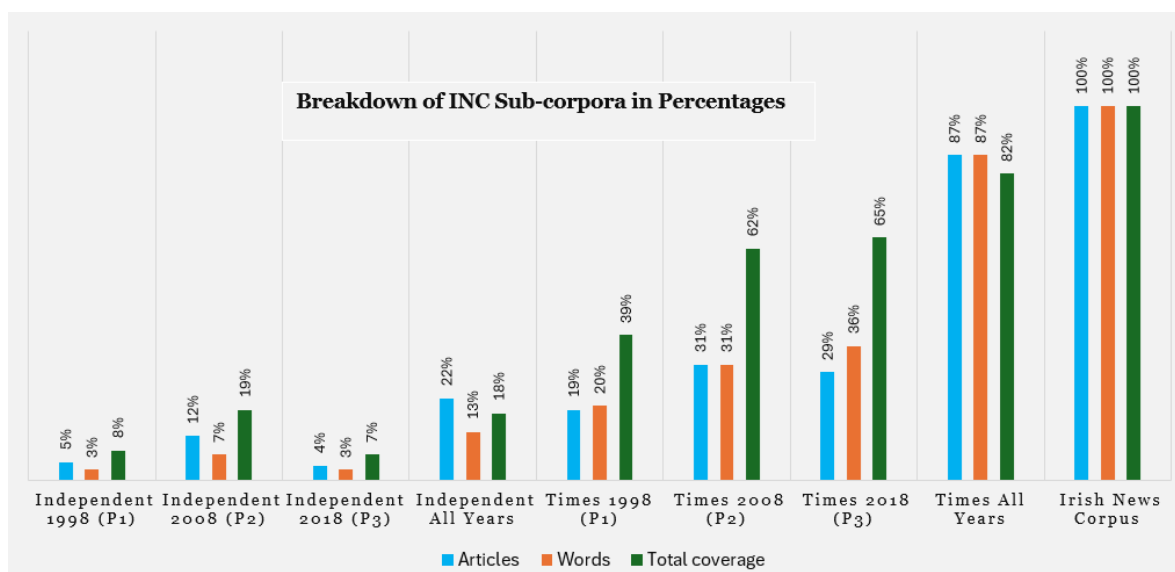


Figure 4.3: Breakdown of INC sub-corpora

The illustration above in Figure 4.3 reproduces data from Table 4.2, which provides a breakdown of the sub-corpora used for analysis in this thesis. The figures are expressed as percentages to enhance understanding. The reason for this quantitative perspective was to answer the question of the frequency of representation of Africans from data obtained in the INC. The resulting figures indicate how representation changed over time in individual newspapers and across sub-corpora. Another observation pointed the data to other salient conclusions, which were grouped into two. One data set demonstrated the pattern of coverage of African issues in the INC in terms of the number of articles and word frequencies of texts. This offered a clear illustration of the diachronic change of UA in the data. The second set of data covered the frequencies of

representation in individual newspapers. Following this, a diachronic comparison occurred between both newspapers.

Overall Patterns from INC Composition

Regarding the number of articles and tokens in the INC, the general patterns observed in the data in Table 4.2 above indicate the percentages of news articles and the number of words per sub-corpora. The table shows that the *Independent* recorded 5% of articles and 3% of tokens in 1998. These figures were combined for all sub-corpora per year and divided to show the distribution of frequencies of the UA. For example, in 1998, the percentages of articles in both newspapers were added to obtain the total percentage of coverage by both newspapers:

Equation 0:2 Calculating the frequency of articles

∴ % of articles by both newspapers in P1 was:

$$5\% (\textit{Independent}) + 19\% (\textit{Times}) = 24\%$$

This calculation was conducted on all UAs in all sub-corpora to achieve two specific results. One was the combined amounts of representation of both newspapers per period. The second outcome was the amount of coverage in individual newspapers per period. These results addressed the question of the frequency of representation of Africans in the INC and offered an excellent opportunity to observe diachronic change in the data. In addition to the quantitative composition and observed patterns, the results used other CL techniques that described the INC and highlighted insights into language use in

the INC. For example, a keyword analysis identified key terms reflecting linguistic patterns and ideology. According to Scott and Tribble (2006), a keyword is a word that appears in a text more frequently than would be expected by chance alone. Keywords can be determined quantitatively using keyness, whereby if a word occurs more frequently in a target corpus than expected based on a reference corpus, the word can be considered a key term (Stubbs 2003; Pérez-Paredes 2024). Thus, keyword decisions were made by comparing the occurrence of a particular word in the target corpus with the expected frequency in a more comprehensive reference corpus (Gabrielatos 2018; Gries 2016; Stubbs 2003. 1996).

This section has described the procedures for preparing sub-corpora for analysis. It also shows the data, the corpus selected and designed for this study, and the descriptive statistics obtained for analysis. Moving from here, it is necessary to explain how the data was collected and managed to build the corpus for this study.

4.2.5 Corpus Building

This section argues that manual and automated techniques used to extract relevant texts from newspaper articles and methodological procedures to build corpora were selected in line with approaches to the Discourse Historical Approach (Reisigl & Wodak 2017). The structure set up in this section explains the initial stages of compiling, organising, and preparing datasets for linguistic analysis. Critical considerations were taken to obtain data with the understanding that compiling a corpus is a-to-and-from process that involves two steps (Bell

1991). The first step is to "make a clear and consistent delineation of exactly what is to be collected – the universe of discourse," and the second step is to "limit the amount of data to be gathered to manageable" (Bell 1991, p.9). The first step means to define the universe of discourses - set boundaries about the relevant and meaningful data to be collected in line with identifying the specific research questions. The second step involved focusing on the data collection type and limiting the required information from the newspapers' websites. As a linguistic study of media texts, this assisted with determining the time and cost involved in collecting and analysing the data and facilitating the quick identification of patterns. This thesis follows Reppen's (2022) step-by-step guide to collecting and creating data, irrespective of whether the corpus is written or spoken. Adhering to these steps enables this thesis to contribute to the existing literature on CL and discourses of race and ethnicity, to obtain data that addressed the identities of Africans, and to investigate the power relationships in societies by accounting for underlying ideologies of Irish newspapers for/against Africans.

The guide for corpus builders asks: "What constitutes a text? How will the files be named? What information will be included in each file? How will the texts be stored?" (Reppen 2022, p.32). The first step selects the type of corpus to limit the number of texts. For this study, the balanced corpus was chosen as the sampling frame. English was the only language used in the selected published news articles and the final corpus (Bennett 2010) within the specific time limit. This suggested that the corpus was representative of the language under investigation. Regarding text type, two overarching research questions facilitated this research, but other questions were fundamental to assembling the corpus for this study. Thirdly,

twenty-five specially designed search words were used to select and obtain articles from the websites of the newspapers under study. This is detailed below in section 4.2.5. Once these considerations to limit the number of texts were confirmed, the next steps considered how data was collected, filtered and stored. This stage answered the issues of text constituents, file naming and storing systems. With this, there was an elaboration of the choice of search words and conventions for tracking the data for this study. The following section highlights how the data sources were obtained.

Selection of Data Source

One of the first steps in building the corpus for this thesis was selecting the data sources. For this, newspaper articles were chosen rather than other media genres, such as radio or television content. One of the main reasons was that the newspaper databases were easily accessible and downloadable online. Secondly, the means to access the databases was cheaper and less time-consuming because it permitted the analyst to access data on the web from home and store datasets electronically from where specific enquiries were conducted (Baker *et al.* 2013). The data sources for this study were two well-known, influential national newspapers, the *Independent* and *The Times*. The newspaper medium was chosen for this study because it is a reliable source of information and provides a valuable research tool for scholars. Additionally, newspapers have a strong capability to influence the way others operate (Meyer 2004). Following this, search words were chosen to obtain relevant news articles discussed in detail in the next section.

Search Words Formulation to Extract Articles for Corpus Building.

This section presents a detailed account of the search words, their designs, classifications and how they assisted in (1) obtaining news articles from the specific newspapers under study, (2) compiling articles for the INC, the corpus for this study, and (3) focusing results on only the most relevant news articles. The data for this study was self-compiled and designed because there was no existing corpus that investigates the discourses of race and ethnicity or constructions of the identities of Africans in Ireland or one that accounts for the underlying ideologies of Irish newspapers. This was the first such corpus, and it is expected to contribute to existing research in CL and CDA and, more specifically, to the discourse of discriminatory exclusionary practices.

Twenty-five search words shown in Table 4.3 below were motivated by ethnic references and common demographic descriptions and carefully composed to gather all the relevant and available articles that covered news and information about Africans* within the specified time. This helped to design a suitable analysis, a proportionately balanced corpus that is representative and manageable (Gabrielatos 2007; Partington 2006). Also, the search words assisted the analyst in performing Corpus Query Language (CQL) investigations that focused on natural language processing (NLP). This was achieved with the help of *SkE*, a "leading online corpus analysis service" (Thomas 2016) used to extract, analyse, and visualise data (Kilgarriff *et al.* 2004). *SkE* facilitated this thesis by performing a frequency analysis for each sub-corpus and wordlist investigation

in corpus analysis (Thomas 2016). These are corpus techniques that help to reveal significant quantitative patterns that involve search words.

The news articles were chosen from the selected newspapers' databases during the three periods under study. Special consideration was given to the issue of the "trade-off between precision and recall" (Chowdhury 2004, p.170). This is where a corpus is either incomplete, resulting in underrepresentation, or contains irrelevant texts, resulting in distorted statistics. On the one hand, a corpus can comprise all relevant texts and, at the same time, fails to contain all relevant texts available in the dataset. On the other hand, a corpus can contain all pertinent available texts but include irrelevant texts (Chowdhury 2004). Consequently, Gabrielatos (2007) advocates for the use of "objective indicators" (p.5) and knowledge of the content of the expected corpus (Sinclair 2004), along with additional query terms, as helpful parameters to yield relevant results.

This study optimised the appropriate nodes to achieve the most applicable results based on this knowledge. This started by defining the title and aim of the study, evidencing two fundamental nodes without prejudice, namely *Africa* and *African*. The plural form of the noun *African* was adopted in this study to refer to any person or persons from Africa. Where valid, the different forms of the noun were used interchangeably. A range of nodes was selected to track only relevant articles based on their close association with the core nodes. This attempted to offer a wide range of appropriate contexts and documents that would avoid the issue of "cherry-picking" (Blinder & Allen 2015, pp.10-11) texts for the analysis. While some nodes may have been intuitively identified, leading to potential bias,

the researcher engaged with discourses about the African "other" and determined that including specific nodes enhanced the chances of achieving a complete and representative corpus. Specific nodes were motivated by the ethnic classifications of African groups as shown in the Irish Census. They included the common identities to characterise Africans and Africa, namely *black**, *black African**, and *black Irish** (CSO 2016). According to Burgett & Hendler (2020), these are also some of the words and phrases that are typically used as a "neutral reference to the darkest colour on the spectrum" (p.27), in addition to attributives like *black people* and *black Africans*. These were determined as core in this study and implemented as nodes. As well as these, some common descriptions of the demographics of Africans (see 1.10.2) warranted their inclusion in the nodes' list. They include *African students*, *African refugees*, *African asylum-seekers*, *African migrants*, and *African workers*. Furthermore, some scholars believe that incomplete or inaccurate representation of countries can distort the worldview and lead people to think that the world revolves around Europe (Segev 2019; Servaes & Ramanathan 2005). Supporting this view and that demographic factors affect migration patterns, six African countries were included in the search list, three with the fewest nationals and three with the highest nationals residing in Ireland. This was a balanced approach to acknowledge and include diverse experiences of Africans living in Ireland regardless of their population size. The names of the African countries were informed by the categorisation of CSO profiles on migration and diversity in Ireland. By 2016, which includes the period of this thesis, the three African countries with the most populated

nationals in Ireland were between 1001 and 10000: South Africa, Nigeria, and Congo.

Conversely, the three African countries with the fewest populated nationals were between one and ten from Namibia, Mozambique, and the Central Africa Republic (CSO 2016). This, however, brought potential issues about group classification, such as generalising and stereotyping countries. It was viewed here that studying the representation of six individual countries separately was far more complex and time-consuming. So, to facilitate this enquiry, and by default, the names of the countries with their corresponding demonyms became nodes as shown: *Central Africa (Central Africans)*, *Mozambique (Mozambicans)* and *Namibia (Namibians)*, *Congo (Congolese)*, *Nigeria (Nigerians)*, and *South Africa (South Africans)*. This investigation added to how media representation of Africans shaped audiences' worldviews and included or excluded social actors.

The study did not include specific nodes as 'asylum seeker' or 'refugee' because it focused solely on Africans. These terms would have included non-African individuals in the data. However, it was noted that asylum seekers and refugees are among the categories of immigrants and minority groups in Ireland, and some Africans also fall into this classification. Therefore, it was argued that a qualifier would mitigate the problem, such as *African asylum seekers*, *refugees*, and *migrants*. While it may seem that incorporating specific search terms such as "African students" could lead to duplication, these terms clarify which aspect of the broader category is being addressed in the corpus. Furthermore, specific query terms help eliminate ambiguity by focusing on a distinct demographic. It is

now helpful to briefly illustrate the list of search words used to extract relevant articles about Africans from the websites of the chosen newspapers and to investigate the corpora. This is categorised under semantic themes in Table 4.3 below.

Table 4. 3. List of search strings used to retrieve news articles about Africans from the selected newspapers' websites

Description of search words	Search Words
Core Search Words	Africa African(s)
Words closely associated with core search words	
Ethnic Classification	Black(s) Black African(s) Black Irish Black people
Descriptive Demographics	African student(s) African refugee(s) African asylum-seeker(s) African migrant(s) African worker(s) African families Dark Continent
National Demographics	South Africa Nigeria Congo Namibia Mozambique Central African Republic
Demonyms	South African(s) Nigerian(s) Namibian(s) Mozambican(s) Central African(s)

Although search words were used individually, they were assigned to two main groups, as shown in Table 4.3 above. One group contained the core words, and the other contained words closely associated with the core words. Core Words offered a background into the physical space of people who identify as Africans, with unique identities, cultures, languages, histories, etc. (Blakey 2001). It is important to understand that these labels have inferences in power dynamics, and their usage may not be ethically neutral (Pennebaker *et al.* 2003). The second group was broken into four sub-groups, namely Ethnic Classification, Descriptive Demographics, National Demographics and Donyms. The words in these categories were not identical but were grouped based on common linguistic characteristics to reduce comparison complexities. National Demographics, like Donyms and Descriptive Demographics, offer contextual information on population trends (Petit & Charbit 2013) from Africa. It can help shed light on advancements in African countries/regions and address specific needs instead of stereotypical depictions of poverty, crime, and wars. To discuss Ethnic Classification in African representation, one must understand African history. In brief, pre-colonial Africa was tightly bound to an indigenous system based on ethnic identities—shared history, values, traditions, religions, behaviours, arts and culture, language, aspirations, lineage, etc. (Juanena 2022; Michalopoulos & Papaioannou 2013). Colonialism disrupted this and imposed a legacy of ethnicity as homogeneous and a symbol of national identity (Adera 2024; Taylor 2018).

Naming files for corpus building

Another consideration for compiling the corpus was the naming of files. According to Reppen (2022), "creating file names that include relevant aspects of the texts for analysis is helpful (p.33). As such, the naming system in this study followed a search word, date, and newspaper name format. Texts were saved in folders for a variety of reasons. It made it quicker to organise, archive, and locate files using a search word. Also, it facilitated the uploading of files to *SkE*, which was the main analysis tool in this study. Moreover, it distinguished texts that belonged to specific search words, publications, dates, and word counts. Furthermore, Reppen (2022) posits that saving articles in plain text format is useful because "most corpus analysis tools function well with the plain text file format" (p.34). All texts were saved in plain text formats. Additionally, the files were stored chronologically and in corresponding years to divide the data into sub-corpora. The infographic in Table 4.4 below details the process and management techniques taken to name files.

Table 4. 4. Infographics of the file naming process

Infographics of data naming process		
	STEPS	OUTCOMES
	Main Folder. One Main Folder Created on Desktop and named: IrishTimes_IrishIndependent_Data98_08_18	Created to contain all articles to compile for corpus.
	Two main sub-folders A. - Two main sub-folders were created in the main folder and named Sub-Folder A. - The two folders were each labelled: Times_1998_2008_2018 and Indo_1998_2008_2018.	Represented sub-corpora for data to be analysed.
	Two main sub-folders B. - Two folders were created in sub-folder A. They were named Times_1998_2008_2018_PDF and Indo_1998_2008_2018_PDF. - Three further subfolders were created in the named two sub-folders B. This had the newspaper name, year and format of documents e.g., Times_1998_PDFs and so on. This folder contained exported news articles in the form of PDFs that were downloaded from the newspapers' websites. The articles were saved in the folders corresponding to the newspaper and year of publication. - This led to additional 25 sub-folders being created in sub-folder B. Each of the 25 folders was named in the order, for example: 539_Africans_Times_Septdec1998. Here: 539 was the total number of occurrences of the search word in that year, Africans was the search word, Times was the name of the newspaper and SeptDec1998 was the year under investigation.	Saved news articles in raw files exported as PDFs from newspapers' websites.
	Two main sub-folders C. - Two sub-folders were created, one in each corresponding newspaper sub-folder A. They were named: AllConverted_1998_2008_2018_Times and AllConverted_1998_2008_2018_Indo. - A further three subfolders were created in each corresponding newspaper folder, e.g., AllConverted_1998_Indo, and so on. These contained all articles that were converted from PDFs to Plain texts and were found in 25 sub-folders. Each folder represented a search word. The folders contained all news articles converted to Plain texts. They were saved according to their search word. Each article was numbered and saved as a separate file with numbers beginning from one and saved in the corresponding search word sub-folder in the main years and publication folder.	Saved converted news articles from PDFs to Plain Texts formats.

The table above presents an infographic summarising the steps taken to name the raw files for the INC and the realised outcomes. Three main folders were created. The first one contained raw data from all articles, saved as a sub-corpus for analysis. The second folder held files exported in Portable Document Format (PDF) from newspapers' websites, and the last folder contained the articles in Plain Text format. These steps for designing the INC were explicitly documented for other corpus users and for adjusting this thesis when necessary.

News articles obtained from websites for corpus building

After completing the search words formulation, data selection, and conventions for naming files, the next step was to obtain news articles from the newspapers'

websites. Sinclair (1991) supports this stage and maintains that obtaining texts is one of the most critical aspects of building and compiling a corpus. The preferred search words facilitated this stage to get news articles to create the INC, whereby dates and individual search words were entered in the search bar of the selected individual newspaper's website. An example of the steps taken during this stage is found in the forthcoming paragraph. It demonstrates a detailed process to obtain relevant files on the *Times*' website, which was obtained free of charge via the Mary Immaculate College Online Databases (MICOD).

Procedure to obtain news articles from the Times in MICOD

- On the MICOD website, the A-Z Databases pages are displayed. The letter I was selected, which displayed all databases beginning with the letter I.
- *Irish Times* Digital Archive (1859 -2021) selected. A search word entered.
- Prompts on the website, such as "Sorted by Relevance", "Publication Title", and the *to and from* "Date Range" completed in this format: year/month/date before the page was updated and the new results were displayed. This displayed twenty news articles per page with an option to extend the number of items to one hundred.
- On each item, the full-text option was selected and inspected for relevance before it was downloaded as a PDF.
- All downloaded news articles were saved as a backup to the newspaper's website's "My Research" tool.
- This process was repeated for all search words until all relevant articles were downloaded.

What stands out on the website of the *Times* is that it provides a breakdown of different sections of its newspaper, for example, news, business and economy, sports, politics, environment, classifieds, interviews, opinion columns, readers' letters, entertainment, art and culture, events, television guide and society. These properties are well-marked out and indicate the location of stories. This type of layout simplified and facilitated the selection process of articles and permitted only relevant results to be displayed. It also reduced the amount of time involved in searching for articles. Lastly, it reduced the issue of duplication of articles. Figure 4.4 below shows an example of search word results from the *Times* website.

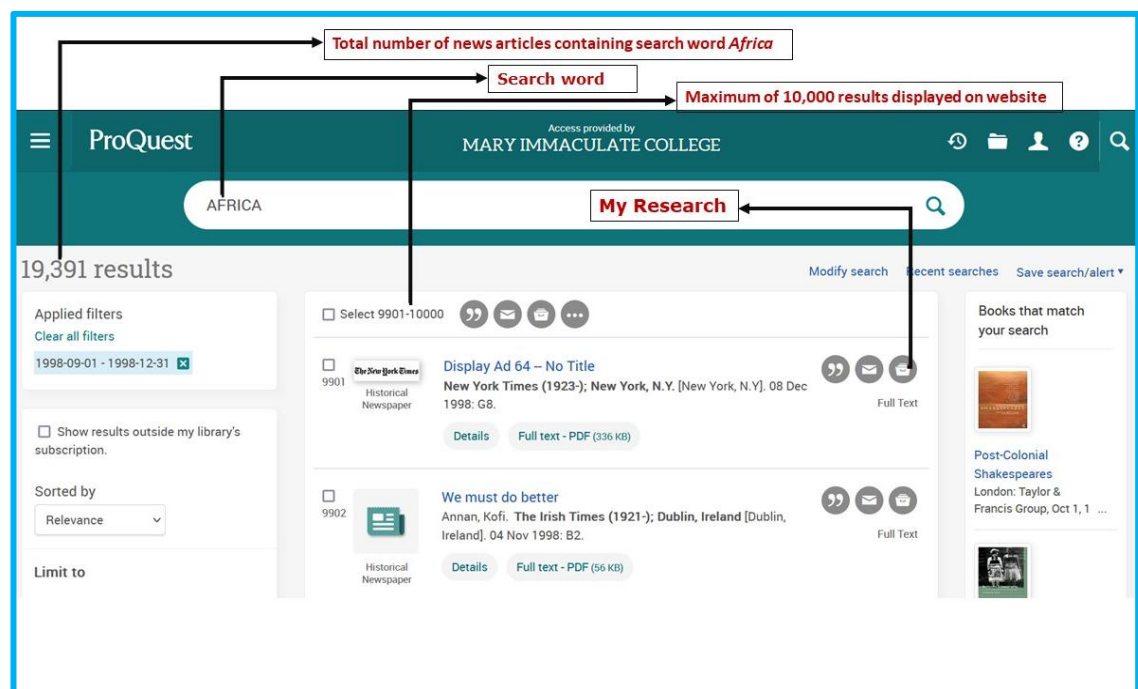


Figure 4. 4. Example of search word results displayed on the website of the *Times* in 1998

Figure 4.4. above displays the results for the search word **Africa** on the *Times*' website during 1998. The page contains the following elements: the total number of news articles from the search word enquiry, the maximum number of news articles, the search word under investigation, and options to save either on personal devices or on the newspaper's website.

Procedure to obtain news articles from the Independent in INA

On the other hand, texts from the *Independent* were accessed via a paid-for registered account on the Irish Newspaper Archives (<https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>), hereafter referred to as INA. This website is the largest and oldest online database of Irish newspapers, created in 1738. A major problem occurred when accessing data from these archives and challenged the website's statement that it prides itself in being "fast and easy" (Irish Newspaper Archives, 2023). For example, unlike the MICOD, INA fails to categorise sections of newspaper articles, genres, and locations of articles. This constrained the analyst to manually search and screen all newspaper sections and articles before retrieving relevant stories. Though this compiler was thorough and accomplished the task on time, obtained all the articles from the search word enquiries in the selected newspapers' websites, and saved them in designated folders, the process was lengthy and tedious. The following is an infographic of steps taken to obtain news articles about Africans from each newspaper's website:

Table 4. 5. Summary of steps taken to extract news articles from individual newspaper's website

 THE IRISH TIMES	Irish Independent 
Via Mary Immaculate College Database. Click: • Library – Online Databases – Letter I • Irish Newspaper Archives • <i>Irish Times</i> Digital Archives (1859 – 2021) • Username & Password • Dashboard – Access Irish Newspapers - <i>Irish Times</i> • For example, these steps were taken to search for news articles containing AFRICA. The word was entered in the search bar and then these commands: • Sort - Relevance – Custom Date Range. (Date Format – Year/Month/Day) From – To: 1998-09-01 TO 1998-12-31 – APPLY. • The total number of articles was 19,391. The default setting for RESULTS displayed 1-20 per page. To view all results, a total of 500 pages occurred. This was long and tedious, so the items per page were increased from 20 to 100. Outcome - This reduced the number of pages to click to access articles, from 500 pages to 100. However, this website only displayed up to a maximum of 10000 articles. • The next step scanned through headlines for relevance before the full texts were downloaded and Saved in both computer and My Research tool on the website as backup. • In some cases where PDF texts were distorted, news articles were manually copied and pasted on Plain Text documents and saved accordingly. • The process to name and save news articles was the same in both newspapers.	Via Irish Newspaper Archives. Click: • Search/Results • Select Newspaper • Refine Bar – Filtered by Title – All Titles – UNCHECK All Titles – <i>Irish Independent</i> 1905 – Current – FROM DATE accessed via Calendar – 1998-09-01 TO DATE – 1998-12-31. • NEAR – RELEVANCE – Search Word • <i>African</i>, for example was entered and yielded 252 articles. • To name and save the files obtained from the search word <i>African</i> in 1998, the folder assigned for all articles with this search word was named as follows: 252_African_Indo_SeptDec1998. • To view and save all relevant results, the analyst clicked to ADD RESULTS at the bottom of the page. This action was performed a total of 26 times to view, assess, retrieve and save all articles. • ONLY 10 Results were displayed per window in default setting which could not be changed. Once the first 10 results were viewed, assessed for relevance, and each article was saved in designated folders on the computer and the occurrences were ADDED TO MY COLLECTION option. This ensured that news articles were backed up in the event of data accident. Also, this enabled the analyst to begin the first stage of checking for article duplication. The analyst moved on to the next 10 results, and so on. All retrieved articles were manually exported and saved as PDFs. This was the preferred and most compatible option to export the news articles without distortion of texts. ❖ Note: Only texts were used for analysis. No graphics were used.

The infographic table above demonstrates automated and manual methods for sourcing and saving data from the selected newspapers' websites. The data contains metadata to distinguish newspaper titles, dates, and search strings,

simplifying saving and making it accessible for analysis. The following section details steps for managing the data before the start of the study.

Management of Retrieved Data for Corpus Building

After sourcing the articles from the websites, all raw files were saved as PDFs and plain text and tagged according to the search words, dates, and newspaper names. The files were stored in chronological order to make it feasible to divide the data into sub-corpora. One important benefit of this process was that it assisted deduplication, which removes duplicate files. This decluttering process employed manual procedures through visual inspections and automated techniques through Duplicate Finder. This is a software package in Python, a programming language. After completing the process to obtain, upload, and save the news articles, duplicates and irrelevant files were removed in separate phases, as explained below.

Upon cleansing the data, a visual inspection revealed vital problems. Firstly, some selected articles were irrelevant to the study. For example, some articles frequently contained stories about RUGBY and ALL BLACKS. These comprised negligible significance to the study. Another extraneous case was the occurrence of the adjective/noun, **black**. Some articles containing this search word were unrelated to the core query words, for example: 'black hole', 'black coffee', and 'black clothes'. These were removed because their contexts added little/no significance to the concerned discourse. Instead, it made the corpus size too big to manage. The analyst employed a manual weeding process to eliminate these occurrences from the dataset and check for relevance before saving them again.

The second fundamental problem encountered during this stage was repeating the same news articles. It found that duplicate files with the same contents occurred frequently, either in various sections of the newspapers or featured under different headlines. These were removed. This step was performed several times using multiple techniques. The first method used Duplicate Finder in Python3, explained in the next paragraph.

Procedure to remove duplicates in Python3

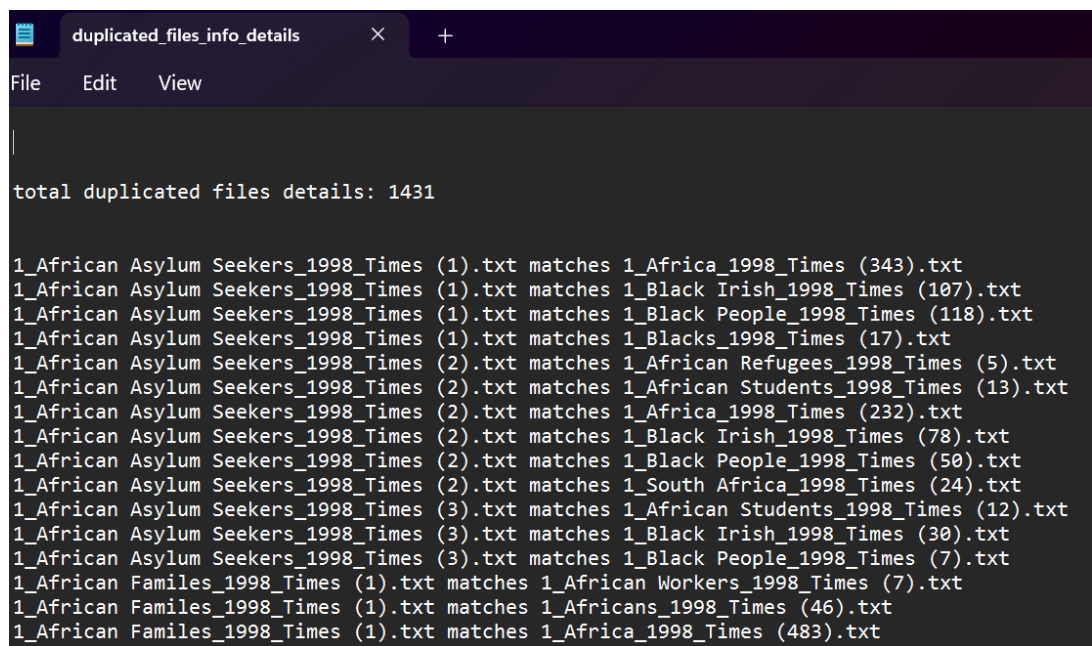
For this to work, the analyst obtained and navigated to Python3 software on the computer. The Duplicate Finder option was selected, the folder of interest was selected, and a command to search for duplicates and import the results as 'dup' (duplicates) was initiated with the following command:

Equation 0:3: Duplicate removal with Python3:

'C:/manyDuplicatesHere/'

*dup.list_all_duplicates(folder_of_interest, to_csv = True, csv_path
= 'C/csvWITHALLDuplicates/', fastscan = True)*

This command returned results, which were saved and exported as a .csv file. The CSV application uses plain text files on the Python website to export results easily to desired storage databases for further examinations. This was manageable because the downloaded texts were saved in plain text format. Figure 4.5 is the *Times* 1998 sub-corpora and illustrates how duplicates were searched, detected, and extracted.



```
duplicated_files_info_details
File Edit View

total duplicated files details: 1431

1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (1).txt matches 1_Africa_1998_Times (343).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (1).txt matches 1_Black Irish_1998_Times (107).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (1).txt matches 1_Black People_1998_Times (118).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (1).txt matches 1_Blacks_1998_Times (17).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (2).txt matches 1_African Refugees_1998_Times (5).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (2).txt matches 1_African Students_1998_Times (13).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (2).txt matches 1_Africa_1998_Times (232).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (2).txt matches 1_Black Irish_1998_Times (78).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (2).txt matches 1_Black People_1998_Times (50).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (2).txt matches 1_South Africa_1998_Times (24).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (3).txt matches 1_African Students_1998_Times (12).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (3).txt matches 1_Black Irish_1998_Times (30).txt
1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times (3).txt matches 1_Black People_1998_Times (7).txt
1_African Familes_1998_Times (1).txt matches 1_African Workers_1998_Times (7).txt
1_African Familes_1998_Times (1).txt matches 1_Africans_1998_Times (46).txt
1_African Familes_1998_Times (1).txt matches 1_Africa_1998_Times (483).txt
```

Figure 4. 5. An example of a .csv file detecting duplicate files in the *Times* in 1998

Figure 4.5 above shows the total number of duplicates while the matching duplicates are highlighted side-by-side. In this example, Python identified the text files named `1_African Asylum Seekers_1998_Times` and `1_Africa_1998_Times` to contain the same contents. Rather than removing them from the dataset, all duplicate result files underwent a second examination. A manual assessment compared each set of duplicates for contents such as headlines, bylines, and intro (first paragraph) of the news story. Confirmed duplicate files were removed and saved in a duplicate folder, while the files that were not a match for duplicates were returned to the dataset. This decluttering step made it straightforward to perform a third weeding process of the dataset. This stage differed from the first two steps described above in that while it

involved scanning all the retrieved data for relevance and relatedness to African issues, it also engaged in further duplication checks. At this stage, a proportion of articles still contained RUGBY and ALL BLACKS. Another weeding process, as shown above, was initiated to eliminate unrelated stories. The words RUGBY and ALL Blacks were entered in search commands, and these identified files containing the suspected words. The files were examined for relevance before they were eliminated or added to the dataset. The process was repeated with each newspaper. However, the process frequently occurred in the *Independent* because it contained more reposted and unrelated files than in the *Times*. One reason for this was the challenge encountered during the text-gathering process, where files with the same contents occurred in different sections and under different search words. Due to this, another decluttering step was performed.

The third fundamental problem was the inclusion of headlines and bylines. These details were retained as part of the news articles until this stage because they assisted with deduplication. Once the duplicate checks concluded, a manual process was curated to remove all headlines and bylines. Although newspaper headlines have been analysed through a discourse analysis of national representations (Develotte & Rechniewski 2001), they can be ambiguous (Marquez 1980) or misleading (Ecker *et al.* 2014) and sensationalist (Sabri and Ismail 2024). To avoid these in this instance, headlines were omitted. This allows the analyst to focus entirely on the body of the text without being influenced by any potential framing that could lead to misinterpretation. Additionally, the corpus was designed to focus only on the impersonal contents of news. The presence of authors' names can skew the interpretation of the data as they act as

identifiers. This means that their prior works, reputation, or perceived political affiliations may influence the analyst's focus, resulting in potential bias. Furthermore, when processing newspaper articles for corpus building, some articles featured identifiable authors while others did not. For instance, an example taken from the *Times* newspaper in 1998 using the search word **Africa** included a headline but lacked a byline or author's name.

```
UN official 'deeply idealistic'
```

Mr Gerety (56), a second-generation Irish-American from Brooklyn, was the director of UN refugee operations for Africa's Great Lakes region. His son, also Pierce, worked in Zaire for the Irish agency Concern until last month. "Pierce was someone who would jump on a plane when there was a problem; he was hands-on and he was highly regarded for his diplomatic skills," recalled Mr Dominic MacSorley, Concern's former director for the Great Lakes. "He entered the aid business in the 1960s wanting to change the world, and he never lost those lofty ambitions. He remained deeply idealistic."

Mr MacSorley recalled working with Mr Gerety last year in Kisangani in Zaire, when thousands of fleeing refugees emerged starving from the jungles. "Pierce could be very emotional about the suffering he witnessed, even after years of exposure. In Kisangani, I remember him cradling a dying child and demanding 'what can we do about this'."

Meanwhile, an example from the *Independent* in 1998 for the search term **Africa** was published with both a headline and the author's name.

```
Irish Independent 1905-current, 02.11.1998, page 36
```

@ Catherina McKiernan crosses the finish line in Amsterdam while Darren Clarke salutes his victory in Spain

Clarke triumph but wind blows McKiernan record

By STEPHEN O'BRIEN
IRISH sports stars were in the money yesterday – as marathon runner Catherina McKiernan and golfer Darren Clarke won £400,0100 in twin triumphs.

McKiernan missed a £350,000 payday by just a minute-and-a-half when icy winds blew her world marathon record attempt off course in Amsterdam.

Due to these inconsistencies, the authors' names and headlines were omitted to maintain data consistency and fairness. These actions ensured that the focus remained on examining linguistic features such as nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and so on without any distraction. Each file—a news article—was again checked, and any other occurrences of bylines and headlines were deleted before the data was recompiled as the final sub-corpora.

The final data was uploaded to the analyst's paid account in *SkE*. At this stage, another decluttering process was undertaken to ensure the dataset was free of duplicated and unrelated files before they were re-uploaded. This guarantees that the database is devoid of duplication; therefore, the table below lists search terms along with their values in designated rows, which can be used to identify and eliminate duplicates or to group and count occurrences. This degree of inspection of the dataset guaranteed that only articles relevant to **Africa*** were included in the database. Table 4.6 below presents the results of the number of relevant article occurrences (files) of search words when they were investigated in the selected newspapers' websites during 1998, 2008 and 2018 (otherwise referred to in this thesis as sub-corpora 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8) that were used to compile the corpus for this thesis.

Table 4. 6. Number of relevant articles per search word obtained from selected newspapers

Search Words -		Results in the <i>Independent</i>			Results in the <i>Times</i>		
		<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>P3</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>P3</i>
1.	Africa	43	222	120	90	144	159
2.	Africans	14	245	33	11	5	1
3.	African Students				13	12	7
4.	African Refugees				5	6	5
5.	African Asylum Seekers				1		1
6.	African Families				4	5	4
7.	African Migrants					1	3
8.	African Workers				8	20	7
9.	Blacks	16	56	8		96	90
10.	Black Africans				2		
11.	Black People	4	13	3	324	442	6332
12.	Black Irish				131	141	208
13.	Dark Continent				3	6	11
14.	Central Africa	2		1	26	15	26
15.	Central Africans	1			1		1
16.	Mozambique	6	5	5	16	5	4
17.	Mozambicans						
18.	Namibia	3	23	5	13	27	6
19.	Namibians	2		1			
20.	Congo	15	24	4	25	103	29
21.	Congolese		2		6	3	
22.	Nigeria	18	28	12	41	78	56
23.	Nigerians	12	18	7	2	2	2
24.	South Africa	148	2	37	271	590	324
25.	South Africans	14		11	25	12	5
Total Files from search words		298	638	247	1018	1713	1582
Total of 25 search words/period		P1: 14 positive search words P2: 11 positive search words P3: 13 positive search words			P1: 21 positive search words P2: 20 positive search words P3: 21 positive search words		
Total Files: 5.496		Sum of files: 1183			Sum of files: 4313		

Table 4.6 shows that 11 and 14 positive search words yielded 1183 relevant news articles about **African*** in the period under study in the *Independent*. In the *Times*, meanwhile, this was between 20 or 21 positive search words that produced 4313 relevant news stories in the combined periods under study.

4.2.6 Concluding Summary of Corpus Building

This section demonstrated the corpus selected for this thesis. In doing so, all measures were taken to source, select, extract and manage relevant data and document information for analysis in the study. The steps were recorded to align with the criteria required for collecting and designing the relevant corpus for analysis (see Appendix 1 - Steps taken to manage data for corpus building).

4.3 Methodology

This section outlines the rationale behind the selection criteria implemented based on the methodologies in CL and DHA as proposed by Reisigl & Wodak (2017). These criteria were designed to address the research questions, accomplish the study's objectives, explain how they were implemented, and discuss the operationalisation of corpus-specific topics such as frequency word counts, collocations, and text categorisation based on topics for subsequent qualitative analysis. The criteria include data research methods that display search words and processing datasets from concordance evidence in *SkE* and the analysis method. The section ends with a concluding summary.

4.3.1 Rationale for Data Selection Criteria

This thesis made certain decisions to limit the scope of the study, ensure clarity, achieve the investigation's aims, and complete the study on time. These decisions include the media genre, number of publications, periods, and the specific type of content to analyse. Like steps taken to limit repetition (see 4.2.5), the considerations for text selection for analysis are below.

- Only two Irish newspapers were selected for this comparative work.
- Only news reports were extracted for this thesis.
- Only news reports about African topics were chosen.
- All headlines, bylines of news articles, editorials, classifieds, announcements and obituaries, letters to the editors, television guides and society, videos, images, and entertainment were excluded.
- Specific periods in 1998, 2008, and 2018 were selected.
- All the news reports were in the English language.
- The reports were downloaded from the websites of well-acknowledged institutions without ties to the selected newspapers.

4.3.2 Method of Analysis

To determine and apply the suitable approaches and methods and organise the overall designs to answer the research questions and aims of this study, the adopted framework, discourse strategy, analytical tools, and semantic prosody analysis are discussed in the ensuing paragraphs.

Framework Adoption

Three prominent scholars of CDA, where this study is situated, were identified and an overview presented in Chapter Three of this thesis, namely, Fairclough's socio-cultural approach (1989), van Dijk's socio-cognitive paradigm (2006, 2008, 2009) and Wodak's Discourse Historical Analysis (1986). From the three approaches, the analytical and scientific methods adopted for analysis of the corpus in this study employed the taxonomy of DHA (Wodak 2001). A significant

advantage of this approach is that it triangulates data at various levels, beginning at content or topic establishment, then discourse strategies and linguistic means. This method allowed this thesis to explore innovative techniques to validate and integrate data analysis, reduce bias, and enhance the credibility and reliability of this research's findings. The triangulation method is best described below in Figure 4.6.

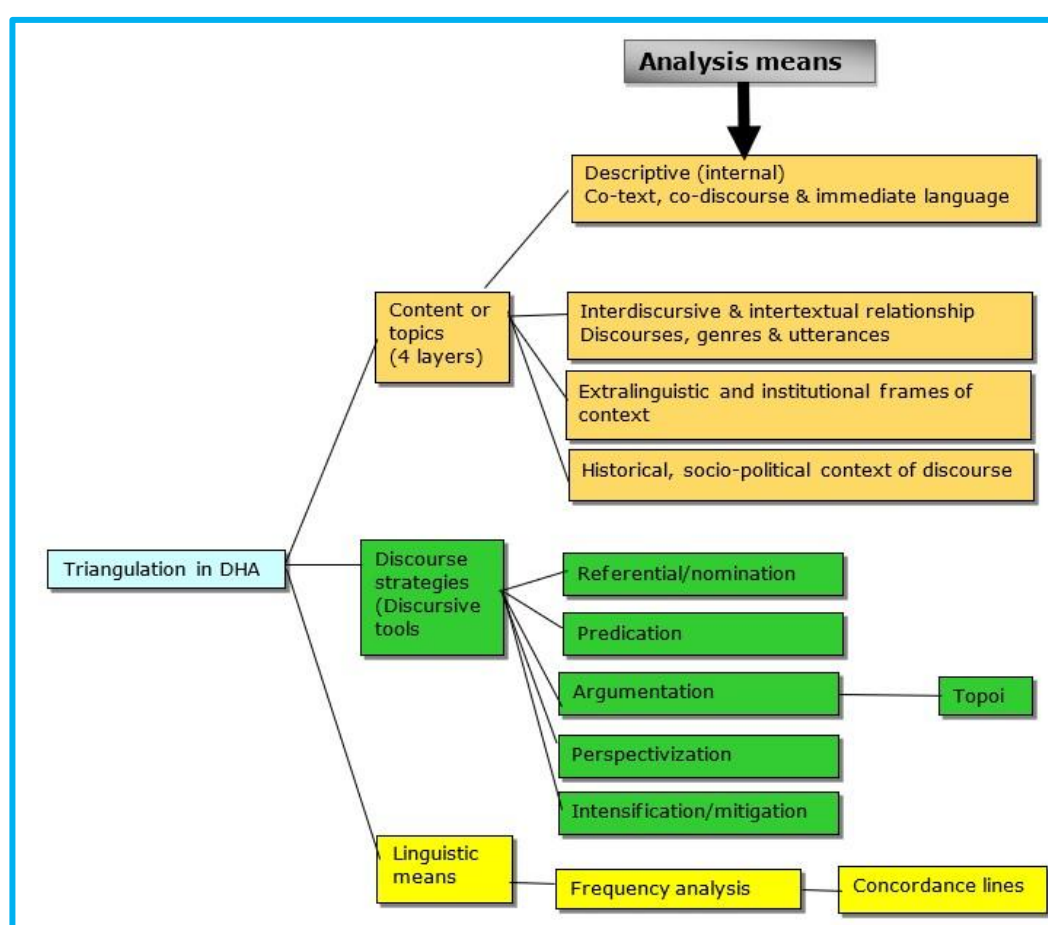


Figure 4. 6. DHA taxonomy was selected as the analysis framework (Wodak 2001)

The analysis of the interrelationship between discursive and discriminatory practices and structures adopted in this thesis is illustrated above in Figure 4.6. In the diagram, different methods are triangulated at three levels. The first level is the content level, which has four layers. The first is a descriptive notion of context, which targets text or co-text and its immediate language. The second is the interdiscursive and intertextual relationship between texts, genres, discourses, and utterances. This is the idea that texts are interconnected and draw upon each other for meaning. They influence and are being influenced by one another. There is also the extralinguistic element of the specified context: the non-verbal cues, such as background knowledge, cultural references, and contextual cues that are not explicit parts of the texts. These cues assist readers to interpret and respond to messages effectively alongside words. Finally, the discursive practices are based on the broader historical and socio-political context. The second level is based on discourse strategies, which involve five discursive tools, and the final level is based on linguistic means, primarily using CL tools.

Conforming to this approach, the nature of the social problem that this study investigated (Bloor & Bloor 2007) was formulated based on extracted evidence (Tognini-Bonelli 2001). Furthermore, the analyst employed a corpus-driven method in which the UA were part of the analytical process. This involved an examination of sentences from three of the five discursive manifestations that engage in positive self and negative other representations (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). Using methods commonly associated with CL, these investigations were conducted with tools such as concordances and frequency analysis, as shown in

level 3 in Figure 4.5 above. This was an effective and practical way to synergise CL and CDA methods in this study.

Selection of Discourse Strategy

To study discourse that implicitly or explicitly expresses power structures and represents positive self-presentation – 'us', and negative other-presentation – 'them', Reisigl & Wodak (2017) suggest that DHA systematically involves five analytical frameworks on both qualitative and corpus-based quantitative research. The aspect of triangulation in DHA uses the topoi tool at level 2, as shown in Figure 4.6. Discourse strategies mean a "more or less accurate and intentional plan of practices adopted to achieve a particular social, political, psychological or linguistic aim (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.73). According to DHA, the discourse strategies are referential/nomination, predication, perspectivation/framing, intensifying/mitigation, and argumentation. These strategies are operationalised in several DHA studies. It was instrumental in studying anti-Semitic stereotypes during the 1986 Austrian presidential campaign (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). This pioneering study examines images and oral and written texts in public discourses from linguistic, historical, and socio-political contexts for discriminatory discourses. Another study that prominently features these discourse strategies from a DHA perspective and is essential in this thesis is the study of racist discrimination against Romanian migrants (Motouschek, Wodak & Januscheck 1995). The study uses data from political and mass media discourses to find that, over time, representation of Romania/Romanians moves from compassion to anti-Romanian protests. It is

also worth noting that this study constitutes the second phase of DHA history and helps to institutionalise DHA in Vienna (Reisigl 2017). The study is helpful in this thesis. Still, because the data for the study is almost three decades old, the 2008 study by Baker *et al.* (2008) on the representation of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants (RASIM) in the UK is prominently influential in this thesis. Unlike the focus observed in prior studies about identity strategies in media representation, there has been a notable shortage of scholarly attention concerning Africans, specifically within Ireland. This thesis aims to publish data about this ethnic group to help fill this academic gap.

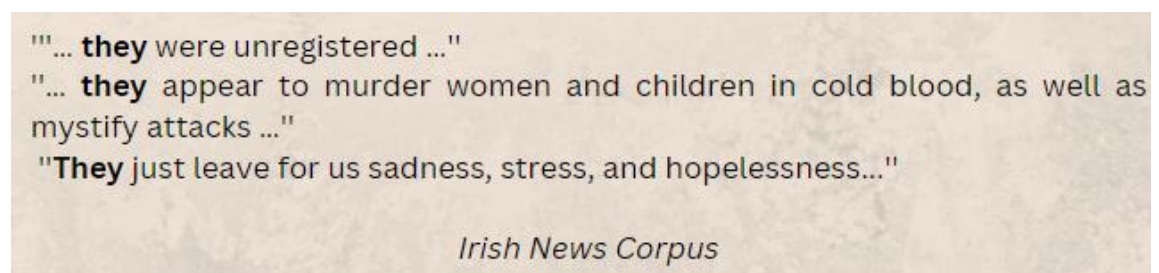
Turning to the discourse strategies in the present thesis, three strategic aspects of writers' self-presentation and other-presentation were vital in the discursive discrimination and exclusion of Africans in the INC (see Chapter Three for more on nomination, prediction, and argumentation strategies).

Identifying the chosen three strategies in the INC

- The most salient collocate was chosen from the list of words to collocate with **Africa*** in each sub-corpus
- The sub-corpus was selected in SkE.
- Collocates investigated in the *Change Criteria* option in concordance.
- The results displayed collocate as a keyword in context (KWIC)—this was the form of realisation, that is, the sentences containing the KWIC.
- A random sample of 200 lines served as the cut-off point.

- The KWIC option was then deselected in favour of the sentence option, which showed complete sentences containing the search word or collocate. This provided a more extensive picture of the sentences or realisations.
- An assessment of the whole sentence for the linguistic means to include, exclude, or attribute positively or negatively.
- Full sentences highlighted the findings or examples of realisations.
- The choices of words found in the realisations (sentences) investigated the linguistic means of exclusion or inclusion.
- The words were underlined, and statistics were obtained from the analysis.

An example of how these steps were applied was taken from the *Times* in 2018. The pronoun "they" occurred as one of the most frequent collocates for African*, warranting further examination in concordance. The examples below illustrate the above steps that were investigated for potential discourse techniques in the case of **they**.



The contexts of the sentences around the collocate were evaluated for linguistic means of realisation. It was observed that nomination occurred through criminalisation, whereby others, or outgroups, were vaguely assigned and passively constructed as outgroups or involved or not involved (ingroups) in

criminal actions. The types of realisations appeared in words such as *murder*, *unregistered*, *cold bold*, *mystify*, and *attacks*. This analysis was performed on all sub-corpora under study, and the three main strategies selected were used to analyse the texts in this thesis. This method of data analysis provides insights into the representation of Africans by the selected newspaper, which further aids in identifying the attitudes of the selected news outlets.

Although the two strategies helped identify ways representation occurred in the INC, the primary analytical framework was argumentation, which legitimises, persuades and justifies the arguments and argumentative schemata implemented in texts (Reisigl 2017). As shown in Chapter Three, a comprehensive method to infer topoi is lacking. Thus, this thesis combined the notion of topoi by Rubinello (2006) and the procedure to employ a topos by Wodak (2001) to investigate topoi in the INC. To use this approach, individual sentences were analysed using the three chosen strategies. The detailed procedures, methods, and results were highlighted while existing literature and the approach selected for this study were essential for the analysis.

Level 1 of Figure 4.5 above contains the extralinguistic and institutional context frames and the discourse's historical and socio-political context. In addition, this work introduced in the first two chapters the social, political, historical, and other contexts of the coverage of African topics in Ireland in 1998, 2008, and 2018. It also examined the background of the selected newspapers and focused on their history, ownership, orientation, and readership ratings.

In Chapter Five, the synergy between CL and CDA is presented. Though this is not new (Krishnamurthy 1996), limited studies have been conducted using corpus analysis (Baker *et al.* 2008; Baker *et al.* 2021). Meanwhile, although synergy seems easy, it is not straightforward because both approaches are new, with theoretical, methodological and identity issues (Gabrielatos and Duguid 2014). Although prior research studies have discussed this collaboration, few attempts have consolidated it into a cohesive study (Brown 2024). This intriguing observation and the notable gap in the literature provided reasons for this thesis to demonstrate the elaborate and detailed use of corpus and corpus techniques in the DHA approach. One of the reasons for this was to contribute to CDA and CL. In Chapters Six and Seven, this thesis details findings and analysis with the help of the three analytical dimensions and the five strategies of DHA already seen in Figure 4.5. These aspects were recursively linked to contextual knowledge and enabled individual texts to be investigated at micro and macro levels (Reisigl & Wodak 2008; 2017). It was noted that media coverage is concerned with the "intended biases, contradictory and manipulative relationships between discourses and power structures" (Reisigl & Wodak 2017, p.93), and for this reason, it was essential to identify "meaning-making resources at various linguistic levels and to focus in particular on devices used to position readers into adopting a certain point of view" (Mautner 2008, p.49).

Having discussed the adopted framework and discourse strategies, the following section discusses the linguistic analytical tools.

4.3.3 Linguistic Analytical Tools

For the linguistic analytical tools in this thesis, attention was drawn to the fact that specific qualitative approaches might be susceptible to selective analysis or subjective interpretation (Widdowson, 2000). As a result, some techniques commonly associated with CL, such as concordances, collocations, frequency, and keyword analysis, proved beneficial in addressing these concerns (Cheng 2013). This thesis investigated over five thousand articles of accurate data. It analysed, interpreted, and applied the outcomes to real studies of the discursive, linguistic elements and social practices embedded in texts. This means that the entry point was corpus analysis – corpus-driven (Tognini-Bonelli 2001). This aided in showing the gap in research that this thesis seeks to fill and in improving the formation of research objectives. Various tools were used to interrogate the large corpus size in this thesis with immediate results, which would have been difficult, if not impossible, to complete with mere manual tools. The results from these examinations were recorded. In the case of prosodies, for example, words were categorised under positive or negative representations and the frequencies were calculated. This was an important part of this study because attitudinal stances or evaluative discourses are challenging to quantify and heavily dependent on context. However, using concordances and collocations in *SkE* in this thesis helped to annotate collocates and obtain words with the most quantitative significance. The analysis of the positive 'self-presentation' and the negative 'other-representation' focused on the macrostructure, which is the specific genre and the text-inherent categories (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). The steps

that were followed to analyse the linguistic elements and social practices embedded in texts were:

- The specific texts were extracted from INC
- The discourse topics were analysed based on their semantic categorisation
- Then, an in-depth analysis was started with an analysis of the discursive strategy
- Topoi identified the argumentation strategy
- Finally, the prosody of the argumentation was evaluated

Following the above steps, the evidence obtained from methods in CL was elucidated through the three discursive strategies and other linguistic tools, such as backgrounding and foregrounding (van Leeuwen 2008) of social actors and semantic prosody (SP) that described and interpreted the communicative events. Quantitative and qualitative CL methods identified quantitative information of linguistic features in the corpus, making it possible for generalisations to be drawn. Not only that, but the integration of processes in this thesis was undeniable. From this methodological view, the next section considered the issue of semantic prosody (SP).

Semantic Prosody Analysis

A semantic prosody (SP) analysis was conducted to account for underlying ideologies and power relationships in the INC by answering the second research question of this thesis: How did attitudes towards the representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over 30 years? This involved an in-depth analysis

of collocates based on three DHA discursive strategies using a topoi device used for analysis in this thesis. In this analysis, it has already been established that each collocate was examined based on the occurrence of other predominant words with positive or negative contexts (Wei & Li 2014). Therefore, it was decided that the best method to infer SP was to adapt the two-level DHA analysis procedure to investigate positive 'self-presentation' and negative 'other presentation' (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). The reason for this adaptation to the study of SP was that there are no practical or systematic ways to infer SP in discriminatory discourses, as different methods to measure word associations may result in different outcomes. This adaptation follows Baker *et al.* (2008) in their RASIM study and provides the most convincing, dependable, and transparent way to investigate discursiveness in discourse. The RASIM researchers highlight the lexical item, examine the strategy, and probe the argumentative device that legitimises the in/out groups. Finally, the specific topoi will be performed and recontextualised. To operationalise the above method adapted and adopted in this thesis, a quantitative approach selected the collocates based on frequency of occurrence (Baker 2012). Here:

- The list of words in INC to collocate with Africa/Africans was obtained following computerised and manual processes.
- The computerised method investigated co-texts in KWIC concordances. Two hundred randomly sampled concordance lines were selected, downloaded, and saved in a dedicated storage system.
- The next stage was data entry, where the "list of words that occurred in a node's specified environment" (Sinclair 1991, p.115) was documented.

- After the list of collocates was obtained, the top 20 collocates were selected to narrow the study.
- A qualitative approach based on DHA examined the collocates strategy and argumentation to determine their evaluative meaning and whether words that tended to co-occur with others possessed positive or negative prosodies (Louw 1993; Partington 2004; Stubbs 1995).
- The occurrences were documented, and the conclusion demonstrated how the INC expressed their ideologies about Africans.

The above steps were adapted from argumentation (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) and illustrate that the study of SP is more than simply assigning negative or positive biases. Instead, this method performed a more explicit and finer semantic prosody study and built on the study by Baker *et al.* (2008), which is already described above. An example of how this thesis studied discourse strategies on collocates started by selecting the INC, which combines all sub-corpora from both newspapers. The second step investigated collocates for the word **Africa**. The most frequent key collocate was the word republic, with 122 occurrences. Then, the broader discourse context or utterance in which the communicative event occurred was extracted from concordance in *SkE*. The selected text is highlighted below:"

"... Mr Laurent Kabila, with many deaths. Some 5,000 loyalist troops fled into the bush on August 26th when the rebels marched in. Shooting in Congo capital Brazzaville - Fighting broke out in the southern suburbs of the Congo Republic capital, Brazzaville, yesterday, sending residents fleeing for safety there and in the centre of the city. The government of President Denis Sassou Nguesso, who has sent his army against opposition militia operating in the Pool region south and west of the capital, blamed ..."

Irish News Corpus

A study of linguistic exclusion and inclusion strategies followed the selection of texts with suspected discursiveness. Here, words that did not have the same semantic meaning but were found to have altitudinal meanings were selected. These words were underlined, as shown above. The main exclusion strategies followed from van Leeuwen's (1996) linguistic exclusion based on suppression and backgrounding, while the central linguistic inclusion served a "disguising, relativising or averting function" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) by way of reference, nominalisation, or rhetorical figures (van Leeuwen 1996). The analysis was performed based on strategies of positive self and negative other presentation (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) in discourse. This procedure was performed for all sub-corpora under study, considering this thesis is comparative and diachronic. The results from this procedure suggested the ideologies of individual newspapers over time.

The DHA approach to infer SP elaborated above demonstrated the following, firstly, an explicit approach to the analysis of the INC, which mitigated concerns that some "CDA practitioners select texts which they either incorrectly believed to be representative or have been chosen to prove a point" (Baker *et al.* 2008,

p.283). Secondly, this demonstrated how the most key collocates by frequency of occurrence were examined for their prosodies. Thirdly, it investigated how INC's overall ideology towards Africa/Africans was investigated. Fourthly, considering that studies of media representation of racist, ethnicist and discriminatory discourses are conducted where bias is expected to exist, this thesis used an eclectic mix of methods, whereby DHA discursive strategies were triangulated with methods of CL As well as this, this thesis's non-partisan and non-funded nature allowed for objective conclusions on the linguistic realisations.

Procedure to Infer SP

In summary, and in line with Partington's (2004, 2015) approach and Sinclair's (1987, 1999) view of collocates, the following process was observed:

- Two hundred lines of concordances are automatically and randomly selected. This number was chosen to facilitate the manual observations required for this analysis.
- Co-texts written out in a spreadsheet.
- The KWIC's 30 most frequent co-texts were then assessed regarding their semantic environment, and their prosodies were decided.

Thus far, this thesis has argued for the implementation of three DHA discursive strategies. There were two reasons for this. Firstly, the three approaches play an essential function in the discourses of discrimination, such as racism, ethnicism, nationalism, xenophobia, linguistic identity, and discourse in the media, including print, addressed in this thesis. Secondly, time and workforce

limitations hindered this analyst's ability to address all five analytical strategies. This section also discusses the methodological approach to linguistic analysis, where the corpus is the beginning point. This thesis demonstrated and documented CL and CDA (DHA) integration, especially regarding the frequency wordlist. The wordlist was compared with the English Language Newspaper Corpus (SiBol) as a reference corpus in this thesis. SiBol is an 850-million-word collection of two million articles from 18 English language newspapers between 1993 and 2021 from countries including India, the USA, Hong Kong, Nigeria, the UK, and the Arab World (*SkE* 2024). The next step concerned the analysis of semantic prosody. This demonstrated how Africans' negative/positive presentation in the INC was made less subjective by studying a wordlist of the most key collocates for **African*** and comparing it across sub-corpora. The study extended its desire to make this study impartial by conducting an analysis of DHA discourse strategies on the wordlist of the most key collocates. It became clear that generalisations and conclusions could quickly be drawn from a triangulation of these methods. In doing so, this section presented the linguistic analytical tool. It argued that combining CL methods and the DHA approach to semantic prosody can account for underlying ideologies and reveal linguistic elements and social practices. The next part of this chapter will focus on the data research methods.

4.3.4 Data Research Methods

This section outlines the procedures for collecting, documenting and interpreting evidence after compiling the corpora for analysis in this thesis. The processes are evidenced by lexical patterns, frequency counts, collocations, concordances,

and keyness of each search word in *SkE*. As it is the position adopted in this thesis, every effort was made to minimise any speculations, intuitions, assumptions or biases in the study. A description of CL methods and analytical processes, as well as the synergy of the DHA approach to CDA, are discussed throughout this section. The following paragraph outlines how data was collected and documented for analysis.

Steps taken to investigate linguistic phenomena

This examined patterns of linguistic phenomena and ideologies hidden in the newspapers' texts. Two steps were taken. The first step generated concordance lines in *SkE* obtained collocations and documented the evidence. This kind of computer analysis allows new evidence to be obtained and linguistic phenomena to be used to assert their credibility (Sinclair 1991). It also illustrates the complementary relationship between the qualitative and quantitative approaches used in this thesis. The second step interprets the results.

Concordance Generation and Evidence Documentation.

It was difficult to analyse every textual feature, so a technique of "selective attention" (Widdowson 2004, p.161) was applied in each textual environment that produced word collocations (Sinclair 1991). Widdowson (2004) adds that every textual feature cannot be exhaustively described, and that all analysis is partial up to a point. For these reasons, explicit methodological procedures are needed. Concordances assisted with this. The steps to ensure concordance generation and documentation of evidence in Appendix 2 show that using nodes

in the concordance, instructing *SkE* to perform functions such as simple search, KWIC, and random samples, and then documenting evidence led to outcomes, including the frequencies of node occurrences. This facilitated the analysis of patterns and ideologies.

4.4 Collocation Analysis

In addition to generating concordance evidence for wordlist and frequency analysis, a collocation analysis argued that the association between target words and their collocates was not random. In this thesis, the words co-texts, collocates, and co-occurrences were used interchangeably to mean any word that occurred in the specified environment of a node (Sinclair 1991).

This study's first attempt to analyse collocation was automated, which excels in efficiency and processing large datasets. In this approach, the Mutual Information score (MI score) and LogDice scores (see 5.1 for details) were chosen as the measuring instruments for the number of actual occurrences because the results are simple to interpret. This is made possible as the scores are ranked in ascending order. The significant differences between the T-score and MI score are that the T-score lacks a numerical sequence, and the MI score and LogDice use frequency counts. Though the results of this method are simple to interpret, there was a limitation. In *SkE*, low-frequency words tend to have high MI scores and are excluded from the calculation. This means that it is possible with this technique that important results/words are excluded from the databases and analysis. To demonstrate the procedure to obtain collocates using the automated method, the following guidelines were followed:

Method I: Automated via collocations procedure

Procedure and considerations:

- The sub-corpus was selected in *SkE*.
- The Concordance option was selected and followed by the individual search word entry. The results were displayed.
- The *Collocations* option was selected, and the *Advance* choice was highlighted, followed by the prompt to choose a range of words to the left and right of the KWIC.
- Here, *Word* was selected as the *Attribute* option, and the range of five words to the left and right was selected. The default setting extends the number of co-texts to three words to the left and three to the right of the KWIC. However, five words to the left and five to the right were chosen because initial observations revealed that 'South' occurred before certain search words, such as **Africa** and **African**. 'South' is the noun for the compound words 'South Africa' and 'South African', which is the name of an African country and its demonym. This meant that selecting one or a three-word window range, L/R would have been narrow and yielded inappropriate results. On the other hand, the five-word window range extracted broader contexts, allowed different words to appear and helped reveal more about the nature of attribution for or against the social actor. Note that while the five-word window selection was adopted for the automated method, due to time and energy limitations, a three-window selection was applied in the manual process, which is explained

afterwards. Of note also is that the collocations tool in *SkE* displays default corresponding attributes such as *Cooccurrences*, which is the total number of occurrences of the collocates within the selected range; *Candidates*, which is the total number of occurrences of the collocates in the entire corpus; *T-score* which expresses the certainty of an association between words, and the *MI score* and *Log Dice* which express the extent to which words co-occur to the number of times they appear separately (Kilgariff *et al.* 2004). These tools are essential in the study of collocations.

In this thesis, the search word Africa* was investigated in 2008 in both the *Independent* and the *Times* to operationalise this collocation method. The results were automatically drawn. The evidence displayed words that most frequently occurred with **Africa*** in the entire corpus, including the number of instances. The results of this example are found in Figure 4.7 below.

CONCORDANCE							CONCORDANCE						
Corpus2_IrishIndo_2008							Corpus6_IrishTimes_2008						
simple Africa* • 883 2,588.25 per million tokens • 0.25%							simple Africa* • 2,118 1,494.82 per million tokens • 0.15%						
Collocations							Collocations						
CHANGE CRITERIA BACK TO CONCORDANCE							CHANGE CRITERIA BACK TO CONCORDANCE						
Word	Cooccurrences ²	Candidates ²	T-score	MI	LogDice ↓		Word	Cooccurrences ²	Candidates ²	T-score	MI	LogDice ↓	
1 ☐ South	391	427	19.72	8.47	13.26	...	1 ☐ South	1,143	1,294	33.75	9.21	13.42	...
2 ☐ in	219	6,514	13.66	3.70	9.92	...	2 ☐ president	66	638	8.01	6.11	9.62	...
3 ☐ and	209	6,551	13.28	3.62	9.85	...	3 ☐ in	605	26,038	23.01	3.96	9.46	...
4 ☐ .	368	13,180	17.41	3.43	9.74	...	4 ☐ Australia	52	422	7.12	6.37	9.39	...
5 ☐ is	92	2,683	8.87	3.73	9.72	...	5 ☐ Mbeki	47	180	6.82	7.45	9.39	...
6 ☐ of	228	8,104	13.71	3.44	9.70	...	6 ☐ :	127	4,118	10.72	4.37	9.38	...
7 ☐ Congress	20	24	4.46	8.33	9.50	...	7 ☐ Horn	39	40	6.24	9.35	9.21	...
8 ☐ country	24	216	4.78	5.42	9.48	...	8 ☐ Thabo	39	59	6.23	8.79	9.20	...
9 ☐ ,	338	14,701	16.32	3.15	9.47	...	9 ☐ against	61	1,309	7.56	4.96	9.19	...
10 ☐ for	83	2,973	8.27	3.43	9.46	...	10 ☐ said	121	4,745	10.36	4.09	9.17	...
11 ☐ to	188	7,948	12.21	3.19	9.45	...	11 ☐ East	38	131	6.13	7.60	9.11	...
12 ☐ an	42	1,107	6.04	3.87	9.43	...	12 ☐ (	148	6,724	11.34	3.88	9.10	...
13 ☐ National	20	69	4.43	6.81	9.43	...	13 ☐ SOUTH	36	34	5.99	9.47	9.10	...
14 ☐ the	346	16,142	16.35	3.05	9.38	...	14 ☐ Union	38	176	6.12	7.17	9.08	...
15 ☐ from	47	1,456	6.31	3.64	9.36	...	15 ☐ Congress	35	92	5.89	7.99	9.02	...
16 ☐ against	23	289	4.64	4.94	9.33	...	16 ☐)	140	6,728	10.98	3.80	9.02	...
17 ☐ SOUTH	17	16	4.11	8.68	9.28	...	17 ☐ and	493	29,669	20.21	3.47	8.99	...
18 ☐ ruling	16	47	3.97	7.04	9.14	...	18 ☐ National	37	275	6.02	6.49	8.98	...
19 ☐ The	47	1,858	6.15	3.29	9.13	...	19 ☐ The	149	7,769	11.26	3.68	8.95	...
20 ☐ first	24	536	4.62	4.11	9.11	...	20 ☐ Southern	31	73	5.55	8.15	8.86	...

Figure 4. 7. Top 20 Collocations automated results for the search word Africa in the *Independent* and the *Times*

Figure 4.7 above shows the lists of the top 20 most frequent words that collocated with the search word **Africa*** during 2008 in both newspapers under study following an automated collocations method. The strength of the collocates is indicated by the Log Dice score, which is based on the frequency of the collocation. In the *Independent*, the collocates were *and*, *congress*, *country*, *national*, *against*, *ruling*, and *first*. In the *Times*, the collocates were *president*, *Australia*, *horn*, *against*, *east*, *union*, *congress*, and *national*. As already highlighted above, the noun 'South' and the names of individual persons were excluded from this analysis. Therefore, using the automated method in the *Independent*, the most significant frequent collocate for Africa was ***and***, while in

the *Times*, it was **president**. This demonstration attempted to show (1) how collocation was performed in this thesis and (2) the results obtained from automated collocation enquiry in *SkE*. The next paragraph describes the second method of analysing collocations in this study. A final decision about the suitable method adopted in this thesis was taken afterwards.

Method II: Manual approach to record data for frequency and collocation analysis.

At this point, the procedure for manual collocation analysis was introduced to compare the automated and manual methods. In extracting collocations from a monolingual corpus, Liu *et al.* (2009) discovered that the human extraction of collocations over a six-word span was 69% more accurate than the automated process. They argue that automatically obtained collocations are validated and accepted as correct and reliable references by linguistic authorities because they are recognised and included in existing resource dictionaries. However, certain collocations relevant to specific corpora may not include all valid collocations used in contexts, as indicated by established linguistic criteria. To address this gap, this thesis developed an enhanced hybrid approach. It combined a manual technique with a system of analysing concordances based on repeated co-textual co-occurrences (Bednarek 2015). Biber (1993) suggests that generating word senses through concordances offers a robust empirical foundation. By utilising this approach to analyse the INC, the patterns elucidate the meanings of the search term(s) rather than conventional co-occurring candidates. To sort concordances, (a) three adjacent words to the left and right of the node that

frequently occurred together in the INC were manually identified, and (b) additional analyses were performed on the search word to ensure the frequencies and usages associated with the word. The first step involved identifying words that frequently appeared alongside the search term. The frequencies of the word were assessed using both methods: automated and manual. The method with the greatest frequency of the same word was adopted, and this word was deemed significant for further collocational analysis. Although this approach was labour-intensive, it extracted collocations that captured more context-specific use and demonstrated a strong relationship with a particular search term and real-life linguistic data regarding Africans*. The outcomes from this approach were superior to the automated method.

The major similarities between the methods were that both used the same corpus and that the beginning point was the concordance tool used to obtain results in contexts. The differences between the methods were that, in the automated approach, a simple collocation search in concordance for the target word **Africa*** followed predefined algorithms to identify and extract the words that tended to co-occur more often than expected by chance with **Africa**. In the manual method, searches were conducted in concordance for collocates for each of the twenty-five search words. The results of all collocates and their frequencies from this enquiry were combined per sub-corpora under study and documented as collocates for **Africa** before they were subjected to further analysis. Secondly, unlike the automated method whereby the collocates environment was expanded to a range of five words to either side of the node, the manual approach investigated words that occurred on three words to either side of the search word in concordance.

Collocates can be examined across various spans and contexts. For instance, Haider (2018) states that he "looks for collocates within the same sentence, not across sentence boundaries, as the relationships between words within the same sentence are considered stronger" (p. 114). The surrounding words may also be analysed, from one word to the left or right of the node to the entirety of the text, if necessary (McEnery & Wilson 2001), or based on the frequency of multi-word units or clusters (Baker 2010). The words obtained from the three-word range of either side of the node were considered in this thesis to be collocates for each search word. The collocates were later grouped based on their semantic relations to assist with DHA's argumentation. The results were presented as evidence of collocations between **Africa** and **Africans**.

This thesis notes that the manual or human method offered more extensive and subtle identifications of meaningful word combinations for better contextual understanding than the automated method. In addition, the manual method gave greater flexibility in adjusting errors in the list of collocations and a deeper understanding of context and semantics. The evidence obtained from this manual method provided wider contexts and intriguing variations not previously observed in the automated process. This outcome was unexpected, and while it triggered the need for further analysis, it complemented and enriched this thesis's contribution to existing CL literature. To explicitly state how the manual approach was executed and the challenges encountered, the steps taken are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Procedure and considerations for manual collocation investigation

- Search words were entered in the concordance tool in *SkE*.
- This prompted the results to be automatically displayed. The outcome showed three methodological setbacks. These are discussed below, in addition to potential solutions.

Firstly, certain variables appeared in singular and plural forms and yielded different results. This suggested that queries on certain singular word forms excluded evidence from words in the plural or inflected forms. An alternative technique was employed, whereby the variables were entered in plural forms such as nouns, for example, Nigerians or Namibians as opposed to Nigerian or Namibian. The results returned and displayed both plural and singular forms. A third alternative was attempted with a wildcard added to the base word, for example, Nigeria*. The results indicated all forms of the word, including the possessive form of Nigeria, e.g. Nigeria's. This was relevant because it provided varying contexts of the word. From these three techniques to generate concordances for search words, the option with an asterisk at the end of specific nodes outperformed the other two methods. This ultimately overcame the challenge.

The second methodological setback was the size of concordances. The number of results proved unmanageable as they were too large. For example, when the search word **Africa** was investigated in 2008 in the *Times*, the initial evidence reported 1368 concordance lines. This analysed evidence was difficult to interpret effectively. To resolve this limitation, the analyst applied the first cut-off point that allowed a sample of two hundred concordances to be automatically and

randomly selected. The concordance limitation was applied to all results exceeding two hundred concordance lines to make them more manageable and time-effective. The final analysis evaluated 30 concordances within these randomly selected two hundred concordance lines for each phenomenon. The decision to analyse 30 concordances from 200 randomly selected lines provided sufficient data to draw meaningful conclusions about trends and patterns within the data set without the need to examine every single line. It is intuitive to analyse all available data or to jump arbitrarily to a specific number, such as 30. However, selecting 30 lines directly without random sampling could introduce bias, as this choice may not represent the overall population of concordance lines. Focusing on a smaller number allowed for a more thorough and deeper qualitative analysis rather than merely a quantitative assessment. This facilitated greater engagement with each line, examining nuances and contexts that might be overlooked if all 200 lines were analysed simultaneously. As many as 17 phenomena were individually examined using this approach, providing reliable insights into the phenomena of interest without requiring a comprehensive analysis of all available data. This method enables more accurate inferences regarding how these phenomena interact or influence one another within the context of the research questions. The findings of one phenomenon support and enhance the results of another, with each phenomenon contributing to the overall analysis. This triangulation reduces reliance on isolated data points and ensures the maximal utilisation of corpus data. This randomness increased the likelihood that the findings were generalisable to the broader dataset. Thus, the sample is adequately sized within the scope of the thesis.

The third methodological problem arose on how to study the number of concordance lines. The approach to using random sizes for analysis was considered and implemented. No quantitative theory influenced the adoption of random samples. There were other reasons for it. Firstly, it was motivated by the limited human capability to manage the corpus size accurately and within the available time. Secondly, the option of random sampling ensured that the results were not intentionally selected or biased. Therefore, all words had the same equal chance of being chosen. Lastly, two hundred concordance lines were an easier sampling size because it is the default setting of concordances in *SkE*.

Despite adopting these procedures to study concordance data in this thesis, a reminder was offered here about the number of concordance lines that research can study. Previous studies have demonstrated no cut-off point for the number of concordance lines an analyst can examine. In the year 2000, Hunston and Francis argued that it is common to encounter challenges when investigating concordance lines. They suggest that no one has been able to answer fully "how to investigate the large amounts of data in corpora available in a corpus" (p.20). This supports the works of other studies in this area. For example, Partington (2004) evaluates "happen" (pp.133-144) and analyses 150 concordance lines; Baker *et al.* (2008) analyse "refugees" (p.74) and examine 140 concordance lines, while Tognini-Bonelli (2009) analyses just forty-nine lines when studying the semantic prosody of "iandare incontro" (p.209). This proves that almost every paper written on the number of concordance lines has applied its cut-off point. Therefore, analysts can determine the number of concordance lines that best answer their research questions, aims, and objectives.

Consistent with the above insights, the starting point in this thesis applied two hundred random concordance lines per search results. Meanwhile, data was unrandomised for all other results with fewer than or up to two hundred concordance lines. This was not accidental but was meant to allow equal chances of selection for all databases and maintain them big enough to be comparable, reasonable, and representative. Secondly, some results were too few to randomise (see Figure 4.8 below). This would have been too small to translate any reasonable analysis, and it would have skewed the data results. This was further helped by the fact that all instances of the results were from individual search words and not from the total of all nodes.

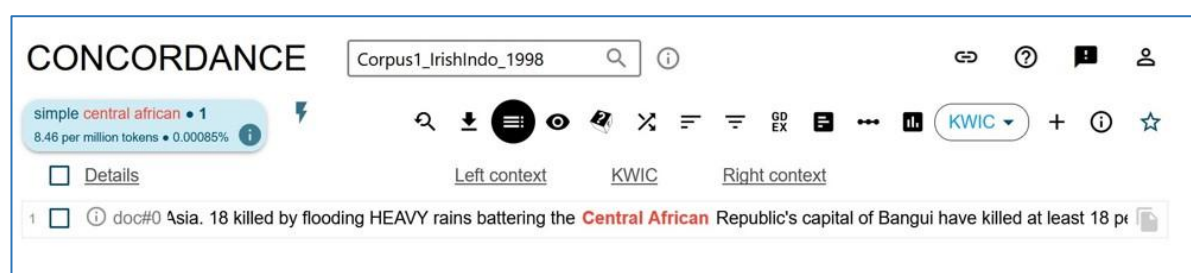


Figure 4. 8. Concordance Line for Central African search string in the *Independent* 1998

Figure 4.8 illustrates one concordance line detected from the search word query Central African. There was no need to randomise the concordance. This study set a cut-off point of 200 concordances. An example of random concordances is shown in Figure 4.9 below.

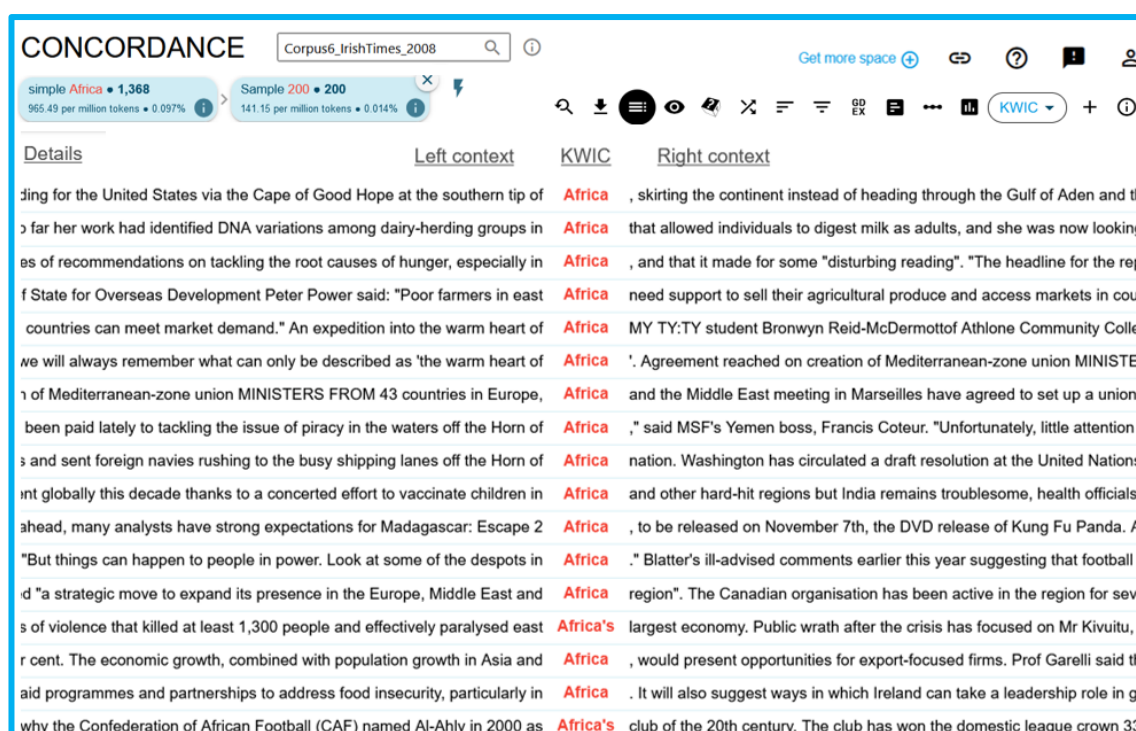


Figure 4. 9. Sample random size concordance results for the search word *Africa in the *Times* 2008**

For lack of space, Figure 4.9 above displays 17 of 200 sampled concordance lines. The figure shows the total instances of the search words and the number of random samples from the search word **Africa** in the *Times* 2008 (2008) sub-corpus. There were 1,368 non-random initial results, and a prompt of 200 random samples displayed the randomised lines. The other information displayed in the picture was the KWIC, which represented the different forms of the search word. The co-texts were on the left and right of the KWIC. The evidence from random samples was downloaded and saved as PDF formats in designated folders to assist in further data documentation, interpretation, and analysis at a

later stage. All the results were saved with the displayed figures of the non-random and random samples in concordance.

The third step in this manual approach was to systematically analyse concordances, which involved observing, classifying, generalising, and interpreting the data. In examining '**season**' in concordance, Bednarek (2015) writes down all word forms that occur in one position to the left context of the KWIC. This allows her to observe all word forms, classify individual word forms that share common features, document repeated occurrences, and then generalise. She finds that '**season**' holds two main functions: one is informational, and the other is persuasive. This thesis adopted this method.

The randomly extracted results from concordance were saved as PDFs. This was followed by the writing process where all the words that occurred, three positions to the left and three positions to the right of the node of not more than two hundred random concordance lines for all individual search strings, were written down. To save this evidence, a new Excel spreadsheet was created. Details, including the sub-corpora name and search word, were written. Then, all co-texts from concordance evidence were written down carefully. The search word was the target word in each enquiry and was highlighted in the middle of the concordance lines as KWIC, as seen above in Figure 4.8. This was to process enough texts so that a meaningful analysis was achieved. The positions were L3, L2, L1, R1, R2, and R3, representing the first, second and third words that occurred before and after the search word. These steps were repeated for all two hundred lines of each search word per sub-corpora. One special consideration was to write all these

words in lowercase, apart from a few cases of sensitive words, such as the US, which is the abbreviation for the United States of America. When both words were written in lower case, this acronym was easily confused for the pronoun "us"; thus, separating the two words using abbreviations minimised the confusion.

Using Excel Spreadsheet enabled the automation of grouping and recording wordforms of collocates according to their semantic associations and frequencies. This provided the basis for the study of SP, whereby the semantic categories and frequencies of occurrences were analysed as discourse topics for entry-level analysis in DHA. Also, it enabled quantitative comparison between negative and positive semantic prosodies and analysis of changes in the phenomenon over time and across sub-corpora. The process was repeated for all query words and conducted for all databases – all years and all newspapers under study. The aim was to compile lists of collocates for each search word. The name of the query word labelled each result from this enquiry.

It is worth pointing out that the writing step of all collocates was the most time-consuming and exhausting aspect of this analysis. This was a limitation because it was stressful. This was due to the extensive number of concordance lines studied from enquiries and the fact that the study required each of the twenty-five words to be examined. It took months to complete the data entry of all evidence extracted from concordances. However, it assisted in "identifying wider patterns in the corpus which, otherwise, would not have been so easily spotted via automated collocation, and keyword or frequency analysis" (Baker *et al.* 2007, p.277).

Below is an example of how the co-texts were recorded using this manual technique. The demonstration is for the search word **Africa** in the *Times* during 2008. The evidence presented in this Excel spreadsheet was extracted from the PDF sheet downloaded from *SkE*, as shown in Figure 4.10 (also see Appendix 3).

A	B	C	D	E	F
L3	L2	L1	R1	R2	R3
word (lowercase)	"word (lowercase)"	"word (lowercase)"	word (lowercase)	"word (lowercase)"	"word (lowercase)"
to	apartheid	south	israel	he	said
known	as	mama	and	the	empress
warm	heart	of	agreement	reached	on
townships	in	south	transition	year	never
against	aids	in	oxfamireland	org	through
sun	city	south	completed	holes	in
western	cape	south	geat	britain	ireland
rory	sabbatini	south	four	under	twelve
trevor	immelman	south	seven hundred and two	sergio	garcia
bakkies	botha	south	patrice	collazo	france
gurthro	steenkamp	south	mark	regan	england

Figure 4. 10. Example of co-text data entry obtained from concordances for node Africa* in the *Times*, 2008

Figure 4.10 above is evidence obtained from concordance lines showing how collocates for the word **Africa** in the *Times* during 2008 were written out in Microsoft Excel (xls) sheets. The co-texts were written numerically on the left and right of the node. Once all the words were written, they were saved as evidence in designated folders. Results were labelled according to search word, newspaper name and publication year.

XLS was deemed the best file format for the above stage because it has many features that facilitate quantitative and interpretation analysis. For example, tools in XLS files assisted this study in organising and summing data easily by recording all word forms, number of occurrences, and ranking. This assisted collocations, word lists and frequency analysis across sub-corpora to provide an

overall semantic performance of words before a detailed analysis of concordance lines was performed on other aspects, such as possible grammatical and lexical collocations. Barnbrook (1996) advances that a simple word list by frequency or alphabetical order can provide useful pointers to any grammatical or lexical items worth investigating. Therefore, using words and frequency lists in this thesis helped to identify the words that most/less frequently referred to and collocated with **Africans**. One important aspect was that words and frequency counts also served as the quantification (CL) of results and qualitative approaches to studying language (CDA).

Following the above steps, the examination results were used to compare evidence of both automated and manual collocation methods. For consistency, the same search word, **Africa***, seen in Method I (Figure 4.6 above) was applied to Method II. The strength of the collocation is measured in the number of times it occurs. The results are found in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4. 7. Top 20 Collocations results manually obtained for the search word Africa in the *Independent* and the *Times*

Top 20 most significant collocates for Africa search word during P2 in the <i>Independent</i> & the <i>Times</i> by manual method				
	<i>Independent</i>		<i>Times</i>	
	Collocates	Freq	Collocate	Freq
1.	and	232	republic	122
2.	president	68	president	104
3.	first	41	democratic	90
4.	against	36	rebel	84
5.	country	30	army	78
6.	man	30	east	74
7.	east	27	against	70
8.	people	26	former	46
9.	former	25	government	46
10.	woman	25	north	42
11.	republic	23	they	42
12.	leader	22	rwanda	36
13.	national	21	troops	36
14.	democracy	20	ireland	32
15.	open	19	tutsi	32
16.	one	18	woman	32
17.	rule	18	reuters	30
18.	out	17	africa	28
19.	ireland	16	fight	28
20.	party	15	force	28

Table 4.7 above shows the top 20 collocates for **Africa*** obtained from the manual method. When the results were compared between both newspapers under study, the most frequent collocate for **Africa*** in the *Independent* was *and* which occurred 232 times, while that of the *Times* was *president* and occurred 122 times. The same enquiry was performed using the automated format, and though it was also the most frequent word to appear in the *Independent* in Method I, the rest of the results signalled substantial differences. In the table

below, the words highlighted in red represent frequent collocates that occurred in both methods. The rest of the words in black were distinct to each technique.

Table 4. 8. Results of collocates compared between automated vs manual methods

Comparing top 20 collocates for <i>Africa</i> * search word during P2 in the <i>Independent</i> & the <i>Times</i> using automated and manual methods								
	<i>Independent</i>				<i>Times</i>			
	Automated		Manual		Automated		Manual	
	Collocate	Freq	Collocate	Freq	Collocates	Freq	Collocate	Freq
1.	south	391	and	232	south	1143	republic	122
2.	in	219	president	68	president	66	president	104
3.	and	209	first	41	in	605	democratic	90
4.	.	368	against	36	australia	52	rebel	84
5.	is	92	country	30	mbeki	47	army	78
6.	of	228	man	30	.	127	east	74
7.	congress	20	east	27	horn	39	against	70
8.	country	24	people	26	thabo	39	former	46
9.	,	338	former	25	against	61	government	46
10.	for	83	woman	25	said	121	north	42
11.	to	188	republic	23	east	38	they	42
12.	an	42	leader	22	(	148	rwanda	36
13.	national	20	national	21	south	36	troops	36
14.	the	346	democracy	20	union	38	ireland	32
15.	from	47	open	19	congress	35	tutsi	32
16.	against	23	one	18	)	140	woman	32
17.	south	17	rule	18	and	493	reuters	30
18.	ruling	16	out	17	national	37	africa	28
19.	the	47	ireland	16	the	149	fight	28
20.	first	24	party	15	southern	31	force	28

After comparing these two methods, Table 4.9 showed evidence from both automated and manual collocation methods in the *Independent* and the *Times*. Similar collocates occurred in both sub-corpora; however, the manual approach extracted the majority of collocates and produced more revealing features, which

can be seen in red. Secondly, both methods produced visible differences in the frequencies of occurrences of the same relevant collocates. For example, the conjunction *and* which is overlooked in racist discourses, appeared to be a key collocate. Additionally, the frequency of occurrence made it an important discovery. In the *Independent* *and* occurred 209 times with the automated method and 232 times with the manual method. This made *and* 1.1 times more frequent with the manual method than the computerised method. In the *Times*, *president* occurred frequently in both methods. It occurred 66 times with the automated method and 104 with the manual method. This was 1.6 times more frequent with the manual than the automated method. In this regard, both quantitative and qualitative outcomes suggested some drawbacks of using the automated method. It tended to disregard or miss some strong collocates while, at the same time, including non-key collocates in the analysis. This then raised the possibility that the reliance on T-score and MI score in *SkE* influenced the results, and some significant words were excluded, casting doubts on the reliability of the results.

On the other hand, and as already seen above, the manual method provided wider contexts and more powerful insights into instances of words in the corpus, allowing for a more effective way to obtain results with better understanding. Also, it was possible to present robust evidence by combining repeated words, grouping words by their lemmas, and observing patterns using a manual approach (Bednarek 2015). An example of how words from concordances were systematically grouped by their lemmas was shown in the word *tour*. It occurred frequently as a collocate for **Africa*** and appeared in different forms. It occurred

up to 26 times in the *Independent* during one period alone in 1998 but occurred 25 times in all three periods in the *Times*. During 1998 in the *Independent*, the lemma *tour* occurred 20 times: *tours* (1), *touring* (2), and *toured* (3), bringing it to a total of 26 times in 1998. This sort of breakdown demonstrated how the manual method allowed for the measurement of collocate occurrences by tallying and recording their frequencies in concordance.

Approach to Studying Collocations in INC

The automated and manual methods to obtain collocates were explored above, and it emerged that the manual method provided far more in-depth analysis and evidence for the proper interpretation of frequency analysis and SP of words and discourse topics. For this reason, this thesis applied the manual approach to study collocation in this thesis.

Until now, concordance generation, documentation, and collocation analysis details have been covered. The section illustrated data entry and documentation steps taken in this study. The dataset was processed by removing unwanted words and grouping word forms based on their semantic associations. The number of occurrences was recorded to form word and frequency lists. The subsequent section will cover the next important and necessary process in data analysis: adjusting the frequency counts of unique words in a corpus to ensure comparability across sub-corpora.

4.5. Corpus Normalisation

One valuable step in data analysis in this study was normalisation. This technique adjusts different corpora sizes to a similar number of words (Egbert, Larsson & Biber 2020) so that they can be compared accurately (Biber, Conrad & Reppen 2012). Normalisation was performed on the most frequent collocates for the aspect of semantic prosody because, as noted by Widdowson (2004), concordances and patterns of collocations reveal words that have semantic meanings far beyond the "scope of conventional grammar" (p.123). Thus, collocation analysis helped reveal meanings beyond the norm, but because different sub-corpora were analysed in this thesis, normalisation was inevitable. To calculate normalisation, raw frequencies of the different sub-corpora are extrapolated and expressed by a common factor, for example, per thousand or million words (McEnery & Hardie 2012). In this thesis, the common factor was one million because the corpus size was about four million. The formula is illustrated below.

***Equation 0:4: Formula to calculate Normalised Frequency
(McEnery & Hardie 2012 p.49):***

$$\frac{\text{number of examples of the word in the whole corpus}}{\text{size of the corpus}} \times 1,000,000 \text{ (base of normalization)}$$

An example of the normalisation process in this study was conducted on the most frequent word to occur across two sub-corpora during 2018. In the *Independent*, the conjunction **and** was the highest occurring collocate with 147 occurrences

and 2814 mentions as a KWIC. In the same period in the *Times*, it happened 309 times as a collocate, with 39,545 mentions as KWIC. It is easy to conclude from these figures that *and* is more prevalent in the *Times* sub-corpus than the *Independent*. However, because the two sub-corpora are of different text sizes, it was important to ensure that the counts were comparable. The following calculation was employed to obtain the relative frequencies of the conjunction *and* in the *Independent* and the *Times* during 2018:

Equation 0:5: Relative frequency of AND in the Independent in 2018:

$$\frac{147}{110,195} \times 1,000,000 = 1,333.9988 \quad \therefore$$

1,334 occurrences in a million words in the Independent

Equation 0:6: Relative frequency of AND in the Times in 2018

$$\frac{309}{1,418,843} \times 1,000,000 = 217.8$$

∴ 218 occurrences in a million words in the Times

Equation 0:7: Evaluating the numeric validity of AND in both newspapers in 2018:

$$\frac{1334 \text{ (Independent)}}{218 \text{ (Times)}} = 6.11$$

∴ the Independent frequently used AND six times more than the Times in P3

From the calculations above, it was evident that in 2018, for every million words that appeared in the *Independent* corpus, it occurred 1,334 times, compared to 218 times in the *Times*. It was drawn, therefore, that during 2018, the word *and* occurred six times more frequently in the *Independent* than in the *Times*. These results provided accurate accounts of relative frequencies of collocates and paved the way for further linguistic investigations. A demonstration below shows how this process aided the analysis of frequencies of collocates for discourse topics and the DHA study in this thesis.

4.6 Formation of Semantic Classes and Discourse Topics

Discourse topics were shaped by categorising words by their semantic classifications. Figure 4.10 below highlights the case of the lemma *tour*. With a total occurrence of 39 times, it was the seventh most frequent collocate for **Africa** in the *Independent*, occurring 26 times in 1998, seven times in 2008 and six times in 2018. Meanwhile, in the *Times*, with 39 occurrences, it was the twelfth most frequent collocate, occurring 24 times in 1998, six times in 2008 and nine times in 2018. The word *tour* was interrogated in concordance to establish the semantic relationship or discourse topics, and the context was studied. The outcome showed that as a collocate for Africa*, *tour* belonged in the linguistic parameter of Sports in the INC.

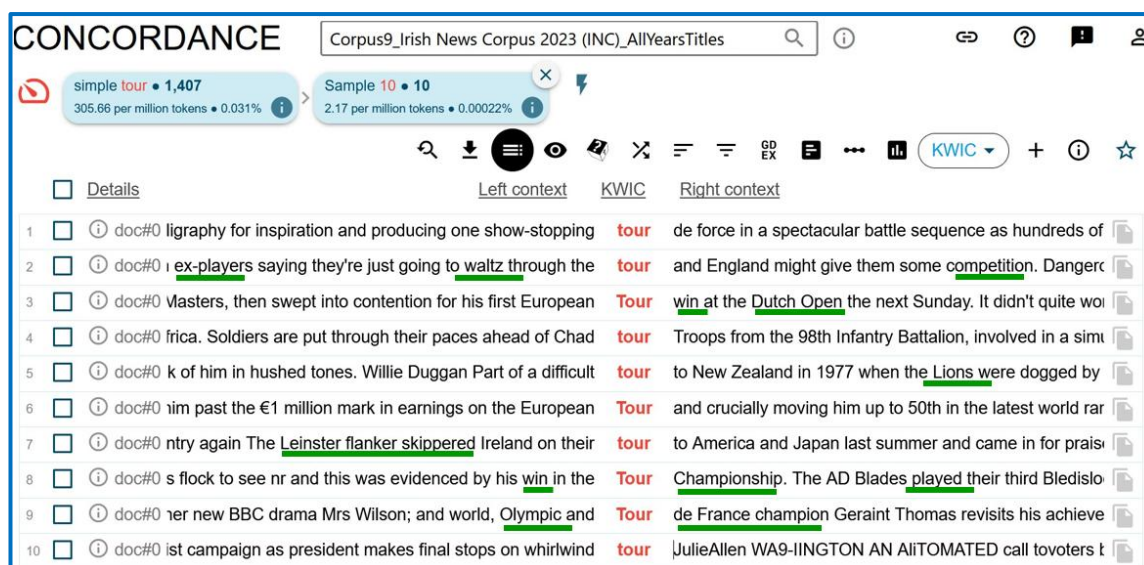


Figure 4. 11. Evidence of discourse topic for the collocate *tour* in INC concordances

Observations in Figure 4.11 above showed that the node *tour* was the KWIC and occurred 1,402 times in the INC. A quantitative analysis of 10 random concordance lines and the topology of six lines identified contents that were typically related to sports, such as *ex-player*, *win*, *Dutch Open*, *championship*, and *Olympic*. Based on these contexts, it was assessed that *tour* belonged to the semantic class of Sports. Using this method to assign semantic classes benefitted the argumentation theory in identifying common topics or topoi within this thesis, thereby reducing the potential for partiality and ensuring data triangulation. To examine the type of topoi or "reservoirs of generalised key ideas" (Richardson 2004, p.230) found in this thesis, the list of common topics in this thesis was studied against the common topoi found in racist discourse by Wodak (2006; Richardson 2008). To identify topoi in this thesis, the analyst

started by grouping words into semantic categories, as shown in the ensuing paragraphs.

Procedure to infer topoi in the INC

Drawing from Rubinello (2006) and Wodak (2001), 3.12.3 explains the process of inferring a topos and illustrates it in Figure 3.2. Obtaining semantic classifications facilitates this, and the process for grouping words into semantic classes can be seen below.

The first step was to obtain the target words used for analysis in this study. It examined all the results in the XLS files and removed unwanted words manually. Some words were quantitatively substantial but were conceptionally insignificant to the current study and thus ignored. Examples included grammatical or functional words such as articles and prepositions, which were present in high frequencies but carried no critical significance to this study. Sinclair (2004) advocates omitting this type of text in analysis and argues that it can distort the data for excessively unbiased analysis. There were exceptions to function words, for example, the conjunction, *and* was found in the dataset to occur with Africa repeatedly* and widely used to group Africa and other nationalities. Similarly, the preposition *against* collocated repeatedly with ***Africa** or ***Africans**. Recent research has emphasised the use of the word *against* in immigration discourse. For example, their corpus-based semantic prosody of the words *inmigración* and *inmigrante* in two Spanish written media Soto-Almela & Alcaraz-Mármol (2017) find that the occurrence of *against* displayed a strong negative meaning. made it

essential for this thesis to examine the relationship between *against* and African discourse in Irish media.

Other excluded texts were names of months, names of individuals, and numerical representations of money. Numerical representations of money were removed due to their wide variation, including currency symbols, decimal places, and contexts (e.g., local currencies). This variability can lead to misinterpretation and complicate data processing. However, their exclusion made datasets more uniform and easier to analyse, allowing analyses to remain focused on their intended meanings rather than becoming side-tracked by numerical interpretations. Nevertheless, amounts of money clearly expressed in word forms were included in the corpus. Also, all abbreviations were removed, apart from meaningful cases such as the UK for the United Kingdom and the US (United States), as previously stated. Incorrect words were uncorrected because it was deemed that removing them would change the context in concordance lines. In this case, the words were tagged as *ineligible and excluded. All words were written in lowercase to avoid duplication in the corpus, while contractions were written in full. The final list of words was deemed significant enough to necessitate further examinations.

The second step recorded the statistics. The choice of Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet to document data assisted the analysis and interpretation using features such as 'formulas'. In particular, the COUNTIF formula is a straightforward and user-friendly analytical tool that efficiently manages diverse datasets. It integrates seamlessly with other spreadsheet functions to carry out

additional calculations or analyses on the same dataset without necessitating a switch between different applications. It was used in this thesis to combine and count the number of times a specific target word occurred in the data. The aim was to stem the data. The process to stem or lemmatise data combines different word forms with their inflections and the number of repeated occurrences. From here, pivot tables successfully combined all word forms, auto summed, analysed data, and produced charts and tables. This helped to form words, frequency lists, and patterns found in different sub-corpora.

While still using XLS functions such as COUNTIF, Power Query, and Pivot Tables, the next task documented the frequencies of the words or collocates. These functions combined different word tokens to word types, also known as tokenised words, and checked and deleted duplicates. They provided the number of repeated occurrences of word forms separately, first to the left and then to the right (L/R). This made it possible to proceed to the next stage, which observed and documented how words co-occurred. One way to achieve this was by more complex queries in Excel. The use of multiple sheets function in XLS Pivot tables proved significant. It helped to combine all results that occurred on L/R of all nodes per sub-corpora. The collocates were tagged per year and newspaper before they were finally classed as overall collocates that the INC employed to identify and portray Africans in Ireland. This was done considering all research questions and the comparative and diachronic aspects of the study.

To proceed, another verification guaranteed that all words were set to lowercase. This avoided duplication (and as already noted) except for certain abbreviations

of country names. As also already stated, the dataset of content words was lemmatised – a method to retain only the base or root words and their different forms, including inflections that do not change the word's meaning. These were then trimmed to headwords. Examples include: 'win' and 'won'; 'return', 'returned', and 'returning'. Conversely, derivational forms of words were counted separately as these changed meanings of words, for example, 'skills' and 'skilfully'.

The collocates became the target words for the analysis in this study as they disclosed clues on meanings and associations contained in the evidence. The analysis of word frequencies indicated patterns that could be used to investigate certain values and views. Still, the lack thereof could also reveal reasons for certain grammatical and lexical choices and highlight discursive constructions for further investigation (Stubbs 1996). This thesis revealed certain patterns, but there were also notable irregularities, such as the occurrences of some low-frequency words. As the method of collocation adopted in this study indicated, the main investigations were conducted on the types of words and frequencies of occurrences used to portray Africans. van Dijk (1993) and Wodak & Meyer, (2009) argue that automated techniques such as CL need to be completed in examining power relations among text producers, readers, and objects of discussion. For example, in automated collocation analysis, the importance of a collocate is determined by its strength or MI score and not necessarily by frequency. However, the manual method made it possible for this thesis to investigate both high and low-frequency words because ignoring some low-frequency words (LFW) that held conceptual significance would have undermined their contributions to meaning. Also, frequency analysis tends to

focus on high-frequency words (Baker & Levon 2015). In contrast, it was considered in this thesis that for a lexical item to occur as a collocate in a semantic category, it was indeed, or intended to be part of the discourse. Baker, Gabrielatos & McEnery (2013) assert this by stating that "paying a close examination of language texts can represent a particular stance" (p.20). Before then, Louw (1993) argued that while repeated frequency is important, the occurrence of any lexical item is also important because, when verified in context, it can hold hidden meanings that tend to be either favourable or unfavourable. This echoes Sinclair's view of prosodic meaning (1987). It considers the habitual environment of a word, which is the idea of frequency and context mapping.

The third step transferred data evidence by creating and identifying clusters of patterns from target words and their frequencies across sub-corpora. Before further analysis, words with distinctive and common features or shared meanings were scanned and extracted to form semantic classes. For example, to create patterns, Reisigl & Wodak (2001) begin by highlighting discourse topics, followed by identifying the discursive strategies and the implications, alongside interpreting the topoi, while semantic prosody identifies the meaning (Louw 2000) or connotational colouring (Partington 1998) and attitude (Sinclair 1999) of the semantic classes or discourse topics. Applying this method facilitated this thesis to form generalisations and interpretations of evidence. (CorpusLingAnalysis, 2015). The table below shows corresponding legality/security/crime group parameter co-texts.

**Table 4. 9. Examples of collocates assigned to
Legality/Security/Crime semantic group**

citizenship, law, residence, documentation, offence, conflict, storm, protests, arrest, garda, gardai, criminals, police, authorities, lawyers, asylum, refugees, resettled, housed, accounted, violence, exiles, boat, enemy, dangerous, control, invade, illegal, gangs and trafficking.

Table 4.9 displays examples of words grouped in this thesis to form the legality/security/crime semantic group, following the CDA notion of grouping collocates based on their semantic categories. This classification provided a framework in this thesis to organise emerging linguistic patterns (Baker *et al.* 2008) found in the corpus and over time (diachronic). It also facilitated the topoi device by comparing the semantic categories against existing racist discourse and immigration-related topoi (Wodak 2006; Baker *et al.* 2008) for the discourse prosodies they communicated. Table 4.10 illustrates the list and definitions of the different semantic groups in the INC.

Table 4. 10. Semantic categories identified in INC

	PATTERNS OF SEMANTIC INFORMED CATEGORIES	ABBREVIATIONS	DESCRIPTION
1.	Academic/Expert	AE	Refers to profession, skill & related titles, education & scholarship e.g., students
2.	Animals & Resources	AR	Refers to animals as opposed to human, and non-living things, e.g., banana
3.	Deixis	DIKE	Refers to words or phrases or deictic expressions regarding specific time, place, writer/speaker and addresses relative to the utterance. Could be spatial (e.g., here, there, temporal (e.g., now, tomorrow), personal (e/g/, I, you), social (encoding social distinctions), and discourse (parts of unfolding discourse)
4.	Economy/Business	EBIZ	Refers to the state of country, strain, employment status, taxes, financial organisations, market related, corporation, production & consumption, e.g., welfare, benefits, burden,
5.	Emotion	EMO	Refers to states of circumstances e.g., fear, anger, disgust, sad, happy, surprise
6.	Family/Humanizing /Fraternity	FHF	Refers to parents, children, marriage relationships e.g., woman, son, life, human, sister, brother
7.	Group Identity	GI	Refers to social identity by race, ethnicity, nations of origin, nationalities, geographical associations e.g., black, dark, negro
8.	Health	H	Refers to well-being, diseases, illnesses, and sicknesses, e.g., Ebola,
9.	Humanity/Humanitarian /Human Rights	HHR	Refers to promoting human welfare, generous behaviour, rights, and freedom e.g., equality, privacy, life, aid, welcome, help, guest, tourists, reception, return, deport, remove, export,
10.	Legality/Security/Crime	LSC	Contains words such as: citizenship, law, residence, documentation, offence, conflict, storm, protests, arrest, garda, gardai, criminals, police, authorities, lawyers, asylum, refugees, resettled, housed, accounted, violence, Migrants, migration, emigrants, expats, refugees, exiles, boat, enemy, dangerous, control, invade, illegal, gangs, trafficking
11.	Media/Entertainment	MENT	Comprises words such as: tv, radio, actors etc
12.	Movement	MOV	Includes words such as: enter, arrive, journey, cross, fence, mood of travel, sea, air, back, water, carry, remove, flock, attract, pull, draw, border
13.	Multiculturalism	MUC	Words that refer to diversity, pluralism, culture, inclusiveness, multiculturalism, integration,
14.	Natural Phenomenon	NATP	Disasters, parasites, flood, tide,
15.	Others	OTH	Any other words not belonging to any of these categories
16.	Plight	P	Contains words such as flee, death, drowning, conflict, war, poverty, starving, soldiers, troops, regime, battle
17.	Politics & Religion	POLITRELIG	This refers to individual belief and personal conviction, and civil law and public action, e.g., elections, campaign, candidate, God,
18.	Quantification/Abstract /Object	QAO	Words used to describe figures and measurement, quantity, time e.g., number, percent, mass, thousand, million, influx, surge, wave, flow, pour, amount, bulk,
19.	Regulation	REG	Used to refer to people with authority to rule a country, govern certain societal aspects e.g., police, politicians, government, border, ministers, presidents
20.	Sports	SP	Refers to competitive activities or games and contains words such as: win, champion, cricket, rugby, glory, etc
21.	Work & Employment	WE	Used to refer to words such as job, employment, unemployment, job, labour, worker,

Table 4.10 above shows 21 semantic categories realised from grouping collocates in the INC. These groups formed discourse topics in argumentation and contributed to locating topoi in the INC. For example, the semantic group of Plight in INC belonged to the Topos of humanitarianism, and Legality/Security/Crime corresponded in several topoi, e.g., Topos of Danger and Threat and Topos of Uselessness/Disadvantage. To classify words this way also played a key role in quantitative analysis. For example, Table 4.11 presents quantitative evidence of the occurrence of linguistic categories in both newspapers during 1998. They are displayed in alphabetical order.

Table 4. 11. Example of occurrences of discourse topics in the *Independent* and the *Times* in 1998

Discourse topics (linguistic classifications) Observed from Concordance Lines	OCCURENCES (raw frequencies)	
	<i>Independent</i>	<i>Times</i>
Academic/Expert	2	6
Animals & Resources	5	0
Deixis	7	7
Economy/Business	28	28
Family/Humanizing/Fraternity	19	15
Group Identity	27	19
Health	2	0
Humanity/Humanitarian/Human Rights	31	67
Legality/Security/Crime	75	167
Media/Entertainment	2	6
Movement	8	5
Others	5	10
Plight	7	49
Politics & Religion	60	92
Quantification/Abstract/Object	20	23
Sports	50	65
Work & Employment	0	8

Table 4.11 above indicates that out of 21 semantic categories of collocates in concordance with the INC, 15 discourse topics occurred in both newspapers during 1998, although the number of occurrences varied. For example, in the Academic/Expert category, there were two occurrences in the *Independent* and six in the *Times*. Some topics occurred in one but not in both newspapers; for example, Work & Employment occurred in the *Times* but not in the *Independent*, while Health and Animal and Resources discourses occurred in the *Independent* but not in the *Times*. Hitherto, the procedure to group collocates by their semantic relationships was presented. The frequency of occurrence of each collocate, as observed in concordances, was a key point in this thesis, prompting a necessary discussion on the concordance tool.

4.7. Concordance Tool and Meaning Analysis

The concordance tool searches and retrieves words from the corpus with the surrounding words. It focuses on repeated patterns in the vertical direction of similarity or difference in the words surrounding the node (Tognini-Bonelli 2000) and horizontally, from left to right, to ensure accurate interpretations. Reading a concordance this way shows how meaning is created and how it works. Concordance in this thesis helped in diverse ways, for example, to examine words as referents that 'foregrounded' or 'backgrounded' (van Leeuwen 1993) Africans. Using DHA strategies (Wodak & Meyer 2001), a random example of the corpus technique of a simple concordance of **African** as the KWIC in the *Times* during 1998 demonstrated how meaning was achieved in this thesis. This again

explained the constructive interaction of CL and DHA (CDA). Figure 4.12 presents the analysis.

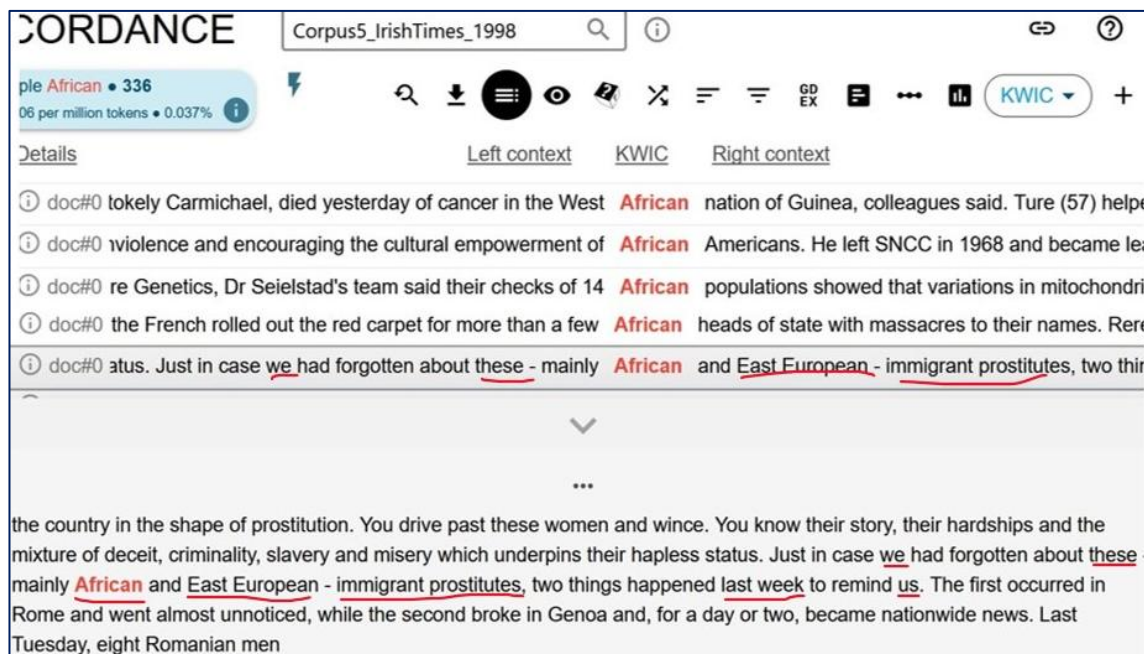


Figure 4. 12. African KWIC concordance in the *Times* sub-corpus 1998

Figure 4.12 above shows an examination of Line 5 of the semantic elements around the node's environment, **African**. The selected line is displayed as full sentences in multiple lines. The results emphasised referential tools and others, as seen below:

- The referent of the words *we* and *us* denoted the writer, while *these*, and *immigrant prostitutes*, referred to the 'other' social actors, in this case, African and Eastern European, and *last week* pointed to time.

- Nomination strategies whereby explicit construction was used for membership categorisation of *African* and *Eastern Europeans*, and the means of realisation was professionalisation with social actors undertaking certain activities.
- Individualisation refers to social actors individually and formally addressing them as *African* and *Eastern European*.
- Backgrounding and suppression were used to exclude social actors, with these as the referent, and the means of realisation was passivation (passive).
- Predication was used to represent social actors negatively, and the means of realisation was criminalisation with the evaluative attributes of *immigrant prostitutes*.
- The use of perspectivisation expressed distance on the writer's part between *us* and *we*.

The analysis above explains how using the CL tool of concordance in a corpus provided insights into meanings and discourses of difference and discrimination in DHA. In addition, diachronic analysis on the most frequent key collocate identified how meaning changed over time across sub-corpora. The findings have implications for demonstrating how methods commonly used in CL and CDA can be combined to show how the knowledge about different minority ethnic groups is weighed against the ideological stances of (more powerful) others.

4.8 Concluding summary

This chapter focused on the data and methodology used in this study. A combination of CL methods and CDA was used to examine the discourses of Africans in selected newspapers in Ireland. The Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) by Reisigl and Wodak (2001) was the theoretical framework adopted to contextualise and form patterns (Žagar 2010) of the kinds of representation **African*** received in the *Independent* and the *Times* during 1998, 2008 and 2018. The analysis was conducted based on broader and relevant historical, political, and socio-cultural backgrounds, as well as the contexts of the newspapers. Other linguistic features that enriched the discursive nature of this study were discussed, such as backgrounding and foregrounding categorisations (van Leeuwen 1996) and semantic prosody (Bednarek 2008; Louw 2000, 1993; Partington 2004; Stewart 2009; Sinclair 1991; Stubbs 1995; Xiao & McEnery 2005). The study of linguistic instruments was further backed by related information from government sources, especially from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), to obtain a complete analysis (Chapter Two). Partington, Taylor & Duguid (2013) posit that combining the study of language and contextual information provides the most complete form of analysis. Furthermore, a review of search words used to obtain articles for the specialised corpus indicated that all 25 nodes played a crucial role in assembling relevant and essential articles from the online websites of the chosen newspapers. This chapter provided a comprehensive map of the research methodology employed in this thesis, elaborating on the data sources, sampling procedures, and techniques used for data collection and providing an overview of

the corpus characteristics. Finally, the chapter offered the analysis models that outlined how the data was analysed and interpreted.

Having established a comprehensive understanding of the methodology and its contributions to the research objectives, the next chapter explores the important opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of embracing and integrating various research methods and theoretical frameworks to enhance the validity and reliability of the research findings.

Chapter 5: Methodological Triangulation of Frameworks in the INC

5.1 Introduction

This chapter is divided into three parts. The first section explains the reasons for the methodological triangulation of corpus linguistics (CL) and critical discourse analysis (CDA) in the present thesis. The literature indicates various studies that employed a synergy of CL and CDA methods, although it remains unclear how the principles were maintained. Therefore, this section seeks to specifically demonstrate the application of methodological synergy and detail the rigour involved in analysing the Irish New Corpus. After illustrating methodological synergy, the second part of this chapter focuses on triangulation by presenting a crucial preparatory analytical procedure. This procedure ensures that raw data is converted into a clean and organised format that is appropriate, credible, and reliable for analysing the Irish New Corpus (INC). The subsequent paragraphs begin the first part of this chapter. The last part of this chapter proposes a model to examine the discourses of Africans in Irish media. It is termed the Irish News Corpus (INC) Collaboration Model. The complementary methodological triangulation model integrates CL and CDA at different levels, including wordlist comparisons, semantic prosody, normalisation, keyword analysis through manual collocation, discourse topics, and semantic classification.

5.2 Methodological synergy of Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis

In this exclusive section, research is examined that suggests a synergy between Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Corpus Linguistics (CL) methods over the past few decades and cites extensively from Narrey & Nwinlaaru (2019) and Baker *et al.* (2008). In 2019, Narrey and Nwinlaaru examined 121 studies that integrated CL and CDA methods. This analysis covered research from 1995 to 2016, with data from online databases. The meta-analysis explored a combined method's methodological implications, limitations, and challenges and assessed research topics. The publication is significant in this thesis because it advances existing knowledge about studies integrating CL and CDA and the effectiveness of the corpus-based model proposed by Baker *et al.* (2008). This synergised model has emerged as a major methodological approach to investigating social problems, focusing on power and key discriminatory discourses, including media, ideology, immigration, race, identity, and nationalism. Given its considerable prominence, it is argued that using the synergy method by Baker *et al.* (2008) in this thesis will provide a more efficient methodological evaluation of linguistic discrimination against African issues in the Irish News Corpus (INC). The chapter moves to identify the advantages and disadvantages of combining CL and CDA methods within CDA studies. This thesis proposes a collaborative framework of CL and discourse historical approach (DHA) as the most effective technique for the discursive representation of African issues in the INC. It is clear from the examples of the proposed framework that, although a complete synergy is still a major challenge, combining various techniques produces reliable features and

results in DHA studies. This framework has two key contributions to CL and CDA. Firstly, this thesis incorporated and operationalised manual collocation from concordances rather than automatic collocation. According to Baker *et al.* (2008), using manual concordances to obtain collocates can reveal recurring patterns and enhance awareness, leading to improved outcomes. This approach is labour-intensive; despite this challenge, it was selected over the automated approach because it extracted more compelling collocates and identified more complex discriminatory phenomena (nomination and predication) in the INC. In automatic collocation, for example, attention is on rare and exclusive collocates (Gablasova *et al.* 2017) and frequent collocates based on T-Score (Pecina 2010) and on LogDice (Sketch Engine). This means there are preferences for low, and high-frequency words, possibly missing or disregarding strong non-adjacent collocates or including non-key collocates for analysis (Baker *et al.* 2008). In contrast, the manual identification collocation method adopts a window-based method (Brezina *et al.* 2015). It captures habitual and recurrent words within specified windows of words before and after the node in concordance. This approach is favoured by Firth (1957) and Bednarek (2015) and works well in relatively small corpora. However, the advent of computers and new technology has made studying collocation in large electronic corpora easier. Adopting the manual collocations method in this thesis built on the Firthian notion (1951; 1957) and current understanding that collocations are the "habitual and recurrent juxtaposition of semantically related words" (Bartsch & Evert 2014, p.48) and that the bigger the size, the better the corpora (Bartsch & Evert 2014; Bhalla & Klimcikova 2019). The collocation approach in this thesis used a window-based

approach of 3:3 keywords in context concordance as outlined by (Sinclair 1991). This was used to analyse a large-size corpus, which sets it apart from previous studies because there has not been a systematic large-scale study based on Firthian collocation principles. According to scholars, "there has not, to our knowledge, been any systematic large-scale study resting on a Firthian notion of collocation (Bartsch & Evert 2014, p.50).

The second key contribution of this framework is that unlike Baker *et al.* (2008), who, in employing two research strands, CL and CDA, mostly operate separately, one analyst carried out the CL and CDA strands of this thesis. There were two main benefits to this. Firstly, it made it possible for the researcher to explicitly document and demonstrate the extent of the complementary nature of these approaches and make the study easy to replicate. Secondly, by being the sole analyst choosing and compiling the data (CL) and testing DHA discursive strategies (CDA) on the corpus, the analyst gained insights into potential quantitative patterns and trends over time. This made it easier to compare the results of qualitative and quantitative data before obtaining comprehensive outcomes.

5.3 Reasons for Methodological Triangulation in this Thesis

This thesis proposes an innovative, complementary, and eclectic framework to examine discrimination using language to represent African issues. The suggested framework mirrors Baker *et al.* (2008), which is the most successful synergy of CL and CDA (Nartey & Nwinlaaru 2019). There are three ways in which this thesis reflects the study by Baker *et al.* (2008). Firstly, the present work

carefully selected 25 query words to electronically collect news articles about African issues from two Irish newspapers during selected periods in 30 years. This necessitated the design of a specialised corpus for analysis in the study. Secondly, this thesis focused on media discourses of immigration and identity representation, paying particular importance to the negative discrimination of African issues. Thirdly, this study used methodological taxonomies and analytical strategies of the Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) to account for the immigration discourse of the outgroups.

Despite the similarities mentioned above, the proposed model in this thesis is unique in three ways. Firstly, collocations were extracted manually from the corpus to enhance quantitative and qualitative linguistic analysis of African issues in the INC. This contrasted with Baker *et al.* (2008), which used data obtained from automated collocation techniques. This was also different from prior studies, which focused on a small corpus, for example, 25,000 words (Clark 2007), and the analysis of 2,755 headlines in British newspapers to reproduce racism (van Dijk 1991). Secondly, the model outlines and explicitly documents the interaction of different tools in analysing the discourse addressed here. This makes the study easy to replicate and adds to the present work's originality. Finally, the analysis - both quantitative and qualitative strands in the proposed model, was conducted by one analyst, making it uncomplicated to explicitly state how the operationalisation of the methodological synergy in the discourse occurred. It is suggested that, together with the reasons submitted for synergising methods in this work, the distinctiveness of this proposed model will contribute

to existing literature and identify ways that future research can use to investigate discourses of differentiating the 'other' and reduce bias.

Having shown the similarities and differences between the most influential approach to this thesis and the framework designed for analysis in the INC, the next aspect of this chapter considered two main reasons for combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to study how the selected newspapers were involved in discriminatory practices against African issues. Firstly, as with most CDA studies, the present thesis seeks to counter criticisms that traditional ways of conducting CDA are biased as it arbitrarily selects texts for analysis (Stubbs 1997) as such, lacks academic and analytical rigour (Widdowson 2000) and uses small size corpus that may lack reliable features (Baker *et al.* 2008). In countering these criticisms, this thesis used a reasonably large authentic specialised corpora of more than 3.9 million words. This enabled the INC to obtain descriptive statistics and increase the reliability and generalisation of its results. Secondly, combining methods reduced the complex issue of bias and matters related to the arbitrary selection of texts. This was achieved by using, for example, collocations as useful indicators of prototypicality or negative discrimination (Reisigl 2007) and studying random samples of 200 concordances to make generalisations (Stubbs 1997). Likewise, seventeen different phenomena (lexical items) over various periods were detailly analysed using samples of 30 concordances. This gained comprehensive insights into language use, identified patterns, and understood contexts well. Also, it ensured that rigorous checks and balances (Mautner 2015) were performed. The operationalisation of the eclectic framework proposed for analysis in this study critically evaluated the data in the

INC and obtained credible and reliable outcomes. This challenged the view that large-scale corpus says less about context and meaning in the text (Bednarek 2009; Mautner 2007) and neglects the socio-cultural context of discourse (Baker 2006).

The above section referred to the framework designed for analysis in this thesis and highlighted how (dis)similar it is to the most influential model in this thesis—the second part of the section advanced reasons for synergising methods in this discursive study. The next section provides an overview of previous studies that combine methods in conducting their studies.

5.4 Methodological Triangulation of Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis in Existing Studies

The triangulation of methods means that CDA studies use diverse methods associated with corpus linguistics rather than one method. Baker *et al.* (2010; 2008) state that these types of studies are increasingly popular in critical approaches to discourse analysis and that CL has "revolutionised the study of language" (Hunston 2002, p.1). While previous knowledge posits that corpus analysis now informs about one in five articles (Fairclough *et al.* 2007), a more recent study found that out of 121 studies, up to 81 (67%) used corpus-based studies between 1995 to 2016, and this peaked in 2015 (Nartey & Nwinlaaru 2019). These findings hold great importance because both methods are relatively novel in linguistics. However, they offer a substantial advancement in methodological triangulation and a revolutionary approach to how linguistics studies are conducted and interpreted.

The first study to combine methods in CL and CDA occurred in the 1990s in Austria when Hardt-Mautner (1995) conducted a CL and CDA study and combined concordance programme to analyse data of EC/EU discourse of the British press. The pioneering scholar later said she only used an alternative analytical procedure because the initial qualitative method proved inadequate for the corpus size (Hardt-Mautner 1995). This indicates a foundational transition from an initial qualitative and non-numerical data method to an alternative analytical procedure towards a more quantitative (computational) analytical procedure in CDA. This evolution significantly shows the importance of adaptability and responsiveness to managing larger data effectively and selecting appropriate methodologies based on the characteristics of the data being analysed. However, stating that using the concordance was 'only' conditional suggests that her work is deeply rooted in Critical Discourse Analysis principles and specifically engages with Critical Discourse Analysis. Notwithstanding this forewarning, her research gave birth to this methodological qualitative approach in CDA studies. Since then, several research has assessed the efficacy of the synergy between CL and CDA methods. Remarkably, Nartey and Nwinlaaru (2019) observe that these studies feature more prominently in certain regions than others. In the case of Africa, for example, the scholars indicate that only three (6%) African countries (out of 54) feature this approach, namely, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. In Europe, it is mostly located in Western Europe and the UK. In the United States, this is dominant in North America; in Southeast Asia, it is more present in Hong Kong and is prevalent in the Middle East, South America, and Oceania. It is unclear why certain regions, more than others, focus

on these studies. One case that can be examined is the lack of evidence or disregard of these studies in Africa. This can be tied to the origin and history of CDA. When one contends that theories and CDA methods started (relatively currently) in 1991 from a symposium in Amsterdam comprising five scholars, namely, Teun van Dijk, Norman Fairclough, Gunther Kress, Theo van Leeuwen and Ruth Wodak, that CDA is entrenched in ideologies like Marxism, neoliberalism and legacy of enlightenment (in Western Europe especially); and that some of the research agenda is characterised by controversial debates such as climate change, (Meyer & Wodak 2008), it is easy to conceive that although these concepts have global implications, they are mainly aligned with Western ideologies, deeply rooted in communism, imperialism and capitalism, and mostly studied by Western scholars. Without African scholars featuring prominently in these studies and without applying these concepts to discourses and ideologies in Africa, for example, the growth and progress of such studies may continue to be sluggish in Africa (and other regions).

In addition to the fact that only certain regions concentrate more on these types of studies, there is also the fact that certain discourses, more than others, often occur in this synergy. Nartey & Nwinlaaru (2019) find in their work that corpus-based CDA studies are interested in ten major discourses—the statistics for the top three show that at 49%, media topics dominate. In the second position are discourses of politics at 38%, and in the third position is social media at 12%. Of the studies surveyed by Nartey & Nwinlaaru (2019), 83% of researchers investigated media discourse. This high result is of little surprise, considering that most scholars are modelling their works on Baker *et al.* (2008), whose focus is

media discourse. Apart from these findings in the 2019 work, other results show that ideology and power, gender, immigration, Islam and race, identity, nationalism and war and security are the top seven key issues that attract researchers. In this light, corpus-based CDA may continue to expand with "a greater degree of sophistication" (Nartey & Nwinlaaru 2019, p.19).

Considering the regions that conduct corpus-based studies and topics that frequently combine CL and CDA methods, it is worth noting that the growth of this synergy has been erratic. Certain periods, more than others, report fewer studies of this nature. For example, Nartey & Nwinlaaru (2019) find that few research studies combined these frameworks between 1995 and 2002, except for Flowerdew (1997), who uses word frequency lists. Flowerdew examines discursive patterns in the discourse of ideology and identity of the last British Hong Kong governor before the transfer of power to the Chinese government in 1997 (Nartey and Nwinlaaru 2019)—the quiet period in combining CL and CDA research methods changed in the late 2000's. Baker *et al.* (2008) introduced a methodological synergy of both methods in their DHA study. This evaluated the extent to which both approaches complement each other. A point of attention is that the 2008 study is an expanded project from Baker & McEnery (2005) which investigates the representation of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrants, otherwise known as RASIM, and uses data from two text types, UK newspapers and documents from the United Nations (UN). These two studies contribute significantly to CL and CDA research. For example, Baker *et al.* (2008) record the way they enter data, describe the diachronic change (tracking the evolution of discourses) based on collocation analysis of RASIM between

newspapers, and group collocates into semantic categories (Bednarek 2015; Partington & Marchi 2015). This is a breakthrough because Baker and his colleagues identify stable collocates and confirm and reinforce them over time using this mixed method approach. Additionally, they use concordances, collocation, colligation and c-collocates, semantic prosody, semantic preference, keyword analysis, lemmatisation, and standardisation to effectively analyse 140-million words corpus of British news articles about RASIM from 1996 to 2006 (Baker *et al.* 2008). This work is renowned for using empirical data and hermeneutic methods to examine the construction and production of socio-political phenomena in society. It has also significantly influenced this thesis, as both studies delve into media text, discrimination, immigration, and ethnicity. Therefore, its importance to this thesis cannot be overemphasised. Considering this, tracking the evolution of discourses through studying consistent collocates over time was recognised in several ways: by identifying patterns in the discussion of specific concepts, observing shifts in the contexts in which the collocates appeared, and noting the frequencies of collocations over time. This provided empirical evidence for claims concerning the evolution of discourse.

After that, in 2008, a record number of studies combined CL and CDA, although researchers continue to model their works on Baker *et al.* (2008). According to Nartey & Nwinlaaru (2019), several factors contributed to the rise of research in this period, namely, the emergence of 'big data', the digitisation of traditional modes of discourse, the proliferation of new media, interdisciplinary discourse analysis and an upsurge of innovation that provide an array of toolkits for analysis

of naturally occurring language. Examples of studies using a methodological synergy after 2008 include Baker (2012), Baker & Gabrielatos (2008), KhosraviNik (2008) and Taylor (2009), who use keywords and key clusters in conducting monolingual studies. Despite the exponential growth between 2008 and 2016, Nartey & Nwinlaaru (2019) comment that a major distinction with the RASIM project (Baker *et al.* 2008) is its focus on key lexical words to identify discourse, while other researchers use comparative corpus (Jaworska & Krishnamurthy 2012). Nevertheless, concordance and collocation methods are commonly used in all these studies because, like in traditional CDA methods, these techniques "allow analysts to do more contextual analysis" (Nartey & Nwinlaaru 2019, p.11).

This section has shown the advantages of triangulating approaches in this thesis and outlined existing literature on frameworks and practices. It will now focus on the limitations of triangulating CL and CDA methods and the study by Baker *et al.* (2008).

5.5 Limitations of Methodological Synergy

Even though the study of Baker *et al.* (2008) is a turning point in the history of discourse of discrimination and ethnicity and is the most revolutionary work to triangulate methods across disciplines, more is needed to resolve the balance problem. This is because, whilst corpus-based studies aim to be critical, they may need to be explicitly informed by CDA theory or its traditional methods (Baker *et al.* 2008). Similarly, research aiming to contribute to CDA lacks extensive corpus or corpus techniques – sometimes using corpus as a repository (Flowerdew 1997)

and making it difficult for researchers to identify as corpus-based or corpus-driven (Wodak 2003).

In terms of the RASIM study, three top issues need more details. Firstly, the study fails to specify or document how the 'synergy' of methods occurs. For example, to make the results of this synergy comparable, Baker *et al.* (2008) state that they create two separate strands using the same data. One team comprises corpus linguists and the other critical discourse analysts. It is striking that these two teams work *Independently*, "although they were points where both researchers contributed towards the analysis of each other" (Baker *et al.* p.276). Notably, there is little documentation of how they synergise their approaches. Proper documentation is central to any scientific research, which would have easily answered the questions of how methods are integrated in this study. One point to consider also is that the pioneering study that integrates methods is (1) by only one researcher and (2) the study is CDA and aims at only CDA researchers (Hardt-Mautner 1995). A second point to note about synergy is that there is neither any attempt by Baker and his colleagues to clearly and explicitly state how these two strands explore together the phenomenon under study nor a step-by-step guide on how both teams contribute to the analysis of each other. This suggests that there are obvious obstacles with several analysts working *Independently* on the same data, making it difficult to accept that this is a more practical way to perform a synergy of methods.

Secondly, Baker *et al.* (2008) mainly focus on the challenges associated with the CDA strand of their study without mentioning any issues related to the CL strand.

Gabrielatos *et al.* (2012) opine that CDA analysts use a downsizing methodology – CL techniques to obtain only sample texts from the corpus for analysis because of time and money constraints. While it is commendable that CDA analysts use this CL technique because it is "rarely used" in more traditional CDA (Gabrielatos & Duguid 2014), it suggests that CDA analysts lack contextual information. On the other hand, CL analysts use the corpus – 140 million words and focus on linguistic patterns and collocations. This suggests that the CL aspect focuses only on "what has been explicitly written, rather than on what could have been written, what is implied, inferred, insinuated or latently hinted at" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.296). Additionally, Baker & McEnery (2005) emphasise comparing collocational patterns of texts, which reveal that RASIM is portrayed in terms of 'movement', 'quantification', and 'crime'. Nonetheless, there is no reference to keyword analysis or its importance in comparing corpora, although Baker *et al.* (2008) explain their rationale and acknowledge the limitations of differing findings. For example, the CDA analysts find no positive topoi, while the CL analysts find only a few positive topoi of RASIM. This tends to emphasise problems encountered by different teams working separately on the same data. It is also peculiar that there is hardly any mention of how CL analysts use techniques in CDA, apart from referencing how using lexical patterns assists DHA in studying referential strategies in discourse (Baker *et al.*, 2008). This casts doubts on how a true synergy can be fully realised by researchers working individually on the same data and suggests that CL analysts lack relevant contextual aspects in this case (Gabrielatos 2009).

Thirdly, despite the methodological approach of CL and CDA methods, the issue of bias still needs to be solved. Topoi analysis assists the CDA analysts in removing preconceptions. However, given that this work is a research publication, it should have included more compelling, detailed, and explicit documentation regarding the methods employed by CL analysts to minimise bias. Additionally, this sponsored project begs questions such as data integrity, assurance, and contractual terms, which might contribute to bias in any study.

Following the above weaknesses identified in the study by Baker *et al.* (2008), which might point to "fuzzy boundaries between quantitative and qualitative approaches" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.96), this thesis examines self-designed specialised corpora and attempts to combine CDA and CL techniques and make them explicitly clear to (1) answer the research questions of this study, (2) indicate that both methods complement each other and that neither one is more dominant than the other. The major CL techniques used in this thesis were random concordance samples in which numerous concordance lines were examined to infer relevant contextual information. Manual collocation was adopted instead of automated collocation to reveal salient contextual elements and build specific topics from frequency and collocation analysis. Also, frequency analysis revealed differences and similarities in the number of occurrences of words and patterns of representation across many texts, over different periods, and among sub-corpora. Finally, semantic annotation provided evidence of representation strategies identified in CDA and its contribution to DHA, the main theoretical framework for CDA in this thesis. In attempting this synergy, this work highlighted information obtained from different data sources, how text and

numbers were combined, how both quantitative and qualitative results were analysed, and finally identified the contribution of each method to triangulating the findings of the other so that none was "subservient to the other" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.274). To do so, the present study considered the possible stages in corpus-assisted CDA by Baker *et al.* (2008, p.295). They are broken down into the following steps:

1. Context-based analysis of the topic via history/politics/etymology. Identify existing topoi/discourses/strategies via wider reading and reference to other CDA studies.
2. Establish research questions/corpus building procedures.
3. Corpus analysis of frequencies and keywords to identify potential sites of interest in the corpus and discourses/topoi/strategies related to those existing in the literature.
4. Qualitative or CDA analysis of a smaller, representative set of data, e.g. concordances of certain lexical items or a particular text(s) within the corpus to identify discourses/topoi/strategies.
5. Formulation of new hypotheses or research questions.
6. Further corpus analysis based on new hypotheses and identified further discourses/topoi/strategies.
7. Analyse intertextuality or interdiscursivity based on findings from corpus analysis.
8. Form new hypotheses.
9. Further corpus analysis and identify additional discourses/topoi/strategies.

The nine stages listed above assist researchers in systematically conducting corpus-assisted CDA to unveil patterns and ideologies in language. Before potential sites of interest were uncovered, raw data was transformed into clean data following an integration of methods.

5.6 A Systematic Analytical Procedure of Data Based On Triangulation of Methods

The triangulation of various techniques cross-verified information from different databases, archives, and concordances to identify any errors, biases, and

inconsistencies that may exist within databases before the start of analysis. This process ensured data quality, reliability, validity, and actionability. Also, in preparing to gather relevant representation data from different CL and CDA methods, the focus was on basic frequency data for search terms across six sub-corpora. This demonstrated preliminary evidence of how tools usually associated with CL can provide useful qualitative results in concordance that the naked eye alone cannot see. The preliminary evidence provides the pathway into how representation and newsworthiness were made evident in the INC.

The examination of the quality of the corpus occurs in five different analyses. This is not an answer to a specific research question. Rather, it is an essential preparatory analytical procedure that establishes the suitability, credibility, and reliability of the INC, which is the main corpus of this thesis. The general quantitative occurrences of search words (hereafter called nodes) are provided. Then, the quality of the data is evaluated. This is done by testing the number of nodes in websites' archives versus concordance databases. After this, the nodes are sorted into distinct semantic groups to assist in meaning and interpretation. After the data evaluation, the focus for analysis is exclusively on how texts occur in concordance, especially on repeated patterns around keywords in context (KWIC). The five analyses lead to preliminary evidence and point to how the writer uses words and identifies ideological positions through discourse topics (semantic categorisations), frequency and diachronic change of occurrence, and identification of historical contexts. This is contained in section two of this

analysis. This underlines how tools usually associated with CL can provide useful results in concordance, which the naked eye alone cannot see.

The ensuing section evaluates nodes in two databases. The first period under study is September to December 1998, hereafter referred to as 1998. The second period is September to December 2008, hereafter referred to as 2008. The final period is September to December 2018, now known as 2018.

5.6.1 Processing Evidence of Nodes in Two Data Sources

Five stages of examinations are conducted in this section. The first step investigates the number of news articles from node enquiry in the archive database and diachronically across different periods between both newspapers. The second step compares the presence of nodes in both archive and concordance databases and diachronically across different periods between both newspapers. The third step compares the frequencies of occurrences of nodes across all three periods and between the archive and concordance databases. The fourth step focuses on concordances and investigates the frequency of each node in concordances. The last step investigates the evidence of nodes in concordances diachronically across different periods between both newspapers. The actions taken in these processes highlight unique trends and patterns in each newspaper and across both newspapers over time. This obtains more reliable data for analysis. The subsequent subsections analyse news articles obtained from searching nodes in archives of the newspapers' databases.

Evidence of News Articles from Node Enquiry in Archives

The analysis in this thesis examined data in the INC. Up to 5,496 relevant news articles were obtained in the *Independent* and the *Times* newspapers during 1998, 2008 and 2018. The details are presented in Table 4.1. All the articles analysed in the INC were about African issues. The table below contains raw figures for the number of news articles on African matters in each newspaper. The final figures are in percentages to assist with comparing and interpreting the data. The data in Table 5.1 is obtained from the archive databases. It contains details of the corpus breakdown in Chapter Four of this thesis.

Table 5. 1. Data in % of news articles from node enquiry in newspapers' websites (archives)

Newspaper name	<i>Independent</i>			<i>Times</i>		
Period	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>P3</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>P3</i>
Article occurrence	298	638	247	1018	1713	1582
Percentage	$\frac{298}{5496} \times 100$ = 5%	$\frac{638}{5496} \times 100$ = 12%	$\frac{247}{5496} \times 100$ = 4%	$\frac{1018}{5496} \times 100$ = 19%	$\frac{1713}{5496} \times 100$ = 31%	$\frac{1582}{5496} \times 100$ = 29%
Total	P1: 5 + 19 = 24 P2: 12 + 31 = 43 P3: 4 + 29 = 33					

The data in Table 5.1 above indicates the coverage of African issues. The *Independent* published the greatest number of news articles on African matters in 2008, and the *Times* received the most coverage of African issues in 2008.

Figure 5.1 presents a visual representation highlighting patterns and trends and emphasising the data.

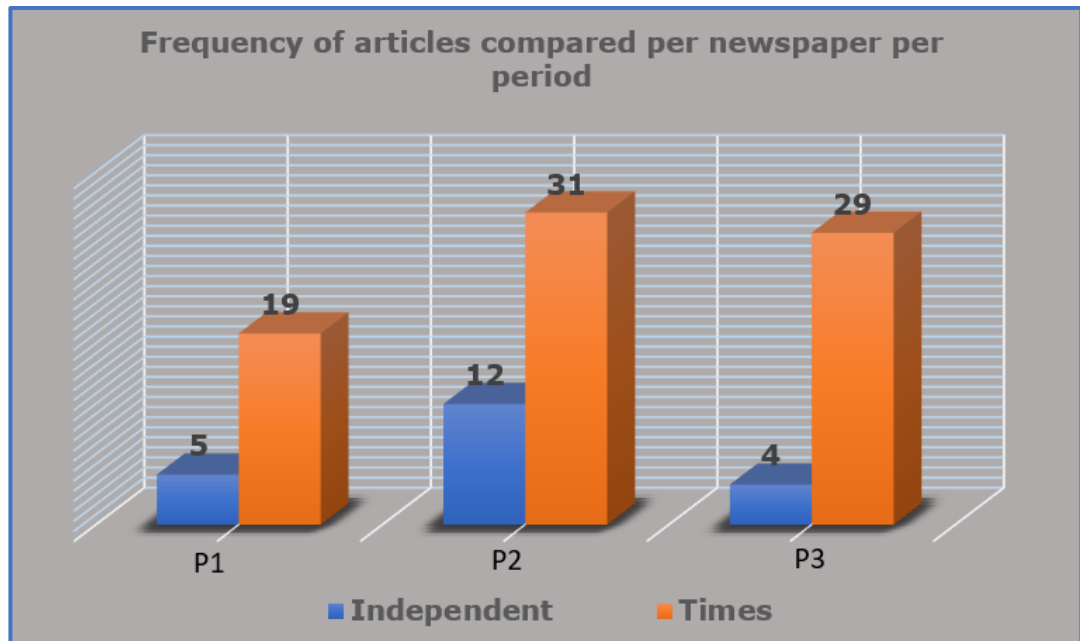


Figure 5. 1. Occurrences of news articles per newspaper per period in percentage figures

The data in Table 5.1. and Figure 5.1 shows the following key statistics:

1. The highest number of news articles concerning Africans in each newspaper.
In the *Independent*, there were 12% of articles on African matters occurred during 2008. This was three times more than 2018, which recorded the fewest news articles. Meanwhile, in the *Times*, there were 31% of articles about Africans occurred during 2008. This was the highest coverage among all periods and newspapers. It was 1.6 times more than 1998, which emerged as the period with the fewest news articles.

2. The period with the most coverage of African issues in the INC. Although the number of occurrences varied, both newspapers recorded the highest coverage during 2008. The number of news articles in the *Times* was 2.6 times more than in the *Independent* during the same period.
3. The newspaper that published more news articles about Africans in all periods in the INC was the *Times*. The differences in the number of articles showed that there was 3.8 times more coverage in the *Times* than in the *Independent* during 1998. This reduced slightly to 2.6 times more than the *Independent* during 2008 but significantly increased to 7.3 times more than the *Independent* during 2018. This means that in the INC, the *Times* frequently published more news articles about African issues than the *Independent* throughout all periods.
4. When data from all datasets was combined from node enquiry in the archives of both newspapers in the INC, 2008 recorded the greatest occurrences of all news articles about African issues at 43% (or 2351 articles). This was 1.3 times more than 2018 at 33% (or 1829 articles) and 1.8 times more than 1998 at 24% (or 1316 articles). This means that 1998 contained the least amount of representation. The next section presents evidence of nodes in different data sources.

Evidence of Nodes in Combined Data Sources

The information presented below in Table 5.2 illustrates the collective frequencies of occurrences for each node when the data from both newspapers was combined and compared across archives and concordance databases. The

archive database contains news articles in their original format as they were published on the websites of both newspapers and can be accessed by various applications. They are the primary source of textual information stored as plain text for analysis and as a backup to ensure data integrity. The news articles from archives were compiled into a set of texts and stored electronically within a concordance database called the INC. The INC facilitated the linguistic analysis of specific words or phrases, along with their location, to assist in identifying patterns of frequencies, collocations and meaning (Bennett 2010). The figures below indicate the number of times that each of the 25 search words occurred in the archives and concordance databases.

Table 5. 2. Frequencies of occurrences of nodes in two data sources

	Search word	References in archives	References in concordances
1	Africa	778	3934
2	Blacks	266	3780
3	South Africa	1372	2496
4	Africans	309	1972
5	South Africans	67	971
6	Congo	200	821
7	Nigeria	233	407
8	Nigerians	43	270
9	Namibia	77	250
10	Congolese	11	223
11	Black People	1419	109
12	Mozambique	41	97
13	Central Africa	70	53
14	Central Africans	3	40
15	Namibians	3	24
16	Black Africans	2	10
17	Black Irish	480	7
18	African Migrants	4	5
19	Mozambicans	0	4
20	African Families	13	3
21	African Students	32	3
22	African Asylum Seekers	2	2
23	African Refugees	16	1
24	Dark Continent	20	1
25	African Workers	35	0

Table 5.2 above enumerates all 25 nodes used to gather news articles to construct the corpus for this study. From the total nodes, 24 were found in each database, resulting in a 96% accuracy rate. One node (the equivalence of 4%) was absent in each database. This was owed to an anomaly. It was observed that the node **Mozambican** was lacking in the archive database but was present in concordance. On the other hand, **African workers** was absent in concordance but present in archives. However, when data in both sources was combined, all

25 nodes were present. This signified that all nodes used to obtain news articles were found in the INC. The data in both databases was the same, supporting evidence of the presence of nodes in databases. This outcome affirmed the quality, integrity, reliability, and trustworthiness of the data for this study and made subsequent analysis feasible.

Diachronic Patterns of Nodes

The data in Figure 5.2 below show statistics on the occurrence of nodes when data was combined for both newspapers across three periods and two data sources.

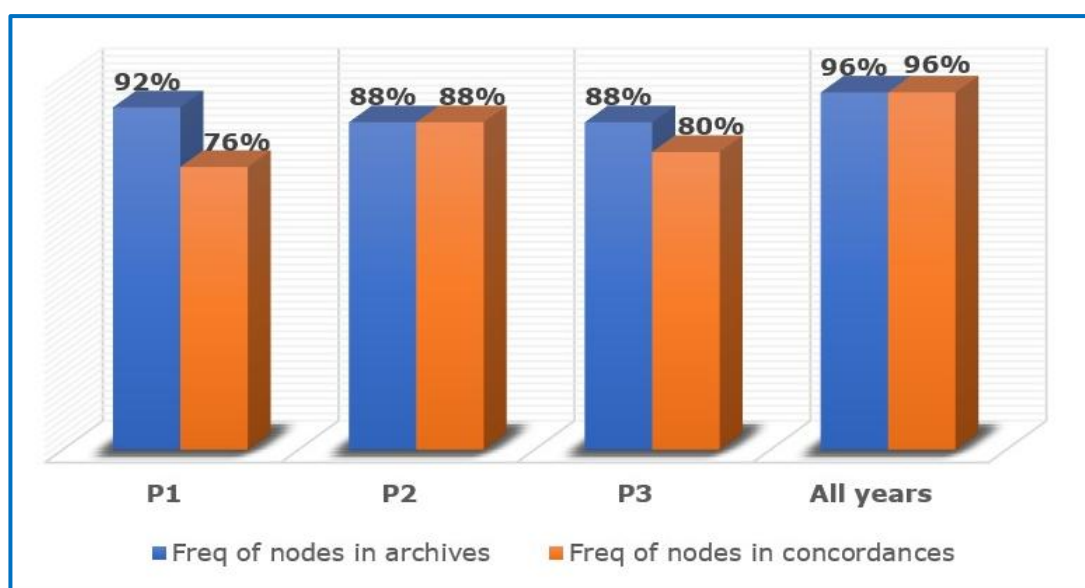


Figure 5. 2. Frequencies of nodes in newspapers’ websites versus concordances in SkE

As shown in Figure 5.2 above, the following patterns were observed in individual and combined databases and across different periods under study.

1. In the archives database, 23 out of 25 nodes (92%) occurred during 1998. This rate was reduced in 2008 and 2018 when 22 nodes occurred at the same rate of 88%. This made 1998 the period with the most nodes in the archives database.
2. Meanwhile, in concordance, 22 nodes (88%) occurred during 2008. This dropped to 20 nodes (80%) in 2018, while another fall was recorded in 1998, when 19 nodes occurred, at 76%. Thus, the highest number of nodes was found during 2008 in concordance.
3. There were variations in the periods when the greatest number of nodes occurred in both databases. In the archive database, the greatest number of nodes occurred in 1998 at 92%, while in concordance, it occurred in 2008 at 88%. Also, during 2018, the archives contained more nodes at 88% than concordances at 80%. Meanwhile, both data sources recorded the same frequency of node occurrence during 2008 at 88%. Due to an anomaly in the two data sources, both databases referenced 24 out of 25 nodes at 96% each.

The information in the three sections above indicated that all 25 nodes were used to obtain news articles for the INC. The data showed that 2008 recorded the highest representation of African issues in the INC among all periods. In individual newspapers, the highest percentage of all news articles covering African issues was 12% in the *Independent* and 31% in the *Times*. When the coverage was compared between both newspapers, the *Independent* produced 21% of all news articles while the *Times* produced 79%. This means the *Times* produced approximately four times more news articles in the archives than the *Independent* in the INC. A similar pattern was found when the occurrence of

nodes was examined in concordance. The period with the highest occurrence of nodes was 2008, at 88%, while the period with the fewest nodes was 1998, at 76%.

The next section focuses on the evidence of nodes in the concordance data of both newspapers. Combining this data provides a comprehensive and integrated view of patterns in the overall data.

Evidence of Nodes in Combined Concordances

The data of this investigation is obtained from concordances of both newspapers and all periods under study. This thesis focuses on results from concordances for analysis. As shown below, concordances provide the best opportunity to assess the textual environment, identify patterns, and compare sub-corpora efficiently, visually, and quickly (O'Keeffe & Vaughan 2015; Wynne 2008). Additionally, concordances were used to enhance the qualitative aspect of this study by identifying the topics and frequencies derived from nodes employed in selecting news articles. The detailed quantitative evidence of nodes in concordance is extracted from Table 5.2 above and illustrated by a column chart below in Figure 5.3. The first data set provides the list of all nodes and combined frequency occurrences in all sub-corpora in the INC.

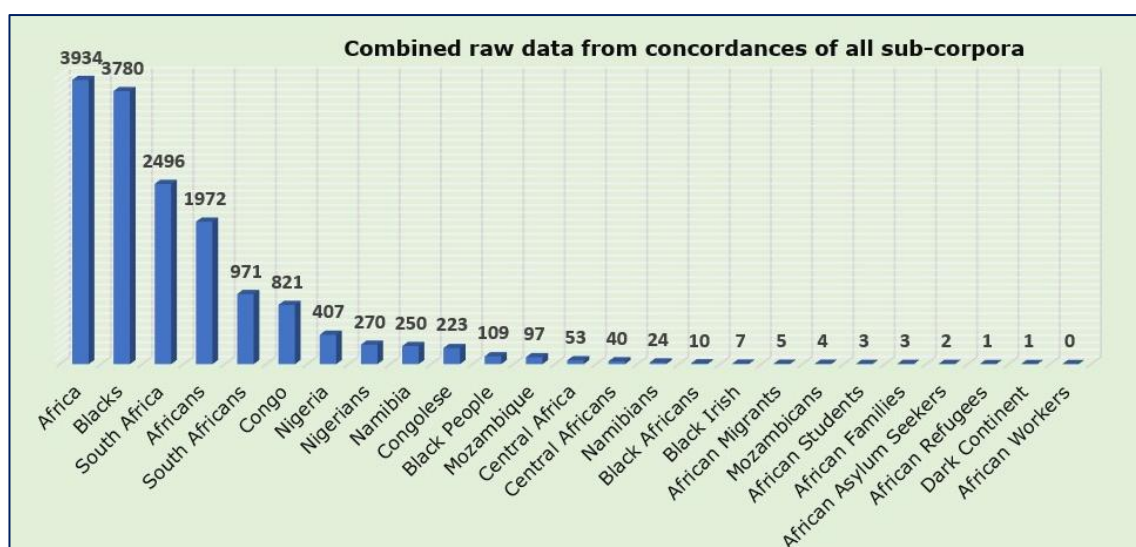


Figure 5. 3. Individual node occurrence in combined concordances of all sub-corpora

The following evidence of node occurrences in concordance was deduced from the above figure:

1. All other nodes occurred except for **African workers** in concordance.
2. The most prevalent node in concordances was **Africa**, and the least mentioned were **African refugees** and the **Dark Continent**. What is discernible about these results is that news writers favoured news stories with meanings that had direct subject references.
3. The early patterns found that the top five nodes producing the most concordances were nouns: **Africa**, **South Africa**, **Blacks**, **South Africans**, and **Africans**. Their occurrences are presented below using visual illustration in Figure 5.4.

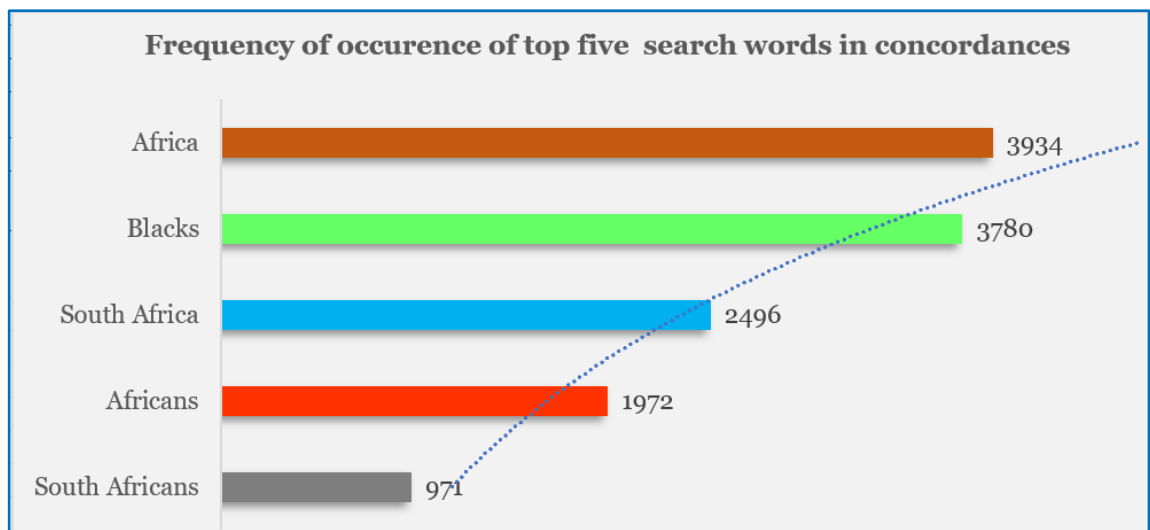


Figure 5. 4. Most prominent nodes in concordances

It is clear to see in Figure 5.4 that the first indications of significant discourses about African issues in the INC contained mentions of **Africa** more than any other node. At 3934 occurrences, concordances that contained **Africa** were 1.1 times more than those with **Blacks**, 1.6 times more than **South Africa**, two times more than **Africans**, and finally, 4.1 times more than **South Africans**. From the early indications of news coverage content in concordance with the INC, the next section delves into the comparative nature of occurrences of nodes. This will be highlighted across different periods under the study.

Evidence of Nodes across sub-corpora

This section examines the occurrences of nodes in individual newspapers and answers the question, 'What was the evidence of nodes in concordances across individual newspapers in the three periods under study?' Figure 5.5 shows the

visual illustration in concordance of the occurrence of nodes used to obtain news articles. The numbers are shown in percentages.

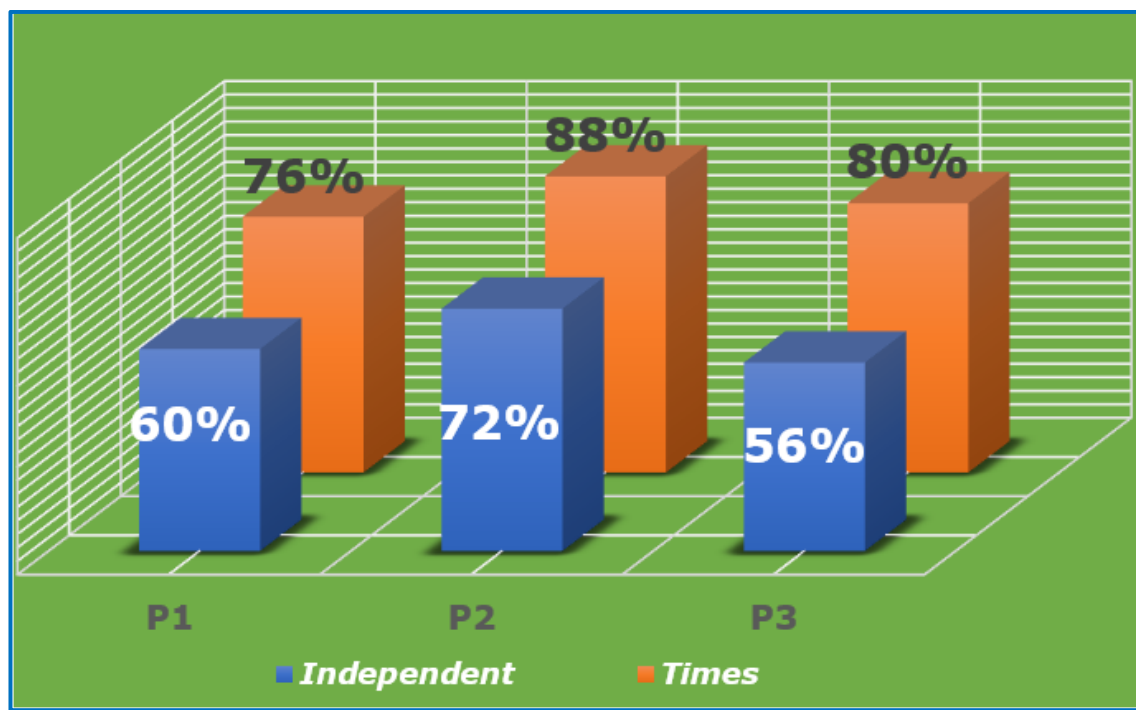


Figure 5. 5. Evidence of nodes in individual newspapers across three periods in concordance

It can be seen above in Figure 5.5. that:

1. In the *Independent* concordances, the greatest number of nodes occurred during 2008, at 72%, when 18 out of 25 nodes were recorded. In 1998, it was 60%, when 15 nodes were recorded, which showed an increase in the mention of nodes over time. However, the number of nodes declined in 2018 to 56% when 14 nodes occurred. This means that 2018 recorded 1.3 times fewer references about Africans in the *Independent* concordances compared to the period with the highest occurrence.

2. In the *Times* concordances, the highest number of nodes occurred during 2008, at 88%, when 22 nodes occurred. This dropped to 80% during 2018, when 20 nodes were recorded. During 1998, this reduced to 19 nodes, at 76%. This means that 2008 witnessed the highest number of references of Africans, at 1.2 times more than 1998, which recorded the fewest references.
3. The overall results indicated that the highest number of nodes was 22 and occurred in the *Times*. This is compared with the *Independent* at 18 nodes. The newspaper that employed more nodes to represent Africans in concordance was the *Times* at 1.2 times more, or four more individual nodes, than the *Independent* at 18 nodes.
4. The *Independent* registered the fewest nodes, 14 out of 25, compared with 19 in the *Times*. This means the *Independent* registered five fewer nodes than the *Times* to reference African issues.
5. The period with the highest incidence of nodes was 2008 in both the *Independent* and the *Times*, although their rates varied: 72% in the *Independent* and 88% in the *Times*.
6. The period with the fewest references was 2018 in the *Independent* and 1998 in the *Times*.

The data in this section provided an analysis of linguistic elements within the text by presenting the occurrences of nodes in concordance, illustrated in Table 6.2. above. It found that the data in all analyses were consistent. The occurrences of all nodes were compared between both databases, archives, and concordances. An anomaly found that **Mozambicans** and **African workers** occurred in one

but not the other database. Another examination indicated that among all three periods, all nodes occurred during 2008 in both databases. This can explain why the highest representation of African issues occurred during 2008. The biggest database overlap was found during 1998 when there were 1.2 times more nodes in archives than concordances. Meanwhile, the occurrences of nodes in concordances of each sub-corpora are in Figure 5.5. They confirmed the data found in the number of news articles in Table 6.1. Regarding the period with the most news articles, 2008 witnessed the most coverage in both newspapers. This indicates a consistency of data at different levels of analysis. For example, the data in Figure 5.1. from the analysis of the news articles correlates with the data in Figure 5.5. following an examination of the occurrences of nodes in concordance. This enhanced the results and patterns from these analyses. In immediately providing all instances and the frequencies of nodes, concordances supported the quantitative analysis by tracking frequencies and visualising patterns across newspapers, texts, and periods. This analysis introduced the potential to analyse nodes within contexts for possible semantic categorisations. This concept is elaborated on in the subsequent section.

Semantic Topics by Grouping Nodes in Concordance

This starts the second section of this chapter, in which their semantic relations group the evidence of node occurrences in concordance outlined above. Five semantic categories were identified. As Chapter Four of this thesis shows, the list of nodes is included in the relevant semantic category. In this section, the

frequency of occurrences of each semantic group is listed in raw figures and simplified in terms of percentages using the format below:

$$\textbf{Equation 0:8} \quad \frac{\textit{Total freq of occurrence of semantic group}}{\textit{Total of all occurrences}} \times 100$$

$$\therefore \text{ For example, Core words category: } \frac{5906}{15044} \times 100 = 39\%$$

The strategy to identify semantic classes and frequencies was another useful synergy of CL and CDA methods. In this respect, incidences of nodes in concordances (CL) were grouped by quantity and by way of topics to provide an 'overture' – into patterns of representations. Also, it supported the process of argumentation, whereby selected text contents or "discourse topics" (van Dijk 1991, p.113) provided insights into the entry-level analysis of DHA. This was followed by an in-depth analysis, which deals with language pragmatics, such as patterns and discursive strategies of 'self' and 'other' representation (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) that are used to persuade readers. Identifying semantic topics from the occurrences of nodes in concordances also made it possible to compare the amount of attention accorded to each subject at different times between both newspapers under study. The results below in Table 5.3 and Figure 5.6 point out the frequencies of semantic groups based on node occurrences in each newspaper and across all periods.

Table 5. 3. Semantic topics identified from node classifications in all concordances

Semantic classification	Search words	Frequency of occurrence in combined data per newspaper				All data combined	
		Independent		Times			
		Raw Fig	%	Raw fig.	%		
Core words		1650	47	4,256	37	5906	39
Africa, African(s)							
Close association with core search words:							
Ethnic classification		545	15	3361	29	3906	26
Black(s), Black African(s), Black Irish, Black people							
Descriptive demographics		6	0.1	10	0.1	16	0.1
African students, African refugees, African asylum seekers, African migrants, African workers, African families, Dark Continent							
National demographics		889	25	2946	26	3835	26
South Africa, Nigeria, Congo, Namibia, Mozambique, Central Africa							
Demonyms		442	13	939	8	1381	9
South African(s), Nigerian(s), Congolese, Namibian(s), Mozambican(s), Central African(s)							
TOTAL		3532		11,512		15044	

The data presented in Table 5.2 is revealing in two ways. First, combined frequencies of semantic categories of nodes per newspaper show a split in the way semantic topics occurred. The *Independent* favoured Core Words and Demonyms more than the *Times*, while the *Times* preferred Ethnic and National Demographic references. Regarding Descriptive Demographics, it was the least category chosen by both newspapers and occurred at similar frequencies throughout the sub-corpora. The second revealing feature from the table is that, when the data for both newspapers was combined to obtain results per semantic category, the INC favoured Core Word references when talking about African issues. The Core Word references are both nouns, and this finding was noteworthy because, since nouns create conceptual images (Gentner &

Boroditsky, 2001), it was possible that their dominant occurrences would typically provide new or unexpected referential information (labels) for strategic purposes. The results are illustrated below in Figure 6.6.

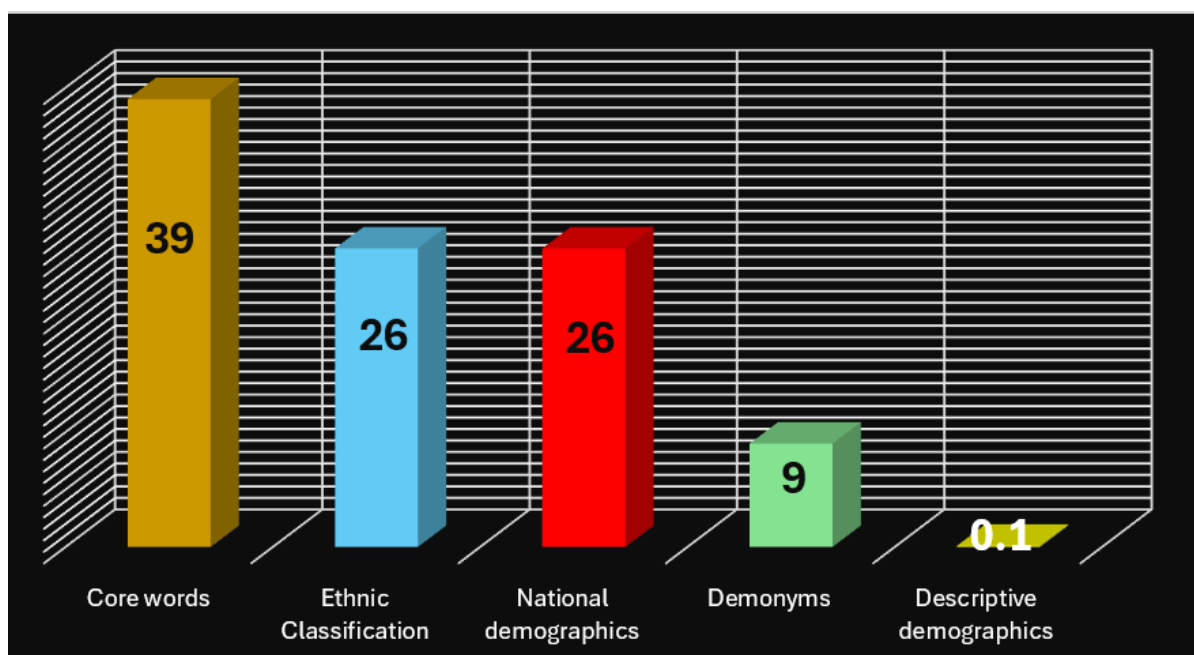


Figure 5. 6. Percentage figures of semantic categories of nodes in concordance of all sub-corpora

Figure 5.6. above shows combined data of semantic groups based on node occurrences in concordance with all sub-corpora. The Core Words were the most referenced semantic category in concordances, at 39%, while Descriptive Demographics received the fewest mentions, at 0.1%. The Core Word category was 4.3 times more frequent than Demonyms and 1.5 times more frequent than Ethnic Classification and National Demographics, which occurred equally.

To highlight other trends found in the semantic categorisations, the following frequencies were compared: (1) all sub-corpora per newspaper, (2) combined data of all periods and frequency of occurrence of each topic per newspaper and comparison between both newspapers, (3) combined frequencies of all years in both newspapers and then (4) data from all years in both newspapers. The results are in raw figures and percentages, but all analysis uses percentage figures.

Unique Semantic Topics in the Independent

At individual levels, the semantic categories of nodes in concordances of the *Independent* during the periods under study identified five groups. The details are presented in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5. 4. Table Frequencies of semantic categories of nodes in the *Independent* sub-corpora

Occurrence of search word semantic classifications in concordances				
	<i>Independent</i>			
	P1	P2	P3	Total
Core words	456 (50%)	844 (50%)	350 (43%)	1650 (48%)
Ehtnic classification	55 (6%)	269 (16%)	221 (27%)	545 (16%)
Descriptive demographics	0 (0%)	5 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)	6 (1%)
National demographics	271 (29%)	352 (20%)	177 (21%)	800 (23%)
Demonyms	138 (15%)	232 (14%)	72 (9%)	442 (13%)
Total	920	1702	821	3443

In Table 5.4. above, the data represents the semantic classifications of nodes as they occurred in concordance with the sub-corpora of the *Independent*. The frequency of occurrences indicated that most articles mentioned **Africa** and

Africans, while the least category contained Descriptive Demographics (see Table 5.3 for more description). An intriguing group was Ethnic Categorisation, which increased over time. In the discourse of discrimination, this provides valuable insights into historical injustices, aspects of colonialisation, cultural nuances and migration patterns that significantly shape the identities of individuals and groups in society (Wodak *et al.* 2016). To easily and more effectively identify patterns and trends that emerged in Table 6.4 above, the results are visually demonstrated in Figure 6.7 below.

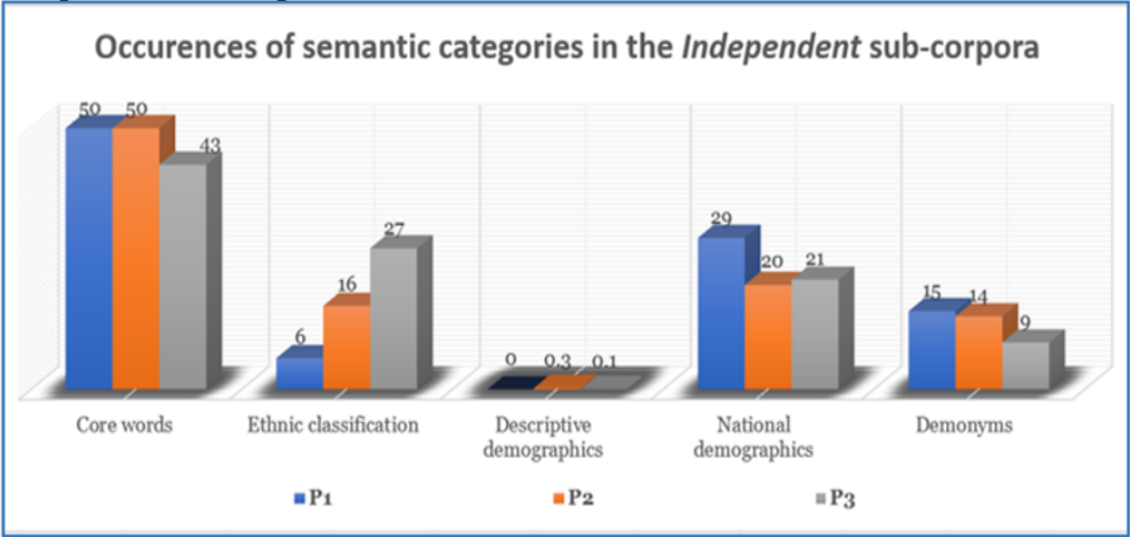


Figure 5. 7. Occurrences of semantic categories of nodes in the *Independent* sub-corpora

The following conclusions were drawn from the data in Table 5.4 and Figure 5.7:

1. The *Independent* frequently referenced **Africa** and **Africans*** more than other words. This was most obvious during 1998 and 2008 at 50%, but the

usage reduced by 7% during 2018. Diachronically, therefore, the *Independent* reduced the use of Core Words when discussing African issues in 2018.

2. The second most frequent topic was National Demographics at 25%. The period with the most occurrence was during 1998, at 29%, which dropped by 9% in 2008 before increasing slightly by 1% during 2018. This means that 2008 was the period with the least occurrence of National Demographics in the *Independent*.
3. When discussing African issues, Ethnic Classification was the third most frequent term. However, unlike the first two topics, which steadily declined, references to Ethnic Classification continuously increased over time. The period 2008 (2008) witnessed a 10% increase and a significant 21% increase during 2018.
4. The next most frequent topic was Demonyms. At 15%, the period of 1998 witnessed the most occurrences. From this point on, their occurrences declined constantly. During 2008, they dropped by 1%, but the major fall was 6% in 2018. Diachronically, the usage reduced throughout the periods under study.
5. The least mentioned topic was Descriptive Demographics. It was absent in 1998, then occurred in 2008 and reduced slightly in 2018.

The table and chart above show two striking diachronic trends. One is the continuous growth of Ethnic Classification references to portray African issues in the *Independent* sub-corpora, which peaked in 2018. This can serve several functions, including reinforcing colonial legacy and reaffirming social constructs

of race and ethnicity. The second is the steady decline of all other semantic categories, with the steepest drop in specific identifiers —Demonyms. References using Demonyms reached their lowest point in 2018, suggesting a reductionist approach and broad generalisations of different African groups. This can lead to stereotyping.

Unique Semantic Topics in the Times

Five semantic categories were identified from analysing nodes during the periods under study in the *Times* concordances. The details are presented below in Table 5.5 and further duplicated in Figure 5.8.

Table 5. 5. Occurrences of semantic classification of nodes in the *Times* sub-corpora

Occurrence of search word semantic classifications in concordances	<i>Times</i>			Total
	P1	P2	P3	
Core words	1102 (38%)	2019 (38%)	1135 (34%)	4256 (37%)
Ethnic classification	830 (29%)	1138 (22%)	1393 (42%)	3361 (29%)
Descriptive demographics	1 (0.3%)	5 (0.1%)	4 (0.1%)	10 (1%)
National demographics	726 (25%)	1592 (30%)	628 (30%)	2946 (26%)
Demonyms	234 (8%)	556 (10%)	149 (10%)	939 (8%)
Total	2893	5310	3309	11512

The data in Table 5.5 above indicates semantic classifications from the occurrences of nodes in the *Times* concordances across three periods. The category of Ethnic Classification was the most prevalent, and its highest occurrence was during 1998 and 2008. Meanwhile, the least frequent category contained Descriptive Demographics. The frequencies of occurrences were

similar throughout all periods. The figures in the table above are graphically represented in Figure 5.8 below.

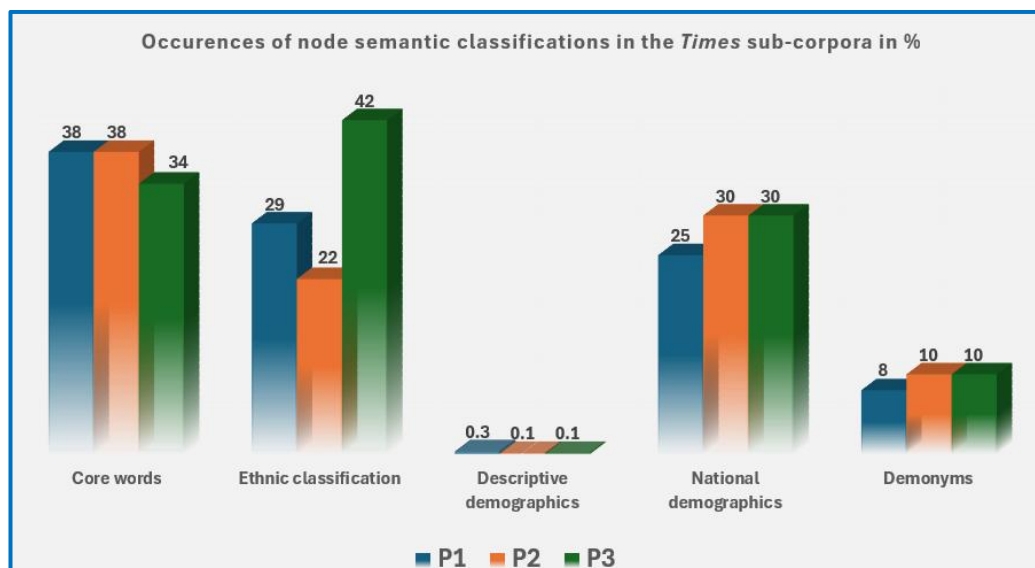


Figure 5. 8. Occurrences of semantic classification of nodes in the *Times* sub-corpora

When analysing the data in Table 5.5 and Figure 5.8, the following arguments were drawn:

1. The *Times*' most frequent topic when discussing African issues was Ethnic Classification. The frequency varied over time, but the highest occurrence was during 2018, at 42%, approximately 20% more than during 2008, at 22%. The category with the fewest mentions was Descriptive Demographics. The frequencies were similar across all three periods.
2. The second most frequent category contained Core Words. This occurred equally at 38% during 1998 and 2008 but fell by 4% during 2018.

Diachronically, the usage was maintained during the first two periods but reduced during the last.

3. National Demographics was the third most frequent topic when discussing African issues. At 30% each, it occurred most frequently in 2008 and 2018. However, it fell 5% in 1998. Thus, the frequency increased over time and stayed the same in the last two periods.
4. The fourth most predominant category in the *Times* used Demonyms when discussing African issues. The highest occurrences were during 2008 and 2018, at 10% each. The lowest usage occurred during 1998, at 8%. This means that, like National Demographics, the *Times* increased the frequency of Demonyms from the first period and maintained the frequency during the last two periods.
5. The last-mentioned topic was Descriptive Demographics. The amount was constant at 0.1% during two periods, with a slight increase recorded during 1998.

To recapitulate, there were differences in the frequencies of occurrences of topics found in the data presented above. The most noticeable variation concerned Ethnic Classification. Although it was the most frequently mentioned topic at 42%, it dropped 1.3 times from 1998 to 2008 and peaked in 2018. Another example was the occurrence of Core Words. The amount stayed the same between 1998 and 2008 but was reduced by 1.1 times in 2018. Two patterns were noticeable. One was the increase of frequencies over time, where National Demographics and Demonyms increased their usage from 1998 and maintained an identical frequency in 2008 and 2018. The second pattern was a decrease in

the frequency of occurrences over time. Core Words and Descriptive Demographics decreased usage over time, although this was more visible with Descriptive Demographics. It should be mentioned, however, that the occurrences of Descriptive Demographics were consistently negligible in all years under study.

Unique Semantic Categories Compared in the Independent and the Times

The frequencies of semantic categories of nodes were compared between both newspapers under study, and the results are presented in Table 5.6 and Figure 5.9.

Table 5. 6. Frequencies of semantic categories of nodes in the *Independent* and the *Times*

Frequencies of semantic categories of nodes in combined figures per newspaper (%)		
Semantic categories	<i>Independent</i>	<i>Times</i>
Core words	48	37
National demographics	23	26
Ethnic classification	16	29
Demonyms	13	8
Descriptive demographics	1	1

The table above portrays the attention paid to the semantic categorisations of nodes per newspaper. The chart below compares the frequency of occurrences between both newspapers to clearly show patterns in the data and make it easier to visualise the results.

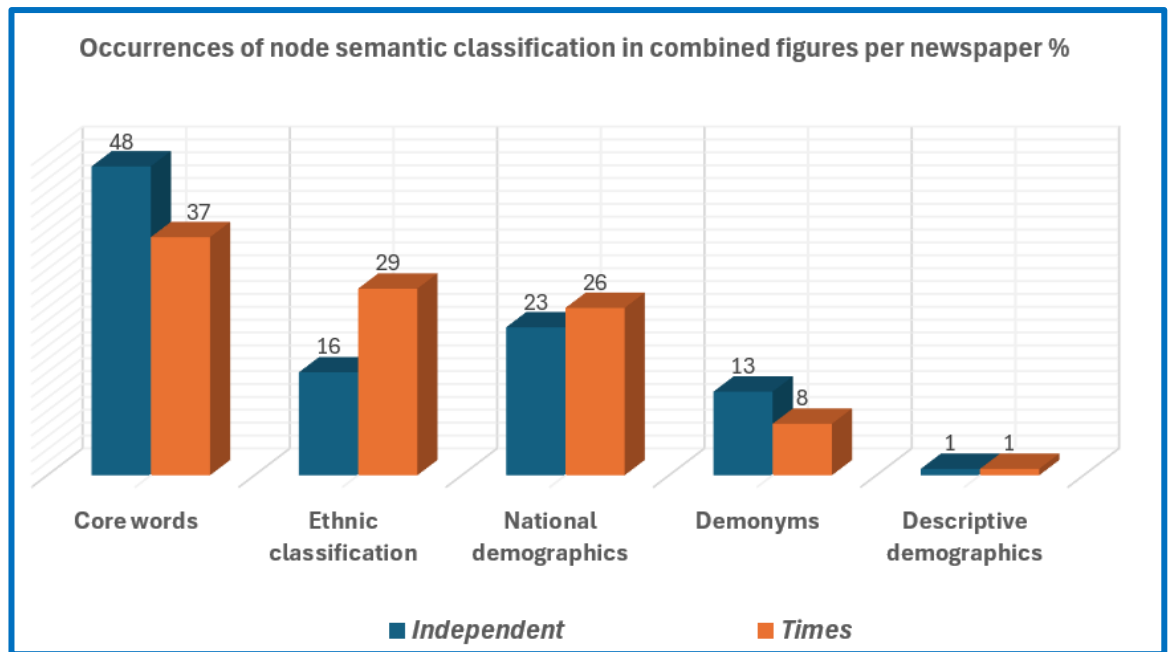


Figure 5. 9. Frequencies of semantic categories of nodes in the *Independent* and the *Times*

When the trends of semantic categories of nodes were compared between both newspapers per period, five main observations emerged:

1. When all frequencies of all periods were combined per newspaper in the study, the *Independent* mentioned 1.3 times more Core Words than the *Times*. The difference in frequencies between both newspapers remained the same in all years.
2. The *Independent* mentioned 1.6 times more Demonyms than the *Times* across all periods. The period with the most occurrences was 1998, at 1.9 times, while the period with the fewest mentions was 2008 at one time.

3. Overall, the *Times* used 1.8 times more ethnic references to represent Africans than the *Independent*. The highest mention occurred in 1998, at 4.8 times, while the fewest mention occurred in 2008, at 1.4 times in the *Times* more than in the *Independent*.
4. The most frequent topic in both newspapers was Core Words. Although there were frequency variations, it repeatedly occurred more often than any other semantic group.
5. The frequencies of National Demographics peaked and fell at different times in both newspapers. For example, in 1998, the *Independent* had 1.2 times more coverage with National Demographics references than the *Times*. However, between 2008 and 2018, the *Times* was 1.5 times and 1.4 times more than the *Independent*. This means that during two of the three periods, the *Times* represented African issues with more references to National Demographics than the *Independent*.

5.6.2. Summary of Data Evaluation

The above section addressed the data quality by examining the quantitative results of nodes in the two data sources under study and identified semantic groups of nodes. The following outcomes were observed in terms of news articles:

1. The number of articles obtained using nodes in the archives of both newspapers under study varied. At 43%, specially designed nodes generated the greatest number of articles during 2008, while the fewest news articles were obtained during 1998 at 24%. It is worth noting that representation increased during 2008.

2. Regarding the reliability of data in the INC, the quality and evidence of nodes indicated a 96% consistency (24 out of 25 nodes) of the same dataset found in the archives and concordance databases of the INC. The most surprising result from this data was that although the enquiry was performed on the same dataset, **Mozambican** was absent in the archive database but present in concordance. While **African workers** was absent in concordances, it was present in archives. This analyst could not easily explain this outcome; apart from that, variation in the results of big-size data such as in this corpus may be difficult to avoid.
3. Regarding the frequency of node occurrence in data sources, there were differences across sub-corpora. In the archives, the greatest number of nodes occurred during 1998, with 23 out of 25 nodes at 92%, while 2008 witnessed the least number of references, with 20 at 80%. By contrast, in concordance, the highest number of nodes was 22 at 88% and occurred in 2008, and the fewest number of nodes was 19 and occurred in 2018 at 76%.
4. Concerning the occurrences of nodes in concordance of both newspapers in the INC, there were frequency variations. In the *Independent* concordance during 1998, there were 15 nodes (60%). This increased by three to 72% in 2008 but then reduced by two to 64% in 2018. On the other hand, in the *Times*, 19 nodes (76%) were found during 1998. This increased by three to 88% during 2008 and dropped by two to 80% during 2018. This means that 2008, or 2008, was when both newspapers used the greatest number of nodes to represent African issues in the INC.

5. Regarding INC periods, representation of African issues snowballed in both newspapers during 2008 but declined in the last period under study.
6. About semantic topics, five topics were identified when nodes were grouped semantically. The category with the highest mention was Core Words, followed by Ethnic Classification. The third topic was National Demographics and then Demonyms. It was remarked that Descriptive Demographics were rarely mentioned. It was missing in the *Independent* during 1998, while the *Times* referred (occasionally) to it throughout the periods under study.
7. When discussing topics' prevalences, frequencies varied across sub-corpora, but three main patterns emerged. Firstly, both newspapers' most frequent topics representing African issues used Core Word references. This was quantitatively important because it identified **Africa** and **Africans** and linguistically provided referential information that discourses were about the continent of and people of African descent. Secondly, both newspapers mentioned Demonyms as the fourth most frequent topic of representation. This was also important because it provided contextual information on how Africans were identified in the corpus (e.g. in migration trends and nature of portrayal). Finally, both newspapers rarely mention Descriptive Demographics.
8. Regarding individual rankings and frequencies of other semantic categories, National Demographics was the second most important topic to represent Africans in the *Independent*. At the same time, Ethnic Classification was the third most referenced topic. However, in the *Times*,

the second most frequent topic contained words of Ethnic Classification and was 1.8 times more than in the *Independent*. References denoting National Demographics came third and occurred one time more frequently than in the *Independent*. What is most remarkable about these figures is that when the qualitative values of the semantic categories were established, the most prevalent topics referenced ethnic utterances, suggesting implicit 'othering' strategies concerning Africa. This was almost two times more in the *Times* than in the *Independent* and more than any other category. There was a clear use of somatisation strategy through the occurrence of the linguistic means racionyms. The use of attribute – racial label such as 'black' is a feature of skin colour – "which of course is not black" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.64), a visible deviation of a specific group of people and can have an intensifying and polarising function, as well as discriminatory implications (Hall *et al.* 2021). This was a surprising result given the incriminating predication involved.

The previous section assessed the integrity of the data, generated accurate and reliable data and ensured that the conclusions drawn from addressing the research questions were credible. Semantic categorisations from nodes were also analysed among sub-corpora. The interplay between corpus compilation, analytical techniques, and theoretical frameworks led to the development of a robust model that triangulates the two methodologies in this thesis, as shown in the section below.

5.7 INC Model of Triangulating DHA and CL

Three main CDA approaches to synergise CL and CDA methods are *social actor theory* (van Leeuwen 2008), the *dialectical-relational approach* (Fairclough 2003) and the *discourse-historical approach* (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) because they help to advance the social and political commitments of CDA (Nartey & Nwinlaaru 2019). The most relevant to this thesis is the DHA approach (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) supported by van Leeuwen (2008). As already stated, this thesis is modelled by Baker *et al.* (2008). This approach focuses on a corpus-driven approach to CDA, statistics of collocates, and frequency analysis, which attempt to bridge the 'fuzziness' gap and complete the synergy in this thesis.

The triangulation of methods in this thesis was simultaneous. One analyst operated as a CL and CDA researcher, concurrently using qualitative and quantitative methods on the same data. Simultaneously, it documented all steps involved in the study, including studying linguistic patterns in the INC. In 2008, Baker and his colleagues separated the corpus into ten annual sub-corpora in terms of type of newspaper and year of population. This thesis separated data into eight sub-corpora and one main corpus (shown in 4.2.4). The starting point was quantitative with a corpus that provided "a general pattern map" (Baker *et al.* 2008, p.295), while DHA strategies examined the evidence. This was important because the findings complemented each other in the end. The core of this synergy included research questions, aims, text selection, methods, and analysis of results. Considering all this, Figure 5.10 below is a complementary

methodological triangulation of methods referred to as the *Collaboration Model*, which this thesis proposes to investigate the discourses of Africans in the INC.

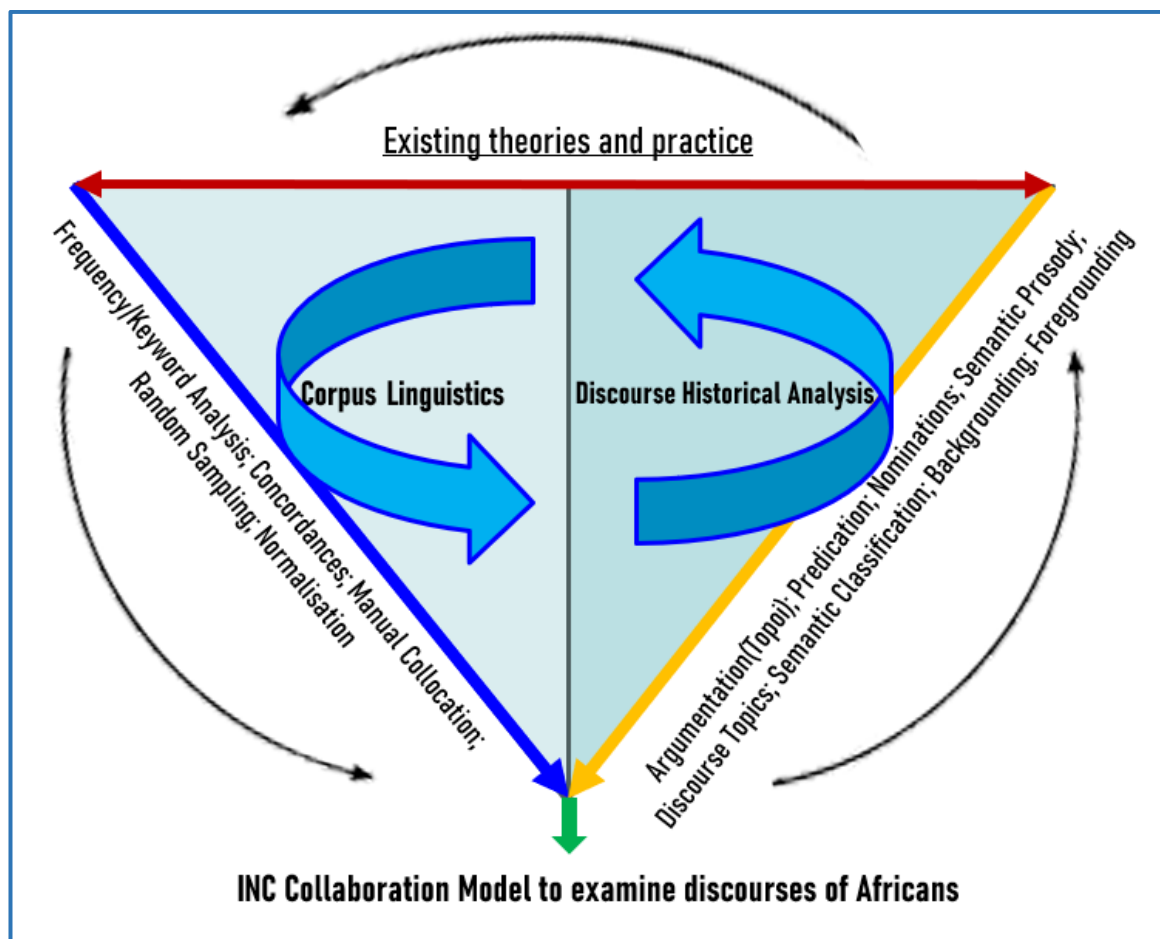


Figure 5. 10. Collaboration Model to investigate discourses of African issues in the INC

Figure 5.10 highlights the main tools employed in the INC to study data and integrate methods based on existing literature and practice. The main CL techniques in this analysis used the computer software *SkE* to explore wordlists, frequency analysis, concordances/keywords in context (KWIC), random

samplings, manual collocations, and normalisation. The main CDA techniques used tools from DHA, namely, argumentation (topoi and prosody), referential (nomination), predication, semantic prosody, semantic classifications, discourse topics, and backgrounding and foregrounding techniques. Chapters Four and Five of this thesis explained the meanings and operationalised these concepts. To provide a detailed illustration of this model, Figure 5.11 below shows (1) an interaction of these techniques across frameworks, (2) how the findings complemented both approaches and (3), in general, how a collaboration of methods assisted the study of the discourse of African issues in the INC.

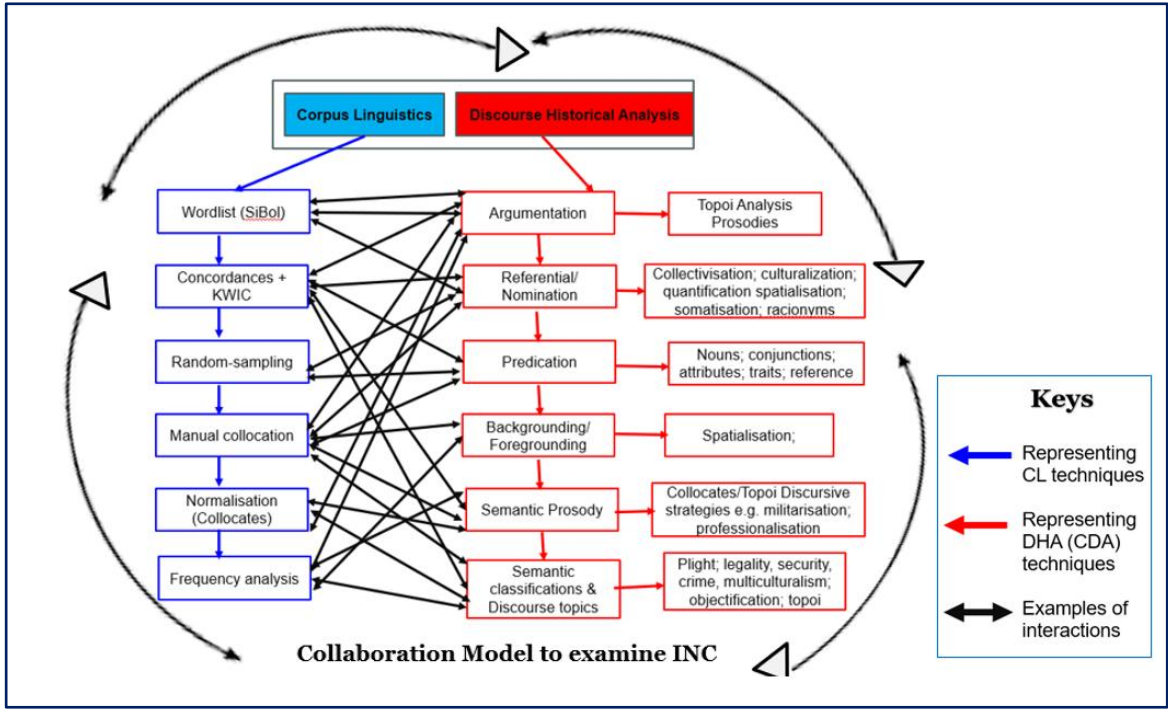


Figure 5. 11. Interaction of triangulated techniques to investigate discourses of African issues in the INC

In Figure 5.11 above, *SkE* was instrumental in investigating the 3.9-million-word corpus. The wordlist technique is shown in Chapter Seven and assisted keyword analysis, where the most frequent words were analysed as the most salient words. These prominent words were grouped by their semantic classifications. Five categories emerged, which made further examination of quantitative analysis of discourse topics in DHA possible. The concordance tool allowed random samples on the corpus where the investigation of keywords and search words unearthed discursiveness in discourse. Quantitative data added to the validity of findings and facilitated diachronic comparison. Manual collocation analysis from *SkE* revealed the most prominent collocates. The collocates were subjected to several levels of analysis throughout and formed the basis of the study of semantic prosody, from which conclusive evidence was drawn on ideology at two points. The results were valid and reliable, and the approach was replicable; simultaneously, it showed the benefits of a collaborative approach that used diverse methods from CL and CDA to study discourses. The next sections explain the different triangulations that occurred in this thesis.

5.7.1 Triangulation of CL and CDA at Wordlists' Comparison

An example of the synergy between techniques in CL and CDA in this thesis was obvious in that, after the text selection and corpus compilation, wordlists (collection of words and their frequencies of occurrence in data) were obtained for all sub-corpora, and a keyword analysis was performed. The INC wordlist was compared to SiBol. Due to the size and genre of this corpus, SiBol was the most suitable reference corpus for keyword analysis. Comparing corpora highlighted

salient phenomena and potential sites of interest - lexical items that warranted further examination (Baker 2006). The phenomena fostered the study of discourses, topoi, and strategies in the INC.

5.7.2 Triangulation of CL and CDA to Examine Semantic Prosody

As shown earlier in Chapter Four, in the DHA's two-level analysis procedure, the first step is an entry-level, which involves the lexical item(s) and their discourse topics. The study of topics is important because although topics or semantic macrostructures lack all details, they provide a "global idea of the meaning of a larger corpus" (van Dijk 2018, p.234). This step made it methodologically possible to analyse the semantic prosodies of words (collocates) from the large corpus used in this thesis. The second level of the DHA analysis procedure is an in-depth level that includes the following: discursive strategy, topoi, or argumentation, and finally, the prosody of the argumentation. As stated throughout this thesis, one study that is well known for synergising CL and DHA approach to CDA to study the positive 'self' or negative 'other' presentation is Baker *et al.* (2008). The process uses a qualitative DHA approach to study linguistic indicators for manifesting discourse strategies and argumentation. In this thesis, SP examined the most prevalent collocates to discern ideology across sub-corpora over time in the INC. An example of this triangulation occurred with keyword analysis in Chapter Four, which signalled *republic* as a salient word about African issues. A study showed strategies of positive and negative other presentations, and a decision revealed the prosody of *republic* across the sub-

corpora. Each prosody occurrence was combined, forming the frequency of negative/positive prosody occurrence in the INC.

5.7.3 Triangulation of CL and CDA in Normalisation

One benefit of normalisation in this study is that it helped to synergise methods commonly used in CL and CDA. Whereby CL analysis was conducted with the help of *SkE* to design, compile, and complete investigations such as frequency data. This is quantitative and deals with a word frequency list that indexes all words that appear in a corpus and the number of times each word occurs. For example, the wordlist of the main INC corpus revealed that the most unique word was the conjunction, *and* which occurred 102,842 times. The high mention was unsurprising as the conjunction *and* is the fifth most frequent word in SiBol, suggesting that it is an important word in English grammar and that its frequent use was expected. Although this study focused on content words, identifying this lexical item *and* in the dataset was surprising and made it worthwhile to probe. It was anticipated that *and* would co-occur grammatically, for example by joining two *Independent* clauses and frequently using neutral words and semantic prosody. Also, *and* is typical for purposes including causal, additive, and temporal (Katebi 2012), but in this thesis *and* co-occurred substantially frequently with negative words and suggested some form of discursiveness. Additionally, *and* occurrence varied significantly in amounts across the INC datasets. This indicated some form of inferential discourse relationship in co-text. This occurrence in these datasets necessitated further investigation using DHA's guidelines. The next four top words in the INC were *we* and occurred 14,930

times; *they* occurred 14,240 times; *you* occurred 12,048 times, while *their* occurred 11,716 times. As shown in the case study of *and* when its frequency of occurrence was normalised between two sub-corpora in the previous chapter, it was clear that normalisation was a valuable technique to evaluate quantitative changes in language. Furthermore, it simplified the process of statistics analysis, which was to group collocates by their semantic relationships to form linguistics categories, inform discourse topics in DHA, and record the frequencies of occurrences ready for topoi analysis.

5.7.4 Triangulation of Keywords through Manual Collocation

Another aspect of synergy between CL and CDA methods used in this thesis was the occurrences of search words or nodes in concordance. A list of all the words that appeared in the three-word window to the left and right of each node under study was extracted per sub-corpus. The lists of collocates identified in this process were examined using the three chosen DHA discursive strategies discussed in Chapter Four. This illustrated how Irish newspapers named, attributed, and justified Africans in news articles (see 4.3.2.2 for operationalisation).

5.7.5 Triangulation of CL and CDA at Discourse Topics and Semantic Classification Levels

An example of the synergy between CL and DHA was shown in the case of *tour* in the previous chapter. In the example, CL tools obtained key collocates and frequencies of occurrences in the INC. The individual collocates were assigned to

semantic classes, which helped the argumentation theory. This uncovered 20 discourse topics in the INC that assisted the process of topoi analysis. This ties in with the 'reservoirs' idea of Richardson (2004) that in addition to topoi being the "... content-related warrants which connect the argument(s) with the conclusion, the claim" (Wodak 2006, p.74), they "justify the transition from the argument to the conclusion" (Kienpointner 1992, p.194). This thesis observed that "topoi are not always expressed explicitly but can always be made explicit as conditional" (Wodak 2017, p.102), and in this light, the explicit content-related warrants in the environment of *tour* as KWIC identified it to be Topos of Sports. Nevertheless, this topos is not found in the list of the (most) common topoi when writing for and against discrimination (Kienpointner 1996; Wodak 2001; Richardson 2008). The identification of this topos in INC agrees with Wodak (2006) that her suggested list is incomplete and makes it possible to add new topoi.

It is also worth mentioning that the list of topoi by Wodak (2006) has been criticised for consisting of only definitions with no detailed reconstruction of arguments from quoted fragments and conclusions (Žagar 2010). To make his point, Žagar calls for a minimal "syllogistic or enthymematic structure of the following type" (p.11) in the example of the analysis of the problem of European Union (EU) enlargement as discussed among Members of the European Parliament (Wodak 2009). For the Topos of Finance, Žagar (2010) proposes the following:

Argument: *EU enlargement costs too much money*

Conclusion: *EU enlargement should be stopped or slowed down...* (Žagar 2010 p.11)

In the reconstruction of topos connecting the argument with the conclusion above, Žagar (2010) illustrates that the topos cannot be understood without context because each topos can have two converse forms. To solve this shortcoming, he argues that when defining the Topos of Finance, for example, rather than have the phrase structured as "if a specific situation or action costs too much money ... one should perform actions that diminish the costs or help avoid the loss" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.78) it should include, "depending on the context, and/or on what we want to prove or disprove" (Žagar 2010, p.11).

One cannot overlook the benefit of Žagar 2010's explicit illustration. However, he fails to note that Reisigl and Wodak (2001) argue that discourse analysts should "always keep in mind that the lines between more or less plausible argumentation and fallacies cannot be drawn clearly in any case" (p.75). This is the idea that topoi are not just drawn based on definitions but also studied from contexts. For this reason, this thesis considered it important to study the immediate language of the writer and the broader historical and socio-political contexts with the help of a corpus to show the major discursive strategies employed. For clarification, Table 5.1. below contains several common topoi in social exclusion and discrimination discourses (Baker *et al.* 2008; Reisigl & Wodak 2001; Richardson 2008; Wodak 2006) that were identified in the INC. Using the methodological two-level qualitative approach to the analysis of INC, the focus was on arguments and topoi that were employed in representing the wildcard **African***. The results indicated

the discursive strategies and types of topoi or arguments used and prosodies. It was clear from the results that the Topos of Danger and Threat was prevalent in both newspapers to represent African issues and that the most frequent prosody or argumentation was negative or unfavourable.

Table 5. 7. Variety of topoi in the analysis of Africa* in the INC

Source	Description	Examples
<i>Independent 1998</i>	Topos of humanitarianism	"In Uganda, the first African country to be ravaged by AIDS in the Eighties, infections among pregnant women have fallen from 30pc to 10pc."
<i>Independent 1998</i>	Topos of danger and threat Topos of burden	"in mandrax, which has the chemical name methaqualone, has led to vicious turf wars and left thousands of members of the black and coloured populations with crippling drug dependencies."
<i>Independent 2008</i>	Topos of military	"...if a government chooses to maintain one of Africa's largest military forces and embark on a long-term occupation of its neighbour..."
<i>Independent 2008</i>	Topos of illegal migration	"Now, 16 months after being deported to Africa, Olivia Agbonlahor's little boy is virtually a prisoner in his own home."
<i>Independent 2018</i>	Topos of employment Topos of usefulness/advantage	"... could create up to 10 million jobs in Africa in the next five years"
<i>Independent 2018</i>	Topos of danger and threat Topos of humanitarianism	"... an end to conflict in Africa "where millions of people are refugees, or displaced or in need of humanitarian assistance and food security
<i>Times 1998</i>	Topoi of uselessness, disadvantage	"Just in case we had forgotten about these - mainly African and East European - immigrant prostitutes, two things happened last week to remind us."
<i>Times 1998</i>	Topos of danger and threat	"...concern about an Italy moving towards a new multi-ethnic society in the wake of the waves of east European, Asian, and African illegal immigrants whose clandestine arrival makes daily news headlines; 48.3 per cent of Italians said they feared."
<i>Times 2008</i>	Topos of danger and threat	Congo after bombarding the rebels' camps in a new push to end one of Africa's longest-running conflicts.
<i>Times 2008</i>	Topos of burden	"Call for \$72bn in aid for Africa UN:AFRICAN COUNTRIES are lagging behind targets to dramatically reduce global poverty by 2015."
<i>Times 2018</i>	Topos of burden	"The mother, a native of an African country, is an Irish citizen and her disabled son has Irish residency"
<i>Times 2018</i>	Topos of multiculturalism Topos of numbers	"...Citizenship ceremony in Dublin sees 480 new Irish take oath..."

5.8 Concluding summary

This chapter provided an overview of studies that have combined methods in both corpus linguistics (CL) and critical discourse analysis to conduct CDA. It effectively addressed data rigour by examining data accuracy from newspapers' archives and concordance data. This determined the quantitative importance of findings, established reliable, accurate and objective conclusions, and enhanced the portrayal of complex information and data through visualisations. Conducting a thorough data quality analysis found an unexplained anomaly, although the validity and reliability of the results were unaffected. This was possible because several techniques and tools from CL and CDA were recursively and rigorously employed to analyse the data. Also, this chapter focused on the discourse historical analysis as the theoretical approach to CDA. It used techniques in CL to reveal intertextuality and interdiscursivity across three periods in the INC. It uncovered evidence of representation strategies of the 'in'/'outgroups' identified with DHA discourse strategies. Concordance analysis and manual collocations used in this thesis avoided the issue of cherry-picking data for analysis. They pinpointed important patterns and keyword contributions that would otherwise not have been seen with automated collocation enquiries. This study's quantitative findings of linguistic features provided an empirical basis for discourse strategies, topics, patterns, and co-occurrences evident in a large corpus (O'Keeffe *et al.* 2007). Also, using manual techniques and automated random samples to analyse and compare language features (Stubbs 1997) in the INC signified the benefits of integrating CL and CDA in DHA (Cheng 2013). The triangulation of frameworks to study the INC attempted to fill the gap of studies

conducted about African issues in Africa and outside Africa. Self-designing a collaborative synergy model to analyse the INC contributed to the rapidly expanding field of methodological synergy to analyse discourses in CDA effectively. More importantly, the methodological synergy performed by a single analyst in this thesis agreed that findings from both approaches complemented each other.

Chapter 6: Results and Discussion 1

6.1 Introduction

In Chapter Three of this thesis, a review of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks positioned this thesis within the Discourse Historical Approach (Wodak 2001) as the most prominent and suitable critical approach in discourses of 'self'-and-'other' presentation. Synergising techniques from corpus linguistics (CL) and critical discourse analysis (CDA), this chapter discusses the findings of the following question: How did Africans' representation frequency compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods in 30 years? Like the second research question in this thesis, this question uses the quantitative results from representation frequencies seen in 5.4 and employs several CL and CDA techniques. In terms of CL, it investigates the frequencies of occurrences of nodes in sub-corpora. This establishes the newspaper and the period that produced the most coverage of African issues in the INC and identifies semantic classifications of nodes. Projecting these stages continues to evaluate the data validity, reliability, and accuracy of the INC. An extended corpus starting point is included in the discussion section of this chapter, commencing with a keyness analysis. This underscores the methodological synergy emphasised in the previous chapter.

6.2 Representation Analysis of INC

This section answers the main quantitative question of this paper. In this thesis, the corpus was broken down into sub-corpora (see Table 4.2). Studying the

representation of African issues in the sub-corpora ensured that specific topics, patterns, and contexts of issues were portrayed. It also provided a lens through which specialised language and strategies in sub-corpora were identified while uncovering hidden patterns that may not have been apparent in the broader corpus. This quantitative analysis measures representation in terms of two categories: the number of articles and tokens - collectively referred to as the units of analysis (UA) that reported on Africans during 1998, 2008 and 2018. (A collocation analysis examines the qualitative aspect of representation). This type of systemic coding relates to the notion of annotation by Cock *et al.* (2024), where a systematic database combines examples and analytical categories to observe potential representation trends and patterns. The results were counted and expressed in percentages and the number of times to ease comparison across sub-corpora.

6.2.1 Research Question 1: How did the Frequency of Representation of Africans Compare in Irish newspapers during selected periods in 30 years?

In considering this question, three sub-questions emerged that provided additional meaningful information. These emphasised the issue of diachronic phenomena within the corpora. This was observed across different periods within individual newspapers and when data from both newspapers were combined. The first sub-question explored the representation of African issues in the sub-corpora and sought to answer the question (1) What was the frequency of representation of Africans in the sub-corpora of individual newspapers? The

second sub-question examined which period had the most coverage of African issues and aimed to answer the following question (2) What was the frequency of representation of Africans across different periods in the INC? The third sub-question investigated the overall representation based on combined data from each newspaper by posing the question (3) How did the overall combined frequencies of representation compare between the two newspapers during selected periods across 30 years? The subsequent paragraphs aim to answer the first sub-question: What was the frequency of representation of Africans in the sub-corpora of individual newspapers? It begins with statistics on diachronic representation in the *Independent*.

Diachronic Representation of Africans in the *Independent*

The *Independent* newspaper's highest frequency of representation of African issues was 19% in 2008. The results of the three periods are illustrated below in Figure 6.1.

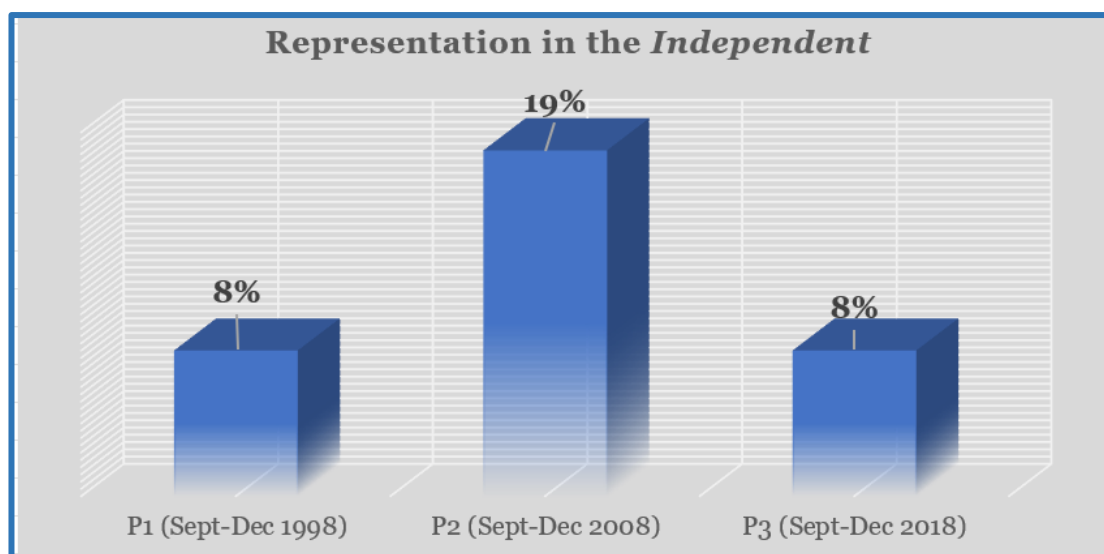


Figure 6. 1. Representation of African issues in the *Independent* across sub-corpora

Figure 6.1 shows that the highest representation of African issues occurred in the *Independent* during 2008. It recorded 2.4 times more coverage than 1998 and 2018, which recorded 8%. This means that the periods with the fewest representation of African issues in the *Independent* occurred during 1998 and 2018. These results suggest a degree of instability in the attention paid to African issues in the *Independent*, marked by a sharp rise and a decline.

Diachronic Representation of Africans in the Times

The *Times* newspaper's highest representation of Africans was 65%, which occurred in 2018, while 1998 witnessed the lowest representation, as illustrated below in Figure 6.2.

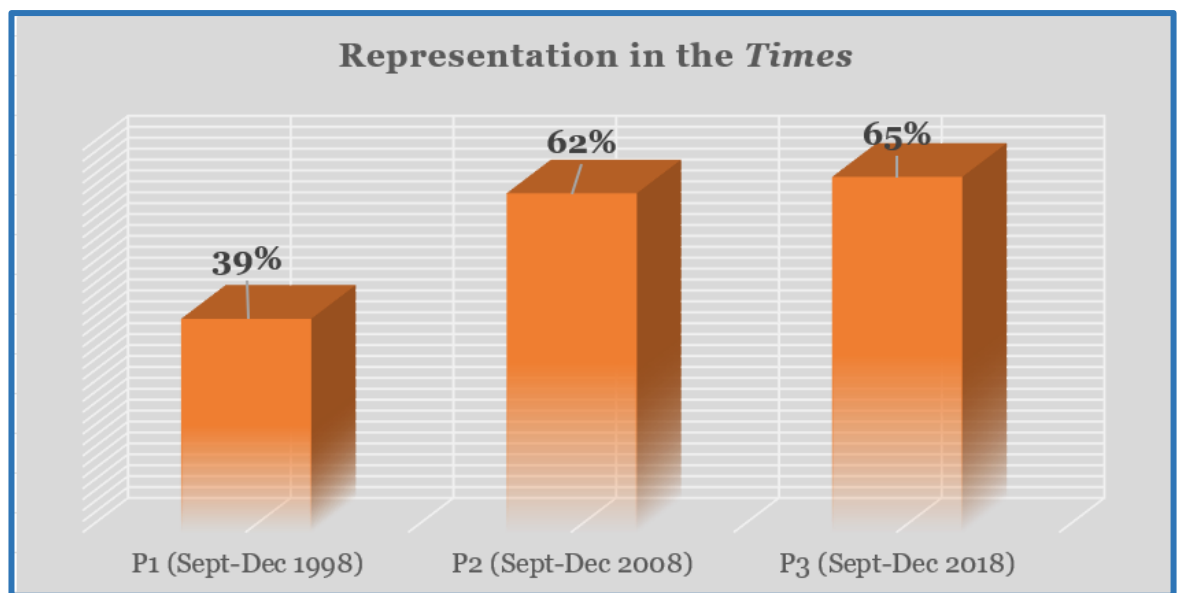


Figure 6. 2. Representation of African issues in the Times in three periods in the INC

The pattern in the above results illustrates that across the three periods under study, there was steady growth in African representation in the *Times*. At 65% during 2018, coverage of African issues was 1.1 times more than in 2008, at 62%, and 1.7 times more than in 1998, at 39%.

Diachronic Comparison of Representation in Both Newspapers

Figure 6.3 illustrates the representation frequency between both newspapers and the three periods under study.

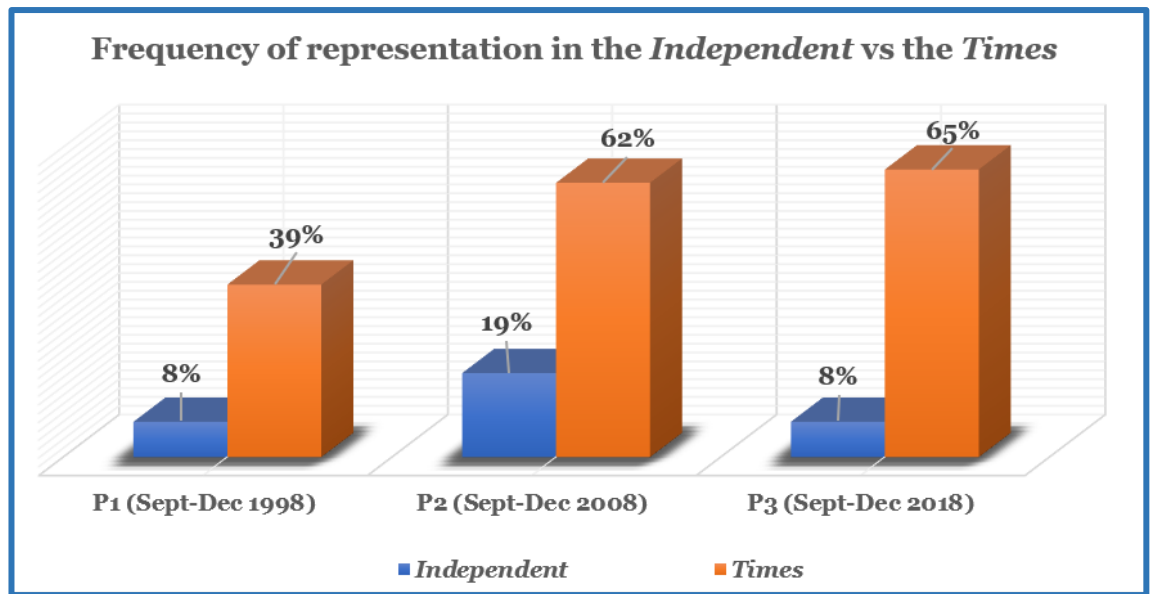


Figure 6. 3. The frequency of representation of African issues is compared in the *Independent* and the *Times*.

In Figure 6.3, four results were found. They were:

1. The *Times* frequently represented Africans more than the *Independent* in all periods under study. In 1998, it was 4.9 times more; in 2008, it was 3.3 times more, and in 2018, it was 8.1 times more than the *Independent*.
2. 1998 and 2018 recorded the fewest mentions of African issues in the *Independent*.
3. 2008 witnessed the highest mention of African issues in both newspapers. The percentage of the greatest record was 65% in the *Times* and 19% in the *Independent*. This means the *Times* covered 3.4 times more African issues than the *Independent* during this period.

4. The percentage of the least coverage was 39% in the *Times* and 8% in the *Independent*. This means that the *Independent* published 4.9 times fewer articles about Africans than the *Times*.

Proportionally across individual periods, the newspaper with the highest increase in the representation of Africa/African* was the *Independent*. The highest representation of African issues in the *Independent* was 2.4 times more during 2008 than in 1998 and 2018, which were the periods with the least coverage. On the other hand, the highest increase in the frequency of representation in the *Times* was 1.7 times more than in 1998, the period with the fewest coverage of African issues. This was almost 0.7 times increase in representation by the *Independent*.

Summary of Results of Sub-question 1

Three main points could be made from the quantitative evidence about representation in individual newspapers. Firstly, the peak and lowest periods of representation varied in both newspapers. In the *Independent* (see Figure 6.10), the highest representation occurred during 2008, while 1998 and 2018 were the periods with the least mention. Meanwhile, in the *Times* (see Figure 6.11), the period with the highest representation of African issues was during 2018, and the period with the fewest representation was 1998, making 1998 the period with the least representation of African issues in both newspapers.

This result can be well justified given that immigration (of Africans) to Ireland was limited in the 1990s and dominated by outward migration (Éinri & White

2008). This means it is difficult to clarify trends of African migration to Ireland before the late 1990s. As a result, the analysis of this period will focus mainly on quantitative evidence of migration trends from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and research from outside Ireland, particularly the UK.

The second piece of evidence presented is that the *Times* paid more attention to African issues across all studied periods than the *Independent*. In ranking order, the *Times* represented Africans 8.1 times more than the *Independent* in 2018, then 4.9 times in 1998 and 3.3 times in 2008. However, the result was different when the frequency of occurrence value was obtained across individual periods. It was found that the newspaper that most increased its coverage of African issues was the *Independent*. At a rate of 0.7 times, the *Independent* frequently increased their mention of African issues more than the *Times*. This was an unsurprising result given this study's socio-political and cultural contexts. For example, the *Independent* has a right-centre bias ideology with a factual reporting rating of 'Mostly Factual' compared to a High score in the *Times* (Media Bias/Fact Check 2023). This means that although reporting in the *Independent* is mostly accurate, they use far more biased sources, misleading wording and uncorrected fact checks than the *Times*. Including these types of content can increase news articles' coverage frequency and word counts. It would be striking to see if the qualitative analysis confirms or contradicts this view.

Thirdly and finally, the pattern of representation in the three periods illustrated that while the *Independent* recorded instability in the frequency of African representation, whereby there was a sharp rise and then a decline, the *Times* had

a steady growth, whereby representation increased as the period increased. It could be argued that key global issues and contexts, such as the election of the first African American president to the White House in 2008, spiked interest in exploring how race or broader issues about Africans were reported in the news. However, while the *Times* increased coverage after 2008, the *Independent* reduced coverage.

The above section presents the representation frequencies in individual newspapers and compares representations between both newspapers. The next sub-section compares the combined representation frequency across the three periods in this study.

6.2.2 What was the frequency of representation across different periods in the INC?

This question contains the results of the frequency of representation across different periods in the INC. The question tackles the period with the highest representation of African issues in the INC. As shown above and from corpus information in Chapter Four, 2008 registered the most representation of African issues in the INC. The results in this section provide statistics on the INC's representation of African issues per period. The diachronic change in the data is seen in Figure 6.4 below.

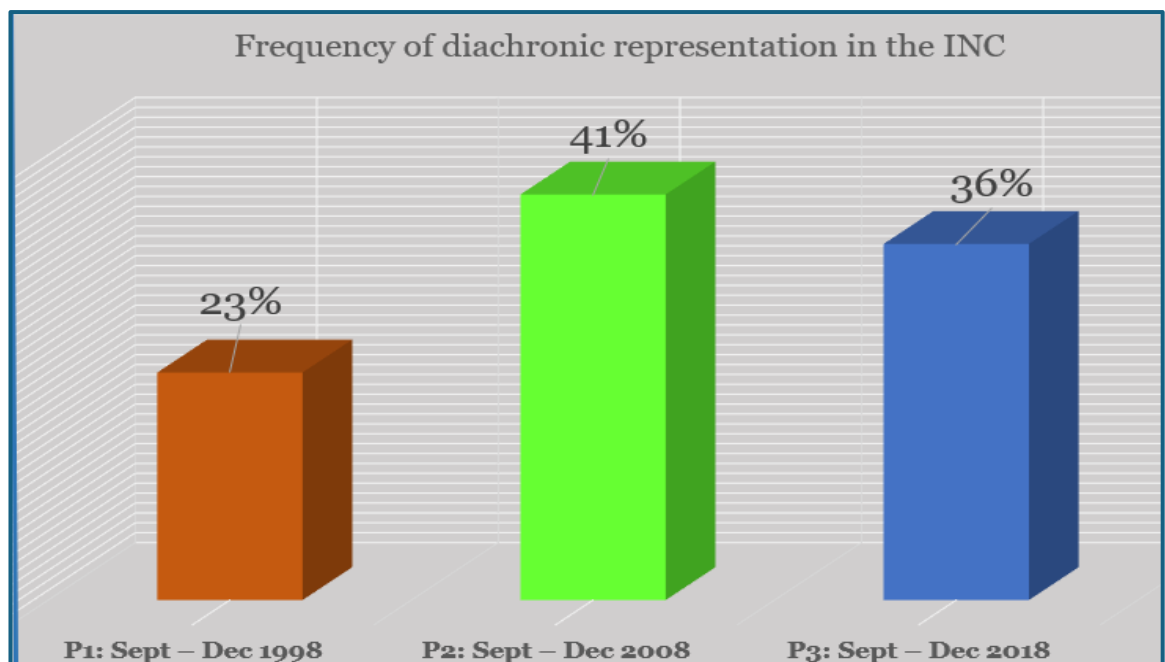


Figure 6. 4. Frequency of representation of African issues across three periods in the INC

It can be seen in Figure 6.4 that the frequency of representation in the INC fluctuated across the three periods under study. 2008 witnessed the highest representation of African issues in the INC. In ranking order and at 41%, the representation in 2008 was 1.1 times more than in 2018 and 1.8 times more than in 1998. This identified 1998 as the period with the least coverage of African issues in the INC over selected periods in 30 years. Along with the above evidence, several observations were drawn that are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, considering that accurate data is pivotal in empirical studies, it was significant that the evidence observed in the evaluation stages of this chapter corroborated with these current results. As illustrated in the frequency of articles

in Figure 6.1 and frequency of representation per newspaper in Figure 6.13 above, there was growth in the coverage of African issues from 1998 to 2008 and then a decline. In this analysis, African issues' representation jumped by 1.8 times from 1998 to 2008 before a drop of 1.1 times in 2018. This indicated that 1998 witnessed the fewest coverage of African issues in the INC over selected periods in 30 years. These results are like those found in the examination of data quality in section 6.2 above. The confirmation increased the validity of this thesis's findings and replication scope in building empirical rigour.

Secondly, and regarding the fluctuation of the frequencies of representation of African issues in the INC, it could be argued that matters relating to Africa/African* attracted attention only at certain periods. Previous literature has indicated this to be the case. For example, in a 2018 study, Eberl *et al.* contended that real-world events, such as elections and terroristic attacks, can increase media coverage of immigration-related issues and influence public opinion in both the short—and long-term. Also, Fitzgerald (2014) suggests that the collapse of the domestic financial system in 2008 emphasised various social problems. NASC (2012) supports this view and reports that this period witnessed an increase in racism and discrimination towards ethnic minorities. This may account for increased coverage of African-related issues in the INC during 2008. It was also remarkable that the overall peak of representation of African issues in the INC matched the peak of coverage of African issues during 2008 in the *Independent*, accentuating the fact that media attention of migrant groups is based on factors such as country origin, ethnicity, religion, or legal status and that media political leanings can strongly shape immigration media discourses in

Europe (Eberl *et al.* 2018). This was a significant contrast from the trend of representation in the *Times*, which witnessed increasing attention as the years passed. It could be explained by the claim that liberal media is neutral on information and focuses more on humanitarian issues (Grieves, Rothenberger & Schmitt 2022; Rothenberger & Schmitt 2024). As such, the *Times* adopted this approach even without major socio-political events like those mentioned above during 2008.

Summary of Results of Sub-question 2:

The evidence found that 2008 was the peak of African representation in the INC. This was the turning point in the diachronic and historical contexts where Africans were represented in this study. Meanwhile, 1998 recorded the weakest representation. The pattern of representation indicated a rise from 1998 to 2008 and then a decline in 2018.

6.2.3 How did the overall combined frequencies of representation compare between the two newspapers during selected periods across 30 years?

This compares the overall combined frequencies of representation in both newspapers across selected periods in 30 years. It attempts to answer the question: What was the overall representation of the combined data in each newspaper? The answer establishes which newspaper provided greater coverage of topics relating to Africa and Africans. As with all other analyses, the evidence contained in this section is based on data from the corpus breakdown in Chapter

Four. Table 4.1 above shows that when the token and article sizes were combined for all periods per newspaper, the *Independent* recorded 17% coverage of African issues while the *Times* recorded 83%. An illustration best captures this.

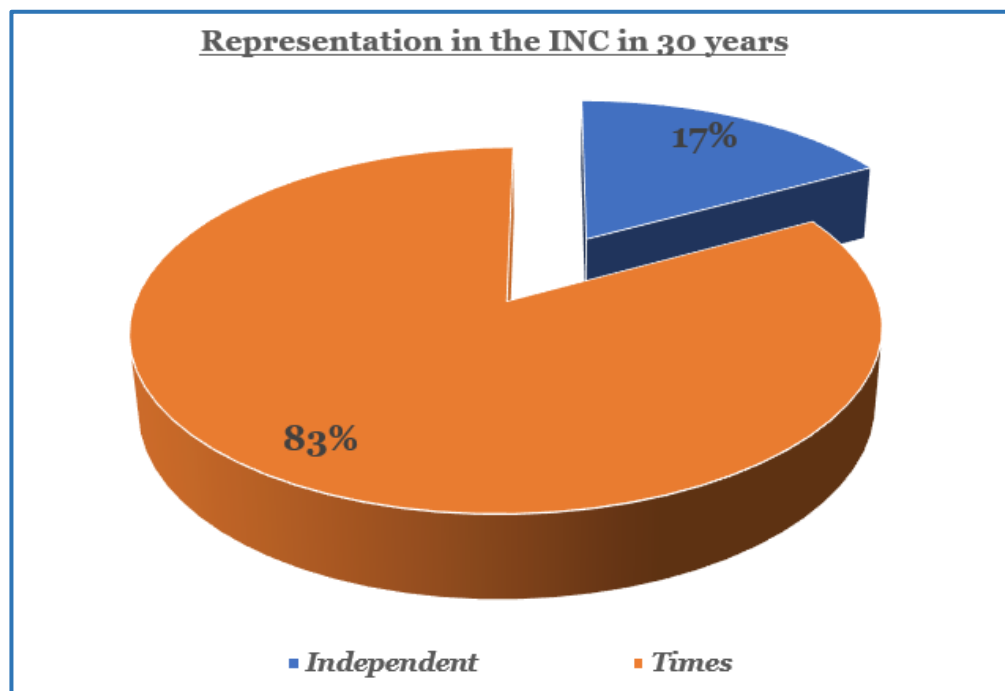


Figure 6.5. The total amount of representation of African issues compared between both newspapers in the INC

The pie chart results above show that the *Times* covered 4.9 times more stories about Africans than the *Independent* during selected periods in 30 years in Ireland. Before proceeding to the qualitative questions in this study, where some of these findings are analysed in detail, the next section will collate the results of

the three sub-questions that answered this study's main quantitative research question.

The INC and Methodological Synergy

The second aspect of this discussion section engages with data from a corpus linguistics perspective, as outlined in Chapter 5. This begins with a keyness comparison. The initial results comprised 50 key terms identified through a quantitative keyword analysis of the corpus (see 7.2.1), examined for 'self' and 'other' presentation. This dimension of the analysis revealed highly frequent words aligning with the INC. Subsequently, an evaluation of keywords based on DHA strategies identified ideological and attributive language towards Africans.

Results of Quantitative Presentation of Keywords in the INC

A keyness analysis, using the linguistic analytical tool Sketch Engine (see 1.6 for more on *SkE*), compared unique terms in the INC with the reference corpus, SiBol (see Chapter Four for details). The cut-off point was set at the top 50 keywords by frequency counts in the INC. These specific, context-dependent linguistic realisations were analysed, using the DHA strategies studied in this thesis. The results identified evidence of the linguistic resources by which ethnicist and racist practices towards African issues occurred in the INC textual data. Based on their relative frequencies, the 50 unique terms that appeared frequently in the INC are shown in Table 6.1 below. Appendix 11 provides a sample of a keyword list. It gives details (frequencies, rank and scores) of the top 50 significantly higher words in the INC compared to SiBol (the reference corpus)

Table 6. 1. Breakdown of the top 50 keywords list in the INC

Types of words	Word classes	Examples from top 50 keywords in the INC (SiBol as reference)
Content words (lexical)	Nouns	<i>irish, africa, africans, south, european, president, world, country, man, people, life, women, work, home, house, family, national, being, children, group, state, government</i>
	Adjectives	<i>black, white, good, own, best, former, new, left, young</i>
	Verbs	<i>play, win, set</i>
Function words (grammatical)	Pronouns	<i>us, we, other, their, they, those, them, her, you, these</i>
	Prepositions	<i>against</i>
	Determiner	<i>many, our, more</i>
	Conjunctions	<i>and</i>
Number	Number	<i>million</i>

The first observations without the co-texts of the top 50 keywords in Table 6.1 suggested ideological discourses and communicated processes and actions. The lexical items were mostly nouns, adjectives, and pronouns. This was significant information because referential and predication strategies mostly use attributes in these forms (Reisigl & Wodak 2001) and for racial identifiers (Krishnamurthy 1996). This suited this discourse. However, there were other important occurrences in prepositions, determiners, numbers, and conjunctions. This indicated ideological meanings in backgrounding, foregrounding, or emphasising the in/outgroups. For example, the frequent occurrence of the word *millions* could suggest that Africans were discussed in terms of what they cost the 'ingroup'. The term **irish** (occurring 6,793 times) was more prevalent than **africa** (3,456 times), **africans** (1,748 times) or **blacks** (3,443). This might suggest ideological differences (preference) for the Irish in discourses about

African issues. There were also frequent occurrences of words such as *black* and *white*, which may suggest discriminatory, intentional or ideological discourses. The frequent expressions of *women, children, man, people, life, being, family, house, home, and group* may point to writers' beliefs/attitudes about humanitarian issues, human rights, and safety concerning African issues. Despite these observations, the evaluation of the context of occurrences of these keywords was conducted with a referential analysis to ensure thoroughness and precision.

For the referential analysis, 30 concordances were examined per phenomenon, as seen in Figures 7.1 and 7.3 in this chapter. The analyses were conducted on **irish** and **African**, the first and third keywords in the INC. The second most frequent keyword in sequential order in the INC was **africa**, but it was omitted because it mostly occurred as one part of the proper noun of **south africa**. This is a distinct entity in Africa. Examining **africa** within this context would have skewed the results of this analysis, as it specifically distinguished the named country from other African countries. This was not the concern of this analysis.

The keyword assessment above showed that it is possible in CL to analyse the meanings of words without their immediate co-texts. However, two steps were taken to test these results for 'self' and 'other' presentations. The first step evaluated the keywords according to DHA's nomination and referential strategies to examine if the INC was involved in discriminatory discourses towards Africans. This step is the most basic form of prejudice (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). Using nomination and predication, the second step interpreted the occurrence of each keyword based on the discursive justifications of argumentation or topoi.

Afterwards, the keywords were categorised into semantic groups and assessed using the adopted framework of Reisigl & Wodak's (2001) referential and nomination strategy and van Leeuwen's classification. This method offered extensive results, shown in the next section.

Evaluation of Keywords based on DHA Taxonomies of Strategies

In Table 6.2 below, the most frequent 50 keywords in the INC were evaluated according to the linguistic systems involved in realising representation related to reference and predication strategies. In particular, the analysis focused on including social actors in terms of relational identification. This is how groups or individuals construct and negotiate their identities about others within a social context, which may serve a "disguising, relativising, or averting function (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.47). For example, in analysing speeches, interviews, opinions and public statements, Wodak & Reisigl (2001) emphasise the significance of understanding Austrian identity as a relational process that is conditional on social interactions and discursive practices. Table 6.2 examined the ideological implications of the top 50 frequent words based on relational identification mechanisms of social interactions and discursiveness. This type of DHA analysis can indicate how asymmetrical power dominance is embedded and asserted in the text through patterns, strategies, and the construction of identities. The top 50 keywords in the INC were assessed regarding relational identifications, as shown in Table 6.2 below.

Table 6. 2. Categorising keywords in terms of relational identification in DHA

Examples of realisations (tokens – keywords)	Discursive Strategies (Referential/nomination categories)	Linguistic means
<i>her, us, we, our, their, they, those, them, you, these, and, world, people, group, country, home, state, family</i>	Collectivisation	Without quantifying, social actors were referred to by means of deictics and as collectives and group entities
<i>more, many, good, best life, being million</i>	Quantification/abstract	Social actors were referenced in terms of numerals, indefinite quantifiers, abstract nouns that objectified and abstractly referenced.
<i>blacks, white</i> <i>man, women,</i> <i>young,</i>	Somatisation (Racialisation) Engendering Enageing	Somatonyms were used as racionyms to refer to social actors in terms of colour. Engendering used genderonyms to refer to gender of social actors. Social actors referred to by way of gerontonyms.
<i>win, play, set, work, left</i>	Actionalisation/ Professionalisation	Using actionyms, social actors were referenced in terms of social activities; professionyms used to identify the role of social actors in society
<i>government, president, national, former</i>	Politicisation Organisationalisation Professionalisation Nationalisation	Using government, social actors are associated to the organisation to which they belong. Using president as professionym, social actors were referred to their political profession. References also identified social actors by their political ideology and in relation to their political affiliation
<i>africa, south, new</i>	Spatialisation	Through toponyms used as personification, metonyms, social actors were referred to in terms of living in a place in which they are closely associated with.
<i>irish, africans, European</i>	De-spatialisation	Realised through de-toponymic and anthroponyms, social actors were described in terms of local orientation
<i>children, family</i>	Relationalisation/ Sociativisation	Using relationyms/sociatives, social actors were defined in terms of their relationships with others
<i>Other</i>	Explicit dissimilation	Through xenonyms, social actors were explicitly identified as part of the otherness.
<i>Against</i>	Militarisation	Social actors were identified with militarionyms to suggest fighting.
<i>Own</i>	Economisation	Through econonyms, social actors were referred to in terms of wealth or lack of wealth.

The linguistic representations found in Table 6.2 above were shaped by the contexts in which the keywords occurred. Three key categories were identified. Firstly, most keywords about African issues in the INC had referential (nomination) cues. For example, most instances referenced social actors through 'collectivisation'. This was in the form of group entities using deictics *us*, *them*, *we*, *they*, and collectives such as *group*, *family* versus *world*, and *country*. This suggested that social actors were included in discourses but were constructed as homogeneous and not (adequately) named or quantified, agreeing with Ezeru (2022). The second most prominent referential form was the quantification of social actors, for example, as **more** and **many**. Quantification repeatedly occurs in migration discourses to dehumanise and objectify social actors and oversimplify and homogenise social issues (Baker 2006; Reisigl & Wodak 2001; van Dijk 1988) when social issues and phenomena are multifaceted. The third important category was 'somatisation'. This used racionyms to reference social actors in terms of colour, for example, *black* and *white*. Other references ranked from actionalisation, politicisation, spatialisation, de-spatialisation, relationalisation, explicit dissimulation, militarisation, to economisation.

After examining the leading list of 50 keywords in relational identification strategies, a thorough representational analysis of each keyword was conducted on nomination and predication devices. Concrete examples of explicit and or implicit negative or positive traits/labels and attributions were selected from INC concordances. The linguistic means through which the strategic discourses were achieved were included alongside the key terms. This obtained a more comprehensive understanding of the intricacies and implications of the

strategies, and the 50 keywords obtained from a keyness analysis (shown in 6.2.1). Thus, it is important to determine how referents were produced and maintained and to establish the underlying meanings of language use in the INC.

The analysis started with an assessment of nomination (referential strategies) and was followed by predication strategies. Two main outcomes were identified from the study. One established the occurrences of the keywords in contexts and the patterns that emerged—the second detected two sets of keywords relating to different groups of social actors. One set contained 40 keywords that constructed the 'other', while ten referenced the 'self'. To illustrate how the keywords occurred in context, one concordance line per keyword was chosen to highlight the contextual meaning of the word. While this sample may be considered insufficient for analysis, it is essential to emphasise that it was conducted to provide inferences regarding discourse topics before a more detailed analysis. It is also important to highlight that it was impractical to study all 50 keywords and multiple concordances in this thesis due to time constraints and complexities arising from analysing too much data. However, one concordance line per each specific keyword was examined within the corpus to detect valuable patterns. This provided more manageable recurring patterns that allowed for further and deeper analysis, as shown below in section 7.2. of the more thorough investigations of **irish** and **african*** keywords. This phase examines 30 concordances per keyword. The results provided strong evidence of ideologies.

Focusing now on representational analysis, twenty-one of 40 keywords about the 'other' were selected. On the other hand, eight of 10 keywords regarding the 'self'

were selected. The analyses are illustrated below. The data is separated into two tables; one comprises keywords relating to the 'other', and the other contains keywords for the 'self'. All keywords per social actor group are listed in column one of each table. Table 6.3 below illustrates keywords and examples of concordances about the 'other'.

Table 6. 3. Representational strategies based on keywords for the 'other' in the INC

	Key terms	Referential Examples from INC concordances (R/N)	Predication Examples from INC concordances (P)
Outgroup(Other) (All 40 key terms) Africa, African, black, south, president, world, play, country, man, win, people, young, many, life, and, own, against, million, women, former, home, other, new, house, their, they, family, those, them, set, her, you, being, these, more, children, left, group, state, government	Africa	is sub-Sahara Africa	where 70pc of all new infections and 50pc of the deaths occur
	African	in Uganda, the first African	country to be ravaged by AIDS
	Black	no blacks	no dogs, blacks go home to your jungle
	South	so many south	Africans cradle a pistol on their knees to fight
	World	developing world	will never be able to afford the expensive drug
	President	President Laurent Kabila	rebels claim capture of town
	Man	a man	who allegedly helped plan the bombing
	Play	Play	as often as he'd like
	Country	That Country	was supplying arms to South African bandits
	Win	Win	such a major competition
	People	People	and injured thousands more
	Young	Young	and pregnant mistress
	Many	Many	thousands of Hutus suspected of complicity
	Life	life	imprisonment in December for the murder of ...
	And	And	Southern Africa 66pc now use condoms
	Own	enjoy their own	culture and language
	Against	struggle against missiles against	hunger, malnutrition and poverty a civilian target inside Sudan is no great surprise
	Million	Million	for its third world projects
	Women	Women	raped in such conflicts
	Former	for former	combatants in Mozambique
	New	The newest of new	Irish are a diverse mix of skin colours and native tongues

Table 6.3 above shows the strategies identified from studying the occurrences of keywords about the 'other' in concordance. As seen in Core Word categorisation in the CL strand of this thesis, **africa** occurred as a noun to reference a geographical location. Predication strategies indicated evaluative attributions that described and constructed **africa** as an 'outgroup' that is disease-ridden. For example, the predicates of dying from the noun *death* and infectious from the noun *infections* suggested that a diverse group of countries were facing a high quantitative rate of infections and high mortality rates because infections were widespread in all sub-Sahara Africa. This outcome agreed with Pennebaker *et al.* (2003)'s opinion that labels may not always be ethically neutral. Secondly, the sampled text scarcely provided additional information about countries in sub-Saharan Africa that were referenced. This emphasises the notion that Africa is a country rather than a continent with many different cultures (Blakley *et al.* 2019; Machin & Mayr, 2012; Philo, 2002; Wa'Njogu, 2009). This explains the prevalent use of the discursive tool of collectivisation in this analysis to reproduce an underlying assumption that sub-Saharan Africans are a homogeneous entity predicated on dying from high infection rates, for example. Feeding into the perceived global shared misconception that a homogeneous sub-Sahara Africa is disease-ridden - the infectious continent, Nothias (2018) and Pointer (2021) argue that this can lead to a lack of growth and development and increased dependency on Western agencies as the only way to reverse poverty, suffering, famine and disease (Poncian 2015; Michira 2002).

Added to this is the fact that historically, colonial powers exploited narratives around infectious diseases to justify their dominance over colonised people.

According to Wodak and Myer (2015), the way dominant powers frame discussions around contagious diseases, whether through media coverage, policy decisions or research publications, often attributes blame and perpetuates stereotypes towards regions suffering from endemic infectious diseases. This reinforces inequalities and marginalisation and emphasises the power relations between Africa and the West (Manzo 2006). The claim that Africa is infection-ridden cannot be effectively argued. For example, González-Alcaide *et al.* (2020) study countries in Africa with high rates of HIV and AIDS. They found that in 2018, more than half of 1.7 million new HIV infections around the world were concentrated in Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania, while 71% of new cases in Western and Central Africa were in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria. Two-thirds of new cases were in Egypt and Sudan. To further justify that not all countries in sub-Saharan Africa are infected with the disease, SOS Children's Villages (2023) states that particularly hard-hit countries with AIDS in Africa are Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. These are only ten out of 46 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. So, this view does not inherently lend itself to being a generalisation or represent a pattern applicable beyond the given number. Thus, this is not a valid and meaningful generalisation of 46 countries. In the context of how representations of perceptions, identities, and actions are manifested, examples of tropological constructions and discriminations of **africa** found in the INC are presented below:

"In Uganda, the first African country to be ravaged by AIDS"
"HIV infection rates have exploded in southern Africa after ravaging other parts of the continent"
""War, poverty, disease , debt and illiteracy still face the people of sub-Saharan Africa"
"... the world's highest rates of violent crime and an AIDS epidemic ravaging millions of South Africans"
·"But an African swine fever outbreak this year has added trade war particularly hard on the pork industries of both nations"

Irish News Corpus

One can elucidate biased traits and responsibilities ascribed to **africa** from the examples above. The use of geographical nomenclatures of diseases such as *African swine fever* can reinforce harmful stereotypes and biases against **africa**, its nations and its people. Also, the statement that *Uganda was the first African country to be ravaged by AIDS* is inaccurate and misleading. Although Uganda had a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases in the 1980s, South Africa has the highest number of HIV-positive people (González-Alcaide et al. 2020). In 2011, for example, there were 1.4 million HIV cases in Uganda, while South Africa had 5.6 million and was followed by Nigeria at 3 million cases (UNAIDS Special Report 2013). Using the term *ravaged* in this context may carry a negative connotation. It could be seen as discriminatory because it is usually associated with negative events like devastation, destruction and damage. Moreover, it should be noted that AIDS is a global health problem; thus, it is a harmful stereotype to imply that Uganda was somehow more responsible for the spread of AIDS. This analysis has indicated that failure to situate discourse within historical narratives can lead to intertextual gaps and ideological foundations.

Moving from keywords about the 'other' and their representational analysis, Table 6.4 highlights ten key terms that closely reference the 'self' or the 'ingroup'. For this analysis, eight keywords and portions of texts from INC concordances are examined. The table is followed by a review of one keyword for referential and prediction strategies.

Table 6. 4. Representational strategies based on keywords for the ‘self’ in the INC

	Key terms	Referential Examples from INC concordances (R/N)	Predication Examples from INC concordances (P)
Ingroup (self) (10 keywords) <i>european, white, us, good, we, work, best, our, national, irish</i>	<i>European</i>	european union	rewarded Nigeria's moves towards democracy
	<i>White</i>	white the White House	racism in sport a black man unknown to the headlines
	<i>Us</i>	most of us	half-believe that African is populated solely by starving babies, their emaciated mothers and a few kindly Irish
	<i>Good</i>	a good	deal more competitive than last season
	<i>We</i>	We	are funding relief and rehabilitation programmes
	<i>Work</i>	trócaire work	tirelessly and courageously in difficult and dangerous conditions,
	<i>Best</i>	the best	in the world at the moment
	<i>Our</i>	Our	fore-fathers reduced the risk of soil erosion by careful siting of hedges and ditches
	<i>National</i>	across national border	to bring about change

In Table 6.4 above, eight key terms and concordances about the 'self' were investigated. The term, **european**, was the sixth most frequently occurring keyword after **irish**, **africa**, **african**, **black** and **south**. Like the analysis of the

word **africa** above, **european** was chosen for this analysis as a matter of ranking.

In context, **european** was used as a noun to reference the economic, scientific, and political organisation of some European countries. When the term **european** was contrasted with **africa**, the evaluative attributes employed were those of a more dominant, noninfecting and enduring 'self'. The text reproduced the assumption that European engagements with Nigeria are seen through the prisms of human rights, colonisation, and democracy building. For example, during 1998 in the INC:

'THE European Union rewarded Nigeria's moves towards democracy yesterday by dropping diplomatic and sporting sanctions while keeping an arms embargo in place'.

It should be pointed out that democracy itself is not synonymous with discrimination. According to Reisigl & Wodak (2001), democracy is intended to uphold equality, participation, and human rights, which any society can embrace. However, it can sometimes be a 'flag word' for discrimination (p.55). Whereby Populists and far-right groups misuse it and serve it as a red herring for discrimination. The text identified **european** as a dominant and powerful group and defender and protector of democratic values, structures and systems, which Nigeria is not. This bears the likeness of stigmatisation, where the 'self' reinforces and maintains power and authority on the one hand, while on the other hand, disenfranchises the 'other' using 'reward' power to incentivise certain actions such as transforming their stigmatised status to those of dominant ways. The idea of rewarding the named social actor can project practices of imperialism for

colonial domination because the focus is not so much on African government accountability to African citizens; rather, it is on 'rewarding Nigeria' towards democracy. This shows that the enduring legacy of colonialism persists in the post-colonial era, where unequal power dynamics shape social relations. Western institutions subtly exert control over formerly colonised countries through their recognition and reward systems. It is important to mention that there was no clear discernible pattern in this observed phenomenon in the corpus. As a result, it was not possible to make a definitive conclusion.

Nevertheless, there was evidence of linguistic phenomena that triggered complex ways in which certain language patterns were frequently used to construct action and reward. The usage suggested vague stereotypical arguments that a specific action would be performed to gain a reward or benefit. According to Reisigl & Wodak (1999), in the European perspective of discourse and racism, this form of linguistic stereotypes is characteristic of historical periods that are now being used to perpetuate harmful biases and reinforce discrimination. The concordance data revealed a hidden connection that was not immediately obvious. The pattern focused on action and reward, which supported the inference that a phenomenon such as giving 'aid' can be a tool in various contexts, including geopolitical, economic, human rights, colonisation, and democracy building. To illustrate action and reward patterns identified in the INC, the following tropological examples indicate that foreign (**european**) aid may come with conditions that strategically benefit donor countries more than the recipients. This makes the argument that in the case of aid, some European engagements with

Africa/Africans are seen through the guise of economic, neo colonisation human rights, and democracy building:

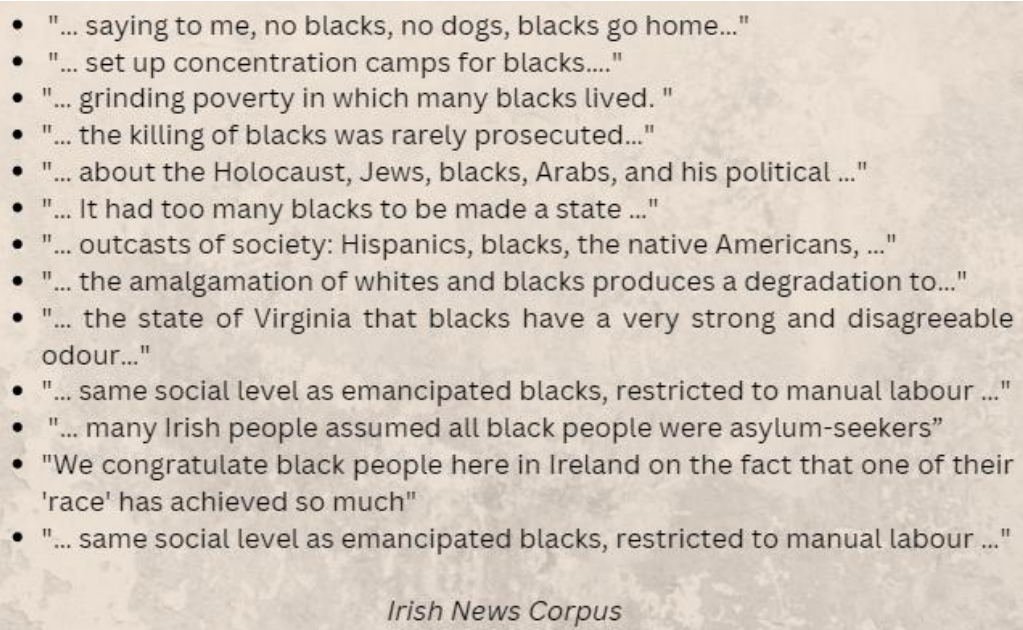
- "For every £1 given in aid by rich countries, poor countries pay back nearly £4 in debt repayments"
- "The European Union said it was ready to bring aid to Zimbabwe if the new government took measures to restore democracy and the rule of law"
- "Tanzania's president John Magufuli said he prefers Chinese to Western aid as it comes with fewer conditions"
- "Aid itself comes with numbers of strings: countries compelled, for instance, to turn to the lender of last resort, the International Monetary Fund, find that they must sign up to conditions which tie their economies even further into the financial control of the international corporations"
- "The 15-nation EU also' held out the prospect of restarting development aid to Nigeria once a democratic government took office"

Irish News Corpus

The action and reward pattern identified in the texts above underscore that foreign aid is used as a tool for several purposes. Firstly, to systematically show power dynamics that Africa relies mainly on Western financial assistance. Secondly, that aid is used to advance the interests of donor countries. Reisigl & Wodak (2001) posit that the topos of 'to the advantage of them and us' is the central argumentation scheme of how an action can benefit both parties involved. For example, in highlighting Jorg Haider's Petition that polarised opinions due to its contentious nature on issues such as immigration, nationalism, and Euroscepticism in Austria, Reisigl & Wodak (2001) maintain that to provide economic aid to immigrants' countries of origin would help both the immigrants and the Austrians, "since all immigrants would stay at home" (p.177). This example shows that giving economic aid to immigrant countries is influenced by strategic interest. For example, elements of power dynamics and control inherent

in aid practice are shown to reduce migration flows and show Africa in the light of 'poverty porn' – this term highlights Africa as suffering and in need of external aid (Chouliaraki & Loewenstein 2007). While this may be argued as addressing some of the problems of migration, connecting aid to migration restriction can reinforce discrimination and stereotyping and infringe on the rights of people in pursuing improved prospects elsewhere.

The above examples show that social actors were included in discourse; however, writers may have manipulated their linguistic power to disguise underlying attitudes and ideologies. A more detailed case study of the key term **black*** (investigated in this study as a wildcard to include all forms of *black*) was undertaken to avoid over-generalisation and uncover the strategic moves linked to self and other presentations. The keyword **black*** was identified as a racionym in somatisation. It was a linguistic reference associated with a place and that of an explicit 'other' around the obvious variation of a Black person. Given that the term '**black**'* is used metaphorically to refer to a person with a particular skin colour and is "historically incriminating and pejorative" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001 p.64), it was noteworthy that INC discourses about Africans frequently used it. The following concrete examples provide some of the most discriminatory 'other' tropological constructions and traits that were explicitly and implicitly ascribed to the racionym **black*** in the INC.



Apart from the explicit projection of fear (*prosecuted; grinding poverty*) through threatening and violent words (*killing; concentration camps*), the textual analysis of the examples above shows that the common strategies used to represent the term **black*** centred around poverty and killings with emphasis on numbers, otherness, and instances of nomination and predication. For example, in quantification (*it had too many blacks...*), somatisation in racialisation (*blacks*), explicit dissimulation (*... blacks have a very strong and disagreeable odour*), professionalisation (*... restricted to manual labour*), economisation (*... grinding poverty ...*), and positive attribute in the predicate *emancipating*. There was one nomination instance that, though it was not racist, manifested **blacks** explicitly and evaluated them in a deprecatory manner. This was done through animalisation - putting them in the same category as '*dogs*'.

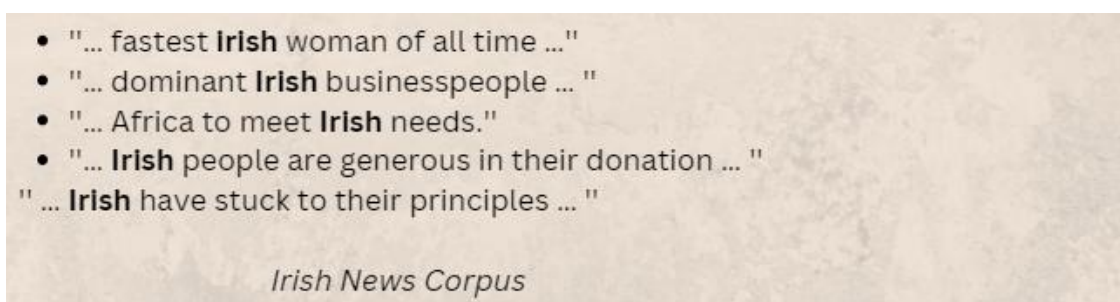
The next examples investigated concordances and visualised the peculiarities of the first and third most frequent keywords (which were nouns): **irish** and

african. For this analysis, 30 concordance lines per keyword were randomly selected and examined. The first 30 concordances illustrate the keyword **irish** in context. It is presented below in Figure 6.5, and the extended concordances are found in Appendix 4.

Occurrences of IRISH in 30 random concordances in the INC	
his. 1992 ' reforms. However, it is not a 'good time for the	Irish : agriculture industry to be contemplating A large-scale chan
We are delighted that despite our new found prosperity the	Irish people have not shed their traditional values. That compass
ves in the developing world have been saved because the	Irish have stuck to those principles," he said. In June 1997, the a
at the weapons used were probably made closer to home.	Irish people are generous in their donations to Africa, but we say
it was not yet necessary to look to Asia or Africa to meet	Irish needs. Dr Comiskey said schools were more resistant to pri
which he competed, the Senior Slalom, he created a new	Irish record, finishing just out of the medals in fourth place. Eamo
nd this does not include the generous contributions of the	Irish people to Concern, Goal, Trocaire, Oxfam, World Vision and
d. Having regard to this and to the ongoing and increasing	Irish involvement in political and developmental activity in East Af
Microsoft and Dell each get up to 3,000 calls a day to their	Irish operations for technical support. Some callers are totally nev
ories. BRI was established in 1988 to help commercialise	Irish biotechnology research. "This deal is highly significant in tha
technology agreement which we have negotiated with an	Irish company and has potential to generate significant revenues,
ut if it did happen we would be in a ludicrous position. The	Irish government would be able to act decisively and we would ha
Lakes region. His son, also Pierce, worked in Zaire for the	Irish agency Concern until last month. "Pierce was someone who
tfolio of shipping companies which offer global coverage to	Irish importers and exporters, he says. Embassy protest over Nig
omiting associated with it. Last time, I tried to socialise with	Irish people, hoping that it would fasten my future integration into
al and eastern Europe. Some of these are interested in the	Irish conflict, but others come to study the great world religions,
ed' Irish beef adding to poverty in Africa Heavily-subsidised	Irish beef is being "dumped" in southern Africa, where it is contrit
and fewer of them bother to come here. As to the generous	Irish berry crop that awaits them this autumn, its abundance was
als with criminals abroad in organising these thefts". Three	Irish criminal gangs are believed to have actively targeted comp
t incident in the Army's peacekeeping history, in which nine	Irish soldiers lost their lives. This year also marks 40 years of Ir
ed in urban areas where there are high black populations."	Irish accent a 'plus' for employers The strength of the Irish educ
Dolan, an immersion into the world of Roy Keane. The best	Irish soccer book in memory. Boxing, usually a font of good wor
ho incline to Bud," I explain. Even in a diminished form, the	Irish draught and bottled versions of Guinness are among the wo
usiness arena. It is a testimonial to the number of dominant	Irish business people in the UK today," he says. Nortel links up B
and confrontation. For a long period he was the bete noir of	Irish rugby, perceived as a loose cannon who frequently overstep
ess family from Paddy Breathnach and Roddy Doyle. Black	Irish citizens twice as likely to experience discrimination Black Iri
01, a guaranteed minimum of £400 million will be spent on	Irish aid to the Third World. This represents an increase of 66 pe
his son, Justin MacCarthy jnr, praised the "tremendous job"	Irish troops had done in many troubled regions. "I don't think wh
urished in the face of adversity. Through the tenacity of the	Irish people the tragedy of the Great Hunger was turned into triu
he first general-use digital computer, or Lena Rice, the only	Irish woman ever to win a Wimbledon singles title, are well know

Figure 6. 6. Concordances of the keyword irish in the INC 2023

It was observed in Figure 6.5 that **irish** frequently occurred as a nationality noun with appreciative references. There were some cases of negative mentions that are underlined in red lines. Some topics about 'self' occurred with positive co-occurrences and attributes in adjectives and nouns. Examples of these phenomena are shown as follows:



The negative topic about 'self' or 'us' was framed with metaphors, which indicated some form of mitigation. For example, '*... he was the bete noir (French for Black Beast) of Irish rugby perceived as a loose cannon for frequently ...*'. The example above is discursively mitigated using metaphors of the black beast and loose cannons as anathema expletives to emphasise disagreeable and dislikeable traits, also reinforced by action.

Also, "*... Africa to meet Irish needs*" presupposes that the 'outgroup' must be willing to prioritise and fulfil the needs of the 'ingroup' to foster engagements. This can be perceived as a focus on demands that significantly impact the balance of power between the 'in'/'outgroups'. In this event, **irish** holds more influence and control. When seen from the context of (colonial) evangelisation, where this discourse is also situated, one possible interpretation is that this was a tool to impose certain **irish** beliefs or ideologies. This reverberates the historical

association between missionary work and colonial endeavours, where Europeans used missionary activities to convert indigenous populations, including Africans, to Christianity (Jarosz 1992; Ejorh 2007).

Following this qualitative analysis, a quantitative examination determined how favourable or unfavourable **irish** appeared in the INC. The results are found below in Figure 6.6.

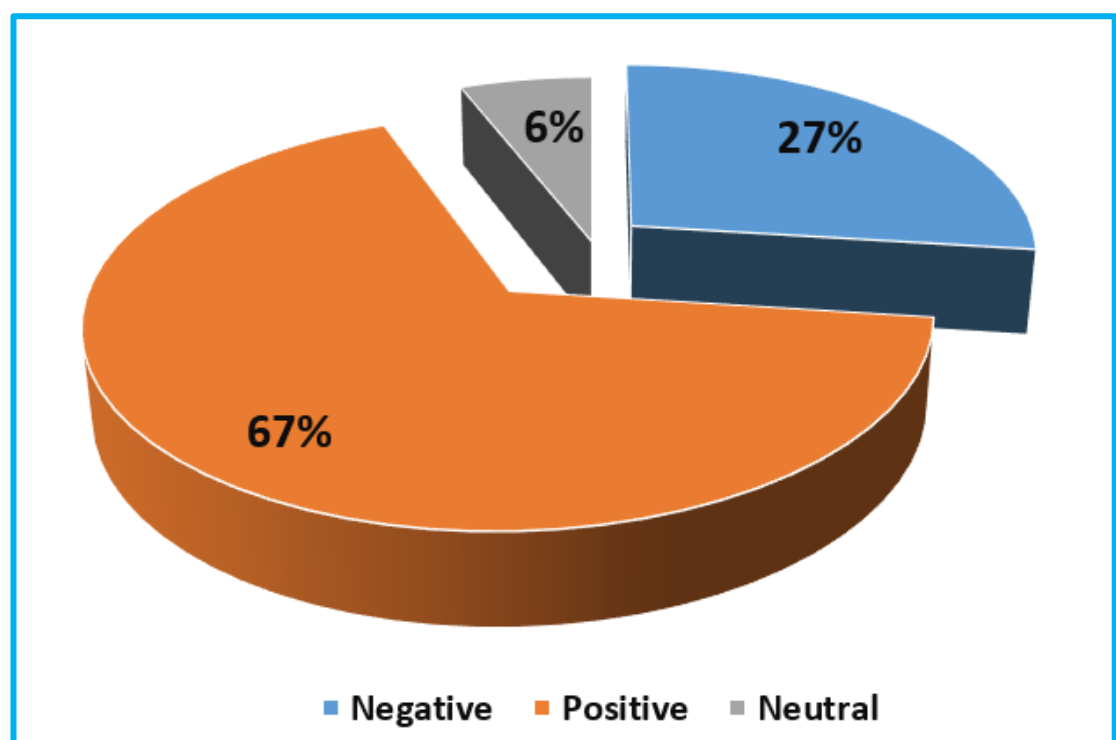


Figure 6. 7. Results of quantitative evaluation of 30 concordances of irish in the INC

In Figure 6.6. above, out of 30 concordances for **irish**, eight lines (27%) co-occurred with negative characteristics. Twenty concordances (67%) contained

positive traits, while two lines (6%) were neutral. The qualitative and quantitative data analysed indicated that the overall sentiment towards **irish** was more positive than negative and afforded itself to positive self-presentation. This is a well-known observation. Some of this is rooted in historical legacies and beliefs that maintain Western nations as powerful and superior and preserve economic interests and cultural biases (Reisigl & Wodak 2001; Wodak 2021). Additionally, Western media often favour their group, emphasise their positive aspects and highlight the negative aspects of others (Fairclough 1992; van Dijk 2006). It is possible, therefore, to infer that the INC exhibited a bias towards self-favouritism in this discourse. This positive self-presentation is significant in two ways. Firstly, it sheds light on the media's strategies to influence societal norms, form identity and maintain stereotypes. Secondly, it fosters a sense of tolerance, power, control, and dominance about the in-group over less-dominant groups in society. This can be understood as one of the main strategies of the "control system" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.23), where the social (and political) structures like the media present appealing content about the 'self' to influence audience perceptions and shape identities. To advance the comparative nature of this thesis, the following section analyses the keyword **african** to indicate how the 'other' was constructed in the INC. This is shown below in Figure 6.7. The extended concordances are found in Appendix 5.

Occurrences of AFRICAN in 30 random concordances in the INC		
measures that have been proved to work. In Uganda, the first	African	country to be ravaged by AIDS in the Eighties, infections a
can drag him or her out of the vehicle because so many South	Africans	cradle a pistol on their knees to fight off criminals. Now, wi
on nonviolence and encouraging the cultural empowerment of	African	Americans. He left SNCC in 1968 and became leader of the
count for 30 per cent of total sales, according to the IDA note.	African	Gold badly hit by drop in world prices African Gold has sai
even, I do shopping for foodstuffs and also cook my own food -	African	food regularly whenever I am in a proper frame of mind. A t
room thriller, in which a respectable, white middle class South	African	couple are devastated when their son is accused of murder
society in the wake of the waves of east European, Asian and	African	illegal immigrants whose clandestine arrival makes daily ne
of 137 women and children it said were among thousands of	African	women and children enslaved by National Islamic Front so
er, he will attend a memorial service for the victims of the East	African	bombings of US embassies. So confident was Mr Clinton c
colonial governments, the destruction of wildlife by rampaging	Africans	was widely predicted, and "a glimpse of the last great com
den. Sainz came second there this year. We saw groups of tall	Africans	holding staffs and standing on one leg with what appeared
urred such as the 1983 Church Street bombing of the South "	African	" Air Force headquarters". "" The ANC is most bitterly critic
been informers in townships. White trash turn on Blacks in S	African	crime wave SOUTH AFRICA'S 'white trash' have joined the
ible decline in such killings by whites since Nelson Mandela's	African	National Congress came to power in 1994. Last week, Mph
To mobilise world emotions how many dead or starving black	Africans	do you need, compared to a Kosovar or a Bosnian? This p
alism to independence brought with it war and unrest for many	African	states. Trapped within borders devised by colonial powers,
c clients, has brought improvements. So too has the desire of	African	rulers to benefit from international aid which is no longer q
in November. African leaders fail to agree ceasefire in Congo	African	leaders failed yesterday to secure a ceasefire in the rebell
ounting pressure from opposition South African soldiers were	Africans	piled up in a room who were Angry youths yelling insults ab
n," she said. "You should be referred to as a brown man or an	African	man." A teacher in the school, Catherine Quirke, told us tha
a crisis, support for stronger economic performance by many	African	countries and a strong rebound in lending for the social se
le to mollify the hostile stance of opposition parties. A Central	African	summit on the Congo crisis ended in Libreville late yesterd
press of African song", Ms Makeba was the first black South	African	musician to gain international fame. Ms Makeba spent 31 y
tries today. The best the Western powers can do is allow the	Africans	to sort out their own problems themselves. This will result i
though many European countries have sizeable minorities of	African	and Asian origin, it is unlikely that anyone of colour would b
tic than his short-order cook. A handsome and distinguished	African	American, Mr Cooper said: "I thought this could happen bec
her skills have never been more needed than in the crisis-hit	African	country, says Clodagh Finn ublin nurse Helen O'Neill does
nce from acts of police brutality Sidney Poitier becomes first	African	American to win Academy Award for Best Actor 1972 Cong
or Best Actor 1972 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm is first	African	American woman to make bid for U.S. presidency Equal En
ence began to sweep the continent 50 years ago, fledgling	African	governments have struggled to unwind injustices, sometim

Figure 6. 8. KWIC concordance of the key term african in the INC 2023

In Figure 6.7, the concordance data revealed that acts of violence were foregrounded using predicate nouns like *fighting*, *hunting*, *killing*, *bombings*, and *destruction* and adjectives like *clashing*. The dominant topic emerged as a

regional or geographical noun/label. This suggested a focus on linguistic imperialism and the distance of orientation. The more peculiar the description, the greater the chance that social actors were perceived or identified in that manner. For example, the referent was explicitly and semantically renamed and foregrounded using metonymies, e.g., ('... *first African country* ...'; '... *West African nation of Guinea* ...'); as nationality noun, e.g., ('... *of african americans* ...'; '... *south African sources* ...'); as metonymic anthroponyms denoting backwardness and primitivity – lack of civilisation and buttressing colonial-era tropes, e.g. ('... *tall Africans holding staffs and standing on one leg* ...'); and as adjectives and nouns e.g., ('... *food African food* ...'; '... *African Rights* ...'). To complement this analysis, a quantitative evaluation of the occurrence of **african** was conducted on 30 concordances, similar to Figure 7.3. The evidence showed both positive and negative attributes of **african**. In the figure, the green lines signify co-texts with positive meanings, while the red lines signify those with negative meanings. The percentage figures are illustrated below in Figure 6.8.

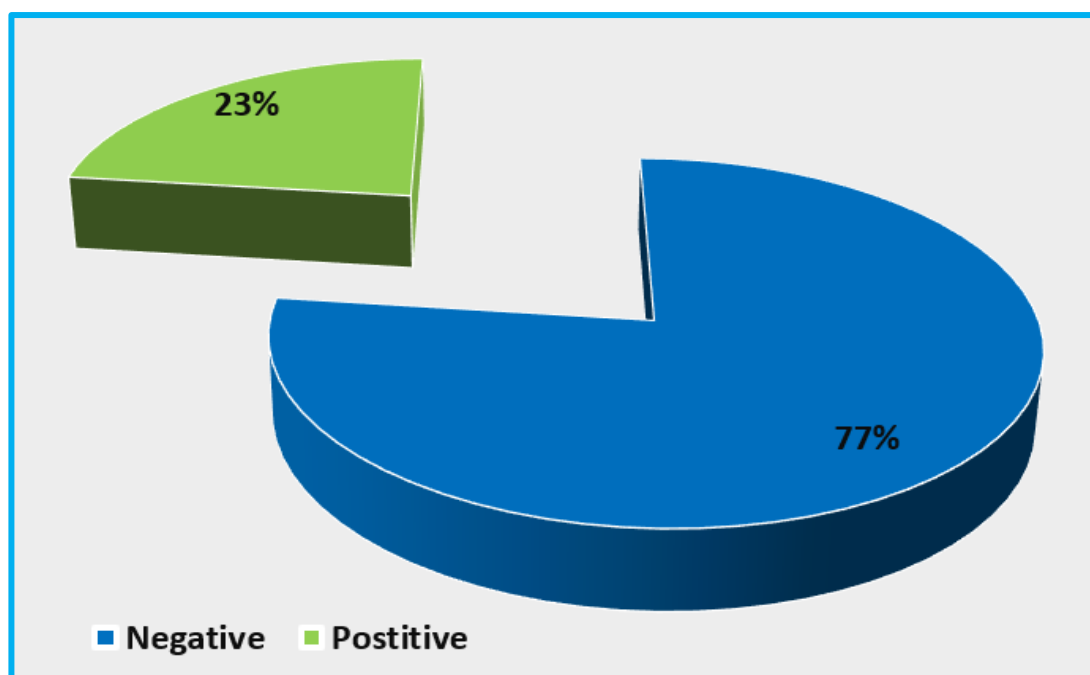


Figure 6. 9. Results of quantitative evaluation of 30 concordances of african in the INC

In Figure 6.8. above, out of 30 concordances examined for the keyword **african**, 23 concordances possessed negative evaluation while seven received positive evaluation. This result indicated that news coverage of Africans in the INC predominantly referred to *violence, wars, crimes, and unrest* and this was 77% supported by both qualitative and quantitative textual analyses of the keyword **african**. This concluded that the INC was more negative than positive towards **african**. By foregrounding persistent negative stories about **african**, the INC contributed to reinforcing power dynamics that dehumanised and marginalised Africans and Africa with significant political, economic, and social implications. This prejudicial representation of Africans has been a persistent issue in Western

media, with portrayal mostly focusing on topics of poverty, famine, war, conflicts, diseases, corruption, incompetence, and poor leadership (Hansen & Machin 2013). One reason could be that previous research focuses more on crisis events in media coverage of Africa, which may distort one's understanding of the contexts in which they are communicated (Scott 2017). Another compelling fact is pointed out by Hansen & Machin (2013) and van Dijk (1991) that Black people in the media are mostly portrayed as a *threat, as unimportant and as criminals*. Additionally, Wayne et al. (2007) examine why ethnic minorities, age groups and social classes get discriminated in the media. They find that nearly half of news stories concerning young Black people centre around criminal activities. This represents deep-seated biases that add to the perpetuation of harmful stereotypes.

A common characteristic of the literature mentioned above is that there is a lack of balanced reporting, whereby the perspective of ethnic minorities and other underrepresented groups is not adequately foregrounded in the media. According to van Dijk (1999), one reason for this is that media groups are mainly owned and controlled by metropolitan, liberal, White, and male elite. This raises concerns about the potential for media bias, systematic exclusion, and underrepresentation of marginalised groups. Take, for example, the case of Vienna in 2008 and new xenophobic slogans from right-wing populist parties. One exclusionary racist rhetoric constructed a Black man as a 'drug-dealing African', for which the city needed to be cleaned (Wodak 2009). Based on the actions of a few individuals, this was an explicit, inflammatory, discriminatory, and stigmatising statement about a group of people because of their race and

nationality. The use of the term 'clean the streets' connotes getting rid of Africans involved in drug dealing and that Africans are a threat to public safety. This can promote and reinforce racism and xenophobia and ignite anti-immigrant sentiments in society. Similarly, one can assume that the persistent negative foregrounding of Africa as violent, poor, conflict and primitive (Mudimbe 1994) largely contributes to the preconception that all Africans, those on the continent and in the diaspora, are violent, threatening, criminals and infectious. This manifestation does not accurately represent the realities of the African continent and Africans.

From the detailed examination of the nouns **irish** and **african** using DHA representational strategies, the next focus is on discourse topics that resulted from the analysis.

Evaluation of Keywords for 'Self' –and 'Other' Presentation

Detailed analysis of the taxonomies of DHA strategies and van Leeuwen's classifications of **irish** and **african** in this thesis obtained three outcomes. The first two highlighted the contexts of the textual environment in concordance and the quantitative evaluation of the keywords. The third was the discourse topics that evolved from studying the discursiveness of the two keywords, **irish** and **african**. Firstly, the two nouns mainly occurred as proper nouns. This was unsurprising because the words are typical of the topic of positive 'self' and negative 'other' presentation. Still, studying how the terms appeared in the context provided their saliency. The patterns suggested distinct uses of approval labels for the 'ingroup' on the one hand, and on the other hand, it suggested broad

categorisations and homogenisation of the 'other'. For example, the reference to *african food* was striking enough as this explicitly identified the social actor in terms of categorisation (van Leeuwen 1996). Linguistically, this example promoted cultural insensitivity because it failed to provide adequate content or linguistic references, such as naming the specific country and type of food. Not naming the African food created a subtle discriminating effect and led to implied concerns of unfair and unjust representation. This identity and ideological sense add to the notion that the entire African continent shares the same food culture, culinary traditions, and heritage. This perspective of Africa as a homogeneous entity with uniform characteristics is inaccurate. African countries possess various ethnic groups, each with unique attributes. These distinctive features include tribes, languages, and food cultures (Ogazi 2010).

Secondly, other aspects of social constructions associated with **irish** and **african** were viewed by the number of concordance lines that contained positive and negative words that were used to contextualise the keywords. For example, when **irish** was referenced in context, there were 67% positive versus 27% negative topics and traits; the rest were neutral (see Figure 7.1 and Figure 7.2). This suggested that the dominant discourse about **irish** was frequently more positive and good. On the other hand, when the INC talked about **african***, there were 77% negative, versus 23% positive topics and traits (see Figure 7.3 and Figure 7.4). This analysis concludes that **african*** discourses were frequently unfavourable and bad.

Finally, key topics were detected when analysing the environments of 30 concordances of each keyword, **irish** and **african***. They were grouped by semantic classes regarding how they represented the social actors, the 'in'(self) and 'out'(other) groups. This is shown in Table 6.5 below.

Table 6. 5. Discourse topics based on irish and african* keywords using DHA strategies

Discourses of irish and african* keywords in concordances based on DHA analysis	
Representation of irish	Representation of African
Successful Generous Human rights campaign Prosperous Peacekeeping Undisciplined Criminal gangs	Ravaged by infections and diseases Criminals Plagued by war Extremism Victims Dying Culture empowerment African food Primitive

In Table 6.5 above, topics regarding the 'self' included prosperity, generosity, human rights activities, criminal involvements, and disagreeability. On the other hand, **african*** was constructed as criminals, dying, extremists, war lovers, ravaged by infections and diseases. These were more negative and undesirable qualities with prevalent implicit/explicit traits. Topics of **african** excelling in arts, entertainment, and politics were favourable and good. Moving from here, the next section summarises the first examination of this research question.

Summary of First Outcome

The above section answered the first part of the second research question of this thesis. To compare attitudes towards the representation of Africans in selected Irish newspapers over the chosen 30-year period, the section assessed the quantitative presentation of keywords in the INC. This was followed by a qualitative analysis of the keywords based on DHA strategies.

The evidence from keyword analysis of the INC found that when talking about **africa/african***, the technique of foregrounding the 'self' positively was the most dominant in the discourse. The noun **irish**, used as a reference to the people of Ireland, was the most important and frequent word in the INC. It was used to construct the 'self' with explicit and implicit attributes, such as *entrepreneurs*, *superior*, *generous*, *principled*, and excelling at sports. Five topics mainly validated the actions of the **irish** and appreciated them favourably, while two topics conveyed the **irish** as unmanageable and criminals. There were frequent mentions of specific nouns, pronouns, and adjectives. These important word groups seek to background, omit, and abstractly refer to the 'other' with a focus on discrimination. Applying specific, including flag words such as *democracy* and *new*, the 'other' was mostly referenced as collectives. In predication, texts from concordances explicitly and implicitly attributed both groups positively and negatively. For example, the referents, **african** ('other'), was predicated on the assumptions that they were *dying*, *infested*, *fighting*, and *killing*, while **european** ('self') was shown to be *experts*, *aiding*, *building*, and *manufacturing*. This is well presented by Alam (1994). He states that there are constant scenes of

emaciated children, older people, barren landscapes and dying malnourished children in Africa. At the same time, no one highlights the exploitation and extraction by transnational corporations of the rich African continent for the benefit of the affluent world (Burgis, 2015; Vandaele 2015). The exclusion of these facts contributes to distortion, biases, and discrimination. Meanwhile, the tropological use of the referent **black*** contained mainly negative words and focused on discourses of migration, lawlessness, poverty, murder and discrimination, while mixed-race, politics, and freedom – a '**flag word**' (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.57) were ascribed and predicated to Africa/African* to connote a positive evaluation.

Considering all this, the keyword evidence and analyses are more than just figures. They suggest that although social actors were included in the discourse, they were inadequately constructed and represented. The concordance data showed that the 'other' was strategically and discursively represented as threatening instead of welcoming. This means that if something is dangerous and threatening, one should do something against it (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). This is the idea behind the Topos of Danger and Threat in DHA. In the context of African migrants in Ireland, measures must be taken against them because they present specific dangers, threats, and hostilities against the native population and territory. This potential fear among the native population to protect their territory, while not directly explaining the discrimination Africans face in Ireland, could contribute to the heightened discrimination experienced by Black non-Irish individuals, including Africans, compared to other groups (O'Connell 2019; McGinnity *et al.*, 2018). The findings in this thesis show the importance of

addressing systemic biases and promoting fair and accurate media representation, diversity and equality within Irish society.

The next section attempts to answer the final part of this thesis's second research question by demonstrating results from a collocation analysis.

6.3 Summary of the Key Findings

After tackling how the frequency of representation of African issues compared in the INC over 30 years, three sub-questions were further identified, and four answers were achieved. Firstly, regarding the frequency of African representation in individual newspapers, it was found that, diachronically, in the *Independent* (see Figure 6.10), 2008 had the highest representation at 19%. 1998 and 2018 followed at 8% each. In the *Times*, the highest representation occurred during 2018 at 65% (see Figure 6.11). This was followed by 2008 at 62% and 1998 at 39%. Meanwhile, the least representation of African issues occurred during 1998 in both newspapers, with 39% in the *Times* and 8% in the *Independent* (see Figure 6.12). This means that during the period with the fewest coverage in both newspapers, the *Independent* represented Africans 31 percent less than the *Times*.

Secondly, it compared the most significant increase in the frequency of representation across sub-corpora and found that the *Independent* increased its coverage of African issues between periods by 0.7 times more compared to the *Times*.

Thirdly, in terms of the period with the highest representation when data was combined for all newspapers per period (see Figure 6.13), it found that diachronically, at 41%, 2008 had the highest representation of African issues than any other period under study. 2008 had 1.8 times more representation than 1998 and 1.1 times more than 2018. This indicated that 1998 had the least representation of African issues in the INC. These results showed a significant correlation between (1) the frequency evidence of representation analysis from the corpus in concordances presented in Figure 6.5 and the results from node enquiry analysis in Figure 6.3. and Figure 6.13 above, where the general pattern indicates a sharp rise and decline in the rate of African representation in the INC. This confirmed that techniques used in CL can provide accurate results at different analysis levels.

Fourthly and finally, when all figures were combined per newspaper, the *Times* had 83% of the representation while the *Independent* had 17%. This indicated that the *Times* paid 5.1 times more attention to African issues than the *Independent* in the corpus used for this study. From the result summary, the next section engages with data from the starting point of Corpus Linguistics and demonstrates a synergy with DHA.

Lastly, the methodological synergy of CL and DHA provided evidence of keyword analysis where 50 top keywords were obtained, compared to SiBol and evaluated for 'self'-and-'other' presentation. Based on nomination and predication strategies in DHA, 40 keywords identified the 'outgroup', while nine nominated the 'ingroup'. An assessment of high-ranking keywords, **irish**, **african**, **africa**,

and **black** found that discourses about African issues focused on *dying, infested, fighting, and killing*; Europeans were *aiding, building, and manufacturing*; blacks were *migrating, lawless, poor, murdering, discriminated against, mixed-race; talking about politics and freedom*; and the 'self' was, *entrepreneurs, superior, generous, principled, excelling at sports, and disagreeable*.

6.4 Discussion

This analysis section offers insights into representation. It resulted from the quantitative representation of Africans in the INC, where the evidence pointed to patterns of under and over-representation of Africans in both newspapers during different times. This was the first attempt to understand issues related to African representation in Irish media and the broader issues of discrimination, racism, inclusion/exclusion, migration, diversity, and public perception, which also have implications for agency and policy. In this section, three key observations are drawn from the results.

The first observation concerns the frequency of representation and its implications for media visibility. The frequency of representation – the amount of space and time dedicated to social actors can indicate the importance, depth, and complexity of news stories, thereby raising the important issue of the significance of representation. In attempting this question, the implications of media visibility or frequency of representation of social actors were important, given that increased/low visibility of social actors in the media can be seen in various ways. The results indicated that both newspapers made significant progress in representing Africans. However, the frequency of representation

varied over time and in individual newspapers, and there remained problematic representations of Africans, with periods when Africans were more prominently portrayed and other times when they were less visible.

According to Amnesty International (2019), because of globalisation, migration patterns and humanitarian crises, migrants are now more visible in the media. This often amplifies the scapegoating of migrants and exposure to violent and hate crimes that further reinforce cycles of prejudice and discrimination (Fitzgerald 2014; van Klingereren et al. 2025). This view is also suggested by van Klingereren et al. (2015). They hold that the visibility of immigration and foregrounding the visibility of ethnicity in the media can increase public anti-immigration conduct. However, the increased visibility of migrants can also be interpreted as a positive sign that ethnicist and racist discrimination is no longer a significant problem in society (Bonilla-Silva 2021; Song & Aspinall 2012; Song 2003), but this is not the case. It has been shown that discrimination against migrant communities persists in different forms and contexts. Examples of this are intersectional (gender, religion, immigration status, sexual orientation), structural (unequal access to resources, services and opportunities), institutional (law enforcement, education, healthcare employment), and everyday microaggressions. In their 2016 study of the social exclusion of the Romani people in Western Balkans and Central Europe, Howard & Vajda highlight that discrimination operates as a form of invisible power structure through everyday life, such as "gypsyism" which is a historically constructed, persistent complex of customary racism against social groups identified under the stigma "gypsy". Accordingly, the frequency of representation alone does not signify eradicating

prejudice in the media (Goldman 2010). The subsequent sections will elaborate on the significance of these statistics in this thesis.

The second discussion focuses on the frequency of representation and media ideology. There were significant differences in news coverage of African issues in the INC. In 2008, news coverage was 41%, marking the highest representation in the INC. This was followed by 2018 with 36%, and the period with the lowest representation was 1998 with 23%. It is possible to justify the diminished media interest in African issues in the INC in 1998. Immigration to Ireland was a new phenomenon in the 1990s and was not a pressing issue then (Ruhs & Quinn 2009). However, to account for the 23% African representation (visibility) in the INC, one could relate this to the context of African migration to Ireland. Incorporating migration data to Ireland into this discourse signified the important role immigration statistics play in any country. By 1998, the Congo War led to global consequences and the forceful migration of Congolese. According to Joyce (2007), Congolese were among most Africans who applied for international protection and asylum in Ireland around that time. Also, the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the constitutional amendment provided Irish citizenship to every child born in Ireland. This attracted migrant parents, including Africans (Ruhs & Quinn 2009).

On the point of high African representation in 2008, it has been observed that an increase in media visibility of migrants can be related to political changes in countries (Allen 2016; Vliegthart & Roggeband 2007) due to legal requirements such as normative standards of diversity in public broadcasting

(Ruhlmann *et al.* 2006; Statham 2002). One could argue that two significant events shaped the increased visibility of Africans in the INC during 2008. One was the historic election of Barack Obama as the first African American and 44th president of the USA. Many Black Europeans hoped that this would address their lack of representation in European politics (Brown 2008). According to Eberl *et al.* (2018), election events tend to increase media reporting of immigration, as well as national migration policies to combat terrorism (Böhmelt *et al.* 2020). This is supported by Josey & Dixon (2023) in their content analysis study of how news coverage of President Barack Obama altered the overall presentation of Blacks in the news. The researchers found that Blacks achieved greater frequency in coverage in 2008 compared with prior analyses. Also, the media extensively covered Mr Obama's high-profile visits to Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, and South Africa. This led to increased coverage of Africa-related stories and issues and increased representation of Africans and African diaspora communities (BBC News 2009).

Another event was the Great Recession, which embattled global economies (Creighton *et al.* 2022; Isaksen 2019; Mazeikaite, O'Donoghue & Sologon 2019). As the economic challenges intensified, media visibility of Africans and other minorities increased because of the public's interest in issues such as employment, social welfare, immigration, multiculturalism and integration (ESRI 2016). Reisigl & Wodak (2001) suggest that discriminatory prejudices against racialised or ethnicised groups, e.g. Jews, foreigners and refugees, manifest in discourses of exploiting the welfare system. In this case, the concept of race becomes a legitimised ideological tool to oppress and exploit specific social groups and deny them access to resources during such events. Additionally, it is

well documented that economic downturns increase negative attitudes towards immigrants, which may lead to increased media coverage of these events. Turner and Cross (2015) state that negative attitudes towards immigrants increased significantly during the recession. On the other hand, positive attitudes were observed after 2010 during the recovery period (Isaksen 2019). It would be significant to see if the same argument is true in the case of the INC in Chapter Seven, which undertakes a qualitative approach to the corpus.

Overall, the evidence in Figure 6.14 indicated that the *Times* had 83% representation of African issues, while the *Independent* had 27% representation in the INC. It could be reasoned that ideological alignments, editorial stances, and target audiences influenced the significantly high media reporting by the *Times*. For example, when it comes to immigration, liberal publications tend to prioritise and have more leniency towards matters of social justice, diversity, multiculturalism (Khosravini 2009), and group-related problems (Lubbers *et al.* 1998) and focus less on crime (Geißler, 2000). In this respect, it is possible that the *Times* intensified the coverage of African issues to foreground their plight in Ireland. In addition, the *Times* is the only privately Irish-owned and funded national newspaper in Ireland. It is possible that because of Ireland's migration history, the *Times* was driven by the desire to inform the public about migration trends and policies and address social issues, including integration and anti-discrimination laws. The conservative media, on the other hand, focus more on economic and national security, restrictive immigration policies and law enforcement and do not necessarily advocate for immigrants (Schain 2018; Merolla *et al.* 2013; Buonfino *et al.* 2007). Also considering that a Belgian Dutch

media organisation owns the *Independent*, it is possible that maintaining readership and relevance preceded coverage of immigration matters in Ireland, thus the low representation frequency. However, it is worth noting that migration is a global phenomenon influenced by geopolitical and economic events; thus, there was an expectation for more coverage of African issues in the *Independent*.

The final section emphasises topics arising from the study of datasets and contextualises quantitative data, thereby underscoring the significance of quantitative data and context. Quantitative data and contextual understanding provide a robust framework for analysis, so this question searched for appropriate data contexts. In terms of topics that emerged from this quantitative analysis, various topics were uncovered at different levels of analysis, beginning with the classification of the nodes into semantic categories. This helped to identify the discursiveness of the corpus from the onset. For example, out of five semantic categories, Ethnic Classification frequently used the strategy of somatisation through racionyms. This tactic employed culturally specific references and traits such as 'blacks', 'Black Africans', and 'Black Irish' that could intensify, polarise and discriminate. Another discursive category was Descriptive Demographics, where Africans were de-emphasised and overlooked. This was more prevalent in the *Times* than in the *Independent*.

6.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, while there has been ongoing debate about the meaning and interpretation of quantitative data, using an effective and systematic approach to data can provide valuable insights. This chapter evaluates the quantitative

significance of findings and enhances the depiction of complex information and data. The data revealed how the frequency of representation varied over time and among individual newspapers, as well as its implications for the media visibility of Africans. Furthermore, the frequency of representation indicated that at 87%, the *Times* had significantly more media coverage than the *Independent* at 27%. Simultaneously, discrepancies in media ideologies and the ways historical contexts influenced representation were evident. It was clear that different semantic classifications concerning Africans existed in the INC. This can substantially influence generalised assumptions, exacerbate social divides and pre-existing beliefs, and reinforce an 'us vs. them' mentality towards Africans.

Chapter 7: Results and Discussion 2

7.1 Introduction

The present chapter handles the study's critical discourse analysis (CDA) strand. It discusses the main findings of the second research question. It bears in mind that eradicating unfair and unjust representation of marginalised groups in society requires the integration of educational, political, social, and cultural structures in society. Two approaches were employed to determine how attitudes towards African issues were compared in the INC over selected periods of 30 years. In 6.6. the discussion focused on how a keyness analysis integrated with methods in the Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) investigated language. The second approach is presented in this chapter to examine the second research question. This is a textual investigation with the aid of the methodological two-level qualitative approach of DHA (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). It starts with the entry-level analysis, which operates in two stages. At stage one, texts about key terms are selected from INC concordances. The texts are analysed for discourse topics based on semantic categorisations at stage two. This moves to Level 2, which is the in-depth analysis. It investigates the discourse topics for three different outcomes. The first outcome is hidden/overt discursive strategy, for example, nomination or predication. The second outcome studies the development of arguments using the topoi strategy, for instance, the Topos of Danger and Threat that predominated in this discourse. This study leverages topoi to advance and justify the chosen approach and provide a framework for validating the inclusion or exclusion of social actors and any instances of

discrimination or preferential treatment (Reisigl and Wodak 2001). The third outcome examines the argumentation or prosody of topos, whether positive or negative. All available evidence informs the various ideologies within the INC and is expressed through discriminatory discourses and practices. These outcomes project a negative amplification of 'others' (Africans) and a positive representation of 'self'. This study uses the social categorisations of 'us' and 'them', 'ingroups' and 'outgroups', and 'self' and 'other' interchangeably.

7.2 Research Question 2: How did Attitudes towards the Representation of Africans Compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods in 30 years?

The outcome contained results from collocational analysis of nodes in concordances. This assisted the study of semantic prosody, as it established the meanings of nodes in context (Brezina *et al.* 2015, McEnery & Wattam 2015; Nattinger & DeCarrico 1992). The frequencies of nodes were presented earlier in Chapter Six of this thesis, and their collocates are illustrated in this chapter.

7.2.1 Results of Collocation Analysis

This section is based on a collocation analysis of how attitudes towards African issues compared in the INC over selected periods in 30 years. The results provide a detailed presentation of collocates obtained from examining the occurrence of nodes in concordance with the corpus used for this study (details in Chapter Four).

This section starts with a quantitative analysis of the sum of collocates in individual sub-corpora that occurred within a span of the L3/R3 window of the nodes. The analysis examines the words that appeared around the nodes within their respective contexts (refer to section 4.3 for further details), which indicates the "collocative meaning" (1974, p.20) of the search term. The final analysis emphasises a collection of key collocates, which are identified in this study as words that exhibit significantly high frequencies in proximity to the nodes. The list omits most grammatical forms, abbreviations, and any incorrect or disqualified terms (see section 4.4 for additional information). A qualitative analysis follows the quantitative presentation of collocates. The evidence empowered this thesis to explicitly test ideology in the context of DHA of language regarding nomination, predication, and argumentation. The results expose descriptions of key ideological discourses of societal relationships and how attitudes towards African issues were shaped and reproduced in the INC. The quantitative presentation in the next section highlights the frequencies of collocates that each newspaper employed to talk about African issues.

7.2.2 Frequencies of Collocates Representing Africa/Africans in the INC

The table and chart below contain the number of words that collocated with 25 nodes in concordance. (see 2.3 for details of 25 search words). The figures are presented in percentages. To obtain the percentage, the following equation was used:

Equation 0:9 Obtaining figures of collocates in percentages

$$\frac{\text{Sum of key collocates}}{\text{Total of all collocates in all years}} \times 100$$

∴ For example, in the *Independent* during 1998: $\frac{1908}{7347} \times 100 = 26\%$

All figures obtained from this calculation are found in Table 7.1 below.

Table 7. 1. Amounts of collocates of nodes in concordances of INC

Corpus	Period	Sum of all collocates	Sum of significant collocates	Percentage of significant collocate
<i>Independent</i>	P1	4788	1908	$\frac{1908}{7347} \times 100 = 26\%$
	P2	7572	3750	$\frac{3750}{7347} \times 100 = 51\%$
	P3	3647	1689	$\frac{1689}{7347} \times 100 = 23\%$
7347				
<i>Times</i>	P1	7566	3268	$\frac{3268}{13182} \times 100 = 25\%$
	P2	11628	5690	$\frac{5690}{13182} \times 100 = 43\%$
	P3	7212	4224	$\frac{4224}{13182} \times 100 = 32\%$
13182				
<i>Independent</i>	All years	16,007	7347	$\frac{7347}{20,529} \times 100 = 36\%$
<i>Times</i>	All years	26,406	13,182	$\frac{13,182}{20,529} \times 100 = 64\%$
			20,529	
Summary of results in %				
Corpus period		Independent		Times
P1: (Sept – Dec 1998)		26		25
P2: (Sept – Dec 2008)		51		43
P3: (Sept – Dec 2018)		23		32
All Years		36		64

The data in Table 7.1 illustrates the diachronic change in the number of words that collocated with Africa/Africans in the INC. To facilitate a better

understanding, Figure 7.1 presents a visual representation of the data before delving into a detailed analysis of the above figures. Subsequent sections discuss the implications of these figures.

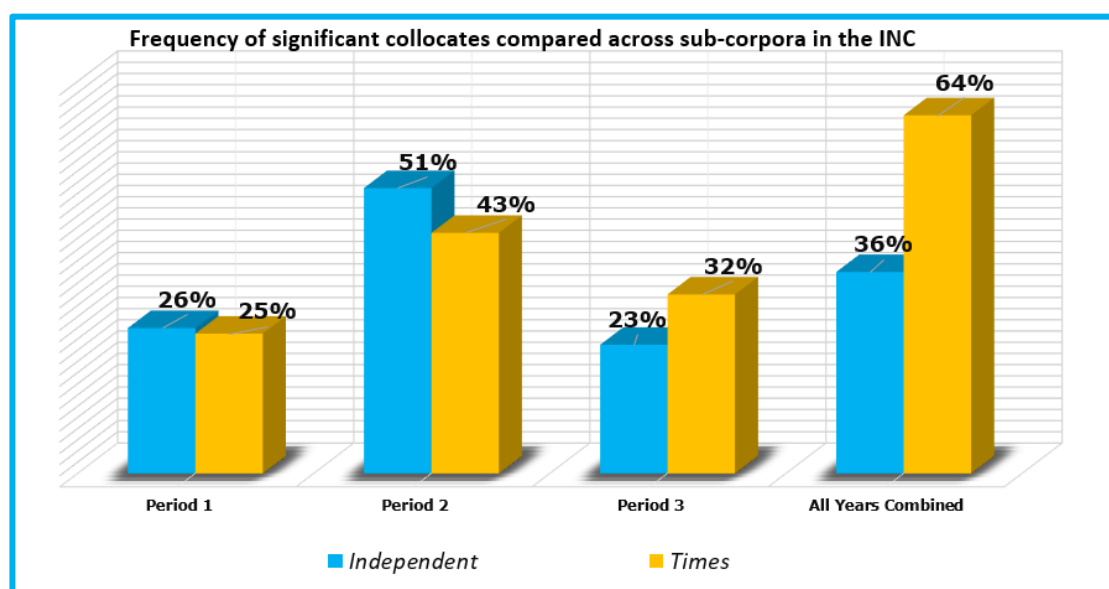


Figure 7. 1. Frequency of key collocates across sub-corpora of the INC

The following results stood out from Table 7.1 and Figure 7.1 above:

- Out of 42,413 collocates for African issues across all sub-corpora, almost half were frequent collocates.
- There were variations in the frequency of collocates at the level of individual newspapers. In the *Independent*, 2008 witnessed the greatest number of key collocates and recorded 2.2 times more collocates than 2018, which saw the fewest number. In the *Times*, the most key collocates

occurred during 2008. This was 1.7 times greater than in 1998 when the fewest key collocates occurred.

- When compared across sub-corpora, both newspapers used the greatest number of collocates during 2008. However, the *Independent* used 1.2 times more frequent collocates than the *Times* in the period under study. The *Independent* newspaper used more frequent collocates across individual periods to discuss African issues. This result can explain that real-world events cause conservative media to focus attention on immigrant groups and immigration (Governance Studies, 2012). For example, the 2008 great financial depression raised emphasis on immigration (Gilmartin 2012); thus, interest in African issues increased considerably, which was reflected not only in the fact that the greatest number of collocates occurred during 2008 but also in the fact that the *Independent* paid more attention to African issues than the *Times* during this period.
- Combined data of collocates in all periods per newspaper indicated that the publication that used more collocates was the *Times*. At 64%, this analysis found that the *Times* used 1.8 times more key collocates than the *Independent* across all periods under study. This concludes that the *Times* used more collocates to describe Africans than the *Independent* over all periods under study. This could be explained by the sustained interest of liberal media in multiculturalism and diversity due to migration, armed conflicts in Africa, particularly in the Republic of Congo, as well as the idea of national and European identity that has started to attract media

attention (Carta & Wodak 2015) and finally, the readiness to adopt attitudes about politicised issues. These issues will be explored in detail below.

7.2.3 Key Collocates for Africa/Africans in the Corpus

The fifty most frequent collocates were obtained from processing 200 random concordances in the INC. The evidence is contained in Appendix 6. It includes four lists of separate collocates. The first list contains the top 50 most consistent collocates for Africa/Africans and frequencies in ranking order. From this list of 50 top words, three other lists were created. One list contained the words and frequencies of unique collocates present in one newspaper but missing in the other. The remainder of the lists contained the frequencies and words of the top 50 most consistent. It is beyond the range of this thesis to study all collocates. Therefore, to manage the analysis, the focus was on the most prominent collocates by frequency of occurrence.

7.2.4 The Top 50 Most Consistent Collocates in the INC

The table below contains the top 50 most common words that collocated with **africa** and **africans** in the general corpus of INC. The full list with references is included in Appendix 7.

Table 7. 2. List of the top 50 collocates in the INC

Top 50 collocates of africa and african* in the INC				
and	all	black	us	zimbabwe
south	one	troops	west	new
president	army	many	we	victory
republic	rebel	country	UN	soldier
against	national	woman	most	oil
they	government	state	tour	rwanda
east	country	irish	force	cricket
first	ireland	people	congress	australia
democracy	africa	open	african	leader
former	man	american	war	conflict

Two main observations were drawn from Table 7.2 above. The first one concerned the similar pattern of words in the collocated words in Table 7.6 and the keywords in Table 7.1. In both lists, the most frequent keywords and most consistent collocates in the INC when talking about African issues were nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, determiners and prepositions, conjunctions and finally, numbers. Examining consistent collocates within sub-corpora derived from combined data enhances the understanding of language use by utilising larger sample sizes, contextual variation, and rigorous methodological approaches. This provides an effective means of calculating frequency distributions and co-occurrence patterns across different corpora (Altenberg and Granger 2001). A second observation from the table was that specific collocates referenced specific social actor groups. For example, when talking about **Africa**, *and*, *south*, *republic*, and *africa* were key terms. When talking about **Africans** *against*, *they*, *first*, *former*, *army*, *rebel*, *man*, and *black* occurred, among others. When talking about the 'ingroup', key terms such as *democracy*, *Ireland*, *irish*, *open*, *us*, *we*, *tour*, and *american* frequently occurred. As a 'flag word' (Reisigl & Wodak 2001),

democracy conveyed an implicit predication - positive evaluative meaning of respect and appreciation for the 'ingroup', for example:

- "Generations of Belgian schoolchildren were told of Leopold's "civilising" mission – a humanitarian king who abolished slavery, built roads and schools and introduced Christianity and democracy to Congo"
- "Irish aid agencies have worked tirelessly for democracy and human rights in the Third World."

Irish News Corpus

Regarding the term 'Third World' that is seen in the above example, it has been used since the Cold War era to reference areas in Africa, Asia, and Latin America with a high rate of poverty, poor infrastructural development, high death rates, unstable economies and dependent on foreign aid (Olorinu 2020). In this case, the strategy of collectivisation in DHA is used so that **Africa** can be referenced as part of the collective in *Third World*. Thus, **Africa** can be interchanged as the *Third World* in this context. From the 50 top collocates selected per category in the INC, as seen in Table 7.3, some words occurred across both newspapers, while some were unique. The table below offers the lists of words in each category. An evaluation of the collocates in terms of DHA strategies follows.

Table 7. 3. List of common and unique collocates across newspapers

Breakdown of collocates in the INC						
Consistent Collocates			Unique collocates in the <i>Independent</i>		Unique collocates in the <i>Times</i>	
former	against	over	national	help	rebel	talks
country	people	black	man	move	democrats	claim
we	east	white	west	truth	new	sudan
tour	republic		democracy	trip	open	democratic
force	african		rule	irish	tutsi	army
troops	woman		percent	one	clash	all
africa	many		out	congress	reuters	government
south	australia		two	europe	soldier	rwanda
and	leader		nations	state	leave	war
president	last		party	police	fight	pakistan
first	US		india	win	england	work
ireland	they		north		zimbabwe	

Two prominent features emerged in the list of the most consistent collocates in Table 7.3. Firstly, the 27 most salient consistent collocates occurred in both newspapers, although the frequency of occurrence varied, as shown in Appendix 7. Examples of the consistent collocates in all sub-corpora were *former*, *country*, *we*, *tour*, and *force*. Secondly, the lexical meanings of key terms to reference **africa** and **african*** in both newspapers appeared to have implied meanings when referencing the 'outgroup' than the 'ingroup', for example, *democratic*, *new*, *zimbabwe*, *all*, *government*, *work*, *rwanda*, and *work*. Take, for instance, the word *democratic* – according to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary online, it is an adjective for controlled by representatives whom the people of a country elect. This relates to a system of government in which all people of a country can vote to elect their representatives. When the word *democratic* was used to portray

Africans, the INC suggested notions of justice, liberation from racial discrimination and oppression, and empowerment through inclusivity:

"Perhaps the greatest victory over institutionalised human rights abuse in sub-Saharan Africa has been the defeat of the policy of apartheid in South Africa. The replacement of this country's supremacist regime by a multi-ethnic, democratic government has given hope - if not always economic security - to millions of people formerly oppressed because of their colour."

Irish News Corpus

Additionally, by juxtaposing *democratic* with terms like *corruption*, it foregrounded and conveyed notions of accountability, good governance and transparency that are typically not associated with African leaders, as seen in this example:

"... a \$5 million leadership prize to African leaders to promote democratic principles and combat corruption.."

Irish News Corpus

Furthermore, *democratic* referenced a part of the official name of a country. As the title of a country, *democratic* occurred 192 times out of the total 701 mentions in the INC. Historically, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) changed its name from Zaire in 1997 to indicate a shift towards principles such as fairness and autonomy. However, the country has been marred by political upheavals, conflicts, civil wars, power struggles, and authoritarianism rather than democratic practices (Nzongola-Ntalaja 2004). Within the INC concordances, most words that co-occurred with the DRC were dangerous and threatening, such as *conflict*, *fled*, *rebellion*, *troops*, *war*, *rebels*, *fighting*, and *bombing*. In this

context, the implication of *democratic* is that the DRC lacks democratic practices and governance, and the word was used to contrast negative aspects.

Meanwhile, there were 23 inconsistent collocates, meaning they were present in one dataset sampled for this analysis but missing in the other dataset. This means that 23 unique collocates were present in the *Independent* but not found in the *Times*, while 23 unique collocates were also present in the *Times* but missing in the *Independent*. For example, *national*, *man*, *west*, *democracy*, and *rule* were exclusive in the *Independent*, while *rebel*, *democrats*, *new*, *open* and *tutsi* were distinctive in the *Times*. The consistent collocates were assessed for strategic discourses at two levels using the DHA three-dimensional approach. At Level 1 of the assessment, the collocates were the linguistic realisations and the specific context-dependents. At Level 2, the collocates were evaluated in terms of discursive strategies. In the *Independent*, nine discursive strategies were identified. Three derogatory tools involved spatialisation, collectivisation, and social problematisation as part of politicisation; two forms involved actionalisation and professionalisation; other forms were of economisation and professionalisation, while evidence of de-spatialisation referenced and emphasised the superior 'self'. The full list of collocates and categories of discursive strategies in the *Independent* can be found in Appendix 8a.

Meanwhile, in the *Times*, eight discursive strategies emerged. The most referential strategy was militarisation in terms of military and invasion. The linguistic representation of presumed militarisation used negative predicates such as *fight*, *clash*, and explicit words in the form of nouns, for example, *rebel*

and *war*. Otherness in terms of location or spatialisation was used to identify social actors' place of origin; politicisation was seen through political alignment and organisation and metonyms as attributes, for example, *new*. The full list of collocates and the discursive strategies found in the *Times* can be seen in Appendix 8b.

So far, this section has presented the top fifty words to collocate with African issues and evaluated them in terms of the discursive strategies employed by each newspaper. From this point and to further enhance the evaluation of the collocates above, the next sub-section focuses on the top collocates in the INC. It performs a comparative analysis of the most dominant collocates, which included *and*, *south*, *president*, *republic* and *against*. This will establish significant patterns and meanings of collocates. In the examples chosen for the analysis, the co-text environments of **and** were investigated in sub-corpora based on the three discourse strategies chosen for this CDA study. This is seen below.

7.2.5 Analysis of 'and' - the Most Frequent Key Collocate in the INC

In the list of the top 50 most frequent collocates in the INC, as seen in Table 7.7 above and Appendix 7, some items were significantly more frequent than others. One case in this study was the conjunction **and**. It emerged as the most frequent word in the INC. This was unsurprising because it is the fifth most frequent word in SiBol, which means that it is a highly significant word in English grammar and as a result, it was expected that it would frequently occur in all sub-corpora. Despite this, its occurrence was less frequent when the incidences were evaluated across sub-corpora. This (in)frequency in sub-corpora suggested that its usage

was beyond mere grammatical function, for example, to shape meaning, construct identities, negotiate power relationships between groups of different statuses, and reinforce beliefs and opinions. Also, the notion that even simple words can be used discursively in language (Billig 2008; Welsh 1955; Wodak & Meyer 2015) was crucial in establishing the non-grammatical meaning of the term **and**. Consequently, it became an intriguing collocate to investigate in this thesis. The analysis of the seemingly neutral word like **and** in this thesis started with the quantitative examination of **and** across concordance in sub-corpora. The outcome is illustrated below in Figure 7.2.

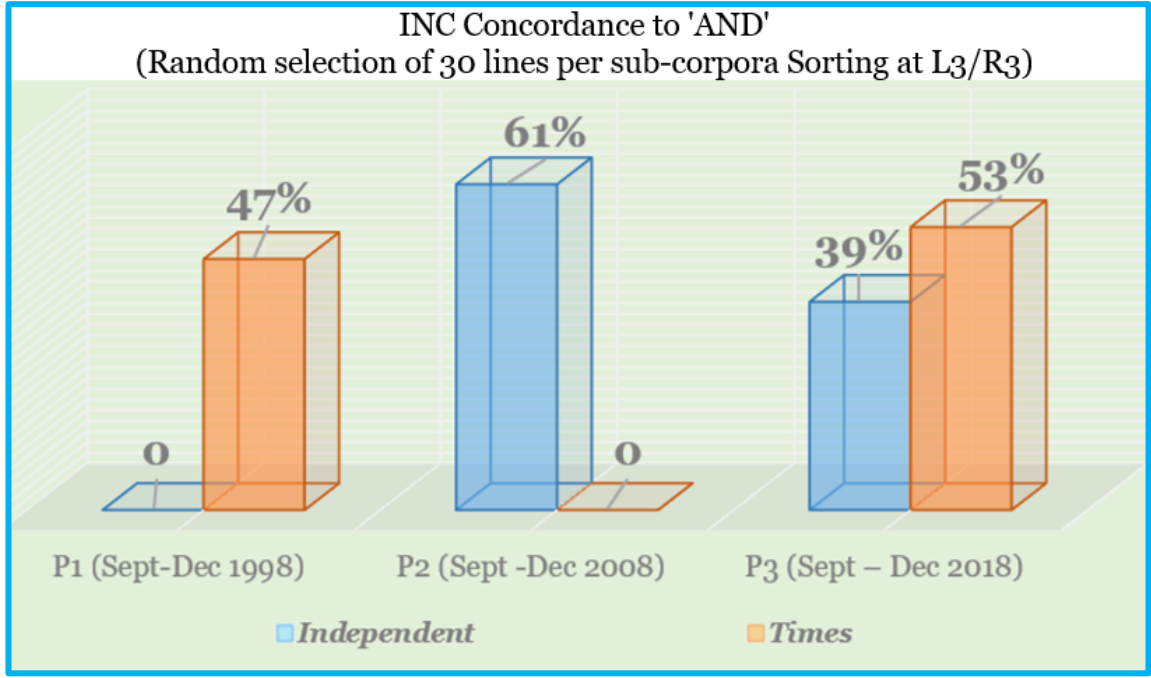


Figure 7. 2. INC Concordance to 'And' across sub-corpora

What was striking in the data above was that although **and** was the most frequent collocate in the sampled data, it only appeared during two periods in each newspaper. In the *Independent*, it appeared 1.6 times more during 2008 than in 2018 and was absent during 1998. In the *Times*, it occurred 1.1 times more in 2018 than in 1998 and was absent during 2008. Also notable was that it occurred as a collocate in both newspapers during 2018. During 2018 in the *Times*, it occurred 1.2 times more than in the *Independent* during the same period. This quantitative variation warranted a qualitative analysis.

An examination of 30 random concordance lines that contained **and** collocate was carried out in terms of the three strategies in the analytical framework by Reisigl and Wodak (2001). This step is significant because it illustrates how key terms collocate within empirical evidence and what collocates mean in topoi analysis and semantic prosody. The underlined words demonstrate how the selected newspaper was used **and**, in addition to the ascribed prosodic evaluation/meaning.

7.2.6 Occurrence of and in the *Independent*

To highlight the diachronic change in the occurrence of the most frequent collocate for **africa** and **africans**, two sets of illustrations are presented from 30 concordances per period in the *Independent*. This is shown below in Figures 7.3 and 7.4. The illustrations are followed by discussions of the occurrences during both periods. The illustration with more extended concordances is found in Appendix 9a.

Occurrences of AND in 30 random concordances in the <i>Independent</i> 2008		
being flown to freedom in Africa on their release.	And	while the movement might bear some similarities to
ere they will be given to families struggling with poverty	and	unemployment. The goats were being cared for by prison
ght to Africa, they will be given to families to supply milk	and	sell any excess for profit. The recipient family will then pa
led to over one million people being internally displaced	and	over 210,000 pouring over the border into the nearby Dab
8,000 Somali civilians have been killed so far this year	and	, with Ethiopia's troops still firmly entrenched on their neigh
chooses to maintain one of Africa's largest military forces	and	embark on a long-term occupation of its neighbour, then c
ores of gruesome murders every year. A belief in witches	and	the evils purportedly wrought by them – from famine to spe
n economic phenomenon. Pointing to modern day Africa	and	Renaissance Europe, they argue that pensions, not educat
at you are an African-American or that you are black?'	and	I say, 'Yes' – so that we can remind our children. It took a
s for the cameras in Harare, clear signs of the bitterness	and	division remained. MPs from the Movement for Democratic
nained. MPs from the Movement for Democratic Change	and	the former ruling par ty, Zanu PF, jeered at each other durin
nes at each other, forcing the police to fire warning shots	and	set dogs on them. The crowd succeeded in storming the ba
uries. Mr Mugabe was heckled as he read a long speech	and	made angr v off-the-c uff remarks, sometimes in the vernac
d amid hyper-inflation, millions of its people are starving	and	dependent on overseas food aid, and recently a cholera epi
economic sanc tions because of Zimbabwe's vulnerability	and	the suffering of its people. So far 575 people have died in Z
utbreak. Thousands more have been infected both there	and	in neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and
nd in neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana	and	Zambia amid a breakdown in clean water supplies to much
sts. While organised crime, fuelled by trafficking in drugs	and	guns, remains the biggest single headache for the gardai, i
es of society, a major investigation into human trafficking	and	prostitution, involving three police forces, came to fruition w
that gardai had raided brothels in seven provincial cities	and	towns. The fact that the raids were part of an international i
ory. The trafficking of women from eastern Europe, Africa	and	South America into Ireland has grown to meet the demand
growing sex trade here. Women and children are bought	and	sold, coerced, beaten and murdered. This is the slave trade
better life, we deserve a life without fear, hunger, poverty	and	oppression." United Mr Tsvangirai said that the "road ahead
, Mr Mugabe's speech was almost entirely about the past,	and	a demonstration that despite Zimbabwe's economic meltdown
is generals, he gave a history of the anti-colonial struggle	and	delivered a trademark denunciation of Britain. "Why, why wh
00 to 11,000 prostitutes were from Eastern Europe, Africa	and	Asia. The conclusion was unavoidable for Mr Cohen – intern
spoon and Vince Vaughn, 'Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa'	and	Baz Luhrman's 'Australia', with Nicole Kid-man. based on t
who is spearheading an international effort to end poverty	and	hunger in Africa, appealed to world governments not to "ta
p to March 2009. With millions of Zimbabweans starving	and	cholera raging, British leader Gordon Brown called on the i
cause they see avoidable deaths – of children, mothers,	and	families . . . This is a humanitarian catastrophe. This is a br

Figure 7. 3. Construction of and in the *Independent* 2008

Figure 7.3. above indicates 30 concordances taken from the *Independent* in 2008 of the collocate **and**. The co-texts were assessed using colour coding to distinguish between negative and positive meanings. Co-texts with negative

meanings were underlined and highlighted in red, while those with positive meanings were underlined and marked in green. Italicised words emphasised examples of concordance texts, while bold texts highlighted key terms, collocates and other relevant concepts examined in this thesis. Out of 30 instances where **and** occurred as a reference to the other, 24 contained negative evaluations. This represented 80% negative evaluation, 7% positive evaluation and 13% occurrences that had neutral interpretations. When this was contrasted with 2018, the following information was found in Figure 7.4 (see also Appendix 9b).

Occurrences of PRESIDENT in 30 random concordances in the <i>Independent</i> 2018		
no was the world's first elected black female president	and	Africa's first elected female head of state in 2005. Joyce Banda
to lead mile failte in the workplace if you are black	and	not Irish IF you happen to be black and not Irish,
all the interVen tions put in place in Uganda, poverty	and	corruption remain rife. Millions of people in rural areas are
es would migrants arriving by boat from North Attica	and	to repatriate came to power in May. "This is a step forward
d his concern about the widening gap between rich	and	poor and the damage caused by "insatiable greed". "An i
ogress towards project sanctions in east Africa year	and	groos production expected to increase to around 180.000
anadero, Case IH Vice-President for Europe, Africa	and	the Middle East. "It's a fitting recognition that greater tran
ur developing country partners in Africa. South Asia	and	across the Indo-Pacific - to help them ensure that childre
were fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East	and	Africa. The influx of migrants was drastically curtailed by
as one put it. "They come here. ask what we need	and	then they build it." Last month, Tanzania's pres- ident John
ring him there. "He is a famous guy in South Africa	and	as a former player also. "Irs going to be averygood test f
e arrived in the country after his mother fled Nigeria	and	sought asylum in Ireland. The rejection of her asylum cla
real mean ingful trade taking place between Africa	and	China through value-added goods; he told reporters. Chi
African countries achieve sustainable develop ment	and	steer clear of debt or financial woes, she added. We need
less area that is infested with rebel groups. freelance militias	and	armed criminal gangs. Epicentres Already struggling in condi tions
cularly perilous front after 28 people died of Ebola in	and	around Butembo, a city of around 12million people in the
gently floats money for Africa." parliament migrants	and	refugees are A surge in support for Minister Heiko Maas
we believe we have the capacity to make a difference,	and	thankfully we are making a difference for good in alot of th
cracked up to be. Some of the fastest-growing slums	and	shanty-towns in the world are now springing up in Africa
as a major transit point to Europe for those fleeing poverty	and	civil war elsewhere in Africa. Gold at U-18 Europeans is just th
i, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda	and	Eritrea. Meeke rewarded for strong World Cup with All Star se
et Powereqion's customers are based in the Middle East	and	Africa region, and the group has over 1.000 clients. U nder t
rules, the lack of access to Ir.s i h business networks to radsm	and	d, si crimination. For almost two decades, MRCI has been worki
practices, some- times shoddy infrastructure projects	and	what some see as another- albeit different - neo-colonia
move away from merely prCNid- ing development assistance	and	instead treat Africa as an equal. The Chinese often present the
y bring relief to all those children and people exhausted by war	and	famine; the Pope said. Francis also turned his attention to other ho
nali man suspected of having been a member of Jsil	and	who had threatened to bomb churches in Italy, including
ppling with current account deficits, weak currencies	and	rising inflation Emerging markets worldwide have been l
t to hold states in Africa captive to Bei- jing- swishes	and	demands Referring to the large-scale infrastruaturalpro
8pc from North America and 45pc from the biddle East	and	Africa In its 2015 financial yeaSMBC placed orders for UO A

Figure 7. 4. Construction of and in the *Independent* 2018

In counting the occurrences of words with negative evaluation in the environment of **and** in the *Independent* in 2018, this analysis examined 30 random concordance lines. It found 19 concordances (63%) with negative interpretations, five concordance lines (17%) with positive connotations, and six concordances (20%) with neutral statements. In this analysis, neutral prosodies' percentage(s) were mentioned; however, only two binary opposites were considered and analysed: positive and negative. This means that at 63%, the INC tended to link **and** with negative words, thus intensifying the negative connotation associated with each word. This served to emphasise predominantly negative and unfavourable descriptions of social actors. Two values were compared to determine the quantitative evaluation of (un)favourability, whereby the smaller denominator was divided by the larger denominator. This method is shown in the *Independent* during 2018:

Equation 10: Quantitative evaluation of words:

$$\frac{63 \text{ (negative instances)}}{17 \text{ (positive instances)}} = 3.7\%$$

The numerical representation indicated that **and** was used unfavourably at a 3.7% rate more than positively to qualify and ascribe negative linguistic attributions and traits to African issues. The following observations exemplified three discursive strategies employed in examining the occurrences of **and** in 60 concordances, 30 during 2008 and 30 during 2018 in the *Independent*:

- In nomination, *banditry* was used to refer to the criminal activities of social actors.

- *People* was used to reference collectivisation.
- Predicate normative nouns such as *mother* and *father* were used to describe and compliment *single* and *African* as indirect subjects and appeared as a 'backgrounding' technique to deliberately reference, suppress, and exclude outgroups.
- Predicative nouns such as *war*, *banditry*, *hyper-inflation*, *caution*, *opposition*, *security*, and *unemployment*; adjectives such as *dependent*, *insufficient*, and *chipped*; verbs such as *starving*, and *suffering*; nouns such as *poverty*, *trafficking*, *prostitution*, *hunger*, and *oppression*, were frequently used to portray social actors negatively. The evaluation of **and** in this context suggested a negative representation of Africans, making **and** possessing a negative semantic prosody.
- Diachronically – over time, the number of negative words that co-occurred with **and** decreased by 17% between 2008 and 2018. There were 80% negative words in the **and** environment during 2008, with 63% negative words during 2018. Also, over time, positive words increased in the **and** environment. There were 17% positive words in 2018, as opposed to 7% negative words with anti-discriminatory discourses in 2008. For example, using the following words: *assistance*, *food security*, *brothers and sisters*, *children* and *people*, *migrants*, and *refugees*, the *Independent* explicitly framed humanitarian issues and needs of disadvantaged groups, inferring the Topos of Humanitarianism.

This specific investigation discovered a new outcome that past research had not yet uncovered. The dataset suggested that, between 2008 and 2018, news coverage of African issues became slightly less threatening and negative in the *Independent*. This aspect of data indicated a shift in tone over time, suggesting that the conservative newspaper had a subtle desire to be more empathetic and to focus on social issues relating to immigration, the safety needs of immigrants and reducing polarisation, rather than portraying immigrants as a security threat. This change in approach could lead to a more positive portrayal of immigrants in news coverage and help reduce divisiveness and discrimination.

At this stage, it is important to recall that prior research suggests that conservative newspapers employ fewer human rights topoi to support their orientation or foreground the plights of asylum seekers (immigrants) to reduce fear and create empathy (Khosravinik 2014). Equally, conservative media reproduce the most frequent topics on ethnic prejudices, racism, and problematic cultural differences (van Dijk 1991). When compared with liberal newspapers, for example, Baker *et al.* (2008), Baron & Jost (2019), Berry *et al.* (2015), Caviedes (2018), KhosraviNik *et al.* (2012) and Gabrielatos & Baker (2008) find that conservative newspapers assume and emphasise more negative views on immigration compared to liberal ones. Also, conservative media often adopt a more negative stance on immigration, citing issues like job loss, cultural homogeneity and national security (Messina & Warren 2014). In the given literature, the arguments are crucial in establishing the validity and reliability of this study's specific findings. However, certain arguments lend credence to the finding in the INC that the *Independent* evolved to become more empathetic over

time. For example, Eberl *et al.* (2018) highlight a shortage of prior studies examining political orientation as a variable in the media's representation of European immigration. This suggests that this aspect has been neglected and that even if a study uncovered a correlation between conservative orientation and negative attitudes toward immigration, it would be inaccurate to claim that all conservative media are anti-immigration. Supporting Eberl *et al.* (2018)'s viewpoint, Jaworska (2020) and Mancini *et al.* (2021) advance that some researchers consider political orientation when selecting newspapers for analysis; nonetheless, they often fail to directly compare how migrants are portrayed in conservative and liberal media. This omission can lead researchers to overlook crucial insights into how political ideology shapes media narratives about migration. In addition, most prior research on media representation of immigration focuses on the Anglo-Saxon press (Eberl *et al.* 2018). This may limit the generalisation of findings to other European countries with different political, cultural and historical contexts. For example, in assessing if US conservatives are likely to hold misperceptions, Garrett & Bond (2021) find that while this may be true, there is no empirical evidence to suggest that conservatives are susceptible to misperceptions. Talking about the truth about bias and the news, Alterman (2002) argues that most journalists are liberal on social issues but conservative on economic issues. This is the idea that media owners do not hire people who "threaten the economic structure that has been good to them" (Alterman 2002, p.37). Therefore, most journalists are more likely to be liberal than conservative and may highlight human sufferings or issues related to immigration from time to time. In his own words, "Journalists have the same views on affirmative action,

gay rights, and gun control everywhere, and they have them in the media" (Alterman 2002, p.39). Having argued this, Alterman notes that journalists often find themselves in a challenging position, as they must maintain professionalism, objectivity and balance in their reporting while also navigating the influence of the conservative lobby. These counterarguments and the contention that empirical evidence is crucial in establishing facts are essential when reporting sensitive topics. Nevertheless, the absence of empirical proof does not necessarily imply non-existence or theoretical or anecdotal indications of conservative bias towards immigration. The analysis of this dataset revealed that the *Independent* (conservative media) exhibited an empathetic tone and prioritised wide-ranging topics. While this finding might be attributed to this thesis's methodology (see Chapter Four and Chapter 5.6 for manual collocation), it nonetheless provided a foundation for further investigation. The desire to identify Africa/Africans with less threatening discourses was also observed in statistics, which indicated decreasing negative words in the **and** environment over time in the *Independent*. This is found in Table 7.4 below.

Table 7. 4. Results of analysis of 30 concordance lines for negative/positive words surrounding and key terms in the *Independent*

Period	No of concordance lines with negative/positive and neutral references/traits in the <i>Independent</i> .		
	Negative	Positive	Neutral
P2 Sept – Dec 2008	24/30 (80%)	2/30 (7%)	4/30 (13%)
P3 Sept – Dec 2018	19/30 (63%)	5/30 (17%)	6/30 (20%)
Total	43/60 (72%)	7/60 (12%)	10/60 (16%)

Two results can be obtained from Table 7.4. above. The first is that over the two periods when **and** occurred as a critical term to collocate with African issues, there were more words with opposing meanings to occur as co-texts than positive words in both periods under study. However, there was a 17% reduction in the frequency of negative words from 2008 to 2018. The second result found a 10% increase in positive words around **and**, from 7% in 2008 to 17% in 2018. This suggests that, over time, **and** became less negative when talking about African issues in the *Independent*. At the same time, a noticeable increase of positive co-texts occurred. Overall, the *Independent* used 72% negative words and 12% positive words to collocate with **and**.

7.2.7 Occurrence of **and** in the *Times*

As this thesis is a comparative study, the occurrences of **and** was examined in the *Times*, bearing in mind that **and** was one of the most frequent words in the frequency wordlist and the most frequent collocate in concordances. This is shown above in Table 7.4. Additionally, its occurrence was irregular, only emerging as a collocate in 1998 and 2018, as shown in Figure 7.4. This necessitated further analysis using DHA discursive strategies. To perform the analysis, 30 concordance lines were randomly selected between 1998 and 2018. For a clear comparative picture, the outcomes of both years are illustrated adjacent to each other below. Figure 7.5. portrays results of **and** occurrences as a collocate in the *Times* during 1998, while Figure 7.6 displays evidence of 2018. (Refer to Appendix 10a and 10b for extended concordance lines.) Discussions of the results follow this.

Occurrences of AND in 30 random concordances in the <i>Times</i> 1998		
opportunity to raise some always-needed funds for Africa	and	he has recruited Sonia O'Sullivan to run a lap of honour bet
our the <u>deposed Ghanaian president, Kwame Nkrumah,</u>	and	Guinea's first president, Sekou Toure. The civil rights leade
the August 7th bombings of the US embassies in Kenya	and	Tanzania, which killed 253 people, including 12 Americans.
ulated solely by starving babies, their emaciated mothers	and	a few kindly Irish nurses? They also include a creeping cyn
erican military stationed in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Somalia	and	elsewhere. Tutu says guilty should face trial BISHOP- Des
beam in our own eye Western attitudes to human rights	and	the Third World are riddled with contradictions. We give aid
an empty stomach, we seem to say, than to be well fed	and	have no vote at all. In Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia are see
of ordering the bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi	and	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. "We decided that if he had a cor
on; <u>famine - a scarcity of food causing people to migrate</u>	and	maybe starve; charities - agencies that help people in need
ow aid agencies do their work. When faced with unstable	and	unpredictable circumstances, the otherwise straightforward
es or government-backed militias engage in torture, rape	and	murder, the authorities refer to "excesses". But when the s
between victims have been denied access to the country,	and	the government vehemently refuses to allow an internatio
eddine Ben Ali. <u>Tunisian officials would argue that torture</u>	and	the imprisonment of at least 2,000 people suspected of lin
rs wipe out whole villages by night, burning or mutilating	and	beheading men and women, infants and old people. Israel
these camps have left behind a trail of dead relatives, old	and	young, as they trekked from their homelands through miles
unity delivers thousands upon thousands of tons of food	and	medical aid every month. Huge sums of money are being sp
and Trocaire work tirelessly and courageously in difficult	and	dangerous conditions, and thousands of individual aid worke
flation in Zimbabwe is running at more than 30 per cent	and	African Gold hopes the "political difficulties are only short ter
so. <u>The humanitarian disaster in Sudan is the result of war</u>	and	the cost in human life is intolerable. If even a fraction of the m
re secure. Instead, we see millions of pounds disappearing	and	Sudan slowly disintegrating as a viable political entity. What is
- north-west Europe, the former Soviet Union, west Africa	and	the Far East. There was record production, and "two signifi
asses to shareholders its investment focus on North Africa	and	the Middle East and maintenance of North American and D
sterday pledged "substantial" aid to rebuild Kenyan lives	and	businesses shattered by the August 7th car bombing at its M
three-nation visit to Africa, visited the site of the bombing	and	laid a wreath at a small memorial to the victims. Festive se
mpact. Condoms are freely available at clinics, as is pre-	and	post-test counselling. The first case of AIDS in Zimbabwe w
of Health visited Uganda, did HIV/AIDS prevention, care	and	control take on significance. Uganda has been widely appla
ant labour pattern; a worsening socio-economic situation	and	unemployment. Certainly cultural patterns have not contain
as they want. Urban polygamy, where a man has a wife	and	several mistresses, is common. Culturally, a man is expecte
participation. Women are the hardest hit, both by poverty	and	by a vast array of powerful, discriminatory barriers. We mus
sure. In Kisangani, I remember him cradling a dying child	and	demanding 'what can we do about this'." On the high seas f

Figure 7. 5. Construction of and collocate in the *Times* 1998 corpus

In the data in Figure 7.5 above, all concordances occurred at mid-points with words that possessed mainly negative connotations. During 1998, 24 out of 30

concordance lines (80%) occurred with words connoting extreme to less severe negative impacts. Meanwhile, four lines (13%) employed positive words. There was no clear prosody in two lines (7%), making it neutral. During 2018, 21 out of 30 concordances (70%) co-occurred with negative words around **and**. Eight concordances (27%) received positive mentions, while one concordance line (3%) was neutral. This is shown in Figure 7.6 below.

Occurrences of AND in 30 random concordances in the <i>Times</i> 2018		
al, Addis <u>Ababa</u> , resulted in the deaths of several people	and	caused hundreds to flee their homes. "Several lives v
ed hundreds to flee their homes. "Several lives were lost	and	properties damaged due to this attack," head of the C
petrators are criminals organised in groups to kill people	and	cause damages to the properties of targeted citizens
ime minister Abiy Ahmed strongly condemns the killings	and	acts of violence against innocent citizens ... These co
e cowardly attacks represent a grave concern to the unity	and	solidarity of our people & will be met with appropriate
ng for control of the city, and the vulnerability of migrants	and	refugees held in indefinite detention across Libya wa
chance to get back on track. "The idea is to go to Melilla	and	show a lot of character," said Solari. "I have great ho
ge numbers of people are determined to escape poverty	and	conflict and seek a better life away from where they h
as in Galway, has dedicated his career to ending hunger	and	poverty in rural Africa. For the past 25 years, Scully a
e witnessed first-hand some of the malnutrition, hardship	and	suffering experienced by millions of people across th
y worker fundraises tirelessly to help save lives in Africa	and	we asked him about his motivation in life and what ne
nd; setting up the Street Children Programme in Luanda	and	Angola; running in the North Pole Marathon; and bein
other of my proudest achievements is being able to help	and	support families living in poverty and working with su
ublic health problems globally, particularly among women	and	children in sub-Saharan Africa. The Food and Agricu
ed the arrested woman are understood to be from Malawi	and	Kenya* respectively and are well-known to each other
aid his client had returned from Africa to face the charge	and	he asked the judge to suspend any sentence or his c
y to explore the opportunities for Irish businesses in Africa	and	of course the partnerships that are possible between Ir
g Nato's. Geopolitical change in Russia, the Middle East	and	Africa presents Europe with new security and diplom
diterranean from Africa and the Middle East to flee war	and	poverty, according to the UN agency International Org
t for mainly sub-Saharan Africans, have been disrupted	and	the European Union has stepped up efforts to increas
at Europe can do for Africa. The question is what Europe	and	Africa can do together." The EU External Investment
ims to raise significant sustainable investments in Africa	and	European neighbourhood countries by 2020. From th
urge African states to more effectively manage migration	and	promise them a few euro for their pains. That reality
nce ahead of the game. There are 49.7 million Kenyans,	and	Sabine Cessou reports in Le Monde Diplomatique th
ess to Italian ports for ships which had rescued migrants,	and	clashed repeatedly with French president Emmanue
ant deteriorations found in the Middle East, North Africa	and	sub-Saharan Africa, driven by war, terrorism, oppress
an Africa, driven by war, terrorism, oppressive regimes,	and	the declining availability of food and shelter. "Prosper
mother, a native of an African country, is an Irish citizen	and	her disabled son has Irish residency. Another son, ac
e who migrate, how to integrate them into new countries	and	how to return them to their home countries, was appr
nd World War, many fleeing conflicts in the Middle East	and	Africa. The issue has led to a government crisis in Be

Figure 7. 6. Construction of and collocate in the *Times* 2018 corpus

The environments of **and** collocates in Figure 7.10 were assessed using DHA strategies, and three overarching conclusions were drawn:

- The predication strategy typified social actors as having specific attributes. Explicit predicates through predicative verbs and nouns such as *riddled*, *killing*, *raping*, *looting*, *problems*, *mutilating*, *disappearing*, *beheading* and *death*, adjectives such as *deadly*, *contaminated*, and *roaming*, frequently preceded or ensued the key term **and**. These were evaluated to be generally negative traits and with perceived threats to the way of life of the 'self'.
- Nomination strategy was employed through spatial representation/framing. This is important when analysing discourse, as references to physical space can be used to communicate identities and complex ideas and highlight social status and power. The concordances for this analysis were not directly relevant to discourses about Africans; however, they formed part of the whole discourse. Therefore, the references to space/places were interpreted as any other text, with space found to be constituent and socially constitutive in the discourse. The spatial organisation conflated together countries in Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East and were nominated/referenced with the crisis attribute. It could be argued that this was a referential strategy that deliberately grouped and foregrounded these countries because they were threatening and dangerous, such as in '*new security and diplomatic problems*'; '*war*', '*terrorism*', and '*oppressive regimes*', '*declining availability of food and shelter*'.
- Quantitatively and diachronically, there were more references of negative than positive attributes about the 'outgroup'. There were 80% negative

mentions during 1998 as opposed to 13% positive mentions. During 2018, 70% of the mentions were negative, as opposed to 27% positive. The rest of the sampled concordances possessed no clear prosodies. It was noted that although the pattern reproduced a prevalence of negative portrayal in both periods, there was a slightly favourable representation. There was a 10% reduction in negative mentions during 2018 and a 14% greater occurrence of positive portrayals during 2018.

One must also highlight that in Chapter One of this thesis, it was proposed that because Africans are an immigrant group outside Africa and that in the context of Ireland, within which this thesis is situated, general references of immigrants in discourse collectively included Africans. This means that studies about immigrants in Ireland and Europe were assumed to also be about African migrants. In this sense, the view that the media portrays immigrants negatively is confirmed by Goodman et al. (2017). One key aspect of their discourse analysis study of the UK's media reporting of events in 2015 focused on how categorisations of immigrants included and excluded refugees. They found that over time, portrayals of migrants shifted from humanitarian and sympathetic appreciations to those of extremism and threat by immigrants migrating to the UK. This evidence showed that migrants are a threat and must be prevented from entering the UK.

In this thesis, in 1998, the *Times* covered more humanitarian stories about African issues, featuring words such as *starvation*, *famine*, *humanitarian disasters*, *health crises*, and *poverty*. In 2018, however, far too many dominant

discourses involved problems such as *attacks, violence, conflict, security concerns, clashes, war, caused, loss, killings, raping, looting, mutilating, beheading and terrorism*. The resulting prevalent description of Africans/Africa from this was a sense of barbarous, primitive (Mudimbe 1994) and lawless people and societies within countries. The findings in the INC supported the significant finding that negative depictions of immigrants in the UK (African issues) evolved and shifted over different years from empathy to extremism. As news portrayals of immigration influence public opinion (Eberl et al. 2018), it can be argued that the prevalence of negative portrayals of Africans in the INC can diverge from reality to produce and reproduce, maintain, and further marginalise Africans in society. The implications of this and the evidence presented so far suggested discursive strategies by the INC to represent African issues negatively. Table 7.5 below contains the statistics of negative and positive words that occurred in the environment of **and** in the *Times* concordances.

Table 7. 5. Results of analysis of 30 concordance lines for negative/positive words surrounding and key term in the *Times*

Period	No of concordance lines with negative/positive and neutral references/traits in the <i>Times</i>		
	Negative	Positive	Neutral
P1 Sept – Dec 1998	24/30 (80%)	4/30 (13%)	2/30 (7%)
P3 Sept – Dec 2018	21/30 (70%)	8/30 (27%)	1/30 (3%)
Total	45/60 (75%)	12/60 (20%)	3/60 (5%)

The first quantitative pattern showed more negative than positive co-texts in the above table and both years. Nonetheless, the frequency of negative words decreased over time, indicating a simultaneous desire to reduce unfavourable words and increase more favourable attributes when using **and** in African discourses. Seventy-five percent of negative words occurred versus 20% of positive words to collocate with **and** in the *Times*.

It can be inferred from this quantitative evidence that although discourses around **and** were still dominated by negative words, over time, the liberal newspaper reduced talking about certain negative discourses. Topics like *violence, instability and insecurity, starvation, diseases, militarisation, and humanitarian disaster* shifted to slightly more positive words around **and**, for example, to portray the 'other' in equal power collaborations as in '*... what Europe and Africa can do together*'; '*... significant sustainable investments in Africa and European ...*'. Some evidence suggested that the *Times* treated the 'other' more empathetically. For example, '*... protect people who migrate, how to integrate them into new countries and how to return them to their home countries...*'. Nevertheless, some positive mentions tended to foreground the good about the 'self' than the 'other'. For example, the 'self' was portrayed as involving in humanitarian activities in North Africa and Angola. The following outcomes emerged when the *Independent* and the *Times* evidence was compared.

Table 7. 6. Comparison of and collocate across sub-corpora

Period	Compared frequencies of negative and positive collocates for the key term and occurrences in concordances			
	Negative		Positive	
	<i>Independent</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Independent</i>	<i>Times</i>
P1 Sept – Dec 1998	0%	80	0%	13%
P2 Sept – Dec 2008	80	0%	7%	0%
P3 Sept – Dec 2018	70%	75%	17%	27%
Total/newspaper	72%	75	12%	20%
Total of binary oppositions towards African issues in the INC $\frac{72 \text{ (total of Independent)} + 75 \text{ (total of Times)}}{200 \text{ (overall total)}} \times 100 = 74\% \text{ negative representation}$ $\frac{12 \text{ (total of Independent)} + 20 \text{ (Total of Times)}}{200 \text{ (overall total)}} \times 100 = 16\% \text{ positive representation}$				

The evidence in Table 7.6 contained data in both newspapers. The reason for the frequency variation of the collocate **and** across sub-corpora was unclear. The only evaluation was the varying levels of media representation over time. The statistics showed that, firstly, while the conjunction **and** occurred as a collocate for African issues in the *Times* during the first period, it was absent in the *Independent* in the same period. It occurred in the *Independent* in the second period but was lacking in the *Times*. Meanwhile, during the third period, it occurred in both newspapers. When the statistics were contrasted in 2018, the *Times* used 5% more negative words around **and** than the *Independent*—at the same time, the *Times* used 10% more positive words than the *Independent* in the **and** environment. Additionally, the *Times* frequently used more explicitly

discriminatory words than the *Independent*. For example, while the *Independent* used words with social systemic issues such as *banditry*, *trafficking*, and *prostitution* as the most prevalent descriptions of Africans/Africa, the *Times* used words with immediate universally condemned actions and outrage such as *killing*, *beheading*, *mutilating*, *terrorism*, *oppressive*, *raping*, and *looting*, etc. Overall, the *Times* used 3% more explicit discriminatory utterances than the *Independent*. Also, the *Times* used 10% more positive attributes about African issues than the *Independent*. As well as this, although both newspapers frequently used more negative than positive descriptions, the *Times* frequently used more stereotypical utterances than the *Independent* when using **and**.

Overall, it was expected for **and** to co-occur grammatically, for example, in joining two *Independent* clauses or frequently occurring with neutral words and connotations. Katebi (2012) argues that **and** is a word with seemingly neutral semantic prosody typically used for purposes including adversative, causal, additive, and temporal, as in the case of The Netherlands and France, where its primary function was to link texts together. However, this analysis indicated that the epistemic richness of **and** co-occurred substantially to link negative attributes when discussing African issues. This finding gave a subtle and hidden meaning, thus agreeing that meaning could be derived from context or the company it kept (Firth 1957). In this regard, audiences could infer from the argument that **africa/african*** were dangerous and threatening. Adding to this, the *Independent* named and attributed certain traits to social actors. This strengthened the argumentation theory, where both newspapers frequently used arguments (topoi) about danger and threat, law and order, abuse, war, famine,

poverty, and criminality, which the ingroup must avoid. The most significant finding, however, was that at 75%, the *Times* used more negative words when talking about the outgroup and focused on humanitarian issues in anti-discriminatory discourses. The rate of negative words in the *Independent* was 55%. This finding agrees with Khosravinik (2014) that in most 'self' and 'other' representations in discourse, conservative (*Independent*) newspapers generally refrain from explicit negative 'other' referential. Additionally, it confirms that the "... liberal press is gradually succumbing to more exclusionary rhetoric and using negative othering processes for immigrants across Europe..." (Khosravinik 2014, p.518). It further supports the view that, regardless of political orientation, media attitudes towards immigrants frequently portray migrants (Africans and asylum seekers) as a source of threat and terrorism to host societies (Caviedes 2015; Fryberg et al. 2011; Khosravinik 2009, 2010), and that discourses of 'othering' are mainly constructed around skin colour (Hunter 2007; Roth 2012; van Dijk 2013, 2000, 1991; Villegas & Simmons 2010). In the INC, the representations in both newspapers were mainly negative, with 74% negative utterances versus 16% positive words portraying Africans when using **and** as a collocate.

From here, the following section investigates the discursiveness of the topics based on collocates of the core words, **africa** and **africans**.

7.3 Discourse Topics and Discursiveness of the INC

The analysis in this section focuses on discourse topics from the collocation analysis involving **africa** and **africans***. Their frequent co-texts significantly determined the meaning of the key terms in the context in which they occurred.

This sort of analysis deviates from the traditional or grammatical meanings of words. It suggests that the behaviour of words and linguistic and social choices influences language production and interpretation. According to Sinclair (1991) and Baker (2006), collocation is the frequent co-occurrence of words. This is the "occurrence of two or more words within a short space of each other in a text" (Sinclair 1991, p.170), which serves to describe how units of meanings co-occur in text, helps to assess their importance in concordance, and helps to categorise patterns of language (Barnbrook 2013; Kennedy *et al.* 2024). The manual framework to examine collocations in this thesis (see Chapter Four) is taken from Sinclair's (1991) and Bednarek's (2015) views of collocation. Collocates were the words that co-occurred in higher frequency than others with the node. Following the word boundaries of three windows left and right of the node and Sinclair's approach (Bednarek 2015), this study examined collocations from a systematic approach using data from the main corpus of this study. Concordances for the nodes were observed, as evidenced in *SkE*. A span of three words on either side of the nodes was documented as collocates. The top 50 collocates were selected and grouped by their salient features to form semantic patterns. Interpretations were based on the patterns that were observed. The list of the top 50 collocates in each newspaper is compared in Appendix 7. Table 7.7 below displays the list of combined top 50 collocates in the INC, which is the basis for this analysis.

Table 7.7. Top 50 collocates for the nodes Africa and Africa in the INC

	COLLOCATES	FREQ			COLLOCATES	FREQ
1	and	780		26	irish	30
2	south	469		27	southern	28
3	president	162		28	people	28
4	country	103		29	north	28
5	republic	100		30	american	28
6	against	87		31	us	27
7	east	80		32	west	26
8	first	73		33	we	26
9	former	56		34	UN	26
10	they	52		35	most	26
11	all	51		36	tour	25
12	one	50		37	national	25
13	army	50		38	forces	25
14	rebel	47		39	congress	24
15	democratic	46		40	african	24
16	government	45		41	war	23
17	ireland	42		42	zimbabwe	22
18	africa	42		43	new	22
19	man	41		44	national	22
20	black	39		45	democracy	21
21	troops	37		46	soldier	20
22	many	36		47	oil	20
23	their	35		48	criket	19
24	woman	30		49	austraia	18
25	state	30		50	conflict	18

The list of the most frequent collocates in the INC is observed above in Table 7.7. Alone, these words create little meaning. Therefore, the contexts of usage and saliency were examined concordantly with all sub-corpora, and the investigation data was combined to help create semantic patterns. The following results contain evidence of discourse topics identified from the top 50 collocates in the INC. The topics are listed below in order of frequency of occurrence, from highest to lowest, and per newspaper in Table 7.8.

Table 7.8. Discourse topics based on occurrences of collocates in the INC

Discourse topics compared in both newspapers	
<i>The Independent</i>	<i>Times</i>
Location(spatial)	Sports
Sports	War/Conflict/violence
War/Conflict/violence	Humanitarian/human rights
Military	Crime/extremism/terrorism
Quantification/abstract	Race/discrimination
Manufacturing/business/economy	Military
Victims	Quantification/abstract
Crime/extremism/terrorism	Unemployment
Humanitarian/human rights	Natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease
Politics	Multiculture/diversity
Reconciliation	Otherness
Race/discrimination	Migration (movement)
Resources	Location(spatial)
Natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	Manufacturing/business/economy
Multiculture/diversity	Media
Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	
History	
Rejection/deportation	

Table 7.8 above highlights discourses that emerged from examining all 50 frequent collocates in both newspapers in the INC. Twenty different semantic topics linked to the occurrences of **africa** and **africans** were identified in the concordance data. From this number, 18 topics occurred in the *Independent*. References to location or spatialisation were the most frequent topic, while the least mentioned topic contained discourses of rejection and deportation. In the *Times*, 15 discourse topics occurred. The most frequent topic contained sports discourse, while the fewest mentioned topics contained discourse on media. The dichotomy in the data means that five discourse topics were present in the *Independent* that were missing in the *Times*. There were Victims, Reconciliation,

Politics, Resources and History. On the other hand, three discourse topics were present in the *Times* but missing in the *Independent*. There were Unemployment, Otherness, and Media. More details and frequencies of occurrences of discourse topics per newspaper are evident in Table 7.9 below.

Table 7.9. Frequencies of occurrence of discourse topics compared in the *Independent* and the *Times*

Discourse topics	<i>Independent</i>	<i>Times</i>
Location(spatial)	41	1
Sports	12	32
War/Conflict/violence	9	22
Military	9	5
Quantification	7	4
Success/manufacturing/business/economy	5	1
Crime/extremism/terrorism	5	7
Humanitarian/human rights	2	13
Racism/discrimination	1	6
Natural disaster/destruction/poverty	0.5	2
Multiculture/diversity/culture	0.4	2
Migration/movement	0.3	1
Unique in the <i>Independent</i>		
Victims	5	0
Reconciliation	2	0
Politics	1	0
Resources	0.7	0
History	0.3	0
Rejection/deportation	0.2	0
Unique in the <i>Times</i>		
Unemployment	0	3
Otherness	0	2
Media	0	1

From the evidence in Table 7.9, twelve discourse topics about African issues were prevalent in both newspapers and across all the years under study. However, there were variations in their frequencies. The four most dominant topics

frequently occurred in the *Independent* than in the *Times*. They were location(spatial), military, quantification, and success/manufacturing/business/economy. Meanwhile, the *Times* focused on six discourses more than the *Independent*: sports, war/conflict/violence, humanitarian/human rights, racism/discrimination, natural disaster/destruction/poverty, crime/extremism/terrorism, and multicultural/diversity/culture. To demonstrate how both newspapers talked about the topics, the following paragraphs demonstrate concrete examples to evaluate discourses of location (*Independent*) and sports (*Times*). These two discourses were the most prevalent topics in each newspaper.

7.3.1 Discourse of Location

The overarching discourse topic from all years in the *Independent* identified the in/outgroups by linking discourse with location. This was more dominant in the *Independent* than in the *Times*. The key terms examined in concordance were *north*, *south*, and *neighbouring*. Extracts of texts with the terms are shown in Table 7.10 below.

Table 7. 10. Discourses of location in both newspapers extracted from all years of sub-corpora

Discourse topic	Examples	Corpus
Location	“... <u>AMBUSHES, confrontations with irregular forces and delicate dealing with local communities and aid organisations. It's all in a day's work for Irish troops currently on peacekeeping duties in war-torn Chad, in north Africa.</u> Yesterday, more than 300 troops who will shortly replace them were <u>put through their paces</u> – not in the <u>harsh and hot conditions of Africa</u> , but in the <u>Wicklow Mountains.</u> ”	Sub-corpus 4 Independent AllYears
	The West probably did want to be <u>conned</u> because South Africa was certainly <u>one of a very few bright spots in an Africa that was noted for its disasters, its famines, its civil</u>	Sub-corpus 4
	“... <u>migrants arriving by boat from North Africa and to be repatriated.</u> “This is a step forward in an increase in “ <u>clandestine</u> ” <u>immigration as migrants tried Libyan coast now be put at risk</u> ... “	Sub-corpus 4
	“... <u>attack suggests that the Hutu-Tutsi conflict that has poisoned Rwanda as well as adjacent Burundi is now entrenched in neighbouring Congo, where the President, Mr Laurent Kabila, came to power in May 1997.</u> ”	Sub-corpus 8 Times AllYears
	“Somalia has <u>no government</u> able to deal with <u>piracy.</u> Neighbouring countries <u>lack the resources to tackle this problem,</u> ” he says. “The <u>only forces that can do anything are coalition naval forces.</u> ” A US-led naval taskforce, set up as part of “ <u>Operation Enduring Freedom</u> ” to <u>tackle terrorism, has been given responsibility</u>	Sub-corpus 8

In the above three examples taken from the *Independent*, the discourse topic of location or spatialisation indicated that **north** (Africa) and **south** (Africa) were crucial modifiers. Expressions such as *ambushes, confrontations, irregular forces, harsh, hot conditions, disaster, famine, conned, and illegal migration* were used to portray **north** (Africa). These modifiers suggest violent places and are typical stereotypical statements to generalise and degrade countries (Cohen & Mazrui 1994). Also, there were inferences of homogeneity with traits referencing a single African country; for example, “... *the harsh and hot conditions of Africa...*” when talking about a specific country suggested that the

writer viewed all (North) Africa in that manner. Scott (2015) argues that Africa is represented in Western media as an identical entity; meanwhile, McKittrick (2011) posits that race, domination, and geography are interconnected in discourse. Investigating the term "black sense of place", McKittrick (2011, p.954) finds that certain places are framed around discourses of the 'other' when talking about violence and places that are populated by mainly Black people in the US, as well as the 'Third World'. Instances of this literature were found in the examples above where the terms functioned to foreground the 'outgroup negatively'. Also, metaphors ascribed negative traits to Africa and positively foregrounded 'ingroup' by implicitly suggesting they were brave enough to confront unpleasant people and places. The linguistic bias by spatialisation in referencing and foregrounding geographies of Black countries and communities can be used as a means of discrimination (Berry et al. 2015). Also, the metaphoric use of '*... all in a day's work for Irish troops...*' foregrounds the 'ingroup' to deal with unpleasant and difficult people or places. By this, Africa was ascribed a specific and shared negative feature, while it presupposed that it was cold and comfortable in Ireland. In contrast, the evaluation of Ireland was positive and expressed implicitly and explicitly.

The critical term **north** was also connected with discourses of migration/movement. An explicit discursive representation of North Africa was linked with crimes in Africa, which was evaluated negatively by illegality in terms of the movement of people, human trafficking, criminal activity, and deportation. While this identifies Africans as threats, it ignores the defencelessness of victims as human beings by backgrounding the risky conditions they move in.

In another example in the corpus, the key term **south** presented the 'other' negatively by enhancing the naivety of the 'ingroup'. The verb (*conned*) emphasised the deceitfulness of the 'other', and nouns (*disasters, famine*) proposed that even in the best country in Africa, the threat to life and property was still widespread. This was reinforced by the trustfulness and naivety of the 'ingroup', while **north africa, south africa, chad, and africa** were portrayed as hungry and victims of catastrophe. This portrayal allows the reader to associate Africa/Africans with such concepts strongly. Additionally, location discourses were examined to quantify the above qualitative assessment. Occurrences of the key terms **north** and **south** are illustrated in 23 concordances taken from the *Independent* sub-corpora, as shown in Figure 7.7 below.

ow we are here to help," she says. Helen has just returned to the troubled	North	Kivu region in the Democratic Republic of Congo where, despite a cease-
poli yesterday in violation of UN Sanctions that ban flights to and from the	north	African country. The plane carried a delegation arriving for celebrations of
erating in the country. It is now focusing on doing business in	North	Africa, the Middle East and maintenance of north American
ssness and deprivation. Battles between youngsters, many of whom are of	north	African origin, take place over almost anything, but especially drug deals
dence in the mostly Christian and animist south from the Moslem, Arab and	north	. Khartoum's treatment of Christians came under the spotlight a year ago
uffering. For the first time in weeks, aid workers were able to move freely in	North	Kivu province, the epicentre of the rebellion led by Laurent Nkunda, a re
omew McKeon, from a southern Catholic family, was shot down and killed in	North	Africa. Just a week later, his only surviving brother, William, suffered a sin
Congo refugees Thousands of displaced people walk along a road heading	north	of Goma, in a bid to return to their homes yesterday. Below, a woman ret
any of approximately £6m on an annual basis if it relocated 700 jobs to the	North	Africa. The Tanaiste revealed that she had spoken to President Clinton a
ch has saved the lives of thousands of migrants flee ing war-torn regions of	North	Africa. The Sinn Fein MEP, who is campaigning to become the supreme
lead to north of the Tbosands of lives would migrants arriving by boat from	North	Attica and to repatriate came to power in May. "This is a step forward in a
ote, rural areas, the present epidemic has swept through populated parts of	north	-eastern Conqo, alawless area that is infested with rebel groups.freeland
undreds of thousands more cut off by the fighting in the hills and forests of	North	Kivu. The UN Security Council is expected to vote this week to reinforce
d 250,000 since August. Gen Nkunda, who now occupies a large swathe of	North	Kivu has threatened to overthrow Mr Kabila. "It's their choice whether to
a shift in the pattern of attacks with more reported in the Gulf of Aden, to the	north	of the Somali coast, which is a vital and busy route between Asia and E
break. Thousands more have been infected both there and in neighbouring	South	Africa. Mozambique. Botswana and Zambia amid a breakdown in clean
rds' out: They would not be able to do much damage with that," he said. In	South	African onc citizen in 40 will die a violent death as a result of cm crashes
reach the next World Cup, Given should be approaching his 100th cap and	South	Africa would be a deserving stage for Ireland's most important player to r
party. That could be disastrous for the country, and more than the country.	South	Africa is a regional power: Mr Mbeki, after incurring much criticism on the
informers in townships. White trash turn on Blacks in S African crime wave	SOUTH	AFRICA'S 'white trash' have joined the growing crime wave, with sex off
ght a chorus of global approval – and great joy in their homeland. England's	South	Africa-born captain Kevin Pietersen and India coach Gary Kirsten – a for
nd John Curran was killed dur- ing a robbery in his apartment in Cape Town	South	Africa; a statement from the charity read. "John only recently com- pleted
have receded after he was named in the Leinster squad that departed for	South	Africa. The PR014 champions take on the Southern Kings on Sunday a

Figure 7. 7. Evaluating the collocates north and south in location discourses in the *Independent*

Figure 7.7 above contains combined concordances for the collocates **north** and **south**, which were key terms in the location discourse. In the figure, the green lines signify terms with positive meanings, while the red lines signify those with negative meanings. Out of 41 instances that referenced spatialisation about African issues, 32 concordance lines occurred with negative co-texts, while six concordances occurred with positive meanings. In percentage figures, this was 78% negative meanings when Africa was referenced in spatialisation and 15% positive meanings. The remaining three lines, the value of 7%, possessed neutral meanings and were disregarded in this analysis.

For comparison, a brief analysis of location discourses was conducted in the *Times*, although sports discourses were the most dominant topic. The key term **neighbouring** was the most prominent collocate for location discourses in the *Times*. Examples that legitimised the concepts in Table 7.15 above indicated that the 'outgroup' was foregrounded with traits unlike the 'ingroup'. References were made to the state of anarchy and the inept ability of the 'ingroup' in favour of a more superior authority, 'us', which symbolises stability, power, and dominance and promotes the rule of law. In other examples, the co-texts of **neighbouring** referenced Congo, a country in Central Africa. The co-texts were filled with negative elements, such as *attack*, *conflict*, *poison*, and *entrenched* and further amplified by the length of time that the social actor (individual) was in power. As well as this, Africa was found to be rife with crime and conflicts, and Africans were *incapable*, *weak*, and *lawless*. According to Michira (2002), reports of endemic violence, coup cycle, conflict, and civil war, some of which are fuelled by Western powers, have a high premium in the Western media, and they automatically earn

a headline or at least top story status. Critics may express concerns about the relevance of the literature in question, given that it is dated and reflects findings from many years ago. However, it is important to recognise that recent research consistently validates the views presented in this body of work. Despite the passage of time, the perspectives of Michira from 2002 provide valuable historical contexts that have evolved and are relevant and valid today. For example, De B'Berl & Louw (2011), Garrett & Schmidt (2011), Asante (2013), Ayisi & Brylla (2013), (Nothias 2013), and Poncian (2015) suggest that Western media continue to portray Africa as crisis-ridden, homogeneous, problematic, and a doomed place unable to govern itself. Also, it should be recalled that in the colonial era, Europeans held a dominant position over Africa and portrayed Africa as a place of widespread crime, conflicts, and lawlessness, with inferior, weak, uncivilised and dangerous people who were in a state of perpetual war and needed to be civilised by Europeans (Biney 1997; Brookes 1995; Melina & Irawan 2023; Michira 2002; Mudimbe 1994; van Dijk 1991). It can be argued that repeating these narratives can trigger fear about Africa/Africans, creating the need for intervention by the dominant group 'us' and "shape broad social definitions" (Croteau & Hoynes 2003, p.163).

From discourses about location in the INC, the next section will focus on sports discourse, which was more prominent in the *Times* than in the *Independent*.

7.3.2 Discourse of Sports

The *Times* frequently favoured discussing Africans in terms of sports over any other topic. Some key terms identified in this topic were south, *australia*,

champions, namibia and *home*. Examples of how they occurred in contexts are found in the table below.

Table 7. 11: Discourses of sports in the *Times*

Discourse topic	Examples	Times Corpus
Sports	“... the <u>spectre of the world champions</u> , South Africa, <u>looming large</u> . "I don't think it's any harm because the players are now talking about concentrating on defence...”	Sub-corpus 8
	Waugh twins guide Australia <u>to victory</u> <u>Australia won</u> the second Test yesterday just as they had <u>seemed destined</u> to do since the opening salvo put England on the canvas.	Sub-corpus 8
	It is <u>evident why South Africa are world champions</u> even if they <u>did not play very well</u> .	Sub-corpus 8
	The <u>highlight</u> was in Marseille where Argentina played Namibia . The <u>atmosphere was as close to Tuesday night in Thomond Park</u> as I can imagine. Argentina were obviously wrecked from the highs of beating France four days earlier, but the <u>gods were with them</u> and with Ireland's <u>crucial upcoming clash</u> around the corner,	Sub-corpus 8
	Even though Ireland has not managed to get past 200 against Namibia in the 2007-08 edition of this tournament, <u>the Africans</u> did not bowl with the same verve or consistency as they did in the first innings or, for that matter, in Windhoek when the two met in the group stage a month ago.	Sub-corpus 4
	SONIA O'SULLIVAN last night <u>celebrated a golden welcome home reception</u> in her hometown. <u>The golden girl of Irish athletics</u> ran the Cork Mini Marathon – and undertook a hectic round of receptions and tributes to honour the best season of her career. <u>The Cobh girl captured five major gold medals in 1998 – two each at the World Cross Country</u>	Sub-corpus 4

In Table 7.11, the *Times*, seen in *sub-corpus 8*, employed an explicit positive expression about **south** (Africa) as a world champion and emphasised it implicitly using the words *spectre* and *looming large*. Although these two words can denote something (someone) as unpleasant and fearful, it presupposed that

because South Africa were world champions, they should be feared (revered). Also, the words suggested that this was a fact; however, they were foregrounded negatively in that they failed to impress. In contrast to using negative words to emphasise the good things about the outgroup, **australia** was represented positively throughout. Words such as *victory*, *won*, and *destined* are positive words and foregrounded to denote the good things about **australia**. This pattern was also observed with the key term **home**, where positive words and attributes with explicit meanings were employed, such as *celebrated*, *golden*, *welcome*, *golden girl*, *tributes*, *honour*, and *best* were just some of the examples used to foreground and emphasise the good things about the 'ingroup'. Meanwhile, in the *Independent*, seen in sub-corpus 4, the mention of **namibia** was foregrounded positively from the start. Then, the focus turned to other social actors who became frequently foregrounded positively, and their weakness was mitigated. Generalisations were found in **namibians** who were categorised as '*the Africans*' and associated with underperforming.

So far, this section has focused on the overarching discourses from the top 50 collocates for **africa** and **africans** in the corpus data. Two topics emerged to occur in each newspaper primarily. The *Independent* predominantly featured discussions on spatialisation, while the *Times* focused on sports. These discourses were analysed in the context of DHA strategies in both newspapers. This analysis led to the proposition that these topics were not merely coincidental but somewhat indicative of 'otherness' and discriminatory intentions towards Africa and Africans. The following section investigates the presence of the most significant consistent collocates across all sub-corpora.

7.4 Diachronic Comparison of Key Topics from Collocates in Individual Newspapers

A diachronic analysis of key topics in individual newspapers focused only on consistent collocates taken from the top 50 most frequent collocates for the nodes **africa** and **african***. This is shown above in Table 7.7. This analysis differs because the previous examination focused on all 50 frequent words that occurred as collocates for the nodes in question. This analysis, although initiated by extracting the top 50 collocates, concentrated solely on consistent collocates that frequently appeared across all sub-corpora. The frequencies of the co-occurring words were compared across all sub-corpora. The same phenomena were then analysed in the general corpus to provide a broader perspective, confirm or refute patterns observed in the sub-corpora, and reveal any trends that may have been overlooked due to their smaller sizes. Investigating the same phenomena across sub-corpora and the general corpus was necessary for the following reasons.

Firstly, it underscored whether the *Independent* and the *Times* harboured similar views about Africans as different sub-corpora can provide unique linguistic patterns and contexts. Secondly, it emphasised if different political orientations were strong enough to reproduce completely different depictions of Africans. Thirdly, it highlighted whether language use, as identified in discourse topics, remained consistent or evolved. The evolution of discourse over time enabled this section to identify patterns and uncover underlying ideologies of power dynamics that shaped communication practices. Fourthly, this provided significant insights into socio-cultural and ideological changes. Fifthly, the relationship between

consistent collocates and social actors, as well as phenomena, facilitated the exploration of context-informed attributes and the critical interpretation of collocate patterns. (Gabrielatos 2021; Kytö 2019; van Leeuwen 1996), thus bridging corpus linguistics with the behaviour of text categories. Furthermore, the economic importance and political volatility have rendered migration by non-Westerners (including Africans) to Europe a polemical topic. Thus, examining consistent collocates is a powerful tool for understanding how language patterns shape migration and representation of Africans to Ireland and their discourse. The data below in Table 7.12 was extracted from the top 50 collocates to co-occur with African issues across all sub-corpora. It identified 17 words that were not only consistent but also common in both newspapers. To be considered a consistent collocate, the word had to occur across all periods in both newspapers. Following this, individual newspapers were analysed for key discourse topics based on the consistent collocates. The 17 collocates and their frequencies are presented below.

Seventeen words were identified as consistent collocates in the exploration of discourse topics that depicted Africans as an immigrant group in Ireland. They were thoroughly investigated in concordance, and their occurrences in contexts were organised to obtain clear discourse patterns (topics) in each newspaper. This was done with the understanding that, traditionally, the political leanings of newspapers were significant in shaping public perceptions and creating bias. They can impact how news is communicated to readers and provide insights into historical perspectives on media influences over time and public perceptions. For example, Baker *et al.* (2008; Caviedes, 2018; KhosraviNik *et al.* 2012;

KhosraviNik 2010) find that conservative newspapers tend to portray more negative attitudes toward immigration (immigrants) when compared to liberal newspapers.

As noted by Polońska-Kimunguyi (2022), the relevance of studying different orientations of newspapers towards immigration discourse has been the subject of debate among scholars. Polońska-Kimunguyi argues that the media portray refugees as migrants who pose a threat to the national economy and security or as passive victims of distant circumstances. To support this view, the scholar examines 400 newspaper articles from left-wing and right-wing publications, notably *The Guardian* and *The Times*, covering the period between 2015 and 2018 when migration to Europe was prominently featured in UK news. The study uncovers racialised discourses that contribute to a knowledge-historical amnesia mix and perpetuate the hierarchies of the colonial system that divided humans into superior and inferior species. The scholar notes that migrant voices and historical contexts are missing in the articles. These crucial omissions perpetuate harmful stereotypes, discrimination and social unrest (Polońska-Kimunguyi 2022). Similarly, Eberl et al. (2018) compare representations of refugees in Europe between 2015 and 2018 and examine 400 articles from two national quality newspapers, *The Guardian* and *The Times*. In this study (like Polońska-Kimunguyi 2022), the authors briefly refer to the issue of liberal-conservative narratives but neglect it while conducting the analysis. Also, in comparing migrant representation, Mancini et al. (2021) consider varying political ideologies when selecting newspapers for their analysis but ignore any explicit form of comparison based on ideology. Acknowledging these omissions puts

forward the idea that when discussing the impact of media discourses in shaping perspectives, it is crucial to consider factors beyond political orientation (Hickey *et al.* 2014). For example, media practices either omit or employ the historical creation of race to racialise non-Western populations. These contribute to the creation of two distinct groups whereby one group is characterised by activity, capability, and resources, and the other is associated with crime, danger, inability, resource drain and exploitation (Eberl *et al.* 2018; Polońska-Kimunguyi 2022). Other variables include journalistic standards and the changing media landscape.

To conduct a context-dependent linguistic analysis of collocates in DHA (see 7.2), the specific texts with racist, ethnicist, and discriminatory ingredients that contained consistent collocates were identified and selected from the textual data. The discourses on which the collocates occurred were analysed and identified before two key terms from across all sub-corpora were further analysed. This analysis was achieved using the notions of topics and topoi in DHA (Reisigl & Wodak 2001; van Leeuwen 1996). In this regard, it differs from the results of the general representation in the INC. It investigates the collocates based on topic, topoi, and if/when the contexts changed or were maintained across sub-corpora. The analysis identified 17 words most frequently associated with African issues and appeared consistently across all sub-corpora. The collocates and their frequencies are presented below in Table 7.12. After that, a comparative analysis was conducted on the key discourse topics that emerged across sub-corpora, as shown below.

7.4.1 Consistent Collocates in the *Independent* and the *Times*

The data below in Table 7.17 was extracted from the top 50 collocates to co-occur with African issues across all sub-corpora. It identified 17 words that were not only consistent but also common in both newspapers. To be considered a consistent collocate, the word had to occur across all periods in both newspapers under study. Following this, individual newspapers were analysed for key discourse topics based on the consistent collocates. The 17 collocates and their frequencies are presented below.

Table 7. 12. Common and frequent collocates in both newspapers

Distribution of common/frequent collocates over time								
Rank	Collocates	Indo98	Times98	Indo08	Times08	Indo18	Times18	Total
1	republic	7	37	23	122	2	40	231
2	against	14	25	36	70	19	24	188
3	first	19	14	41	26	18	12	130
4	many	13	17	11	14	1	13	69
5	we	3	12	12	16	14	11	68
6	australia	8	6	11	20	5	9	59
7	irish	5	11	8	2	12	4	42
8	war	3	1	4	22	1	5	36
9	india	3	4	6	8	5	7	33
10	canada	1	6	2	12	2	8	31
11	five	3	4	5	6	5	6	29
12	six	2	4	2	6	5	6	25
13	european	6	2	2	2	1	6	19
14	rugby	4	2	1	2	4	4	17
15	second	3	4	2	2	2	3	16
16	asylum	1	2	2	2	1	3	11
17	french	1	1	3	2	1	2	10
	Total	96	152	171	334	98	163	1014

In Table 7.12 above, the frequencies of the most common collocates changed frequently over time. Based on the provided list of consistent and frequent collocates across both newspapers and sub-corpora, the following sub-sections will focus on discourses and frequencies that emerged during different periods within these newspapers. The objective is to identify any significant trends, patterns, or changes in language use over time. The analysis starts with discourses of consistent collocates in the *Independent*.

7.4.2 Comparing Discourse across time in the *Independent*

Table 7.13 below shows the number of discourse topics identified from analysing all 17 consistent collocates in the *Independent* across all three periods under study. The topics are presented in ranking order, from the most to the least mentioned discourse. This sets out to compare the discourses that corresponded to Africans over the three periods under study in the *Independent*.

Table 7. 13. Compared Discourse topics in the *Independent*

Key topics in the <i>Independent</i> across three periods in the study					
<i>Independent P1</i>		<i>Independent P2</i>		<i>Independent P3</i>	
Discourse topics	Freq	Discourse topics	Freq	Discourse topics	Freq
War/conflict/violence	24	Sports	46	Sports	54
Sports	23	War/conflict/violence	37	Migration/movement/ rejection/deportation	23
Natural disaster/destruction/ poverty/diseases	20	Manufacturing/business/ economy	8	Natural disaster/ destruction/poverty/diseases	17
Crime	18	Racism/discrimination	7	Manufacturing/business/ economy	5
Politics	9	Humanitarian/human rights	2	Crime	1
Manufacturing/business/economy	5				
Immigration	1				

Table 7.13. above contains nine topics that emerged each time **Africa/African*** were mentioned across the three periods in the *Independent*. The topics mirror different forms of agendas, from rising conflicts, humanitarian issues, migration, economy, and crime to issues of politics. In addition to these, the type of discourses shifted over time. For example, in 1998, war/conflicts/violence dominated discourses about African issues. This changed in 2008 when sports took over and was maintained as the most discussed issue during 2018. To better illustrate the changes in discourses over the years in the *Independent*, Table 7.19 captures the frequencies of each discourse topic identified in Table 7.13 above.

Table 7. 14. Frequencies of discourses compared across sub-corpora in the *Independent*

	<i>Independent</i>			
	Discourse topic	Freq		
		P1	P2	P3
1	War/conflict/violence	24	37	0
2	Sports	23	46	54
3	Natural disaster /destruction/poverty/disease	20	0	17
4	Crime	18	0	1
5	Politics	9	8	0
6	Manufacturing/business/economy	5	0	5
7	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	1	0	23
8	Humanitarian/human rights	0	2	0
9	Racism/Discrimination	0	7	0
	<i>Total number of topics identified in articles</i>	<i>7/9</i>	<i>5/9</i>	<i>5/9</i>

In Table 7.14 above, several observations emerged from analysing the frequencies of discourses based on consistent collocates in the *Independent*. The main observations were as follows:

The most noticeable pattern was the discourse of sports. It was the only topic to occur in all three periods under study and continued to increase over the years. Other discourses varied in their occurrences; for example, interests in politics and war/conflicts/violence dwindled over time, while issues of racism/discrimination and humanitarian/human rights occurred only during 2008.

Also, the number of discourse topics narrowed from seven in 1998 to five in 2008 and 2018. Despite the decrease in the number of discourse topics, the frequency of discourses peaked from 96 in 1998 to 171 in 2008 but then fell to 98 in 2018. This made 2008 the period with the most mentions of African issues.

As seen below in Table 7.15, three discourse topics identified in the *Times* failed to occur in the *Independent*. They were military, multicultural/diversity, and quantification/abstract.

To obtain the overall frequency of attitude towards African issues in the *Independent* in all the years under study, the frequencies of occurrences of discourses were combined per category. The statistics below in Figure 7.8 are ranked in raw figures from top to most minor frequent occurrence.

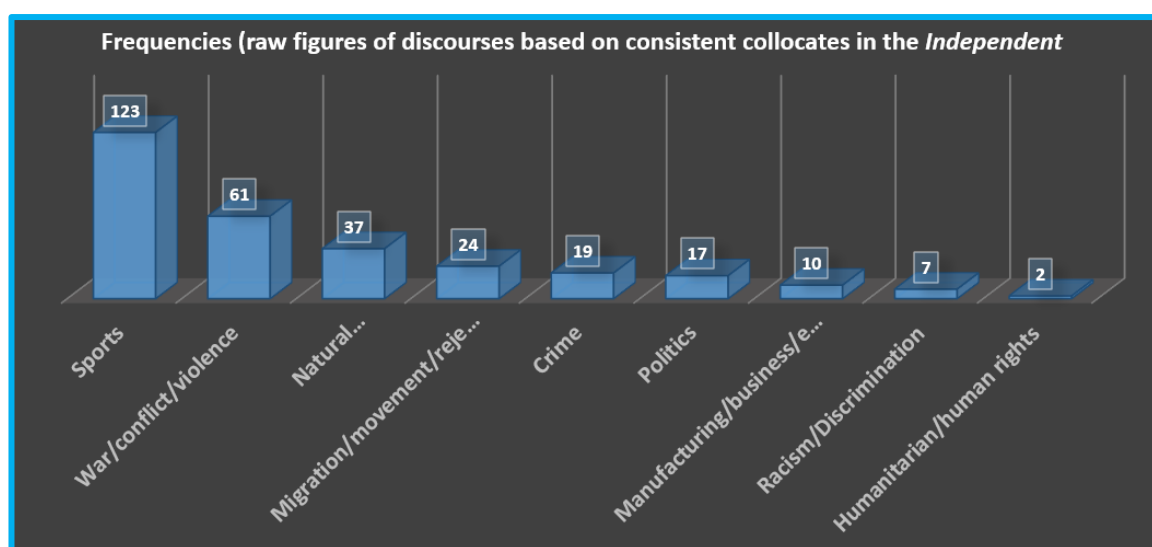


Figure 7. 8. Frequencies (raw figures) of discourses from combined figures of consistent collocates in the *Independent*

The results of the combined figures for the most significant and favourable topic about African issues in the *Independent* was sports discourses. This was followed by war/conflict/violence and natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease that occurred 61 times and 37 times, respectively. Regarding the tone of discourse, seven out of nine topics ($\frac{7}{9} \times 100 = 78\%$) emerged with negative and 22% positive evaluations, a 3.5% increase in negative portrayals. Therefore, it can be inferred that the *Independent* frequently favoured reporting stories with negative rather than positive content about African issues in the years under study. The following section highlights discourse topics from the study of the top 17 consistent collocates in the *Times*.

7.4.3 Discourse Topics Based on Consistent Collocates in the *Times*

It emerged that out of the 50 most frequent collocates for **africa** and **african*** in the INC (shown in 7.5.1), seventeen were found to occur in all sub-corpora constantly. The 17 consistent collocates were studied concordantly with data in the *Times*, and the following discourses and frequencies emerged across all three periods under study.

Table 7. 15. Discourse topics based on consistent collocates in the *Times*

Key topics based on consistent collocates in the <i>Times</i> across three periods						
	P1	Freq	P2	Freq	P3	Freq
1	War/conflict/violence	44	Crime	67	Migration/movement/ rejection/deportation	27
2	Humanitarian/human rights	16	Sports	12	Politics	25
3	Sports	12	Politics	8	Sports	17
4	Natural Disaster/ destruction/poverty/disease	11	Humanitarian/human rights	6	Quantification/abstract	13
5	Quantification/abstract	9	Natural Disaster/ destruction/poverty/disease	4	Natural Disaster/ destruction/poverty/disease	8
6	History	4	Quantification/abstract	2	Crime	4
7	Crime	3	Manufacturing/business/ economy	0.6	War/conflict/violence	3
8	Manufacturing/business/ economy	1	Military	0.6	Multiculture/diversity	2
9					History	1

The data in the *Times* concordances in Table 7.15 above presented twelve distinct discourse topics that occurred in all periods. The number of discourses was 1.3 times more than those in the *Independent*. Eight topics occurred during 1998 and 2008, while nine occurred during 2018. Two topics occurred only once, and they were topics of *military* in 2008 and multicultural in 2018. Five topics occurred in all periods. They were humanitarian/human rights, natural

disasters/destruction/poverty/disease, quantification/abstract/, crime and sports. Meanwhile, the most prevalent discourse was that of crime, followed by issues of war/conflict/violence. The significant growths in these topics were in quantification/abstract, sports, and politics discourses. There was an expansion in sports issues from 12 times in 1998 and 2008 to 17 times in 2018. A similar observation was found in politics, where it was absent during 1998 but occurred eight times during 2008. There was a massive growth during 2018 when it was mentioned up to 25 times. On the other hand, there was a decline in interest in history, humanitarian/human rights, and military issues. Some unexpected findings concerned topics of migration/movement/ and rejection/deportation that were inexistent between 1998 and 2008. The figures are clearly illustrated in Table 7.16 below.

Table 7. 66. Frequencies of discourses compared across sub-corpora in the Times

	<i>Times</i>			
	Discourse topic	Freq		
		P1	P2	P3
1	War/conflict/violence	44	0	3
2	Humanitarian/human rights	16	6	0
3	Natural disaster /destruction//poverty/disease	11	4	8
4	Quantification/abstract	9	2	13
5	History	4	0	1
6	Crime	3	67	4
7	Manufacturing/business/economy	1	0.6	0
8	Sports	12	12	17
9	Politics	0	8	25
10	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	0	0	27
11	Multiculture/diversity	0	0	2
12	Military	0	0.6	0
	<i>Total number of topics identified in articles</i>	8/12	8/12	9/12

Table 7.16 above shows that the *Times* mentioned 152 different discourse topics about African issues in 1998. This number soared to 328 times in 2008 and fell to 163 mentions in 2018. The main observations can be categorised into five categories.

- The first observation recorded two discourses with significant decreases over time. War/conflict/violence was high in 1998 but absent in 2008 and occurred slightly in 2018. On the other hand, humanitarian/human rights occurred highly in 1998 but were reduced in 2008 and absent in 2018.
- The second observation found discourses that significantly declined before increasing over time. Issues of natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease and quantification/abstract were reduced during 2008 and then increased during 2018.
- The third observation was on discourses that occurred only once. Topics about migration/movement/rejection/deportation and multicultural/diversity occurred in 2018, while military discourses occurred in 2008.
- The fourth observation witnessed two discourses, sports and politics, that increased over time.
- The final observation was that crime and military rapidly increased during 2008 but reduced afterwards.

Overall, the discourse of war/conflict/violence ranked first during 1998 but was surpassed by crime during 2008 and occurred at the seventh position in 2018. Although this means there was a reduction in portraying African issues in terms

of war/conflict/violence, one thing that stood out was the prevalent nature of other negative presentations, which are often associated more with conservative newspapers in discourses of the 'other'. They include problematic issues of threat, security and extremism.

Moving from the frequencies of discourses across sub-corpora, the next illustration highlights the *Times*' overall attitude about coverage of African issues. This was obtained by combining the frequencies of all occurrences of each discourse topic across all years. The statistics below in raw figures are ranked from top to most minor frequent occurrence.

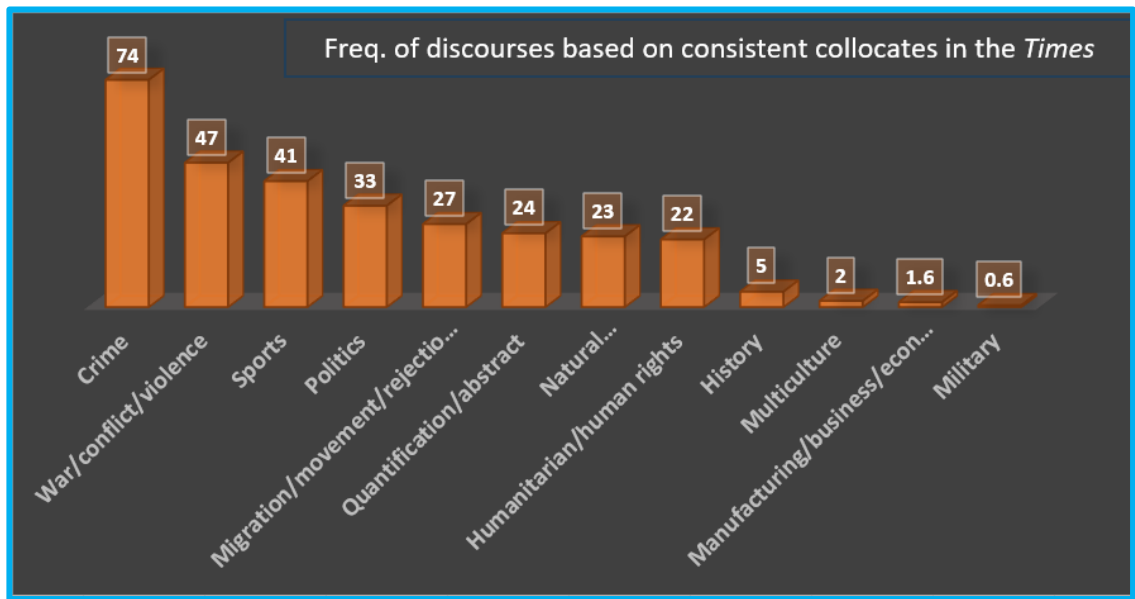


Figure 7. 9. Number of mentions of discourse topics from combined figures of consistent collocates in the *Times*

The results showed that discourses about crime were the most significant and favourable topic about Africa and Africans in the *Times*. This was followed by war/conflict/violence and sports at 47 and 41 times, respectively. Regarding the overall tone of discourses, nine out of 12 topics contained negative evaluation. Coverage with negative content was 75%, and coverage with positive evaluation was 17%. Coverage with no precise assessment was found to be 8%. It can, therefore, be inferred from these figures that at 4.4%, the *Times* frequently favoured reporting stories with negative portrayals rather than positive portrayals about African issues in the years under study.

The above section identified discourse topics in the *Independent* and the *Times* by analysing 17 consistent collocates in both newspapers. It concluded that both newspapers favoured a negative portrayal of Africans individually in the time under study. The following section identifies the INC's broader attitude. This analysis was also based on the consistent collocates in both newspapers.

7.5 Discourses in the INC based on Consistent Collocates

In section 7.4 above, results of discourse topics based on consistent collocates were identified in individual newspapers. It was found that each newspaper preferred different African-related issues during various periods and gave greater importance to negative stories than positive ones. In this section, the statistics in both newspapers were combined to highlight the overall attitude towards African issues based on the 17 most frequent and consistent collocates in the INC.

7.5.1 Discourses based on Consistent Collocates in all years in the INC

The data of discourses in the *Independent* and the *Times* that resulted from the study of 17 consistent collocates was combined to demonstrate the attitude of the INC towards **africa** and **africans**. The statistics are illustrated in Figure 7.10 below.

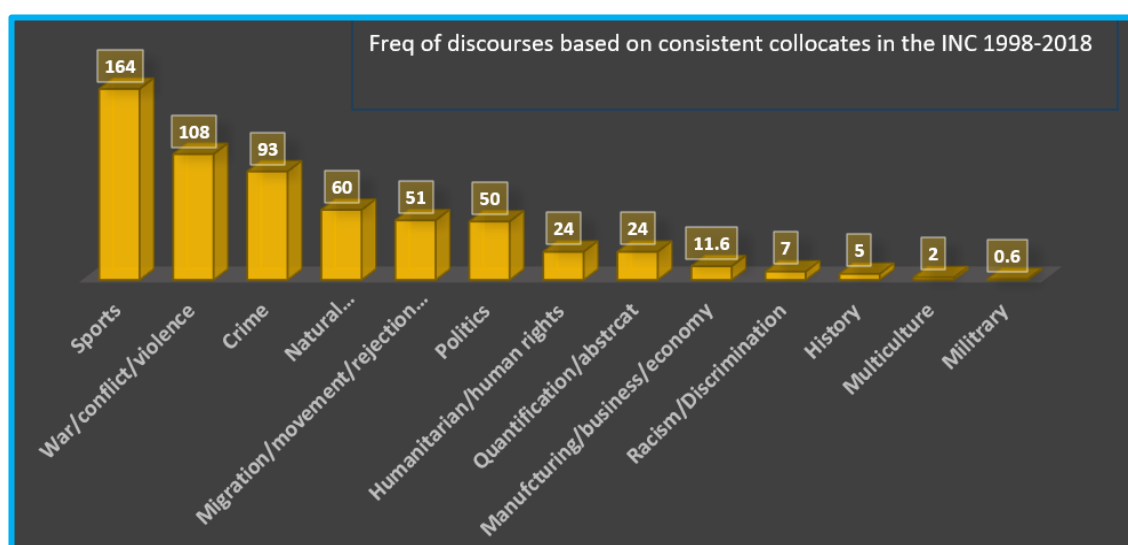


Figure 7. 10. Frequencies of occurrence of discourses based on consistent collocates in the INC

Figure 7.10 above highlights discourses in ranking order about coverage of African issues in the INC. The results were based on analysing the occurrences of consistent collocates for **africa** and **africans*** in concordance with both newspapers and all the years under study. Two main observations were made.

- Firstly, discourses about sports were the most foregrounded topic about Africans/Africa in the INC in 30 years.

- Secondly, 10 (77%) of 13 discourse topics indicated a salient negative attitude towards African issues due to the focus on crime, natural disasters and war discourses. 17% of news stories possessed positive connotations. This suggests that there was a trend of negativity about African issues from a crime-to-threat and problem-oriented perspective.

The negative portrayal of Africans is a persistent issue in Western media, and this thesis supports previous research. For example, in a study of the Swedish and Finnish coverage of African migration to Spain by 2006, Horsti (2008) finds that the representation of Africans is stigmatised and constructed around differences between Europe and Africa. In the landmark study that is used extensively in this study, Baker *et al.* (2008) find that migrants, and especially refugees, are often dehumanised through references to natural disasters. Equally, in her analysis of the representation of ethnic minorities in crime news coverage on Flemish television from 2003 to 2013, Jacobs (2017) finds that certain violent crimes, such as robbery and assault, were disproportionately represented and contained more stereotypical and negative language about non-EU migrant groups when compared to non-violent offences such as fraud or theft. An analysis of the diachronic change in discourses was conducted to provide a more coherent and nuanced picture of the portrayal of Africans in the INC.

7.5.2 Compared Frequencies of Discourses based on Consistent Collocates over three periods in the INC

The frequencies of linguistic patterns of discourses obtained from consistent collocates were observed further to evaluate attitudinal assessments towards

Africans in the INC. It should be noted that although evaluative language has been studied mainly within Systematic Functional Linguistics (Thompson 2014, p.48), it continues to be examined from different viewpoints. For example, in 'modality' (Halliday 1994) and 'stance' and 'stance-taking' (Conrad & Biber 2000). In 'evaluating' the relationship between language and attitudes, Bednarek (2006) suggests that evaluation can be analysed from the perspective of nine parameters. One is emotivity, which ascribes either positive or negative evaluative qualities to entities and can reveal both explicit and implicit attitudes. Before then, Hunston and Thompson (2000) analysed lexical items, grammatical structures, and rhetorical strategies to highlight how language patterns can manifest attitudes. This section draws insights from these previous studies, alongside CL – keyword, concordances, collocation, semantic prosody and analysis of argumentation strategies. These have already been extensively presented in this thesis to emphasise the importance of language patterns in evaluating media attitudes. Therefore, the proposed analysis in this section can argue that language patterns have the potential to decode implicit/explicit language meanings and reveal complex societal and historical contexts of the evolving landscape of repeated frames of African representation in the INC over different periods. The table below shows the number of discourses based on consistent collocates in the INC.

Patterns	P1	P2	P3	Total	%
Trend 1: Increasing					
Sports	35	58	71	164	$\frac{216}{600.2} \times 100 = 36$
Politics	9	16	25	50	
Multiculture/diversity	0	0	2	2	
<i>Total</i>	44	74	98	216	
Trend 2: Up-Low-Up					
Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	31	4	25	60	$\frac{151.6}{600.2} \times 100 = 25$
Quantification/abstract	9	2	13	24	
History	4	0	1	5	
Manufacturing/business/economy	6	0.6	5	11.6	
Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	1	0	50	51	
<i>Total</i>	51	6.6	94	151.6	
Trend 3: Decreasing					
War/conflict/violence	68	37	3	108	$\frac{132}{600.2} \times 100 = 22$
Humanitarian/human rights	16	8	0	24	
<i>Total</i>	84	45	3	132	
Trend 4: Low-Up-Low					
Crime	21	67	5	93	$\frac{100.6}{600.2} \times 100 = 17$
Military	0	0.6	0	0.6	
Racism/Discrimination	0	7	0	7	
<i>Total</i>	21	74.6	5	100.6	

Figure 7. 1. Patterns of discourses of Africans in the INC over three years

From Table 7.13, this thesis provided a better understanding of media preferences, changing narratives, stereotypes, societal attitudes, cultural dynamics, and ideological sentiments towards Africans. This was the first broad attempt to obtain discourse frequencies over time in the INC. First, the manner of occurrences grouped discourses, whether increasing or reducing. From the results, four main patterns of occurrences were observed over three periods. The results per period are shown in the graph below.

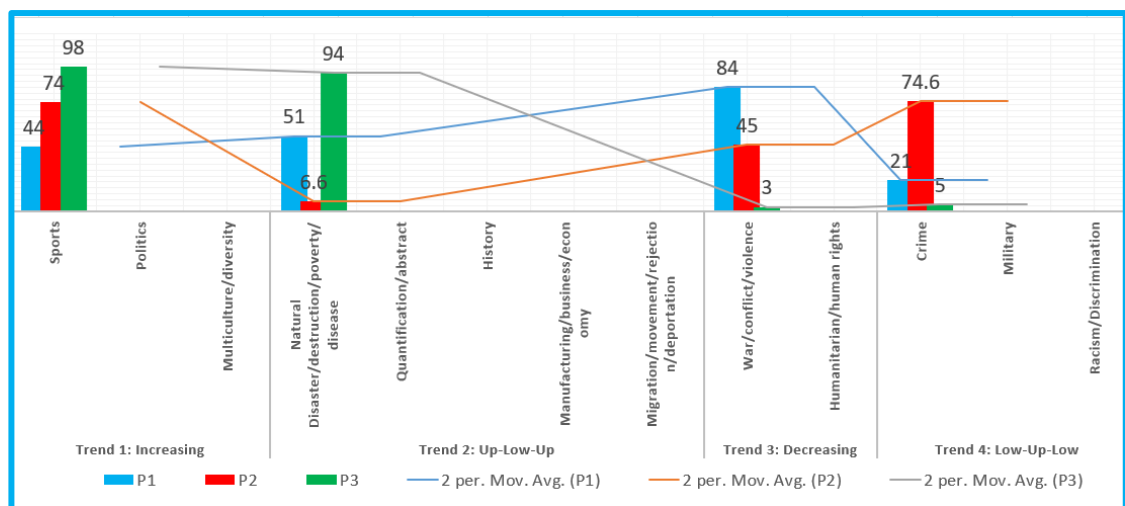


Figure 7. 11. Trends of discourses per period in the INC

The trends found in Figure 7.11 can be attributed to factors other than those elaborated below in Figure 7.12. For example, in Trend 1, sports discourses were the most prominent topics in news coverage. This could be explained by the fact that in Ireland, 'otherness' is involved in athletes from migrant backgrounds; the media are key in reflecting the internal diversity of demographics within elite sports (Free 2024). This representation is likely influenced by a growing emphasis on diversity in sports and supported by increased awareness and government initiatives. For example, UK Sport, a public body under the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, implements a racial equality scheme dedicated to promoting equality and researching the potential of sports to unite and enhance communities (SPIN 2012). When examining discourses in Trend 2, the topic with the most uptrend and a temporal decline in news mentions was natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease. This phenomenon can be related to common media practices and audience engagement with news content.

Common media practices focus on unexpected and new events and negative news stories (Roberts *et al.*, 2021). In Trend 3, the subject with the most declining attention in news visibility was war/conflict/violence. In contrast, in Trend 4, the subject with the most initial minimum attention, followed by an increase in visibility before returning to decreased attention, was crime. These trends can be attributed to the increasing focus on mediating the link between migration and national security issues. For instance, the reduced prevalence of war discourses could also be attributed to the fact that in highlighting sympathetic coverage, the media tend to represent asylum seekers as victims of wars and conflicts (Banulescu-Bogdan 2022).

After analysing the data and showing the frequencies of trends over different periods, the following illustration demonstrates the combined frequencies for each trend category across all years under study. This emphasises the most prevalent trend (s) in the INC. The patterns in Table 7.17 are illustrated below in Figure 7.12 in combined ranking order from the highest to the least occurring pattern in a graph.

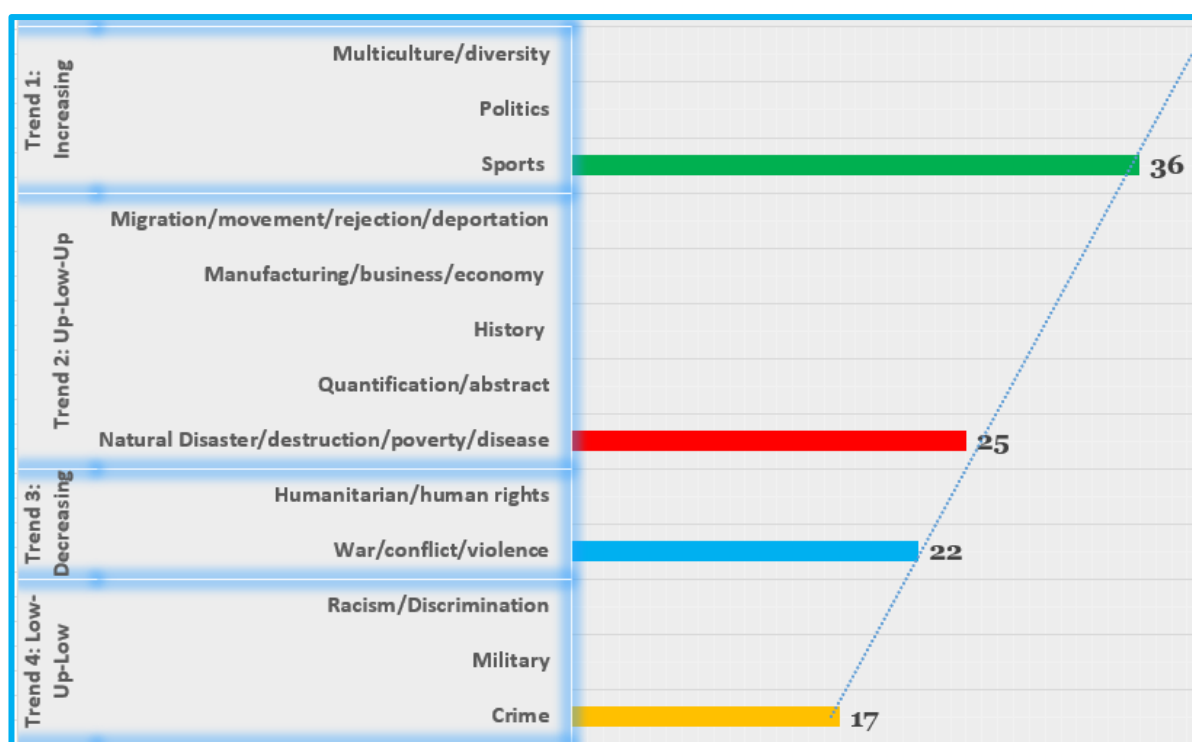


Figure 7. 12. Combined frequencies (%) of patterns of discourses of African-related issues across three periods in the INC

The patterns in Figure 7.12 were observed from the quantitative perspectives of discourse trends in the INC in Table 7.17. The first most salient pattern by frequency of occurrence was 36%. This was an upward diachronic trend in discourses, meaning that the INC increasingly mentioned these topics over 30 years. The trend involved sports, politics, and multicultural/diversity issues. The data in Table 7.22 indicated that during 1998, the frequency of discourses was 44%, increased to 74% in 2008, and peaked at 98% in 2018. Data from the corpus suggests that sports played a key role, as sports stories were frequently covered. For example, the INC mentioned that:

- "... when it revealed an apparent plan by the French Football Federation to limit the number of black and North African players in its youth system."
- "The manager is French, we've got African players who speak French, so, obviously, there's a lot of French talking everywhere."
- "Do you want in Liverpool an Arab sheikh as president with one Brazilian coach and nine or 11 African players?"

Irish News Corpus

It appeared that interest in African-related sports events caused the increasing trend over time. These findings emphasise the significance of examining representation based on linguistic change in frequency patterns over different periods (Kroch and Taylor 1997).

The second most significant pattern in the frequency of occurrences was the Up-Low-Up trend. At 25%, this involved five discourses that started with high-frequency occurrences in 1998 and then witnessed a downtrend in 2008 before beginning a new uptrend in 2018. They were natural disaster/destruction/poverty/diseases, quantification/abstract, history, manufacturing/business/economy, and migration/movement/rejection/deportation. Their occurrence was dialectical, whereby a cyclical process in argumentation significantly foregrounded (Up) topics about Africans at the initial start. For example, the first frequency of occurrence in this pattern produced 51% of these discourses during 1998. The second cycle (Low) embraced low prominence levels and reduced coverage to 6.6% during 2008. However, this evolved to reaffirm and intensify coverage of the discourses witnessed during the initial period. The desire to return to increased coverage of these discourses reproduced them at 94% in 2018, making

it the peak period. The discourses in this pattern were evaluated to be problem-oriented towards African-related issues. This suggests that the INC mentioned these discourses in high frequency apart from 2008 when there appeared to be resistance to negative stories. However, there was an increased desire to prevent backgrounding of negative stories, which witnessed a rise in negative representation of Africans in 2018.

The third pattern emphasised a downward trend in three periods. Although Africans were primarily described in discourses of war/conflict/violence and humanitarian/human rights, this pattern declined between 1998 and 2018. At 22%, these discourses produced a high interest rate of 84% in 1998. The second period exhibited low coverage of these discourses at 45%. The declining pattern was maintained during 2018 when the coverage weakened radically to its lowest rate of 3%. This suggested that the INC mentioned these discourses in fewer articles in two periods except for 1998 when it was prevalent. The period coincided with the Good Friday Agreement (Ruhs & Quinn 2009) when an Irish understanding of ethnicity and colonial histories changed. 'Waves' of inward migration (including Africans) surged with the 'lure of a buoyant economy' (Ward, 1998) and Irish citizenship by birth. One significant aspect of this landmark change in Irish politics and history can be seen from the lens of an end (temporarily) to the segregation of ethnicities because of the interests of 'Whites'. An example of this is observed in the decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 (Webb 2004), which criminalised segregation in public schools in the US only because 'Black' interests temporarily converged with the interests of the White upper class (Bell 1980). Considering that a fundamental part of the Good

Friday Agreement entitled all children born in Ireland to Irish citizenship, it was evident that the equality of immigrants, for example, Africans who migrated to Ireland to benefit from this entitlement (Ruhs & Quinn 2009) was only served because of the interest of Northern Ireland. It is possible to argue that this significant event initially accounted for the high mention of African-related issues because of the interest in national identity.

The fourth trend produced a Low-Up-Low pattern at 17%, making it the least-produced pattern of discourses by frequency of occurrence in the INC. The discourses in this pattern were crime, military, and racism/discrimination. During 1998, the INC produced an initial low coverage of these discourses at 21%. This transitioned to 74.6% during 2008, but then, the discourses were backgrounded to a record low 5% during 2018. This suggests that the INC mentioned discourses of crime, military, and racism/discrimination in fewer articles except in 2008. It is possible to situate these linguistic patterns by tackling the historical, cultural and socio-political landscapes during the repeated frames. The reasons for choosing these periods were outlined throughout the first chapter of this thesis, specifically in section 1.2. The reasons included major socio-cultural, historical, economic and political events. For example, the rapid economic growth in Ireland by the 1990s attracted many Africans and other immigrants to the country. However, immigration was not a crucial issue in the country then (Ward, 1998). By 2008, the global economy experienced a severe downfall, which affected the Irish economy and record levels of discrimination against Black Africans in Ireland were reported (McGinnity *et al.*, 2018). Around the same time, the first African American was elected president of the United

States, increasing Africans' visibility in Western media (Brown 2008; Cormaic 2008). One decade after this date, in 2018, following the considerable economic growth, Ireland's relationship with minority groups was frequently discussed. Reports suggest that Africans were discriminated against more than other minority ethnic groups (O'Connell 2019) and that Black non-Irish were five *times* more likely to experience discrimination in the job market and more than twice as likely to be discriminated against at work 2018 (ESRI 2018). These were just a few key events considered while tracking the changes in the Irish landscape. The increased discourses about Africans during the second period can be attributed to two important events: the election of the first African American president in America, Barack Obama, in 2008 and the global economic crisis. These events helped increase Africans' visibility in the media, leading to a surge in media discourses about them. In terms of frequencies of representation of Africans, the data revealed that 2008 saw the highest representation of African-related issues in the INC, reaching 41%. This finding supports the conclusion that African representation in the INC was most prominent during this period.

So far, this section has analysed media attitudes by examining discourses of consistent collocates and their linguistic patterns. The process involved decoding the socio-cultural, historical, economic, and political contexts to reveal underlying attitudes and evolving landscapes based on quantitative trends. The next section will provide a broader understanding of how the Irish media portrayed Africans and the discourse surrounding immigration in general.

7.5.3 Compared Visibility of Discourses of Africans over time in the INC

To understand representation in the INC, this section examines the visibility of Africans through a quantitative analysis of the frequencies of discourses that resulted from consistent collocates. The information is viewed in percentages in Table 7.18 below.

Table 7.17. Diachronic evolution of discourses about Africans across all sub-corpora in the INC

Diachronic evolution of discourses across all sub-corpora in the INC					
Discourses	P1	Discourses	P2	Discourses	P3
War/conflict/violence	34	Crime	33.5	Sports	35.5
Sports	16	Sports	29	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	25
Natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	15.5	War/conflict/violence	18.5	Natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	12.5
Crime	11	Politics	8	Politics	12.5
Humanitarian/human rights	8	Humanitarian/human rights	4	Quantification/abstract	6.5
Quantification/abstract	5	Racism/Discrimination	3.5	Crime	2.5
Politics	5	Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	2	Manufacturing/business/economy	2.5
Manufacturing/business/economy	3	Quantification/abstract	1	War/conflict/violence	1.5
History	2	Manufacturing/business/economy	0.3	Multiculture/diversity	1
Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	0.5	Military	0.3	History	0.5
Multiculture/diversity	0	History	0	Humanitarian/human rights	0
Military	0	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	0	Military	0
Racism/Discrimination	0	Multiculture/diversity	0	Racism/Discrimination	0

The data above in Table 7.18 highlights the evolution of discourses in the INC between 1998 and 2018. The discourses are ranked for each period, revealing that war/conflicts/violence discourses were prominent during 1998. This shifted to crime in 2008 before significant attention was placed on sports discourses in 2018. Despite the changing interest across the years, one important observation

was that the attention given to the most important topic each year remained relatively consistent, ranging from 34% to 35.5%. Meanwhile, discourses that were consistently ignored included multicultural/diversity, history, humanitarian/human rights, military, migration/movement/rejection/deportation, and racism/discrimination. The figures presented in Table 7.18 illustrate occurrences related to the evolution of the same discourses over time. The combined percentages are shown per period in Figure 7.13 below.

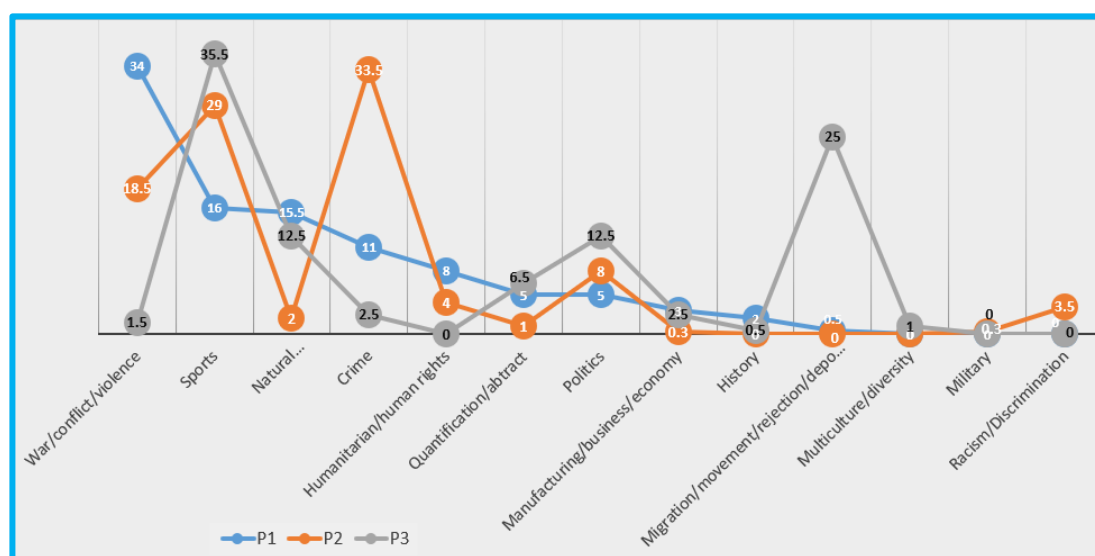


Figure 7. 13. Diachronic evolution of discourses in the INC

The compared frequencies of discourses across three periods in the INC are displayed above in Figure 7.13. The data shows that the topics and frequencies portraying **africa** and **africans** changed over time. For example, in 1998 (1998), war/conflict/violence was the most prominent way to describe Africans. During this time, the INC tended to highlight wars, *killings*, *army*, *dying*, *fighting*, and

conflicts at 34%. This was more often than they talked about sports at 16%, natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease at 15.5% or crime at 11%. The portrayal of Africans as violent and prone to conflicts can project various themes like fear and 'othering' of the other in social and cultural norms, as well as justify the exercise of power and control to maintain dominance and different power dynamics.

From 2008, the amount of interest in violent crimes, illegal activities, terrorism, extremism, human trafficking, criminal activity, and deportation-related stories became the most significant way to talk about Africans. The amount of coverage in these discourses was 33.5%. This was like the war/conflict/violence interests during the first year. This was also more often than the INC talked about sports at 29%, war/conflict/violence at 18.5%, or politics at 8%. The prevalent negative attributes about Africans seen above can create a sense of threat and fear among the public and lead to prejudice, 'othering', discrimination, and exclusion of Africans in society.

Meanwhile, in 2018, the prevalent discourse about Africans was sports, at 35.5%. This was the same amount of coverage used to emphasise crime discourses in 2008. The overrepresentation and overemphasis of Africans in sports discourses, alongside racialised language about their race, ethnicity, and skin colour, can lead to objectification and reduction of their identities to their race and specific professions. Below are text contents from the INC in the years under study.

- "The West probably did want to be conned because South Africa was certainly one of a very few bright spots in an Africa that was noted for its disasters, its famines, its civil wars , coups and military dictatorships."
(INC 1998)
- "A report into the prevalence of crack cocaine was launched yesterday by Drugs Minister John Curran, as EU justice and home affairs ministers prepared to give their approval to a major international police initiative to crack down on west African gangs who are flooding the streets of Europe with cocaine."
(INC 2008)
- "Encouraging the new Irish to contribute to their communities , "perhaps through sport", Mr Justice McMahon drew a spontaneous round of applause when he reminded the audience that Irish rugby manager Joe Schmidt "of Irish rugby got his citizenship in one of the 138 ceremonies that have now taken place."
(INC 2018)

Irish News Corpus (INC)

Furthermore, one common theme emerged when examining the top discourses based on consistent collocates. The data indicated a steep decline in one discourse and a rise in two discourses over time. The data for this information is contained in Table 7.18 below.

Table 7.18. How discourses changed over time in the INC

Discourses in the <i>Independent</i> in ranking order by period		Discourses in the <i>Times</i> in ranking order by period	
Discourses	Period 1	Discourses	Period 1
War/conflict/violence	24	War/conflict/violence	44
Sports	23	Humanitarian/human rights	16
Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	20	Sports	12
Crime	18	Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	11
Politics	9	Quantification/abstract	9
Manufacturing/business/economy	5	History	4
Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	1	Crime	3
Humanitarian/human rights	0	Manufacturing/business/economy	1
Quantification/abstract	0	Politics	0
History	0	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	0
Multiculture/diversity	0	Multiculture/diversity	0
Military	0	Military	0
Racism/Discrimination	0	Racism/Discrimination	0
Discourses	Period 2	Discourses	Period 2
Sports	46	Crime	67
War/conflict/violence	37	Sports	12
Politics	8	Politics	8
Racism/Discrimination	7	Humanitarian/human rights	6
Humanitarian/human rights	2	Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	4
Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	0	Quantification/abstract	2
Quantification/abstract	0	Manufacturing/business/economy	0.6
History	0	Military	0.6
Crime	0	War/conflict/violence	0
Manufacturing/business/economy	0	History	0
Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	0	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	0
Multiculture/diversity	0	Multiculture/diversity	0
Military	0	Racism/Discrimination	0
Discourses	Period 3	Discourses	Period 3
Sports	54	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	27
Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	23	Politics	25
Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	17	Sports	17
Manufacturing/business/economy	5	Quantification/abstract	13
Crime	1	Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	8
War/conflict/violence	0	Crime	4
Humanitarian/human rights	0	War/conflict/violence	3
Quantification/abstract	0	Multiculture/diversity	2
History	0	History	1
Politics	0	Humanitarian/human rights	0
Multiculture/diversity	0	Manufacturing/business/economy	0
Military	0	Military	0

Table 7.19 above is a combined and simplified data table that illustrates the frequency changes of each discourse topic over time in the INC. This is shown in Table 7.20 below:

Table 7. 19. Frequency evolution of discourse topics in the INC over three periods under study

	Discourses across all sub-corpora in the INC	Frequencies		
		P1	P2	P3
1	War/conflict/violence	34	18.5	1.5
2	Sports	16	29	35.5
3	Natural Disaster/destruction/poverty/disease	15.5	2	12.5
4	Crime	11	33.5	2.5
5	Humanitarian/human rights	8	4	0
6	Quantification/abstract	5	1	6.5
7	Politics	5	8	12.5
8	Manufacturing/business/economy	3	0.3	2.5
9	History	2	0	0.5
10	Migration/movement/rejection/deportation	0.5	0	25
11	Multiculture/diversity	0	0	1
12	Military	0	0.3	0
13	Racism/Discrimination	0	3.5	0

Regarding the individual evolution of topics, war/conflicts/violence discourses consistently declined over time. Coverage that explicitly/inexplicitly referenced acts of war, violence, and conflicts when talking about Africans went from the top spot at 34% in 1998 (1998) to the third spot at 18.5% during 2008 (2008) and further down to the eighth spot at 15% during 2018 (2018). This suggested a decrease of about 2.3 times fewer articles about war/conflicts/violence in 2018 than in 1998.

Meanwhile, the second prominent finding was the rise in sports discourse. News articles that described Africa/Africans through sports stories occupied the second position with 16% coverage during 1998. The frequency increased to 29% during 2008 and maintained the same second position. From 2018, however, the frequency of sports stories rose to 35.5%, becoming the most prominent topic in

2018. Based on these figures, there was an increase of 2.2 times more sports articles in 2018 than in 1998. Sports discourses became the most favourable topic regarding Africans in the INC. This is likely due to the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang in February of 2018 (Jonsson 2018) and the FIFA World Cup in June and July of 2018 (Koshkarova 2019). It is possible, therefore, that because these sporting events included almost all countries, the INC paid greater attention to world countries and sporting personalities from diverse countries and backgrounds, with Africa as one of the continents that participated.

The next section examines the occurrences of two specific key terms across all sub-corpora. An extensive and exhaustive presentation of all collocates is beyond the time and scope of this thesis. However, it is feasible to examine two key terms based on their frequencies of occurrence, as well as the two-level qualitative analysis and topoi approach in DHA. This is explored in detail in the next section.

7.6 Diachronic Comparison of Two Key Terms in Sub-corpora

In section 7.2 above, the word **african** was identified as the third most frequent keyword by frequency of occurrence compared to the reference corpus, SiBol. It was also recognised as a collocate, which played a central role in this thesis. An examination of the occurrence of **african** was evaluated on 30 concordances in the main corpus for this thesis. The keyword was examined based on DHA taxonomies of strategies, and the results showed that the INC had 77% negative attitude and 23% positive attitude towards Africans. (For a more detailed explanation of analysis from concordance to semantic patterns, please see Section 7.7, Figures 7.3 and 7.4). While this was a key outcome in this thesis **and**

considering that **African** was a core word in this thesis, it was only studied from the perspective of the INC, the general corpus for this thesis. As such, it was essential to examine the occurrence of **african** from a comparative perspective and how it occurred diachronically in both newspapers.

This specific analysis underscored the aspect of intertextuality. According to Reisigl and Wodak (2001), Fairclough (1985) and van Dijk (1993b), the concept of intertextuality is that texts are not isolated entities; instead, they are interconnected to draw upon each other to create meaning within contexts. By analysing discourses about **african** in the main corpus for this study and across different sub-corpora, it is possible to uncover underlying ideologues within different newspapers. In addition, it was important to tackle the **African** context from the main argumentation in the thesis. In discourse, the discursive strategy of argumentation uses the topoi device as an entry point to legitimise certain viewpoints, marginalise others, and construct specific identities. Topoi play a key role in revealing ideologies embedded in the language (Reisigl & Wodak 2001; Žagar 2010). For this reason, the key term **african** was investigated in this section for all three discursive strategies in DHA, particularly for the argumentation schemes and prosodies employed when talking about **african**.

The prosodies of the topoi are classed in two opposites, negative or positive. Any other texts not assigned were accounted for as neutral and then ignored. The second specific word was **republic**, which occurred as the strongest consistent collocate for African issues in all sub-corpora, taking into consideration frequencies of occurrence. Therefore, investigating the corpus evidence of the

occurrences of **african** and **republic** enabled this thesis to (dis)associate stereotypical associations, patterns, and meanings and avoid hasty generalisations about ideologies between conservative and liberal newspapers when writing about African issues. The next section compares the occurrence of **african** across sub-corpora.

7.6.1 Diachronic Comparison of the Key Term african* across Sub-Corpora

This sub-section compares three examples of extended concordances to highlight how the key term **african** changed over time. Each example is taken from each year of each newspaper under study. The examples feature specific content with claims of racist and discriminatory utterances in each newspaper. Each example is analysed based on three discursive strategies. In examining suspected discursive portions of texts from a vast collection across various periods, the results demonstrate how, using three DHA strategies, the term **african** evolved. This thesis could also track meaning and diachronic shifts from this analysis. The samples of 30 concordances per sub-corpora chosen for this analysis will provide valuable insights into language use. The demonstration begins with analysing the key term **african** in each chosen newspaper during 1998, 2008, and 2018.

- "In Uganda, the first **African** country to be ravaged by AIDS in the Eighties, infections among pregnant women have fallen from 30pc to 10pc."
(*Independent* 1998)
- "When two **African** women appeared before the court on shoplifting charges, Judge Neilan warned that "coloured people" could be banned from shopping centres."
(*Independent* 2008)
- "TAOISEACH Leo Varadkar will use his appearance at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in New York today to canvass **African** leaders to support Ireland's bid for seat at the UN Security Council."
(*Independent* 2018)

Irish News Corpus (INC)

The first example occurred in 1998. The discourse belonged to natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease. Social actors, *uganda* and *pregnant women* were explicitly named and implicitly discriminated against. The main event constructed in this text was a disease. References to AIDS and infections were attributed to the social actors. This was further augmented by a predication strategy where the social actors were implicitly qualified, stereotypically labelled as sick and dying people being killed by infections. The argumentation strategy involved three topoi. Topos of Humanitarianism and Topos of Number. These topoi argued for journalistic efforts in presenting facts and descriptions of social actors. However, the implied messages conveyed the Topos of Danger and Threat, which implicitly argued that because AIDS was ravaging Uganda, Ugandans* or Africans* were carriers of infectious diseases. This argues that the reader should fear and avoid the other because they carry the infection. Finally, the overall prosody of the topoi is negative.

In the second example, three topoi were identified in the text— Topos of Number, Topos of Justice, and Topos of Crime (Wodak 2009). In presenting the discursiveness of the texts, it is important to distinguish between the dichotomy of journalistic formats and discriminatory exclusionary discourses. Bernard *et al.* (2008) argue that attempts by journalists to produce news articles often fairly or pretentiously convey messages that prompt opinions with the intent to involve the reader by calling them to the cause and highlighting solutions. Here, it can be inferred from the arguments that Africans (women) were typified as group members of their Black or coloured race who were involved in stealing. More than one of them was involved in stealing in shops, and as a result, the claim persuaded/legitimised that the 'other' posed a risk to the many in society ('self') and not just to an individual. Also, the social actors were not referred to as individuals but by their continental and ethnic origin of Africa, a continent with 54 countries. Foregrounding this attribute can lead to the assumption that most, if not all, Africans are thieves. The overall tone of the prosody is negative and suggests that to combat this, the 'other' should be excluded.

In the third example, several social actors were identified as individuals and groups. The powerful platform – which included the naming of the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit foregrounded an individual social actor along with the powerful global interests in terms of the United Nations (UN) Security Council. To reproduce its advantage, the positive 'self' presented its interests as the universal interests of the entire community (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). This was identified in Topos of Usefulness/Advantage, and some joint interests were recognised despite the differences in the political ladder. Other social actors were

described in terms of group members. They were mentioned inadequately, and their usefulness was the connection between the powerful dogmatic structures – emphasising instances of positive 'self-presentation' and encounters with the ruling class where their advantage over the other was reproduced, thus igniting the negative effects of colonialism. Specifically, because the vote by African leaders could help Ireland's bid for the UN Security Council, it had to be performed.

In analysing whether certain examples represent entire periods, Kroch and Taylor (1997) point out that it is important to examine representation based on linguistic change in frequency patterns over different periods. This was shown in both keyword and collocation analysis in this thesis. In examining **african**, the selected examples were emblematic of certain trends in this thesis. Firstly, in section 7.2.1, a keyword analysis for 'self' and 'other' presentation of **african** was conducted based on taxonomies of DHA strategies. Thirty concordances were examined, and the textual environments highlighted in Table 7.5 that Africans were predominantly talked about in terms of being ravaged by infections and diseases. Crime discourses followed this. It was observed in the analysis of **african**, as shown above, that to resist change and social equality, the historical, socio-cultural and political contexts of the corpus during 1998 were captured in discourses of natural diseases, infections, and poverty. This was a prevalent theme to portray Africa/Africans during 1998 and was consistent with the overarching discourse in Table 7.5.

During 2008, discourses shifted to crime and explicit racist references, which sought to maintain the threatening and dangerous nature of the outgroup, as well as highlight the strength of the ingroup system and structure. This was the second most prevalent topic about Africans in keyword analysis. Moving from keyword analysis trends, a collocation analysis in Figure 7.16 revealed that out of four patterns discovered to represent African issues, the most salient trend was the increasing pattern (Trend 1) in which discourses continued to increase over time. In this analysis of **African**, 2018 foregrounded politics where there was an emphasis on authority, hierarchy and dominance of the 'ingroup' over the 'outgroup' to maintain powerful structures. The three examples chosen for the analysis of **African** above can be considered representations of each period. Considering the consistency, relevance, and comprehensive analyses of keywords and collocation trends, this thesis concludes that these discourses were the most prevalent and representative of all periods in the INC.

In conclusion, crucial insights emerged when all texts were linked, both from the collocation analysis of the INC - the main corpus, and the collocation analysis of the most dominant collocates for **africa/african*** in individual newspapers. This fostered the idea of intertextuality, linking other texts "through invoking a topic, an event or a main actor" (Richardson & Wodak 2009, p.46). Also, Reisigl and Wodak 2001) recommend that if there is a prevalent reference to social actors, topics, reappearance of main arguments in other text examples, and negative or positive arguments, the analysis of ideology shows a significant difference. So far, the intertextuality of collocates from the overall INC and the prosodies of the topoi confirmed that texts are not isolated but interconnected to

negotiate power dynamics, ideologies, and social structures. For example, the discourse of crime refers to discourses of numbers and discourse of justice. A prime illustration of how intertextuality manifested itself as metonymic anthroponyms was witnessed when analysing the keyword **african** in concordances. This was found in colonial-era tropes, e.g. (*'... tall Africans holding staffs and standing on one leg ...'*; *'... a completely relaxing few days in an interestingly exotic country...'*; *'... single-handedly save Africa'*). This sort of text expressed backwardness, cultural narratives, primitivity, and lack of civilisation – reminiscent of historical stereotypes that are ingrained in society and shape discriminatory practices towards race and ethnicity over time. This ties in with the frames of 'abstract liberalism' and 'cultural racism' through which colour-blind racism functions (Bonilla-Silva 2021; 2010). In analysing colour-blind racism and systemic racism in light of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Obama and Trump presidencies in America, and the COVID-19 pandemic, Bonilla-Silva (2021; 2010) suggests that using the idea of equal opportunity for all to justify racial inequality tends to ignore historical disadvantages and stereotypes faced by marginalised groups (Połowska-Kimunguyi 2022). As such, subtle and unintentional forms of discrimination can uphold racial inequality to a point where race no longer matters in society. The most telling of Bonilla-Silva's four frames relevant to this analysis is that of 'cultural racism'. This is where disadvantaged and minority groups are blamed for their disadvantages and inequality in society because of cultural and physical traits and behaviours (Leinonen and Toivanen 2014; Roth 2012; Villegas and Simmons 2010). Examples identified in the INC included:

- "... tall Africans... "
- "... investors wishing to break into the Dark Continent..."
- "... problems of relieving himself in primitive toilets in Sudan..."
- "That's not to say Africans don't speak good English but there can be issues with accents "

Irish News Corpus (INC)

Blaming minority groups for their inequality in society, as shown in the texts above, effortlessly shifts the responsibility of racism away from structural barriers and or systemic issues into individuals and communities. This results in persistent 'othering' of Africa as a primitive and backward place needing civilisation and development. According to Bonilla-Silva (2021), this type of racism maintains the status quo and prevents meaningful progress towards equity.

The next examples of the key term **african** are taken from the *Times* sub-corpora.

- "Just in case we had forgotten about these - mainly African and East European - immigrant prostitutes, two things happened last week to remind us."
(*Times* 1998)
- "Aside from poverty, Zuma has yet to spell out how he will deal with one of the world's highest rates of violent crime and an AIDS epidemic ravaging millions of South Africans."
(*Times* 2008)
- "She added that she was shocked to see the ESRI report draw the conclusion that the struggle to find jobs could be caused by the fact that many Africans were refugees, saying that "many black Irish have been here many years."
(*Times* 2018)

Irish News Corpus (INC)

The examples above were used to develop different topics in the discourses. The first text example was identified in the discourse of crime/Legality. Using pronouns such as *we* and *us* and nouns such as *African*, *East European*, *immigrant* and *prostitute* explicitly denied recognition of social actors and instead constructed social actors and their professions. It was unexpected to find explicit references to the 'ingroup' that seeks to polarise in the *Times* given its liberal ideology. At this point, it is important to point out that while it was a crime in inherited British vice law to be a common prostitute in Ireland, this changed after 1993 when prostitution was no longer a crime (Ward 2010). Despite this, subtle references in the text identified social actors as criminals because they were engaged in solicitation. It was possible to make the connection that linking social actors with this crime emphasised the threat they pose to society. This was aggravated by the fact that even ten years after Ward (2010), Ireland was a

destination for the trafficking of young women from Africa and Eastern Europe to work as prostitutes (O'Clery 2020). This suggested that attitudes towards social actors had not changed and that, although social actors are victims of human trafficking, they were persistently seen as criminals. What is more, explicitly nominating Africans and Eastern Europeans suggested group associations that were actively undertaking certain offensive and criminal activities. This portrayed the identified social actors as having different backgrounds, and 'we' must remember these traits about them. The topoi identified were Topos of Uselessness/Disadvantage, which claimed that Africans were at odds with our laws. When 'outgroups' were constructed in the context of crime, the State was induced to respond negatively, prompting the Topos of Authority. The overall tone of the topoi is negative.

In the second example, the social actor and claims were extensively, directly, explicitly referenced and semantically foregrounded. This functioned not to represent social actors fairly and justly or to present a realistic picture of poverty or disease but to persuade readers to identify the phenomena and act against it. The distinctive features of the collective *South Africans battling many vices like crime, poverty*, and an incompetent (implied) president, were seen in the topoi of danger and threat, humanitarianism, and responsibility. These devices assist writers in polarising increasingly strong popular opinions on race. The overall tone was negative, indicating that the key term **african** did not change meaning during 2008.

In the third example, the Topos of Number was suggested regarding the high unemployment rate among Africans. In this case, the positive 'other' presentation was identified with claims that because many Black Irish had been here for many years, this was to the advantage of the 'in'/'outgroup'. However, the positive 'other' presentation became undermined with emphasis on the determiner word *many*, which suggested an increasing number and a threat to the native population. This implied that because the natives could not cope, one must prevent 'them' from getting employment. In another part of the text, social actors were assigned a political right and referred to as refugees, which suggested that they are socio-parasites (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.13) and justified their exclusion from employment. This indicates racism and negative 'other-presentation'. In addition, explicitly referring to the social actors by their visible different skin colour – black – was no accident because the "attribute black has an intensifying function to create a two-part world implicitly". (Reisigl & Wodak 2001, p.87). In this context, the writer sought to emotionalise the reader against black Africans because many of them were refugees.

The above examples on the linguistic representation of the outgroup demonstrated that both conservative and liberal newspapers in the INC used explicit and implicit ethnicist, racist, and discriminatory prejudices and predications when talking about **africa** and **african***. It was expected that because liberalism tends to embrace change and reject inequality, there would be fewer occurrences of racist prejudices. However, the interpretation of linguistic evidence proved otherwise. It is the argument of this thesis that, firstly, the *Times* mentioned more racist biases, which seemed to go against the common

perceptions of liberalism. Secondly and finally, the *Independent* linguistically masked **africa** and **africans** as impoverished, dangerous, and threatening people while emphasising the supremacy of the ingroup. The following section delves into analysing the most frequent key collocate per newspaper from these analyses.

7.6.2 Diachronic comparison of republic across sub-corpora

The next illustration focuses on **republic**, which is the strongest consistent collocate, and thus dominates the list of the most consistent collocates in both newspapers, as shown in Table 7.17. It occurred a total of 231 times across all sub-corpora. Its highest occurrence in the *Independent* was in 2008, and the least was in 1998. However, in the *Times*, it was prevalent during 1998 and least frequent during 2008. This variation was key and called for further examination. The first analysis considers the context of **republic** in the *Independent* sub-corpora. Each text content is taken from a separate year in the corpus.

- "Fierce battle in Congo GOVERNMENT forces and rebel militia fought pitched battles yesterday in the Republic of Congo near the site of a failed ambush that left 60 rebels dead, a senior military official said."
(*Independent* 1998)
- "In the Democratic Republic of Congo, where there are clashes between rebels and the army, some politicians hoped an Obama administration would focus on Africa's conflicts."
(*Independent* 2008)
- "The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo admitted this week the country's 10th Ebola outbreak is now officially its worst ever, after the number of confirmed infections crossed the 300 threshold."
(*Independent* 2018)

Irish News Corpus (INC)

In the first example, the country was named repeatedly and was involved in threatening and dangerous actions, such as *conflicts, fighting, war, and killing*. This presupposed that social actors were symbols of danger and threat whose actions threatened the rest of the world and that one must avoid. It was observed that the actions were given credibility based on the 'outgroup' news source (authority) who was unnamed. The overall tone and prosody were negative. Despite the repeated negative 'other' presentations, the occurrences seemed justified. The discourse was situated during the Second Congo War, which started in August 1998 and left many deaths (Reyntjens 1999). Within the context of globalisation, this coverage was justified because of the considerable impacts of the war.

In the second example, besides the 2nd Congo war, other key defining moments happened globally in 2008 that directly impacted African issues. One was the election of the very first African American to the White House. Second was the

xenophobic attacks in South Africa, where more than 60 people from different countries died. However, the Congolese war was foregrounded, while the Obama election was backgrounded. The topoi identified were topoi of danger and threat, and responsibility. These linked the explicitly named 'other' to negative activities and positive 'self'.

Unlike 1998 and 2008, where the topic of war/conflict was prevalent when talking about Africans, the focus during 2018 was on diseases. This featured the topos of reality. The topics varied, but the issues were about the same social actors, which implied that each time **republic** was mentioned, it was about the Democratic Republic of Congo than any other social actor. This pattern was stable throughout all the years under study. It persistently reflected negative semantic prosody, whereby the association between **republic** and danger and threat was powerful, with Africans positioned alongside *killings, fighting, conflicts, diseases, and infections*. It is proposed in this thesis that this is the ideology that the conservative newspaper wanted to project to its readers. The following examples are taken from the *Times* sub-corpora:

- "The strike has pushed Zimbabwe's crisis-ridden economy closer to disaster, as its commitment to the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo is intensifying social tension."
(*Times* 1998)
- "No battlegroup has yet been deployed to a crisis, although there are calls from NGOs for the EU to deploy one in the Democratic Republic of Congo."
(*Times* 2008)
- "DRC presidential elections dogged by delays and blunders Polling stations in the Democratic Republic of Congo are ill-prepared for Sunday's presidential vote, diplomats and an observer mission said, as polling released on Friday showed opposition candidate Martin Fayulu favoured to win."
(*Times* 2018)

Irish News Corpus (INC)

In the first example, topics of war/conflict/violence, plight and economy were used to emphasise the deterioration of the Zimbabwean economy due to social unrest and war involvement. The discursive constructions implied that Zimbabweans and Congolese were susceptible to adverse events, suggesting a negative prosody.

In the second example, emphasis was placed on war/conflict discourses, while NGOs and the EU roles were foregrounded in humanitarian discourse. However, it was notable that although 2008 marked pivotal events in world history, very little about these other significant events was intensified. This was the year of the worldwide economic crisis, which severely affected Ireland. Also, by October 2008, an internal armed conflict began in the eastern North and South Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), led by government forces

and the UN and the Tutsi militia because of the illegal exploitation of natural resources and contracts with China (Amnesty International 2008). Equally, from mid-2008 to 2009, the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice (ICC) planned to indict the Sudanese president on charges ranging from human rights abuses to crimes against humanity in the longstanding clashes in the Darfur war. The African Union (AU) and the League of Arab States protested for suspending the indictment due to fears of jeopardising the Darfur peace process. The US abstained from the UN in protests. This was a pivotal moment in history because until then, Arab States barely engaged in Darfur issues at the UN (Weschler, 2010). As shown in Chapter Two of this thesis, the intervention of the AU in the war was unprecedented and had a significant positive influence in drawing the war to an end. Despite prioritising the coverage of the Congo War, the role of the AU was ignored. One may be compelled to conclude that the instrumental and historical role of the AU in easing the war in the DRC would have been prioritised, given the significance of the story in a country which, just like the DRC, had suffered recurrent conflicts. This event projected the unique position and role of the AU in its ability to resolve disputes. However, the backgrounding and apparent disregard in the sampled corpus indicated an ideological stance at the newspaper's core, for example, to deprive recognition for some countries.

Similarly, in studying the evolution of the word **African** in 7.6.1, it was observed that the individuality of social actors was frequently ignored; rather, social actors – 'others' were referenced by their continental and ethnic origin of Africa. Section 7.6.2 assessed the word **republic**, which emerged as the most prevalent collocate

for Africans in both newspapers under study. It found that one of the pivotal discourses in 2008 was the election of the first African American president of the USA. Despite the significance of this event, the INC foregrounded war/conflict discourses and backgrounded the election of President Obama. This suggests that the INC strategically omitted certain events to de-emphasise the good about the 'other'. On the other hand, foregrounded discourses tended to reinforce stereotypes about Africa as a war-torn continent. Secondly, the fact that Darfur is in a country that also bears **republic** in its official name - the Republic of Sudan strengthened the case that references to **republic** should have included mentions of this notable event or the country. It was, however, disregarded, indicating a sense of prejudice.

In the third example, the dominant discourse regarding **republic** was about elections. Words such as *dogged*, *delays*, *blunders*, and *ill-prepared* were foregrounded and explicitly negative. The Topos of Responsibility served the opposite aim in this instance: If a group of persons is responsible for the emergence of a specific problem, they should act to fix it (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). To conclude this section, the evolution of the key term **republic** is revisited as a summary below in the proceeding sub-section.

Summary of Diachronic View of republic

From the above, references to **republic** were attributed in terms of social and political problems such as war, fighting, shooting, death, militia, and victims, just to name but a few. It was viewed that **republic** appeared neutral at first, with no explicit ideological value from a nomination analysis. To support this viewpoint,

the result explicitly ascribed **republic** by way of originalisations and collectives by place of origin like the case of Congo's capital, Brazzaville. However, following representational analysis, it emerged that **republic** constituted how "social actors were represented in terms of their unique identity" (van Leeuwen 1996, p.52), which carried ideological significance.

The explicit arguments about **republic** shown above can infer knowledge about **africa** and **africans** that the writers intended to convey and what the reader would likely understand. The seemingly neutral linguistic representations (arguments) of **republic** justified the exclusion of **africa/africans** strategically by nominating them to be violent, hostile, and threatening, thereby increasing the ever-wide polarised perspectives of the outgroup. The arguments were enforced by a list of topoi, including Topos of Danger and Threat, which suggests that "if there are specific dangers and threats, one should do something against them" (Reisigl & Wodak 2001); Topos of Humanitarianism, whereas if an action or decision fails to conform with human rights or humanitarian convictions and values, one should either not perform it or avoid it; Topos of numbers which asserts that if numbers prove a specific topos, then specific actions should be performed. The Topos of Numbers was combined with the Topos of Danger and Threat to justify the government sending in an army; the Topos of Authority, as well as the Topos of Military, were seen in the conclusion rule that the rebels were wrong and that is why the government was right to send in the army. It was also argued that these strategies gave a negative semantic prosody to the word **republic** and a typical representation of Africa as 'them'. It can, therefore, be argued that the use of these strategies by the writer indicated that they were

involved in certain roles for discriminatory practices against "social actors" (van Dijk 2018, p.234). These arguments and conclusions intensified racism and ethnicism.

In conclusion, it is possible to discern from the arguments of the three examples taken from the *Times* corpus that, over time, the meaning of **republic** did not change radically. During two out of the three periods under study, the focus remained on social upheavals and armed conflicts, while the last period adopted themes of uselessness, incompetence, and sensitisation that emotionally engaged the reader beyond the purposes of informing and embracing change to accentuating the political and socio-cultural struggles of the 'outgroups'. This is far from the presumption of liberal ideologies in migration and racist discourses.

The above sections have explored the evolution of the concept **republic** and its historical development within the concordance data for this study. The subsequent section will elucidate the findings of the second research question in the context of the literature review. It will highlight the implications of the results, acknowledge their limitations, and make an argument to support the overall conclusions.

7.7 Discussion

The portrayal of minority groups in Western media has been investigated by various scholars in different discourses, including academic writings of the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees, immigrants, and specific migrant groups, as already discussed throughout this work (Alterman 2002; Baker *et al.*

2008; Baron & Jost 2019; Caviedes 2018; Gabrielatos & Baker 2008; Mahieu & Joye 2018; McEnery & Baker 2005; Nothias 2019; Polońska-Kimunguyi 2022; Pointer 2021; KhosraviNik 2009; KhosraviNik *et al.* 2012; Valente *et al.* 2021; van Dijk 1991; Wodak & Reisigl 2001). The representation tends to reproduce racialised and ethnic biases, stereotypical and discriminatory perceptions, as well as underrepresentation of migrant and minority voices in mainstream media. This thesis contributed to these works by asking how attitudes towards African representation compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods in 30 years. The section is divided into five parts to discuss the results of this specific question. It begins with a summary of the key findings of the research questions. Secondly, it discusses the problem-oriented nature of the INC towards Africa and Africans. Thirdly, it argues the overall media attitudes. Fourthly, it discusses the significance of collocation and topoi analyses in studying the media representation of disadvantaged groups. Lastly, it discusses the importance of examining topics and new insights that can emerge. The discourses about Africa and Africans in the INC were wide and diverse; the ensuing section summarises the key findings.

7.7.1 Summary of results of research question two

The preceding analysis focused on the results of the critical discourse analysis (CDA) in media representation of Africa and African* in Ireland. This was the second strand of this thesis and focused on the discourse historical analysis (DHA) approach to CDA. The analysis presented evidence of collocation analysis. Extensive evaluation of the frequency of collocates found that at individual levels,

the *Independent* used more key collocates than the *Times*. In all years under study, however, the *Times* used 1.8 times more collocates to discuss African issues than the *Independent*. The top 50 salient words by frequency of occurrence to collocate with Africa/Africans* were selected from concordances of the general corpus. Several common and unique collocates were found in data sources. Twenty-seven collocates were common collocates, which means they appeared in both newspapers. In comparison, 23 collocates were unique in meaning to either newspaper or were present in one newspaper but not found in the other newspaper. The meanings of the collocates were both explicit and implicit, with the *Times* using more collocates with implicit meanings than the *Independent*, for example, in the case of *new*, which was used as a metonym attribute for 'outgroup'. This refers to individuals of Irish descent who do not fall under White Irish, as seen in the CSO ethnic classifications (CSO 2022).

A second level of analysis investigated the most frequent and consistent collocate, which was **and**. It frequently linked negative attributes and traits regarding African issues. This was made obvious with argumentation analysis, where **and** was argued in discourses of danger and threat, law and order, abuse, war, famine, poverty, and criminality which the 'ingroup' must avoid. When comparing the discourses of both newspapers under study, the *Times* used 1.4% more words with negative words in the environment of **and**. The *Times* used 75% of words with negative meanings to collocate with **and**, while the *Independent* used 55%, thereby giving **and** a negative prosody.

From the analysis of 50 collocates, 21 discourse topics were identified based on their semantic groupings. Of this number, 18 discourse topics emerged in the *Independent* and 15 in the *Times*. This means that both newspapers frequently discussed twelve discourse topics. In ranking order, the top three most significant discourse topics about Africans in the *Independent* mentioned location - spatialisation, sports, and war/conflict/violence, while discourses of unemployment, otherness, and media were absent. Meanwhile, in the *Times*, discourses were led by sports, war/conflict/violence, and humanitarian/human rights discourses, while discourses on victims, reconciliation, politics, resources, and history were absent.

A comparative analysis was performed on the two most dominant discourses in both newspapers to further infer ideology. The discourse of location (spatialisation) in the *Independent* was identified by the key terms **north** and **south**, and the co-texts negatively foregrounded the 'others'. When compared with the *Times*, the term **neighbouring** featured prominently with references to Congo, where the inept ability of 'them' was contrasted with the stable and superior power of 'us'. In addition, traits such as *attack*, *poison*, and *conflicts* negatively attributed the 'outgroup'.

Regarding sports discourse, *champions*, *looming*, *spectre*, *victory*, *home*, and *namibia* were key terms. The *Times* used negative words to emphasise the good things about **south africa** being champions in contrast to positive words to emphasise the victories of **australia**. Compared with the *Independent*, *namibia* was foregrounded positively from the start, but the discourses changed swiftly to

reference and foreground the 'ingroup' positively and mitigate any of their weakness.

From the collocation analysis of the general corpus, the focus turned on the 17 most consistent collocates in all sub-corpora and discourses that surfaced. The discourse of sports emerged as the most talked about issue about Africans/Africa in the *Independent*, and the highest mention occurred in 2018. Over time, interest in African issues steadily narrowed. The most mentioned topic in the *Times* involved crime, and the highest mention occurred in 2008. Over time, there was a slight increase in the number of topics.

A diachronic analysis was conducted on two specific words. One was the noun **african**, central to all investigations in this thesis. The analysis showed that both newspapers used discriminatory language about the 'outgroup' more than the 'ingroup', but that the *Times* (liberal) was frequently more negative than the *Independent* (conservative). The second word was **republic**. It was the strongest collocate for African issues in all sub-corpora. The word occurred mostly in terms of place of origin, and social actors were constituted by unique identities and attributed to social and political problems.

Across all three periods, the most salient topics to portray African issues contained texts with explicit linguistic stances and more direct positions in crime, sports, war/conflict/violence, migration/movement/rejection/deportation, natural disasters, and diseases. These were problematic representations even though they appeared to be unconscious at first. The view was based on the notion of factual journalistic reporting. At the same time, the problematic portrayal was

created, sustained, and reinforced by the idea that when compared with other countries and continents, the representation of Africa in conflicts and violence was portrayed as barbaric and unintelligible (Gberie 2018), more threatening, sinister and dangerous than Greece – referencing the words of the Greek historian and geographer, Herodotus, (Bates 2012; Poncian 2015). The data in the INC indicated that African 'others' were attributed and described as *criminals, aggressive, poor, barbaric, hopeless, violent* and *new*. Similarly, collocations, nomination, predication, and argumentation identified repeated patterns of positive 'self' and negative 'other' presentations through somatisation, collectivisation, militarisation, quantification and spatialisation strategies. It argued that the INC made Africans to be perceived as a threat to society. These findings showed how representations of Africa/African* were justified, legitimised, and delegitimised in the INC and how newspaper ideologies were embedded in linguistic constructions. The following section will analyse all the results, starting with a critical examination of the inherent problematic issues associated with the INC corpus.

7.7.2 Problem-oriented Nature of the INC

In this thesis, various aspects have determined and supported the same conclusions, making the results reliable and credible. For example, the study of keywords based on DHA representational strategies in the INC examined **africa** and found that it was frequently evaluated and constructed negatively. It was largely referenced as a *disease-ridden, highly infectious continent* that needed aid and assistance. Furthermore, a textual analysis of the keyword **black** was

found to be a racionym associated with *fear, threats, violence, killing, and poverty*. In addition, a concordance study of **african** found 23% positive and 77% negative references. It highlighted that Africans were *fighting, killing, bombing, destroying, clashing, primitive* and *homogeneous*. A concordance study of **irish** identified 67% positive mentions and 27% negative references. Additionally, a collocation examination of the top 50 most frequent collocates in the overall corpus identified **and** as the most important collocate. It obtained a negative evaluation in both newspapers and an overall 74% negative semantic prosody. Based on consistent collocates, the top discourses in the INC were sports, war/conflict/violence, crime, natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease, migration/movement/rejection/deportation. A total of 69% of topics had negative evaluations, and 15% contained positive mentions. At individual levels, 78% of discourses were problem-oriented in the *Independent* versus 75% in the *Times*. The *Independent* focused on sports, war/conflict/crime/natural disasters, destruction/poverty/disease/crime. The *Times* focused on crime, war/conflicts/violence, politics, migration/movement/rejection/deportation, and the military. The negative perceptions seen in this thesis support the views of Poncian (2015), Asante (2013), Ayisi & Brylla (2013), De B'Berl & Louw (2011), Garrett & Schmidt (2011), and Nothias (2013). These researchers point out that Western media represent Africa as crisis-ridden, a doomed place, ungovernable, identical and difficult. This notion is observed in other academic writings. For example, in a study of literature review on academic writing about African narratives by Pointer (2020; 2021), the scholar finds that among many themes,

post-colonial writers have reclaimed and reshaped narratives that Africans are famine-stricken, poor and lack agency, such that only western aid can resolve. Meanwhile, the keyword **european** was constructed as aiding, awarding, non-infecting, and defender of democratic values – overall, as good and favourable (Koshkarova 2019; Ross 2019; van Dijk 1993).

Regarding the peak of visibility in the INC, the most insightful and revealing period was 2008. The *Independent* and the *Times* displayed distinct reporting priorities regarding Africa. The *Independent* foregrounded sports (46%) and war/conflict/violence (37%), while the *Times* emphasised crime (67%) and sports (12%). A key difference emerged: the *Independent* focused more on manufacturing/business/economy. This can be due to their pro-business ideology, which emphasises broader national implications and government actions concerning business, the economy, and crises. On the other hand, the *Times* prioritised politics. This can be attributed to the newspaper's liberal stance and alignment with President Obama's progressive values. One can argue for the validity of the Congo War and the South African xenophobic attacks for influencing these narratives. However, it is difficult to contend that these events were far more important than the immediate implications of the election of Barack Obama and the Great Recession in Ireland. The INC seemed strategically involved in 'othering' at specific times. The INC foregrounded the bad about the 'other' in terms of the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Africa and backgrounded the good about the 'other' in the case of President Obama. This basis agrees with the notion that the election of President Barack Obama had little or no significant (positive) transformation in the lives of

Africans in Ireland (Cormaic 2008). On the other hand, the INC backgrounded the bad about the 'self' in that the Great Recession severely damaged Ireland's economy, yet this was less reported within this discourse. It was recalled that the impacts of the Great Recession were less severe in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa because of the high commodity prices for African natural resources, strong dependence on domestic deposits and limited reliance on external funding (Stein 2016). Therefore, it can be reasonably argued that this made the INC conflict oriented towards Africa. The following section considers DHA and discursive strategies used by the INC.

7.7.3 Media Attitudes of the INC

Media attitudes are crucial to understanding how public opinions are shaped. By analysing the discursive strategies employed by the DHA and considering historical contexts, this section provides a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of the results. First, a keyword analysis found that out of 50 top words, 40 represented the outgroup, and 10 represented the ingroup. Second, categorising the keywords in terms of relational identification in DHA identified that the INC negatively represented Africans using referential strategies, namely, collectivisations, quantification, and somatisation. The main keywords discussed constructed binary identifications to exclude the 'other'. Some words included *we, us, our, they, them, you, people, many, blacks, and white*. Third, in categorising keywords in terms of representational strategies, examples of occurrences in concordance indicated that referential and predication strategies were used more negatively than positively. Thus, it was possible to argue that the

INC perpetuated underlying negative stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards Africans by using discursive strategies. The INC tended to depict and foreground Africans (Africa and Blacks) as *poor, hungry, violent, Third World, fighting, killing, stealing, criminals, manual labourers, ravaged, dying from infections, too many, had bad body odour, plagued by wars, extremists, victims, migrating, lawless, discriminated against, mixed-raced* and 'new'. Although most of these references and predicates were performed covertly, the portrayals had the same capability to reinforce narratives of Africa as inferior and needing Western assistance. Analysing the role of the G8 in eradicating poverty in Africa in 2005, Chiamogu *et al.* (2012) agree that the existence of poverty on its 'land' has led Africa to be seen as the poorest continent in the world. One must look at history to understand why Africa is seen as a poor continent. Events such as the slave trade and colonisation left lasting legacies of a battered and besieged continent. During the slave trade era, more than 12 million Africans in their prime were taken as slaves to work in American and European plantations for more than 400 years (Nunn 2008). When looking at this figure alone, it is possible to argue that the forceful abstraction of this workforce was an exploitation of human resources that prevented Africa from establishing vibrant economies. The lack of economic activities and development led to social instabilities, increased conflicts, and embattled institutions. At the same time, it is hard to ignore that Africa is an esteemed continent. For example, in the early 19th century, countries in sub-Saharan Africa provided refuge to many non-Africans, such as Irish non-missionary economic migrants. According to Ejorh (2007), South Africa was a favoured destination for a large Irish population of economic migrants who

worked in the military and management of the imperialist regime. In the context of racial discrimination against Africans, therefore, it seems as though the agenda is on emphasising the problems in the African continent, which are not new (Chiamogu *et al.* 2012). The media can better serve the public by providing fair representation, for example, by presenting other historical contexts of Africa, such as the migration to Africa of Irish non-missionary economic migrants. In the case of the 2005 G8 Summit and the Live 8 events that promised \$25bn a year worth of aid (Burkeman 2005), for example, the media could have criticised the nature of aid itself in terms of the conditions for aid, and that the aid was not for long term development assistance. Instead, the media positively foregrounded the concerts and the role played by the 'self'. Three years after these events, media attention continued to reference the event as observed in the *Independent* in 2008:

- "... Geldof for 'saving' Africa and the poor of that continent"
- "Bob Geldof is the Second Coming ..."
- "... After all, when you have decided that you are going to single-handedly save Africa..."
- "... more than 20 years after Bob Geldof brought the plight of starving Ethiopians to the world stage, it is time the handouts ended, to be replaced by hand ups."

Irish News Corpus (INC)

The portrayal of Africans contrasted a more *dominant, noninfecting* and *enduring* Irish, European, and Westerners who were *generous, rewarding, human rights campaigners, principled, superior, disagreeable, successful, the best, nationalist, brave* and *industrious*. Also, metaphors helped to mitigate and de-emphasise the bad about the 'self'. It is difficult to argue that these statements

were innocent and that the media portrayal did not subtly aim to prejudice Africans and emphasise the goodness of 'self'.

Using the taxonomies of DHA strategies, it was possible to identify the legacy of colonialism and unequal power relations, where approval labels identified the 'self'. At the same time, broad categorisations and homogenisation foregrounded the 'other', as in the case of *"If they go two or three days without the African food, they're missing the whole world"* (Times 2018). The reference alone of *African food* supposed an ideological sense that the entire African continent shares the same food culture and heritage. This had the propensity to create a subtle discriminating effect. The following discussion highlights the complementary nature of collocational and topoi analyses in studying concordance data.

7.7.4 Collocates and Topoi in the INC

The texts with recurring topics were identified to analyse the manipulative nature of language in the INC. The most discursive and frequent collocate in the corpus was **and**. The linguistic choices in the co-text environment were predominantly negative, dangerous, and threatening. At 75%, the *Times* used more negative words around **and** than the *Independent* at 55%. Meanwhile, the most discursive and consistent collocate between both newspapers was **republic**. At 71%, there were more negative occurrences surrounding **republic** in the *Times* than in the *Independent* at 29%. The frequency of occurrences varied across time in both newspapers and individual newspapers. Based on the discursive analysis of **and**, **african** and **republic**, the following lists of topoi were identified and illustrated.

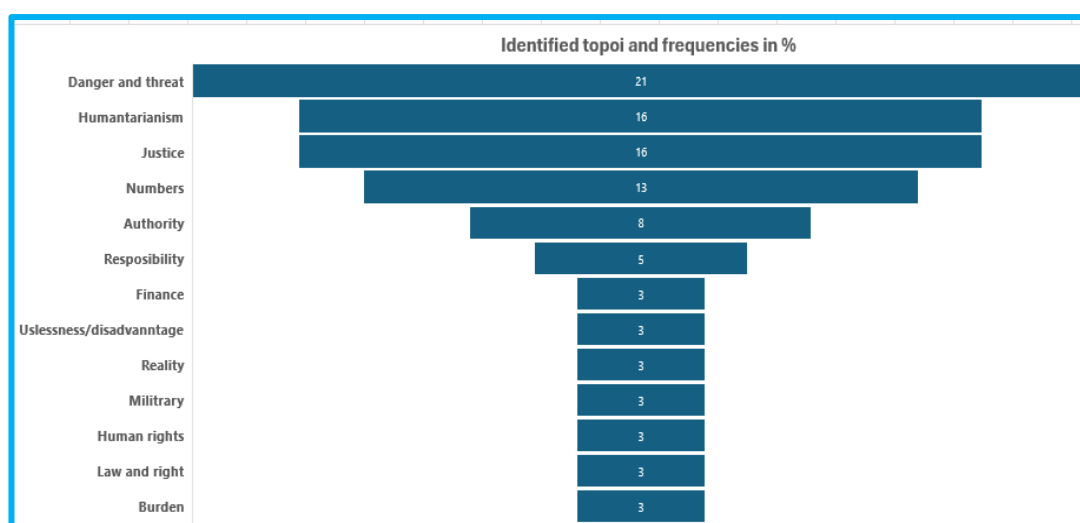


Figure 7. 14: List of topoi identified in the INC

In Figure 7.14 above, the Topos of Danger and Threat predominated the list of topoi in the INC. This analysis found that several aspects of interdiscursivity occurred, whereby several topoi were linked with others. For example, the Topos of Danger and Threat is often linked/referred to the topoi of Justice, Numbers, Authority, Responsibility, Uselessness/Disadvantage, Military, and Burden. Meanwhile, the Topos of Humanitarianism was linked with the topoi of Reality, Number, and Burden. Also, a significant amount of coverage relating to African issues in the INC was about conflicts, wars, and crimes, which explained the 'conclusion rules' that Africans were dangerous and threatening. One topos, Usefulness/Advantage, emphasised the good about the 'self'.

It is recalled that by 2008, xenophobic slogans from the right-wing populist party, the FPÖ or Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs, were frequent in 'cleaning' and 'cleansing' Austria (Wodak 2009). Additionally, euphemisms and metaphors

stereotypically depict Africans, while illustrations portray them as abusers of the asylum system and criminals. Still, a photograph of a Black person reads, "Please do not vote for the BZÖ so that I can continue with my business dealings" (Wodak 2009, p.6). This statement can be understood as a stereotype – that Africans are drug dealers, which is a criminal activity and offence. This prejudice can suggest several topoi, such as abuse, justice, burden, and danger and the threat that African asylum seekers bring to Austrian society. Similarly, Machin and Mayr (2012) argue that depicting Africans in dirty clothes and dilapidated huts to represent poverty perpetuates harmful stereotypes and suggests implicit racism. This is a perspective shared by Nothias (2013). In analysing a May 2000 front-page story in *The Economist* that referred to Africa as 'the hopeless continent', he argues that this exemplifies the prevalent negative discourses of Africa in Western news coverage, which often focuses on topics of the four Ds (own words)- disease, debt, disaster and death. In 1998, Schraeder and Endless examined the portrayal of Africa in *The New York Times* between 1955 and 1995. Their research reveals that 73% of the articles presented negative views about African politics and society. Notably, the percentage of negative images increased from 67% in 1955 to 92% in 1985, representing a 1.4% rise. This trend highlights the long-standing imbalance in Western media coverage of Africa and demonstrates that it is not a recent phenomenon but rather a persistent issue.

As it manifests in the INC, references can be drawn from the *Independent* during 2008:

"When two African women appeared before the court on shoplifting charges, Judge Neilan warned that "coloured people" could be banned from shopping centres."

(*Independent* 2008)

Using referential tactics of ethnic origin, the actions of individual members caught stealing were attributed and socially constructed to collective identities. This may point to the writer's belief that all African women or coloured people steal or have the same traits. The predication of stealing means that the authority must act against 'coloured people' to prevent this criminal activity from happening again. In this regard, it is possible to argue that this stigmatised, reinforced discrimination against, and sought to exclude Africans on the perceived racial makeup that all coloured people were thieves, creating a fear of the 'other' in society.

It should be added that stereotypical depictions of Africans are not only limited to the print media. According to Blakley et al. (2019), even in entertainment, Africans are portrayed in criminal activities. In examining 700.000 hours of US television over one month, shows like *Law & Order* and *Criminal Intent* consistently portrayed Africans or an African country involved in human slavery, smuggling, drugs, or prostitution. Other negative narratives about Africa occur outside the mainstream media, especially in Live Aid concerts and fundraising leaflets by development agencies foregrounding the plights of African children (Escobar 2017). In a recent study, Mahieu and Joye (2018) examined in-depth interviews and visual and textual representations of Africans in all articles published in the alternative news magazine MO in Belgium between 2015 and

2016. They conclude that Africa is frequently portrayed as an inferior 'other', with children in "filthy rags" (p.13), highly dependent on the West, and described in terms of their skin colour and passive tendencies.

The supporting literature discussed here tended to support the findings in the INC that, regardless of time and medium (different channels of communication) were not the focus of this thesis, but they were relevant in the context presented. African portrayals in Western media continue to reproduce, reinforce, and maintain negative tropes.

7.7.5 Topics in the INC

Topics are important in discourse. They shape the representation readers create in their minds of specific ethnic events and situations (van Dijk 1991). The collocation analysis of **africa** and **africans** in concordance found three top frequent topics in the *Independent*. They were location, sports, and war/conflict/violence. The top three in the *Times* were sports, war/conflict/violence, and humanitarian/human rights. These topics frequently evaluated Africa and Africans negatively. Furthermore, a collocation analysis of the most frequent and consistent collocates in both newspapers identified the following topics as the most significant: crime/legality, sports, war/conflict/violence, and migration/movement/rejection/deportation. Given that much analysis in this paper focused on the claim that when talking about Africans, the main discourses were crime, war, conflicts, and violence, it was important to address other claims.

This analysis is the claim that Africans were overrepresented in sports discourses. This was a common pattern in both newspapers. It occurred as the second key topic in the *Independent* but as the first in the *Times*, meaning the INC significantly referenced Africans in sports. Considering existing literature, this claim suggests that many newsmakers are more likely to report stories about Africans when they are involved in sports (Johnson 1987; van Dijk 1991). Apart from existing literature, evidence of this claim was visible in the INC. For example, suggestions were provided on the roles new Irish citizens and Africans can play:

- "... new Irish to contribute to their communities, perhaps through sport..."
- "The manager is French, we've got African players who speak French, so, obviously, there's a lot of French talking everywhere."
- "... has called for more black players to be given opportunities in the higher reaches of the game."
- "... and intervene decisively to promote black players into national squads brought howls from mainly white opposition parties and newspapers editorials critical of any "racial quota" in sport."

Irish News Corpus (INC)

Combined with the frequency of sports stories, these statements highlight the roles that Africans are best suited for in society. This can also help explain why many Africans have limited opportunities to belong in other fields and access resources and are the most unemployed group in Ireland. It can be argued that frequent representation of Africans in sports can perpetuate stereotypes and reinforce societal perceptions and attitudes.

7.8 Conclusion

So far, it has been shown that regardless of ideological or political orientation, both newspapers frequently portrayed African issues negatively. This was seen in the most prevalent topics in both newspapers, which talked more about crime, sports, war/conflict/violence, and migration/movement/rejection/deportation. The tactic to portray African issues negatively was also observed in section 6.4. The collocation analysis on the overall INC found a prevalence of foregrounding twelve semantic topics across both newspapers. These discussed killings, wars, conflicts, crime, natural disasters, and locations. The exception was that certain discourses were significantly foregrounded in the *Independent* than in the *Times*. They were rejection/deportation, reconciliation, victimisation of Africans, history, resources, and politics. Meanwhile, the *Times* accounted for more media otherness and unemployment discourses about Africans.

What attracted much attention was that there were more prejudiced mentions of African issues in the *Times* than in the *Independent*. However, both focused on issues of national interest first and foremost, making the threat of the 'other' ever so present in their ideological attitude. The continuous portrayal of Africa/Africans as a collective in the notion of dangerous African crimes may persuade readers to view social actors in a biased manner. There is evidence to suggest that persistent negative media portrayals of immigrants lead to negative public attitudes towards immigrants. In a literature review of media discourses and their effects on immigrants, Eberl *et al.* (2018) uncover several discourses. One of their findings is that messages of threat towards the economy, culture, or

security significantly influence attitudes towards migrant groups and immigration. Also, over time, repeated exposure to the most negative coverage of immigration can "activate" (Eberl *et al.* 2018, p.217) and reinforce stereotypical mental images and, in the long run, influence perceptions of political actors and even audiences' voting behaviour. This literature helps to support the fact that the persistent negative portrayal of Africans in the INC can wield public opinion and reinforce prejudices and discrimination against Africans.

In conclusion, methods from CL and CDA, particularly DHA in the form of historical perspectives, complemented each other to establish patterns and trends of the INC's attitude towards African issues. It found that although the liberal newspaper was more prejudiced towards African discourses than the conservative newspaper, both newspapers were more negative than positive, irrespective of their political orientations. This finding challenges the common perception that liberal newspapers are likelier to promote tolerant principles, individual rights and social equality.

Chapter 8: Conclusion

8.1 Introduction

From overt and blatant ethnic characterisation, Western history is re-writing itself with indirect and subtle forms of racial discrimination. This creates sophisticated yet effective ways to maintain, dominate and exclude 'in' and 'out' groups based on perceived differences. This thesis tracked discursive patterns of representation of Africans in the *Independent* and the *Times* over specific periods in three decades. For clarity, in this final chapter, each period will be referred to simply by the year. This means that the first period, which starts from September to December 1998, also referred to in this thesis as 1998, will now be known simply as 1998, and so on. Also, binary oppositions will be used interchangeably to reference social actors. They include 'us'/'self'/'ingroup' to nominate non-Africans, but especially Western individuals, and 'them'/'other'/'outgroup' to reference particularly Africans. Lastly, the word Africans will be used to refer to Africa, Africans, and Blacks, as well as news coverage about African issues. In this concluding chapter, it is useful to start by summarising the thesis and the main findings.

8.2 Overview of Thesis

The first chapter of this thesis provided an overview of the research topic and background. It outlined the research aims, problems, objectives, questions, and personal motivation and provided the background, including discourses of African migration to Ireland. It established the historical links between several

African countries and Ireland, dating back to the 19th Century. The second chapter reviewed and summarised relevant literature, from writings on media portrayal of Africans to information about the Irish newspaper landscape. It presented the fundamental theories and concepts and highlighted the gap this thesis seeks to fill. In the third chapter, the thesis explored the theoretical and conceptual frameworks, including Corpus Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), and their contributions to the study of migrant portrayal. Three main approaches were introduced and thoroughly explored the Discourse Historical Analysis (DHA) approach, which is the framework adopted in this thesis. In the fourth chapter, the methodological decisions taken in the present work were detailed, such as research design and data collection procedures that can contribute to CL and CDA. In the fifth chapter, a specially designed model to analyse the data for this study illustrated the synergy of CL and CDA and demonstrated the quantitative proof of nodes in two data sources in the INC. In a two-part approach to respond to the research questions in this thesis, two separate chapters linked the overall findings of this thesis to the theoretical framework and literature, focusing on the discursiveness of representation of Africans in the INC. The first of two, Chapter Six, attempted answers to the first research question: How did the frequency of representation of African issues compare in the INC over selected periods in 30 years? Three sub-questions were identified, and four answers were achieved. Chapter Seven answered the question: How did attitudes towards the representation of Africans compare in Irish newspapers over selected periods in 30 years? Finally, this chapter begins with a summary of key results that decoded African narratives in the INC. It also

presented, among other issues, opportunities for future research and the contributions of this thesis to knowledge. Further, it considers emancipatory practices that can help resist power dominance. To this effect, this thesis tended to reflect authentic illustrations of discrimination, underrepresentation, misunderstandings, and racist and ethnicist discourses against Africans (immigrants) in the INC. The concluding remark provides a solid ending that considers the findings and implications of this study.

8.3 Summary of the Findings

The summary of the findings in this thesis is presented based on three overarching hypotheses and two additional sub-hypotheses (see section 1.8 of this thesis). A comprehensive approach that synergised methods in CL and CDA, particularly DHA, obtained insights into the representation of Africans in the INC. In terms of statistics and considering that there were five outcomes in total (three main and two sub-hypotheses), three hypotheses were validated, while two were rejected. It is possible to conclude that based on empirical evidence, the total success rate of the hypotheses was:

$$\frac{3 \text{ (number of supported hypotheses)}}{5 \text{ (total number of hypothesis)}} \times 100 = 60\% \text{ successful hypotheses}$$

The equation demonstrated that 60% of the expected results were supported by evidence, while the data did not validate 40% of the expected results. This is explained in detail below.

Based on the data analysis for this study, Hypothesis 1 or H1, which suggested a correlation between demographic evidence and media portrayal, was supported. In testing H2, the expected results were not observed in the data that the INC would use emotive language to forge a connection with lived experiences and provide more relatable news coverage. In H3, the findings also failed to support the hypothesis that based on the respective ideologies, the INC would demonstrate two different ideologies: one, that the *Times* would prioritise inclusivity and fairness and two, that the *Independent* would prioritise exclusivity and bias towards Africans. However, while the broader H3 did not hold, evidence showed that two sub-hypotheses were supported. They were sub-H1, hypothesised that based on various factors, including that based on the legacy of colonialism, the INC would portray Africans more negatively and employ more othering strategies against African minority ethnic groups. In sub-H2, the probabilities of the answers being correct were high. These outcomes are explored in the following sections.

8.3.1 Hypothesis 1: Correlation between demographic evidence and media portrayal

Firstly, it was hypothesised in this discourse that because the evidence by the Central Statistics Office (2002, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2022) confirmed that Africans were part of Irish life, it was expected that a certain proportion of news articles - time and space would be allocated to Africans - the 'outgroup'. The results supported this hypothesis. Africans were visible in Irish media across all three periods, although the frequencies of representations fluctuated over time and

across publications. This was evident in the semantic topics of the nodes that obtained news articles about Africans in archives and concordance (corpus) databases. The topics consisted of core words and National Demonyms. In addition, almost all database nodes confirmed that the referential constructions of national identifications and national states in news articles were about the continent and people of African descent. However, this thesis did not aim to primarily highlight the extent of time and space allocated to the 'ingroup'.

To support H1, a frequency analysis investigated the regularity of representation diachronically. Patterns in the INC identified a sharp rise in media portrayal of Africans from 1998 to 2008 and then a decline in 2018. Among all three periods in the INC, overrepresentation occurred in 2008 at 41%, followed by 2018 at 36%, and underrepresentation in 1998 at 23%. Frequency analysis also examined portrayal in individual newspapers. In the *Independent*, representation of Africans rose and fell. It peaked in 2008, and the most miniature representation occurred in 1998, consistent with the overall media representation of Africans in the INC. The pattern was different in the *Times*. African representation increased throughout the years, and 2018 was the peak. However, both newspapers represented Africans the least in 1998 but held different views regarding overrepresentation. While interest in Africans was maintained in the *Times* as time passed, interest diminished in the *Independent*. This means that in the absence of significant national or global socio-political events and increasing discrimination rates against Africans, the *Times* continued to portray Africans frequently. Other African-related stories focused on humanitarian issues and aligned with the ideology of the *Times*.

In terms of the newspaper that portrayed Africans more, a frequency analysis found that, at 83%, the *Times* represented Africans 5.1 times more than the *Independent*. Regarding historical progression, the *Times* provided more coverage of Africans than the *Independent* each time, with the most significant coverage in 2018, followed by 1998 and 2008 (see Figure 6.12). High levels of representation were linked to issues of national identity; for example, coverage revolved around topics such as high birth rates among non-European, non-Irish, and non-White immigrant parents. The mention of these specific demographics implied that the media attention was directed towards groups not part of the dominant or traditional demographic categories. This alludes to the idea that from 1998, more discourses were aimed at underlining commonalities within the nation and possibly restraining differences based on ethnicity or nationality.

8.3.2 Hypothesis 2: Emotive language in the INC would create a connection with lived experiences and more relatable news coverage

Secondly, this thesis hypothesised that based on the Irish's migration experiences, the INC would adopt linguistic proxies that positively represented Africans. The evidence contradicted this proposition from two perspectives, namely, topics, also known as semantic classification, which emerged from using methods in CL. The second concerned discursive strategies from two-step analysis in DHA that employed the topoi tool. The results from both analyses complemented each other. Evidence from the CL strand – keyword and frequency analysis found that ethnic characterisations were the most discursive topic to discuss Africans. The words in this category included *black*, *black africans*, *black*

Irish and *black people*. The occurrences of these words were 1.6 times higher in the *Times* than in the *Independent*. At the level of individual newspapers, diachronically, in the *Independent*, the usage increased over time and peaked in 2008. On the other hand, the frequency fluctuated in the *Times*. It decreased in 2008 and then increased to its highest in 2018. It was a significant finding that regardless of ideological alignment and immigration history, both newspapers used somatisation strategies through racionyms, for example, attributes such as '*black*'. This is an attribute to distinguish a particular group visually; a meaning that goes beyond their literal interpretation. This indicated a possible discrepancy between expectations and reality in how attributions are perceived and positioned within society. This is a prime illustration of how using labels, attributions, and categorisation on social identity and power structures can intensify and polarise existing dynamics. In all, using referential, predication, topoi, backgrounding and foregrounding strategies, this thesis found that the INC characterised **Africa** as *Third World, harsh, ravaged, lawless, and plagued by wars*. **Africans** and **blacks** were typified as *poor, hungry, violent, murderers, thieves, criminals, manual labourers, infected, too many, had bad body odour, extremists, victims, mixed-raced*, and were *new*. These were predicated by *Africans and Blacks who were fighting, killing, stealing, dying from infections, migrating, being lawless, and discriminated against*. This contrasted a more superior, noninfecting and enduring **Irish, European** and **white** that were *generous, rewarding, human rights campaigners, principled, superior, disagreeable, successful, the best, nationalist, brave and industrious*. Also, metaphors helped to mitigate and de-emphasise the bad about the 'self'. Some

narratives identified in this thesis were extreme right-wing views like those found in Bari *et al.* (1990) that have filtered into mainstream media. Contrary to the opinions that racism has become covert and vague (Wodak *et al.* 2008), this thesis's findings indicated overt and new forms, including justifications of social characterisations of cultural incompatibilities of "xeno-racism" (Wodak *et al.* 2008, p.2) that plays into the fear of the 'other'.

8.3.3 Hypothesis 3: Newspapers would prioritise inclusivity and fairness and exclusivity and bias because of their ideological stances

This thesis hypothesised that the INC would lean towards inclusivity or exclusivity based on both newspapers' orientations. That, on the blend of populism, conservativeness, socio-liberalism, centrist, and pro-business beliefs, the *Independent* would adopt a linguistic ideology of exclusion towards (Africans) immigrants (van Dijk 1991, 1993). Meanwhile, based on the ideology that the *Times* is the newspaper of record for Ireland and is liberal (O'Brien 2008), it would adopt linguistic choices that are good and inclusive more than exclusive of Africans. These expected results were not found in the data. The INC's attitude was rooted in historical contexts of colonisation to reflect superiority over Africans. This was established following an evaluation of the 'self'-and-'other' presentation. Multiple extensive analyses were conducted on various factors, including historical, colonial attitudes, and contemporary media leanings that inferred ideology in the INC and individual newspapers. When the keywords **africa**, **africans**, **blacks**, **irish**, and **european** were analysed based on nomination and predication strategies in DHA, it identified that Africans 'other'

were *dying, infested, fighting, killing, and stealing*; Africa was *lawless and poor*; Blacks were *migrating, murdering, mixed-race, and discriminated against*. Meanwhile, the Irish 'self' were *entrepreneurs, superior, generous, principled, excelling at sports (and disagreeable)*, while the European 'self' was *aiding, building, and manufacturing*.

In terms of collocation and topoi analysis of the most frequent collocates for African issues and appeared to be used discursively. **and** frequently occurred in the environments of negative words and discourses/topics, including danger and threat, law and order, abuse, war, famine, poverty, and criminality, which the ingroup must avoid. This compelled **and** to obtain a negative SP. At 75%, the *Times* used **and** more discursively than the *Independent* at 55%.

Three most prominent topics about Africans were identified in the INC. They involved crime/legality, sports, and war/conflict/violence. When compared between different ideological newspapers, the *Independent* predominantly focused on war/conflict/violence and employed spatialisation as a tool. Using location and the key terms **north** and **south**, it foregrounded the 'outgroups' as places that were *harsh, of irregular forces, stricken by ambushes, disaster, famine*, and engaged in *con activities* and *illegal migration*. The second most frequent topic was sports. For example, **namibia** was foregrounded positively from the start, but the focus changed to positive things about the 'ingroup'. The third most prominent topic was natural disaster/destruction/poverty/disease. It is worth mentioning that the *Independent* humanised Africans by addressing issues concerning victims, reconciliation, politics, resources, and history. This

aspect of human representation was only emphasised in the *Times* regarding unemployment, otherness discourses, and entertainment issues like the media. These were not present in the *Independent*.

Meanwhile, in the *Times*, Africans featured the most in crime, war/conflict/violence, and sports. Africans were not identified as victims, involved in reconciliation, politics, owning resources, and situated in history. In sports, for example, the *Times* emphasised the good things about 'them' through negative words, such as *looming*, *spectre* and *kenya*, while champions and victories attributed the 'self'. To compare how spatialisation was used in the *Times*, the key term **neighbouring** referred to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), whose ability was forsaken. This was amplified by negative traits such as *attack*, *poison*, and *conflicts*, contrasting the stable and superior power of the 'self'.

However, the most consistent collocates per newspaper provided the most discursive results about topics. Sports emerged as the most dominant discourse in the *Independent*, with the highest mention in 2018. In the *Times*, the most mentioned topic was crime, and occurred the most in 2008. Though this seemed to place both newspapers at the opposite ends of argumentation, the implication that news stories about Blacks align with White newsmakers' preconceptions that Blacks are mainly involved in sports or entertainment is shown in the Kerner Commission Report (1987). Overall, the *Times* presented a more racist and ethnicist representation of Africans, while the *Independent* presented a similar position but de-emphasised the frequency.

The most significant topoi to show the INC's intentional plan toward Africans were the Topos of Danger and Threat, Uselessness/Disadvantage, and Number. The Topos of Danger and Threat was more prominent in the *Times* than in the *Independent*.

It was important to analyse how language changed over time to infer ideology further. Thus, a diachronic analysis was performed on two specific dominant consistent collocates in both newspapers. One was the noun **african**, which was central to all investigations in this thesis. The second word was **republic**. It was the strongest collocate for Africans in all sub-corpora. The word appeared neutral at first, with no ideological value. This is because it occurred mostly as originalisations and collectives regarding place of origin. Still, when examined, it emphasised the unique identities of social actors, which acquired some ideological significance. This made it a significant result. In 1998, in the *Independent*, **republic** was predicated by *fighting*, *conflicts*, and *killing*. It possessed a negative evaluation, and the Topos of Danger and Threat was argued. This evaluation can be justified because of the ongoing war in the DRC. In 2008 **republic** was again foregrounded with associated actions, including *fighting*, *conflicts*, and *killing*. This maintained a negative SP and Topos of Danger and Threat for the outgroup, while the Topos of Responsibility was positive for the 'ingroup'. This was hardly justifiable because other major local and global events toppled the happenings in the DRC at the time. Events already discussed throughout this thesis, including the economic crisis, the election of Barack Obama as America's first African American president, the xenophobic attacks in South Africa, and the high discrimination rates against Blacks in Ireland, had far-

reaching consequences on people's lives. These other events were either backgrounded, de-emphasised or ignored. In 2018, **republic** collocated with *diseases* where the Topos of Reality was argued. The topics varied, but the issues were about the same 'outgroup', which implied that each time **republic** was mentioned, it was about the DRC than any other outgroup member. This analysis indicated a stable pattern of negative evaluation of **republic** throughout all the years under study. Whereby the association between **republic** and danger and threat was very strong, with Africans again positioned alongside *killings, fighting, conflicts, wars, diseases, and infections*. It is proposed in this thesis that this is the ideology that the conservative newspaper projected to its readers.

Compared with the *Times*, in 1998, **republic** referenced DRC and Zimbabwe in discourses of war/conflict/violence, plight and economy. In terms of evaluation, it was negative. Topoi of humanitarianism and danger and threat were argued. It was presented, thus, that the nominated social actors were a danger globally. In 2008, **republic** collocated with NGOs, the EU, and their humanitarian actions. Other notable references to the economic crisis, the united position of the African Union (AU) in the Darfur conflict, the Arab States, and the election of Barack Obama were ignored. The absence of these other discourses suggested an ideological stance to deprive Africans of recognition. In 2018, **republic** was found in politics in terms of elections, and traits such as *dogged, delays, blunders*, and *ill-prepared* were foregrounded. The Topos of Responsibility served the opposite aim in this instance, whereby if a group of persons is responsible for the emergence of a specific problem, they should act to fix it. This analysis indicated that the meaning of **republic** diachronically did not drastically

change. During two out of the three periods under study, the focus remained on social upheavals and armed conflicts, while the last period adopted themes of uselessness, incompetence, and sensitisation that emotionally engaged the reader beyond the purposes of informing and embracing change. Instead, it accentuated the political and socio-cultural struggles of the 'outgroups'. This is far from the presumption of liberal ideologies in migration and racist discourses.

Using seemingly neutral linguistic choices in the case of **republic**, for example, Africans were strategically nominated as violent, hostile, and threatening. The following lists of topoi were successfully enforced: Topos of Danger and Threat, Humanitarianism, Numbers, Authority, and Military. The overall SP was negative and projected a typical representation of Africa as 'them'. These arguments and conclusion rules served to justify the exclusion of Africans. This was very likely to increase polarised perspectives and intensify racism and ethnicism.

The analysis showed a prevalence of discriminatory language used in both newspapers about the 'outgroup' more than the 'ingroup'. This means that when writing about others, the political orientations, liberal or conservative, had little or no impact, but the liberal was frequently more damaging than the conservative. There was more focus on topics such as crime/authority, war/conflict, and spatialisation in the liberal more than in the conservative newspaper. Meanwhile, social actors were constituted by unique identities and attributed in terms of social and political problems such as *war, fighting, shooting, death, militia*, and

victims, just to name but a few. This exceeded expectations by far, and it was surprising that liberal newspapers accentuated more negative portrayals.

The following conclusions were drawn from analysing the ideology of the INC towards Africans. Firstly, irrespective of political orientations, both newspapers under study tended to be more negative than positive, and the liberal newspaper was more prejudiced towards Africans than the conservative newspaper. This finding contradicted the view by Khosravini (2014) that "liberal news reporters make more effort to recognise diversities and generally provide more information on individual cases" (p.515). It also opposed the shared belief that liberal newspapers reproduce more tolerant principles and inherent rights and promote social equality.

Secondly, throughout all three periods, the most salient topics specifically portraying African issues evolved into more subtle and indirect ones. More broadly, however, using neutral words with underlying ideological implications indicates a rise in explicit discrimination against marginalised groups (Dijk 1991). Linguistic constructions initially appeared unconscious, mainly due to factual journalistic writing. However, these portrayals were shaped, sustained, and reinforced by attributing and describing the 'outgroup' as *criminals*, *aggressive*, *poor*, *hopeless*, *new*, and *violent* in topics including crime, sports, war/conflict/violence, migration/movement/rejection/deportation, natural disasters, and diseases.

Thirdly, evidence from collocations, nomination, predication, and argumentation analysis, repeated patterns of positive 'self' and negative 'other' presentations.

These were achieved with strategies including somatisation, collectivisation, militarisation, quantification and spatialisation. Overall, these representations shaped the communicated and understood knowledge about Africans. These findings showed how representations of Africans were justified, legitimised, and delegitimised in the INC and how newspaper ideologies are embedded in linguistic constructions. It was remarkable to find that although both newspapers had different ideological alignments, they tended to mirror discourses in the same manner – more negatively than positively. Still, the liberal newspaper was frequently more negative than the conservative newspaper. Also, over time, the INC became more involved in othering strategically by nominating 'them' to be violent, hostile, and threatening.

So far, this thesis presented the benefits of the DHA to CDA (Reisigl & Wodak 2001). It established that discourse is also historical and should be studied within context. Understanding the historical aspects of discourse created a wide range of opportunities to study patterns of changes in society, including government policies, societal trends, and global happenings. Thus, this thesis contextualised evidence with background contexts, including cultural understandings and world history, to enrich the thesis, which otherwise would remain untold.

From the summary of the key findings of this thesis, the next section will highlight the challenges encountered while conducting this thesis.

8.4 Research Limitations

Though the CDA approach is useful for analysing the communicative event of social practice, it considers an intersection between social scientific research and political argumentation. This is where the investigation of human relationships mixes with more linguistically oriented methodologies, such as argumentation analysis, to explain rational views about delicate issues such as migration (Wodak 2015, p.1). This refers to certain weaknesses of CDA in its discourse analysis approach, such as bias. This means that the researcher's perspective impinges on the text's understanding and leads to several interpretations of the same text. This study employed multiple triangulation methods at two levels to mitigate this limitation. This thesis designed a methodological collaboration model (see 8.6 for more) that triangulated CL and CDA techniques and significantly reduced the chances of bias (inherent). As a critical discourse study, the starting point was at the analytical level, where the triangulation of CL and CDA took place. This provided techniques to build topic-specific corpora (Gabrielatos 2007), unveil differences and similarities (Taylor 2013) and provide evidence of representation strategies. Through the principle of triangulation within DHA (Reisigl & Wodak 2001), the second point occurred at the theoretical level to realise the research goals (Gabrielatos 2015). This involved incorporating various data sources, methods, theories, background information and empirical observations to investigate and interpret language use. By discourse triangulation, this thesis systematically minimised the risks of subjectivity/bias inherent in specific approaches and perspectives. This enhanced the rigour, validity, reliability, replicability, and credibility, as shown in this thesis.

The second restriction of this study was the limited availability of previous research on the specific problems addressed in this thesis. For instance, insufficient documentation and research on the effective integration of methods in CL and CDA left this study without well-established protocols and best practices to synergise methodologies. Heritage & Taylor (2024) concur that there is limited research to demonstrate to students how to integrate CL and discourse analysis. This limitation was further enhanced by the underrepresentation of researchers of migrant backgrounds investigating discourses of migration and discrimination. This reduced access to data on the unique perspectives and experiences of migrants. This suggested that there was a narrow understanding of discourses of discrimination. It was possible, therefore, that the author might unintentionally project their own experiences into the research, leading to misinterpretation of the research outcomes. This study focused on the representation of Africans in two Irish newspapers in three periods over 30 years. The issues discussed in this thesis were not new, and CDA studies are abundant in media representation of ethnic minorities; however, this thesis offered the first time that a discourse study of Africans was conducted in Ireland. This was a serious task because the study of CDA is eclectic, which confuses new researchers (Toolan 1997). The eclectic nature means CDA is multidisciplinary and subjective and employs various theoretical frameworks, methodologies and analytical tools to conduct analyses. These broad ranges of approaches can be overwhelming for new researchers. In carrying out this examination, this specific limitation made it difficult for this thesis to easily identify the relevant and appropriate theories and methods to answer the research question. To address the confusion caused

by eclecticism in CDA and attempt to mitigate this limitation, this thesis developed and synergised CL and CDA techniques to provide a more coherent and structured approach. The approach effectively and reliably integrates and documents methods of analysis.

Thirdly, the issues discussed were those of racism and discrimination, which can be contentious. This was challenging because of various reasons. For instance, the analyst in this thesis is from an ethnic minority background, and previous studies in this area have been conducted mainly by researchers other than those from non-dominant groups. This meant the possibility of subjectivity was ever-present, making it challenging to draw generalised conclusions. Other challenges associated with this area of study were quantifying racism and discrimination and the issue of the intersectionality of racism with other identity factors like gender, class or sexuality. Failure to account for these aspects of the study could lead to an incomplete understanding of racist and ethnicist discourses in the media. To address these issues, this thesis needed to employ a multidisciplinary approach, advance emancipation and social justice, and apply methodological frameworks that minimised biases and illustrated processes that were replicable. It used CL methodologies with a strong concentration on quantitative analysis.

Fourthly, this thesis focused on periods between September and December 1998, 2008, and 2018, meaning that it was restricted in the data it analysed. This challenged this study because the findings reflected only the prevalent events and patterns during those specific periods, leaving out the evolving contexts and discourses before or after the years under study. This implied that findings may

not represent different contexts or times. These contexts could influence language use and meanings.

Moving from the limitations, the following subsection presents this thesis' contributions to knowledge and elaborates on details of a new topos identified while conducting this research.

8.5 Contribution of the Study to Knowledge

This study decoded African narratives in two Irish newspapers between 1998 and 2018. It compiled a corpus of 3,923,355 words. The periods of the study embodied significant times in Ireland, for Africans, and the world in general, and made it suitable to observe how media portrayal of Africans transformed before and after the events. So far, too little attention has been paid to identity strategies in Africans' (discursive) representation within the Irish context. This thesis details how exclusionary practices were enacted, maintained, and legitimised in the times chosen for the study and between two ideologically different newspapers. This new study is anticipated to contribute to academic research and the fields of CL and CDA in Applied Linguistics and social sciences.

In terms of methodological contributions, the following were achieved. In synergising methods in CL and CDA, this thesis illustrated that manual collocation can be conducted and that the results are more comprehensive than automatic collocation in previous studies. What is also worth noting is that, unlike other major studies, a single analyst integrated all approaches, ensuring that all the steps were documented transparently. Further, in synergising

methods, the proposed INC Collaboration model explicitly triangulated methods to investigate wordlists' comparison, semantic prosody, normalisation, keyword analysis, collocation analysis, discourse topics, and semantic classification. Three outstanding contributions included a new corpus, which is known as the INC and is available to other researchers on *SkE*. Secondly, a new topos was identified. Topos of Multiculturalism emphasised the dynamic interaction of different aspects of Irish society, from people of diverse backgrounds to cultural values, norms, and agencies. When found, the topos highlighted differences and argued against social equality rather than sameness and active engagement to challenge power imbalances and promote social equality. Finally, this study contributes to the slowly growing lists of Africans and other researchers of non-dominant backgrounds involved in discourses of CDA and CL and leading examinations of discourses of discrimination of marginalised groups in society. This study concluded with a Call for Action (CfA) on emancipatory practices by marginalised groups and researchers in the context of CDA. The following summed the key achievements of this thesis project:

1. **New Topos in DHA:** It identified and added one new topos to the existing list of topoi analysed within the framework of DHA (Reisigl and Wodak 2001)
2. **Focus on Identity Discourses and Discriminatory Studies:** The study emphasised studying identity discourses and discriminatory practices. Furthermore, it was conducted by a researcher from a marginalised background, indicating a unique perspective brought to the research.

3. **Manual Collocation Benefits:** Based on the Firthian notion of collocation (Bartsch & Evert 2014; Bednarek 2015), this thesis maximised the specific theoretical framework of manual collocation and identified the closest collocates in a substantial amount of text data in large-scale concordances. This uniqueness set it apart from previous studies and likely enhanced the validity and reliability of patterns and relationships that may not be apparent in smaller samples and automated methods.
4. **Methodological Collaboration Model:** Designed a methodological collaboration model that successfully demonstrated and documented the triangulation of CL and CDA techniques.
5. **Creation of Specialised Corpus:** Designed the Irish News Corpus (INC) corpus. This was new and specifically focused on written texts on news articles by selected Irish newspapers about Africans over three decades in Ireland.

Exploration of political orientation in media discourses: In previous literature, many scholars focus solely on the political orientation of newspapers when selecting which ones to study and neglect their ideologies during the analysis process (Eberl *et al.* 2018, Jaworsky 2020; Mancini *et al.* 2021). In contrast, this thesis selected newspapers based on diverse ideologies and conducted analyses that considered these ideologies. This approach was particularly evident in the examination of semantic prosody, the analysis of key collocates, and the study of discourses. As a result, valuable insights were obtained into political ideology and the portrayal of migration in the media.

This thesis adds to the large body of work on how language use maintains and legitimises existing power relations, ideologies, and societal power dynamics. The following sub-section details the new topos identified in the INC's examination. This was key because it further assisted in uncovering underlying ideologies and how language shapes and influences public opinion. This specific outcome was elaborated on because of the critical role that topoi serve in argumentation theory, which is the primary analytical tool in this thesis. In demonstrating this finding, this thesis sought to systematically show how topoi are found/identified and what makes them topoi. This is a puzzling question that several scholars have (Žagar 2010).

8.5.1 Analysis of new topos identified in the INC

To talk about topoi in this thesis meant locating a place where arguments could be found in a text as content-related warrants that were expressed as rules in a discourse, either explicitly or implicitly (Kienpointner 1992; Reisigl & Wodak 2001; Wodak & van Dijk 2000a; Wodak 2008). In conducting topoi analysis in this study, the relationship between linguistic choices in the representation of Africans in the INC and justifications for actions was established to identify sameness or difference or positive or just or negative or unjust associations. A positive or negative association identifies if the discursive text violates human rights and contributes to social inequality (Wodak & Meyer 2002).

Grounded on this background, two new topoi were identified from investigating the representation of Africans in the INC. One was a broader topos, the Topos of Multiculturalism, and the other was very specific, the Topos of New Irish. The

focus was on the Topos of Multiculturalism to capture the wider and more applicable topos in this thesis. The following arguments and conclusion rules for the Topos of Multiculturalism about 'others' are presented in an information text box. This information text box is an effective expository text tool to foreground information about the new topos found in the INC. The text is concise, straightforward, and easily understandable with logical organisation.

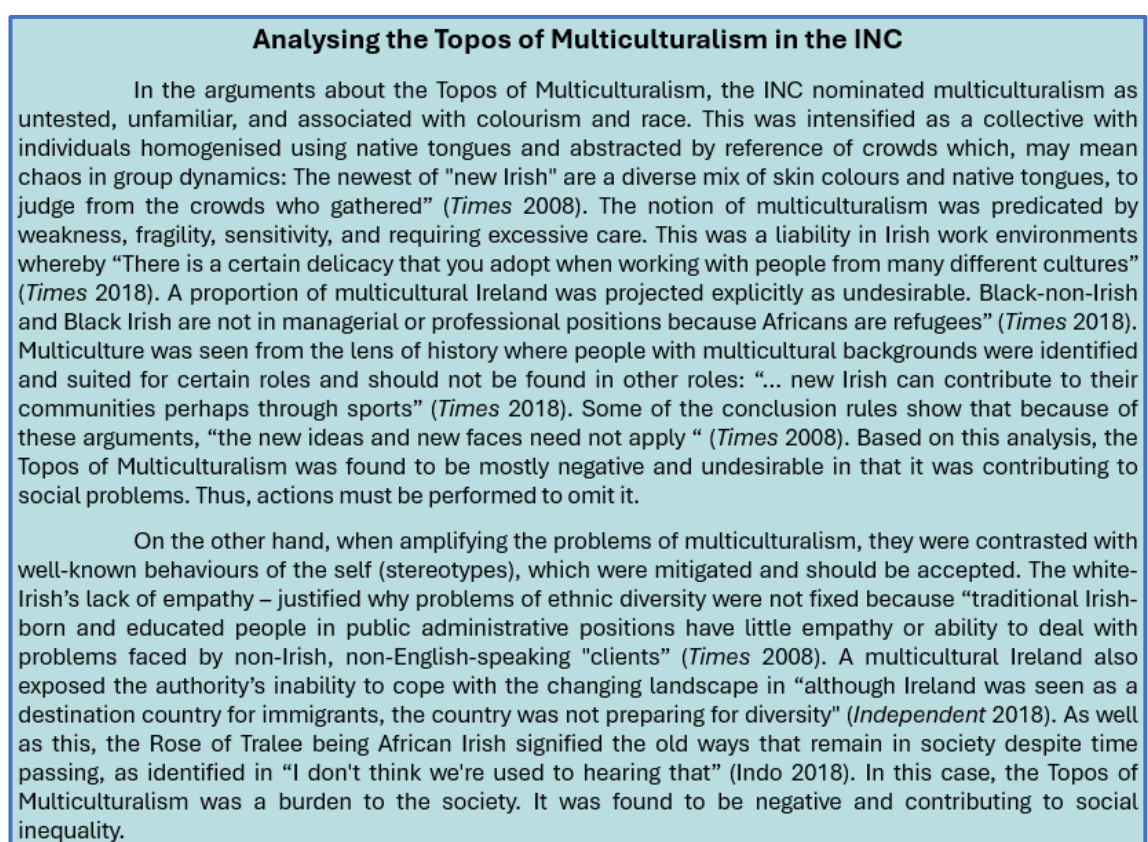


Figure 8. 1. Information text box of the Topos of Multiculturalism in the INC

In the above-detailed illustration, examples of texts with recurring topics led to arguments and conclusions of Topos of Multiculturalism about the 'self' and

'other'. Using mostly referential and predication strategies, the arguments addressed overarching issues and actions that can produce potential benefits with far more implications for agency, policy, development, systemic problems, and society. However, topoi are understood interdiscursively, which establishes the complex nature and interconnectedness of various discourses within texts. This is why the manifestation of other recurring arguments was presented. This is shown in the figure below.



Figure 8. 2. Examples of referred topoi in the Topos of Multiculturalism in the INC

Based on the arguments in the above discourses, three topoi were found to be prominently interconnected. They were Topos of Finance, Culture, and Number. The Topos of Finance was found to be positive and desirable for multiculturalism,

and the Topos of Culture was both positive for creating a difference in society and negative because they posed a danger to sameness. Finally, the Topos of Numbers was a threat to social institutions. One example of the topos of number related to the increase in the number of children born in Ireland by 2002 to non-European Union nationals. Due to the sudden rise in the number of children born in Ireland, the Government argued that this was due to the entitlement to Irish citizenship by birth and that action needed to be taken to end the birth tourism and abuse of the system. A referendum legislated an end to this entitlement, and a drop of almost 11% in birthrates was recorded after 2004 (Mancini & Finlay 2008), affecting more than 30,817 parents (Quinn 2006). Following these analyses, the illustration below self-explains the Topos of Multiculturalism proposed in this thesis.

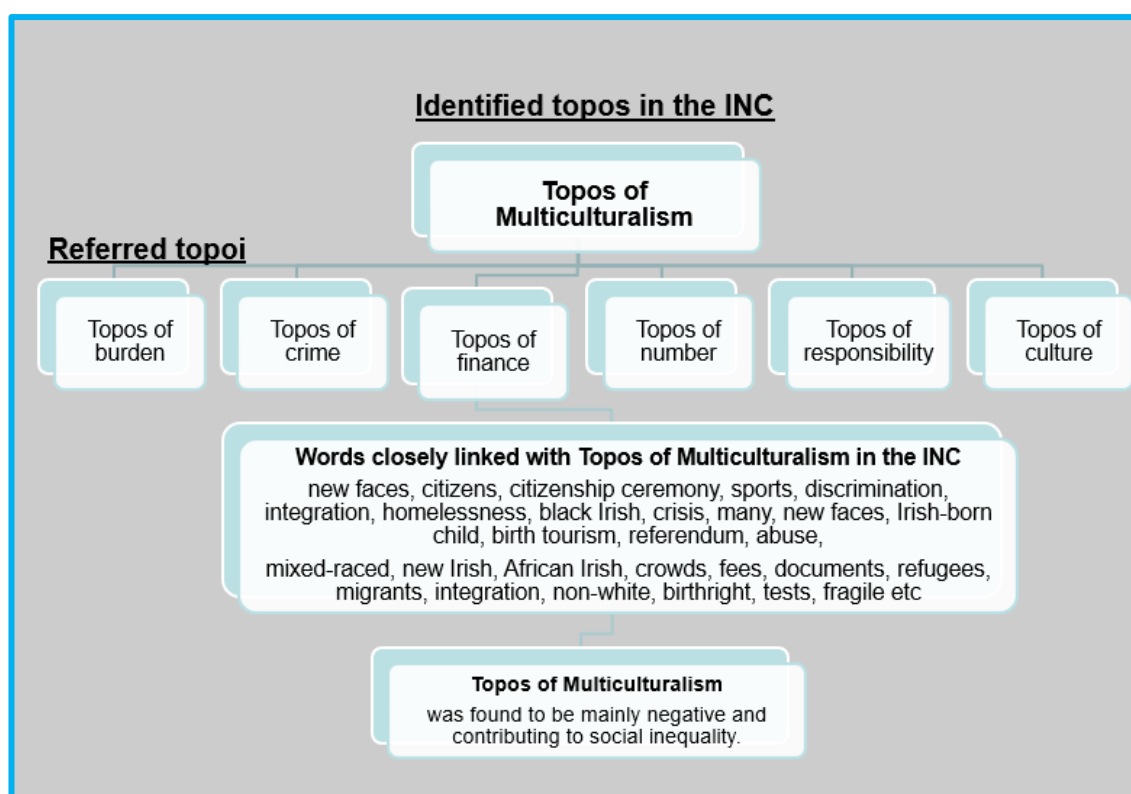


Figure 8. 3. Topos of Multiculturalism and referred topoi in the INC

The illustration above highlights several topoi identified in the INC corpus. The different topoi were linked, and the significant topos of multiculturalism emerged with the most robust argumentation rules highlighted in texts. The following section focuses on suggestions for future research.

8.6 Suggestions for Future Research

This thesis proposes several suggestions for future research. Firstly, this thesis was by no means exhaustive. Future research can attempt to expand on how

media representation of different nationalities and groups, including gender, age, and demographics in Ireland's society, promotes or suppresses social co-existence. One immediate benefit is the addition of separate corpora for separate groups. Such corpora will examine if there are different discrimination tactics for other groups or nationalities. This type of research will investigate whether the power of the media in shaping opinions about Africans also controls the power of shaping the views of other minority groups.

Secondly, future research can focus on more extended periods or other periods. This thesis focused on September and December 1998, 2008, and 2018. This means this thesis was restricted. Considering longitudinal or sequential studies over longer or different periods to assess linguistic changes in other fields can better understand how power imbalances are enacted by various social actors and the types of social action practices required to address the problem. This will increase the generalisation of the results and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation.

Thirdly, specialised corpora can be compiled and designed to examine, more specifically, how the media in Ireland portrays immigrants. This can contribute to advancing linguistic studies within specific fields. This is required now, more than ever, because of the changing socio-cultural nature in Ireland and the resulting discourses thereof. This is alluded to throughout this thesis in that the limited literature on migration and migrants in Ireland greatly challenged this thesis. Designing and making this type of corpus (corpora) available will facilitate the works of well-established and early-career researchers.

Fourthly, future research in CDA can be considered more emancipatory in bringing about a radical solution-oriented approach to this problem-oriented academic movement. This can empower and transform individuals and communities, effect positive changes in theory and practice and bring about more equality, social justice, and a more inclusive society. To do so, one can consider more involvement of non-dominant groups conducting research on discourse and discrimination by dominant groups in society and how they resist negative representations. This can also mitigate the dangers of one-sided stories.

Future research can also benefit from more multimodal research. This can compare the language used by elite groups and individuals using different forms of texts (political statements, policy documents, newspapers), visuals, audio, video, and online. It can provide more insights into how the powerful elite collaborates to shape discourses and influence public opinion. Such research can contribute to various perspectives on specific issues and topics and allow scholars to understand complex linguistic phenomena.

Moreover, future research should examine the unexpected results of this thesis, notably why the INC failed to use more sensitive language and relatable news coverage. Additionally, it would be worth investigating why, based on ideology, the *Times* adopted linguistic constructions that were bad and exclusive of Africans. At the same time, the *Independent* employed a contrasting approach. The data rejected assumptions related to H2 and H3. Such insights can shed light on broader patterns of media bias, contribute to discussions on cultural

knowledge and responsible journalism that promote inclusion, and expand the existing literature.

More broadly, future research can be more prepared to accept unforeseen events. This is particularly relevant considering COVID-19, which has caused unprecedented unpredictability and a global shutdown. Acknowledging the possibilities of sudden and unexpected events of this magnitude can help early researchers overcome barriers, build resilience and flexibility, seek support and embrace/adapt to new learning opportunities. This was relevant to this thesis in that the unpredictable disruption of COVID-19 led this analyst to adjust to changes such as online supervisory meetings and supportive networks and to embrace new learning opportunities, especially with the adoption of digital technology to collect data.

Having highlighted some areas for improvement, the next section will suggest practices that can better shift CDA research's problem-oriented nature to a more solution-oriented approach.

8.7 Recommendation of Emancipatory Practices

For this thesis to intervene efficiently on discourses of identity, discrimination, and inequality in society, it is important to restate that, in investigating the discursiveness of the INC, this study found evidence of covert linguistic strategies that discriminated against and de-emphasised or backgrounded the good things about Africans. This means that many unsuspecting public members accept what they consume in the media as truths, which can negatively influence their beliefs,

opinions, and evaluations. It is presented that these discriminatory practices in the INC are capable of influencing racism against Africa, Africans and Black people. For this reason, the emancipatory approaches proposed in the representation of marginalised groups are based on best practices that aim to empower marginalised groups to challenge the existing power structures. These types of practices have implications for theory, practice, and agency. They are proposed in the illustration below as Call for Action practices (CfA) that can challenge power imbalances and reduce societal discriminatory practices.

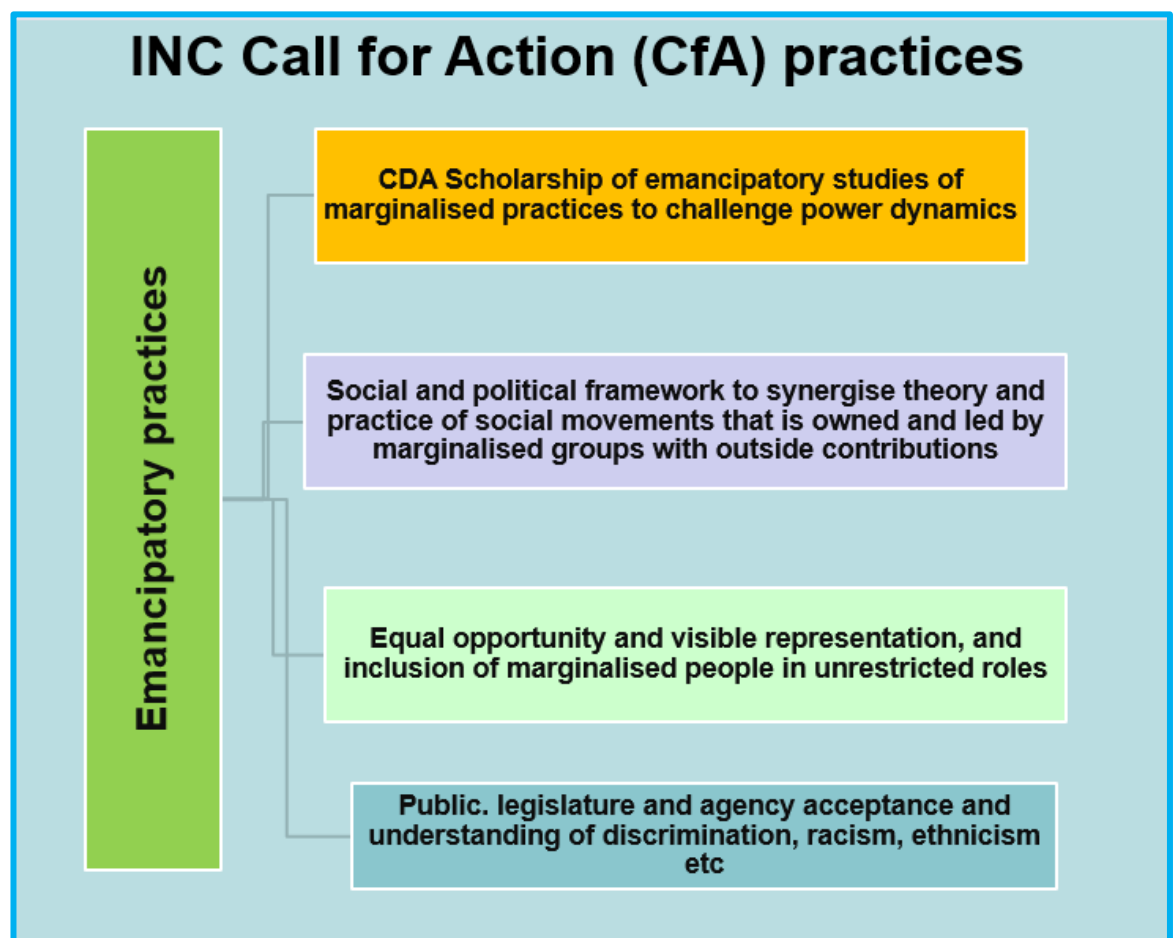


Figure 8. 4. INC recommendations of Call for Action emancipatory practices

Figure 8.4 above includes different practices suggested by this thesis to combat societal power imbalance. From a methodological perspective, it is worthwhile restating that DHA uses analytical tools to deconstruct discriminatory discourses that emancipate and transform society. However, this thesis asserted that the field of CDA was not attracting enough scholars from marginalised backgrounds. In addition to deconstructing language use by dominant powers, CDA should focus on discourses that serve emancipatory agendas. An example can include the idea of scholarship. This is essential; however, it can tend to serve the mighty discourses. Therefore, the Call for Action (CfA) approach is a scholarship that introduces empirical methods into CDA to generate substantial studies on the emancipation of marginalised groups.

Secondly, this thesis argued for a CfA social and political framework that synergises the theory and practice of social movements. Such a framework develops an academic approach that can be studied and improved. The perspective and agency are led by people from non-dominant backgrounds with only specific contributions from outside involvements. This approach allows marginalised people to own and shape the direction of initiatives. This can disrupt power structures and transform individuals and societies. Some of these examples can be found in the *#MeToo* movement, which used social media tools to contribute to deconstructing and challenging sexual abuses against women (Hu, Mu, & Huang 2020). Another example is that of the *Black Lives Matter* movement. Using social media, digital activism and embracing intersectionality contributes to raising awareness about racial injustices and police brutality. These movements and many others that are unnamed in this thesis have

significantly led to more extensive mobilisation and resistance to reverse many forms of discrimination and injustices. Taking insights from these types of approaches can address the contribution of marginalised practices without calling for drastic measures or social protests like the 1989 South African hunger strike, the 1981 Irish hunger strikes and the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott in America, to name but a few.

Thirdly, this thesis recommended that, as a society, we should agree and understand that racism and ethnicism are not history or historical and that racism still exists today with far-reaching consequences on individuals and society in general. This is clearly illustrated in *The Times* 2008 sub-corpus:

- "... public service has failed to face up to issues of ethnic diversity and that the traditional Irish-born and educated people in public administrative positions have little empathy or ability to deal with problems faced by non-Irish, non-English-speaking "clients."
 - "State agencies have been slower than commercial institutions ..."
- (*Times* 2008)

Also, as previously cited, the Kerner Commission Report (1987) finds that most White news writers deny the existence of racism and tend to report stories that align with their preconceptions. Though the Kerner Commission Report is over 30 years old, this thesis's findings are almost identical. Data and evidence proposed that Africans were mainly represented negatively. They were underrepresented as experts, professionals, students, and employees in the INC. Instead, they were extensively portrayed as dangerous and threatening, poor, violent, criminals, murderers, disagreeable and infected. Within a favourable portrayal, they were primarily involved in sports. This indicated that even after

three decades and even though some progress has been made in dismantling racism and inequality in society, there remained a lack of awareness of and greater acknowledgement of the issues of racism and stereotypes in society. Secondly, there is an urgent need to challenge these stereotypes. This calls for a multi-faceted approach whereby marginalised people initiate conversations on the one hand. On the other hand, non-marginalised people become more educated, informed, and aware of their own and societal prejudices. One way to achieve this is to adopt a partnership approach among organisations, institutions, schools, and agencies to effect actionable policies that address practices of injustice.

For several reasons, this paper proposed that new voices and perspectives were needed in Irish media. The focus of this study was to make the world a better place where there was no discrimination based on colour, gender, religion, etc. The study identified that discrimination was linguistically perpetrated against Africans in the INC. To reduce discrimination and challenge the legitimisation of power over marginalised groups, two issues should be addressed. Firstly, the media should acknowledge without justification that racism exists against Africans. Secondly, the Irish media body should be visibly diverse. Burke (2020) asks a fundamental question about how *Silicon Republic* can pride itself as a champion of diversity and inclusion but has no persons from diverse backgrounds in its writing staff. In her 2020 article, she states that following the *Black Lives Matter* protests, her view as a White Irish editor was not needed. This is a profound statement from the editor of a leading technology news website based in Ireland. This suggests it is difficult for someone else to fully replicate the

nuances, complexities, and insights of an individual's lived experiences in human relationships and interactions. Therefore, the emancipatory practice is that the media should implement policy reforms for diverse representation in hiring and decision-making processes. This ties in with the danger of a single story in media representation of marginalised backgrounds where there is the absence of multiple voices, opinions, and news reporters from diverse backgrounds. As Chimamanda (TED Talks 2009) argues, this implies that it can lead to discriminatory practices, including misrepresentation, misunderstanding, negative discrimination, stereotyping, racism, and oversimplification of identities. Take, for example, the well-established fact that Africans in Ireland are well-educated, in their prime and seeking work (ESRI 2020); according to *The Times* 2018 sub-corpus, '*... You see so many Africans with PhDs and master's driving taxis...*' Therefore, the CfA is that rather than exclude Africans from belonging to specific roles like news writers, journalists, and professional managers, an inclusion model should give equal opportunities to skilled Africans looking for jobs and to other people from major non-marginalised groups. This can offer Africans the platform to belong to dominant elite groups, including the media, legislature, government, politicians, powerful individuals, agencies, and civil society, where they can advance a practical inclusion agenda.

While progress is being made in specific sectors of Irish culture, not all proposed changes may be easily achievable. The CfA acknowledges the potential for such transformations to be inclusive and accessible to marginalised individuals from diverse backgrounds who possess the necessary skills and are eager to contribute to Irish society.

8.8 Concluding Remarks

This thesis should not be seen as just demonstrating the negatives of media presentation. Instead, this should be viewed as a case of representation and approaches that work to educate about language in use. Corpus-based Discourse Analysis has provided valuable insights regarding the representation of Africans in Irish newspapers. At the same time, it is crucial to consider the broader implications of the research. The empirical evidence presented in this thesis has highlighted the nuances and complexities surrounding media portrayals of this specific minority community. It has also offered a significant opportunity for a scholar from a minority background to bring authenticity to the research process through their insider perspectives. This can empower minority scholars to articulate their experiences and insights, which may differ from or be overlooked by researchers outside these communities, resulting in more accurate and comprehensive findings. Scholars from minority backgrounds possess lived experiences that provide them with a unique perspective on the challenges and issues that are both relevant and profoundly informed by the realities of those they study.

This representation within academia is vital for fostering inclusivity and ensuring that diverse perspectives are taken into account in discussions about race, identity, and representation, as evidenced by various studies within this thesis (Bonilla-Silva 2021; 2010; Brookes 1995; Goodman *et al.* 2017; Hunter 2007; Johnson 1987; Mudimbe 1994; Nkoala 2022; Roth 2012; van Dijk 2013, 2000, 1991; Villegas & Simmons 2010). Their work can help educate other scholars,

practitioners, and policymakers about the significance of understanding cultural contexts when developing programmes or policies aimed at serving diverse populations. Similarly, diverse academic voices can promote innovation in research practices, address gaps in current research, enhance academic diversity and scholarly discussion, cultivate cultural competence, empower communities through advocacy, and ensure that academic institutions mirror the society they serve. As the introduction of this thesis demonstrates, personal stories present the opportunity to comprehend the impact of media narratives on real lives genuinely. Therefore, researchers, community members, and journalists must engage directly with African communities and ensure that their stories are told authentically and comprehensively.

In acknowledging that the media have the power to shape opinions and taking into consideration the strengths of the adopted methodologies, it has been argued that based on historical, colonial attitudes, and regardless of contemporary media alignments, the probabilities of the answers being correct in this study are high, thus confirming the sub-hypotheses. Across both newspapers, the INC overlooked Africa's history, digital innovations, political transformations, social and intellectual growth, robust economic prosperity, advancements, and assistance to the global stage (Denis 2021, Rothmeyer 2011, Chavis 1998). This thesis argued that the INC used its elite status as an agent of the White power structure to pejoratively replicate colonial-era tropes in Western media of Africa/Africans/Blacks as hostile and war-torn, dictatorial and corrupt, poor and hungry, primitive, aid-dependent, and disease-ridden. The broader discursive

frames of these findings indicated that African representation in the INC was contributing to racial discrimination, marginalisation, and stigmatisation of Black communities in society. Also, it was increasing the ever-wide polarised perspectives of the 'outgroup'. Based on the negative representation of Africans in the INC, this thesis concludes that there is an urgent need for contextual, fair and accurate media representation of all communities. This will make the world a better place where there is no discrimination based on "sex, colour, creed, age, or social class" (Caldas-Coulthar & Coulthard (1995, p.xi).

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Appendices

[Appendix 1: Steps to manage data for corpus building](#)



Appendix 1_Steps to
manage data for corp

Steps taken to manage data for corpus building

Stage	Action taken	Outcome
Pre-articles download	Newspaper selection	<i>The Irish Independent</i> <i>The Irish Times</i>
	Twenty-five search words identified	Investigated and created data for corpus building
Source of data	Online via Mary Immaculate College Library	Extracted news articles to build the Irish Times sub-corpora.
	Online via Irish News Archives	Extracted news articles to build the Irish Independent sub-corpora
Naming & Saving file system. More in Infographics of data naming process	Four different sub-folders were created. The first was the main folder that contained all data to be analysed. The second was sub-folder A which contained a separate folder for each newspaper to be analysed. In sub-folder A, a sub-folder B was created which contained all extracted raw PDF files as sub-corpora in their respective storage locations. Still in sub-folder A, another folder was created named sub-folder C. This contained all news articles converted from PDF to Plain Text. The format in which these article files were exported was in PDF, which was incompatible with the main analysis tool, Sketch Engine. Therefore, the files were converted from PDF to Plain Text, which made them suitable. This led to the creation of a third sub-folder. It was named: IndoConverted_1998_2008_2018. In this third sub-folder, three folders were further created and named by year of publication, for example: AllConvertedFiles_Indo_1998. This naming system was done for all sub-corpora. Each of these folders had additional twenty-five individual folders representing all search words and contained all occurrences of published articles. The naming system for these folders carried the number of occurrences of the search word, e.g., one_Central Africans_PDF: In this case: 'One' represented total number of articles. Central Africans was the search word. PDF was the format in which the exported file was saved. Some of the PDF formats were exported as normal or scanned. The normal PDF enabled text to be easily copied and pasted in desired format such as Plain Text, but the Scanned PDF ensured that a	Saved and stored files accurately for upload to analysis tool and facilitated duplication checks and coding system

Appendix 2: Steps ensuring concordance generation and documentation evidence



Appendix 2_Steps
ensuring concordance

Ensuring concordance generation and documentation of evidence

The steps taken to generate concordances and document evidence included:

- To produce concordance lines, the sub-corpus was selected in *SkE*.
- A search word was entered and ensued by a command to produce concordance lines.
- This was proceeded by an instruction to perform a simple search. This enabled the results to be displayed as concordances, better described as “long succession of nondescript characters marked off in pages and lines” (Sinclair 1991 pg. 28).
- The search word enquiry yielded a KWIC result, which showcased the various forms of the search term displayed in the middle of sentences.
- The surrounding co-text was shown to the right and left. This permitted statistics of the most frequently occurred collocates of the KWIC. As already stated, twenty-five nodes were examined in concordances to investigate the words that portrayed Africans/Africa in the INC.
- In the surrounding co-texts of the KWIC, other elements were visible on the page, such as the total number of concordances and random samples (where applicable). The random sample results were used to conduct further examinations in this current study.
- After the concordance lines were generated, the next stage documented the evidence. This revealed the co-occurrences of the search words, the frequencies of word forms to describe African* in this study, how the linguistic features changed over time, and the ideologies that were inferred.
- To document the evidence, concordance results were manually saved in PDF to prevent any alteration because other formats such as Word document (doc or docx), Microsoft Excel spreadsheet (xls orxlsx), or Text file (txt) file formats distorted the results and made it hard to draw accurate interpretation. Another reason for choosing the PDF format was that it was difficult to edit. Therefore, data was not manipulated. In addition, the PDF format is a small file type and is easy to access on several devices. This ensured that data was easy to access when required.
- The evidence was saved under the names of individual search words and in dedicated sub-corpus folders for easy retrieval. This process to generate concordance lines and document the proof was repeated for all search strings and all sub-corpora.
- The next step focused on collocation. This CL tool studies certain lexical items that co-occur more frequently in a corpus. Prominently, Firth (1957) and Halliday (1966) base the study of collocation on co-occurrence in the text under study, while Sinclair (1987) argues that their collocational environment could define a lexical item. This methodological approach is explained in the section below.

Appendix 3: Manual collocation consolidated data in *Times* 2008 sub-corpus concordances



Appendix 3_Manual
collocation consolidat

Pets entry for consolidated collocates in the Times 2008 sub-corpus
 simple Africa • 1,368 Sample 200 • 200
 066.40 per million tokens • 0.007% 141.15 per million tokens • 0.014 %

L3	L2	L1	R1	R2	R3
word (lowercase)	"word (lowercase)"	"word (lowercase)"	word (lowercase)	"word (lowercase)"	"word (lowercase)"
to	apartheid	south	israel	he	said
known	as	mama	and	the	empress
warm	heart	of	agreement	reached	on
townships	in	south	transition	year	never
against	aids	in	oxfamireland	org	through
sun	city	south	completed	holes	in
western	cape	south	geat	britain	ireland
rory	sabbatini	south	four	under	twelve
trevor	immelman	south	seven hundred and two	sergio	garcia
bakkies	botha	south	patrice	collazo	france
guthro	steenkamp	south	mark	regan	england
louis	odsthuizen	south	euro	fifty-one thousand, seven	seventeen
andrew	mcclardy	south	euro	forty-four thousand, nine	seventeen
southern	tip	of	skirting	the	continent
hunger	especially	in	and	that	it
the	horn	of	said	msf's	yemen
madagascar	escape	two	to	be	released
in	asia	and	would	present	opportunities
and	colleges	in	and	harambee	college
most	licenses	in	said	drilling	in
staunchest	critics	in	told	botswana's	parliament
theme	will	be	and	to	angola
extended	stay	in	with	their	final
summit	in	south	mr	mugabe	and
zealand	scotland	south	tonga	and	wales
it	from	south	live	bill	live
saudi	arabia	south	switzerland	and	australia
stupid	all	across	battles	over	land
originally	from	south	had	not	been
saudi	arabia	south	south	korea	and
bringing	women	from	south	america	and
presidency	in	south	zanu-pf	members	are
of	modern	south	meanwhile	to	find
australia	canada	south	new	zealand	and
same	for	south	and	others	already
and	under-development	in	which	remains	a
cipriani	against	south	i	did	not
well	in	south	i	think	we
impoverished	nations	in	latin	america	and
the	coast	of	which	had	paid
the	coast	of	writes	jamie	smlyth
week	in	south	staying	with	elana
organised	in	south	blatter	told	reporters
plan	for	south	says	blatter	soccer
officer	in	south	thabi	khosa	said
decades	outside	south	wrote	his	essay
great	hope	for	when	many	of
countries	in	sub-saharan	according	to	an
like	much	of	decades	of	neglect
year's	sansar	south	new	zealand	and
the	despots	in	blatter's	ill-advised	comments
insecurity	particularly	in	it	will	also
madagascar	escape	two	this	week	whatever
experience	in	sub-saharan	mr	martin	noted
defeat	to	south	after	missing	that
difference	in	south	they	have	not
tour	of	south	the	wasps	director
imported	from	south	they	threatened	they
sun	city	south	the	swede	who
try	for	south	scotland	paterson	evans
and	to	south	it	covers	all
victory	over	south	however	his	involvement
world	champions	south	argentina	had	occupied

at	post-apartheid	south	many	commentators	expected
some	with	in	mr	mugabe	and
tournament	in	south	the	impact	of
defending	champions	south	tara	delaney	the
finals	in	south	the	republic	launched
president	of	south	i	have	been
world	cup	to	it	is	a
time	in	south	we	have	come
new	scramble	in	the	latest	craze
brokered	by	south	zimbabwe's	health	system
scotland	versus	south	south	africa	captain
caretaker	president	south	the	african	national
two	changes	south	coach	peter	de
wales	versus	south	cardif	blues	pair
fraud	ruling	south	up	to	ten thousand
melbourne	scoreboard	south	second	innings	g
england	versus	south	martin	johnson	has
du	preez	south	gregan	australia	fifty-nine
fifteen	to	south	ten	days	ago
scotland	ten	south	fourteen	scotland	face
wales	fifteen	south	twenty	world	champions
camped	inside	south	twenty-two	looking	for
two	two	south	eighty-nine	point	four
series	against	south	after	the	opening
taken	seriously	south	also	boasts	the
of	kissy	egyptian	analyst	with	his
countries	in	europa	and	the	middle
vaccinate	children	in	and	other	hard-hit
is	critical	to	and	to	a
throughout	latin	america	and	indonesia	as
against	australia	south	and	new	zealand
developed	in	sub-saharan	and	also	has
meetings	in	south	and	harare	have
you	see	south	and	australia	beating
wales	australia	south	and	france	but
including	dignitaries	from	and	around	the
low	of	europa	and	asia	it
between	farming	in	and	co	louth
invested	all	over	and	are	well
new	zealand	south	and	australia	in
strike	against	south	apartheid	in	the
drama	of	south	ashleigh	hayman	of
captain	against	south	at	the	oval
poorest	countries	in	at	a	time
defeat	to	south	at	twickenham	judging
matches	against	south	at	the	end
events	in	south	before	taking	a
defeat	against	south	behind	us	and
go	yes	south	boasts	perpetual	sunshine
clear	of	south	braden	grace	paraguay's
not	just	south	but	what	from
third	of	south	cabinet	resigned	from
third	of	south	cabinet	stepped	down
and	profitable	farms	can	feed	itself
villiers	the	south	centre	acknowledges	the
a	tool	by	citizens	to	hold
ntutu	of	south	clocked	twenty-two	point
al-ahly	in	as	club	of	the
remark	tri-nations	south	coach	peter	de
part	two	of	colonial	legacy	will
of	kenya's	problems	colonial	legacy	part
dropped	off	south	end	the	tournament
second	with	south	ernie	els	on
share	of	south	export	market	piet
broke	through	south	first	line	of
her	as	south	first	lady	of
middle	east	and	formerly	called	mtc
pools	after	south	fought	back	to
reached	pitching	for	gaa	star	alan

said	that	south	had	blocked	a
have-nots	in	south	has	been	wide
springhoks	selection	south	have	delayed	their
out	on	south	in	protest	at
shoulder	in	south	in	august	as
shoulder	in	south	in	august	saturday
impact	in	south	in	more	ways
a	result	south	in	the	past
the	article	entitled	is	giving	nothing
of	mcdonald's	south	is	becoming	more
wind	in	south	kwazulu-natal	province	have
effectively	paralysed	east	largest	economy	public
cup	in	south	last	year	england
a	hero	of	liberation	era	kenyan
spokesman	for	south	limpopo	provincial	governmeent
fifty-seven-year-old	leader	of	most	populous	nation
mandate	to	lead	most	populous	nation
seemed	incongruous	in	most	developed	country
warm	heart	of	my	ty	ty
the	horn	of	nation	washington	has
the	horn	of	nation	took	elasha
lawless	horn	of	nation	the	europeans
the	horn	of	nation's	long	coastline
farmers	in	east	need	support	to
a	president	for	newest	emerging	oil
cross-country	canvassing	south	newest	political	party
team	in	south	next	summer	the
hotel	in	south	now	christ	that's
away	in	south	on	thursday	night
from	congo	even	people	were	exploited
the	horn	of	perilous	waters	the
over	land	south	policy	of	restoring
three-thousand	of	south	poorest	residents	swapped
unlike	ireland	south	president	is	both
removal	as	south	president	but	spokesman
ousted	as	south	president	days	after
correct	decision	south	president	sacks	chief
last	week	south	president	lgalema	motlanthe
years	and	south	rand	at	its
ensure	that	south	realised	the	dream
middle	east	and	region	the	canadian
public	place	south	removes	refugee	camps
mbeki's	fate	south	ruling	party	met
to	resign	south	ruling	anc	party
rethink	in	south	safety	plans	i
britain's	minister	for	said	the	UK
feedstuff	however	south	said	the	ban
first	trip	to	since	becoming	pontiff
to	help	south	soar	to	their
injure	time	south	striker	mccarthy	rose
the	horn	of	suffered	rare	a
higher	in	south	than	in	most
dairy-herding	groups	in	that	allowed	individuals
creek	in	south	this	week	but
the	coast	of	to	protect	commercial
mbeki	in	south	to	discuss	a
wales	holding	south	to	a	five-point
sun	city	south	today	stenson	had
still	in	south	today	would	not
out	as	south	took	a	one
three	post meridiem	south	versus	lions	pretoria
three	post meridiem	south	versus	lions	johannesburg
says	going	to	was	such	a
not	for	south	which	he	needs
loathed	by	south	white	minority	rulers
loathed	by	south	white	minority	rulers
boss	insisted	south	would	be	ready

Appendix 4: Extended concordances for irish keyword in the INC



Appendix 4_Extended concordances for irish

Occurrences of IRISH in 30 random concordances in the INC

missioner_Ray-MacSharryin his. 1992' reforms. However, it is not a 'good time for the	Irish	: agriculture industry to be contemplating A large-scale changes Irish "beef producers ha
I their continued generosity. "We are delighted that despite our new found prosperity the	Irish	people have not shed their traditional values. That compassion, that sense of solidarity a
'dcaire to continue its work. Lives in the developing world have been saved because the	Irish	have stuck to those principles," he said. In June 1997, the agency appealed for £500,00
as, blithely ignoring the fact that the weapons used were probably made closer to home.	Irish	people are generous in their donations to Africa, but we say nothing when our heavily su
elow 12. However, he believed it was not yet necessary to look to Asia or Africa to meet	Irish	needs. Dr Comiskey said schools were more resistant to priests coming in to talk about
older and in the other event in which he competed, the Senior Slalom, he created a new	Irish	record, finishing just out of the medals in fourth place. Eamon first skied the waves-fanta
ver £2 million is being spent and this does not include the generous contributions of the	Irish	people to Concern, Goal, Trocaire, Oxfam, World Vision and others, all of which are acti
Ir O'Brien has made for Ireland. Having regard to this and to the ongoing and increasing	Irish	involvement in political and developmental activity in East Africa, it is unreasonable to ex
mebody Companies such as Microsoft and Dell each get up to 3,000 calls a day to their	Irish	operations for technical support. Some callers are totally new to computers, others know
y-based biotechnology laboratories. BRL was established in 1988 to help commercialise	Irish	biotechnology research. "This deal is highly significant in that it is the largest biotechnol
icant in that it is the largest biotechnology agreement which we have negotiated with an	Irish	company and has potential to generate significant revenues," stated Dr Jim Ryan direct
this is not going to happen. But if it did happen we would be in a ludicrous position. The	Irish	government would be able to act decisively and we would have to come here and debat
operations for Africa's Great Lakes region. His son, also Pierce, worked in Zaire for the	Irish	agency Concern until last month. "Pierce was someone who would jump on a plane whe
lements RA Burke's wide portfolio of shipping companies which offer global coverage to	Irish	importers and exporters, he says. Embassy protest over Nigerian woman's death Anti-ra
e getting drunk and all that vomiting associated with it. Last time, I tried to socialise with	Irish	people, hoping that it would fasten my future integration into the society whenever I am g
and several countries in central and eastern Europe. Some of these are interested in the	Irish	conflict, but others come to study the great world religions, Islam and Judaism; or issues
for the British market. 'Dumped' Irish beef adding to poverty in Africa Heavily-subsidised	Irish	beef is being "dumped" in southern Africa, where it is contributing to growing poverty, un
od, the birds stay on longer and fewer of them bother to come here. As to the generous	Irish	berry crop that awaits them this autumn, its abundance was pre-structured in the growth
acided "it was easier to do deals with criminals abroad in organising these thefts". Three	Irish	criminal gangs are believed to have actively targeted computer components in the early
the Congo, the single worst incident in the Army's peacekeeping history, in which nine	Irish	soldiers lost their lives. This year also marks 40 years of Irish involvement in United Nat
the way the game is governed in urban areas where there are high black populations."	Irish	accent a 'plus' for employers The strength of the Irish education system has helped to r
to Hennessy, time with Pat Dolan, an immersion into the world of Roy Keane. The best	Irish	soccer book in memory. Boxing, usually a font of good words and fine reads, has had a
old). "To appease the kids who incline to Bud," I explain. Even in a diminished form, the	Irish	draught and bottled versions of Guinness are among the world's great beers (lower in ai
stronger, especially in the business arena. It is a testimonial to the number of dominant	Irish	business people in the UK today," he says. Nortel links up Bay Networks THE \$9.1bn ta
idents and bans, ill-feeling and confrontation. For a long period he was the bete noir of	Irish	rugby, perceived as a loose cannon who frequently overstepped acceptable boundaries.
ive, moving study of a homeless family from Paddy Breathnach and Roddy Doyle. Black	Irish	citizens twice as likely to experience discrimination Black Irish citizens are twice as likely
years. Between now and 2001, a guaranteed minimum of £400 million will be spent on	Irish	aid to the Third World. This represents an increase of 66 per cent on the existing budget
ed to the Lebanon in 1958. His son, Justin MacCarthy jnr, praised the "tremendous job"	Irish	troops had done in many troubled regions. "I don't think when the first group went out in
and as they survived they flourished in the face of adversity. Through the tenacity of the	Irish	people the tragedy of the Great Hunger was turned into triumph." He paid tribute to Mrs
Kay McNulty, co-inventor of the first general-use digital computer, or Lena Rice, the only	Irish	woman ever to win a Wimbledon singles title, are well known. Among the accomplished :

Appendix 5: Extended concordances for african keywords in the INC



Appendix 5_Extended concordances for afric

Occurrences of AFRICAN in 30 random concordances in the INC

West there are other measures that have been proved to work. In Uganda, the first	African	country to be ravaged by AIDS in the Eighties, infections among pregnant women
at the driver rather than <u>drag him or her out of the vehicle because so many South</u>	Africans	<u>cradle a pistol on their knees to fight off criminals.</u> Now, with the help of liquid petr
to "black power" from nonviolence <u>and encouraging the cultural empowerment of</u>	African	Americans. He left SNCC in 1968 and became leader of the militant Black Panther
, County Dublin, account for 30 per cent of total sales, according to the IDA note.	African	Gold badly hit by drop in world prices African Gold has said the fall in world gold pr
days, difficult to believe, I do shopping for foodstuffs and also cook my own food -	African	food regularly whenever I am in a proper frame of mind. A few months ago I cooke
ice, an intense courtroom thriller, in which a respectable, white middle class South	African	<u>couple are devastated when their son is accused</u> of murder. It is a taut narrative, b
s a new multi-ethnic society in the <u>wake of the waves of east European, Asian and</u>	African	<u>illegal immigrants whose clandestine arrival makes daily news headlines;</u> 48.3 per
aled for the <u>release of 137 women and children it said were among thousands of</u>	African	<u>women and children enslaved by National Islamic Front soldiers.</u> Adoption THE gr
eligious leaders. Later, he will attend a memorial service for the victims of the East	African	<u>bombings of US embassies.</u> So confident was Mr Clinton on his return from Ireland
With the collapse of colonial governments, the destruction of wildlife by rampaging	Africans	<u>was widely predicted, and "a glimpse of the last great companies of wild animals o</u>
s, so we knew Sweden. Sainz came second there this year. <u>We saw groups of tall</u>	Africans	<u>holding staffs and standing on one leg with what appeared to be a Toyota screami</u>
litary targets was blurred such as the 1983 Church Street bombing of the South "	African	" Air Force headquarters". "" The ANC is most bitterly criticised over the treatment
ople alleged to have been informers in townships. <u>White trash turn on Blacks in S</u>	African	crime wave SOUTH AFRICA'S 'white trash' have joined the growing crime wave, w
as been <u>no discernible decline in such killings by whites since Nelson Mandela's</u>	African	National Congress came to power in 1994. Last week, Mpho Tolane (13), a homele
ed" part of the world. To mobilise <u>world emotions how many dead or starving black</u>	Africans	<u>do you need, compared to a Kosovar or a Bosnian?</u> This process of selective expe
ansition from colonialism to independence brought with it war and unrest for many	African	<u>states. Trapped within borders devised by colonial powers, people all across the ci</u>
ed to <u>prop up despotic clients, has brought improvements.</u> So too has the desire of	African	<u>rulers to benefit from international aid which is no longer given unconditionally. No</u>
European qualifiers in November. African leaders fail to agree ceasefire in Congo	African	<u>leaders failed yesterday to secure a ceasefire in the rebellion against President La</u>
crete into the air. Mounting pressure from opposition South African soldiers were	Africans	<u>piled up in a room who were Angry youths yelling insults about Presi- groups and t r</u>
call you a black man," she said. <u>"You should be referred to as a brown man or an</u>	African	<u>man." A teacher in the school, Catherine Quirke, told us that "it was brilliant for the</u>
bank to the East Asia crisis, support for stronger economic performance by many	African	<u>countries and a strong rebound in lending for the social sectors. Increasingly, he ai</u>
re "normality" did little to mollify <u>the hostile stance of opposition parties.</u> A Central	African	<u>summit on the Congo crisis ended in Libreville late yesterday with a declaration of</u>
Africa" and the "empress of African song", Ms Makeba was the first black South	African	musician to gain international fame. Ms Makeba spent 31 years in exile after spea /
ty other African countries today. <u>The best the Western powers can do is allow the</u>	Africans	<u>to sort out their own problems themselves.</u> This will result in massive loss of life non
I even Tehran. Even though many European countries have sizeable minorities of	African	and Asian origin, it is unlikely that anyone of colour would be elected to lead their
2), was no less ecstatic than his short-order cook. A handsome and distinguished	African	American, Mr Cooper said: "I thought this could happen because I've always had
erst war zones – and <u>her skills have never been more needed than in the crisis-hit</u>	African	country, says Clodagh Finn ublin nurse Helen O'Neill doesn't like to dwell on the n
I purpose of self-defence from acts of police brutality Sidney Poitier becomes first	African	American to win Academy Award for Best Actor 1972 Congresswoman Shirley Ch
in Academy Award for Best Actor 1972 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm is first	African	American woman to make bid for U.S. presidency Equal Employment Opportunity
ship. Since independence began to sweep the continent 50 years ago, fledgling	African	<u>governments have struggled to unwind injustices, sometimes with disastrous res</u>

Appendix 6: Separated lists of the 50 most frequent collocates in the INC



Appendix 6_
Separated lists of 50 r

Table 1: List of consistent collocates in the *Independent* corpus

Collocate	1998	2008	2018	Total	Collocate	1998	2008	2018	Total
south	276	187	174	637	southern	5	7	2	14
president	12	68	13	93	company	6	3	3	12
first	19	41	18	78	government	2	7	3	12
against	14	36	19	69	indonesia	1	4	7	12
people	12	26	13	51	gold	9	1	1	11
home	29	8	9	46	dublin	3	6	1	10
former	9	25	9	43	asian	2	3	4	9
tour	26	7	6	39	botswana	3	5	1	9
man	4	30	1	35	brazil	1	4	4	9
republic	7	23	2	32	european	6	2	1	9
we	3	12	14	29	project	3	3	3	9
african	13	10	4	27	rugby	4	1	4	9
north	5	13	8	26	continent	2	4	2	8
irish	5	8	12	25	Italy	3	2	3	8
many	13	11	1	25	war	3	4	1	8
australia	8	11	5	24	community	1	4	2	7
help	3	11	9	23	ghana	3	3	1	7
champions	9	10	3	22	number	1	4	2	7
american	4	10	7	21	politics	2	1	3	6
last	3	14	4	21	french	1	3	1	5
US	4	9	7	20	strong	2	1	2	5
black	2	7	8	17	UK	3	1	1	5
europe	5	4	8	17	asylum	1	2	1	4
state	4	8	3	15	children	1	1	2	4
india	3	6	5	14	famous	1	1	1	3

Table 2: List of inconsistent collocates in the *Independent* corpus

Collocates	1998	2008	2018	Total		Collocates	1998	2008	2018	Total
and		232	147	379		police	8		6	14
east		27	16	43		backed		13		13
national	19	21		40		white		7	5	12
country		30	9	39		move			12	12
after		24	5	29		made	4		8	12
over			17	27		influence	3		9	12
west	11	15		26		history		12		12
woman		25		25		election		12		12
trip			24	24		central		8	4	12
one		18	6	24		truth	11			11
leader		22		22		top	7		4	11
ireland	6	16		22		international	4	7		11
congress	12	10		22		army		10	1	11
had		21		21		ambassador	5	6		11
forces	15	6		21		all		9	2	11
world		20		20		young		10		10
democracy		20		20		rand		4	6	10
they		14	5	19		leave		10		10
open		19		19		attack	5	5		10
rule		18		18		world	9			9
percent		9	8	17		soldiers	5	4		9
out		17		17		million		5	4	9
troops	13	3		16		mother		9		9
nations	5		11	16		new			9	9
party		15		15		vote		11		1

Table 3: List of consistent collocates in the *Times* corpus

Collocates	1998	2008	2018	Total	Collocates	1998	2008	2018	Total
south,	285	34	194	513	india	4	8	7	19
republic	37	122	40	199	kenya	1	14	3	18
democracy	29	90	30	149	france	3	10	5	18
against	25	70	24	119	cricket	8	8	2	18
east	16	74	22	112	namibia	7	8	2	17
they	39	42	18	99	irish	11	2	4	17
africa	18	28	17	63	six	4	6	6	16
troops	20	36	3	59	million	1	8	7	16
first	14	26	12	52	five	4	6	6	16
all	22	14	13	49	police	3	2	10	15
soldier	17	28	3	48	neighbouring	6	8	1	15
new	12	12	22	46	squad	4	2	8	14
many	17	14	13	44	argentina	1	6	7	14
african	9	20	13	42	apartheid	8	2	4	14
national	22	8	12	42	forty	1	8	4	13
we	12	16	11	39	between	8	2	3	13
central	6	20	13	39	sub-saharan	2	6	4	12
australia	6	20	9	35	malawi	2	2	8	12
war	1	22	5	28	china	1	6	5	12
pakistan	6	10	10	26	twenty	2	8	1	11
canada	6	12	8	26	zero	2	6	3	11
sudan	4	18	1	23	television	3	4	4	11
work	5	10	7	22	security	2	4	5	11
official	10	6	6	22	tanzania	6	2	3	11
scotland	5	10	5	20	native	3	6	1	10

Table 4: List of inconsistent collocates in the *Times* corpus

Collocates	1998	2008	2018	Total		Collocates	1998	2008	2018	Total
president	33	131		137		state		22	2	24
rebel		84		84		US		18	6	24
army	1	78		79		victory		18	5	23
ireland		32	15	47		peace	4	18		22
government		46		46		botswana	15	6		21
over		28	14	42		west	7		14	21
woman		32	8	40		muslim		20		20
one	19	20		39		mutilated		20		20
people	15	24		39		oil	2	18		20
white	22		17	39		returned		20		20
leader	13	24		37		operation	5	14		19
rwanda		36		36		accuse		18		18
clash		26	6	32		border		18		18
tutsi		32		32		conflict		16	2	18
reuters		30	1	31		congo		18		18
more		30		30		DRC		18		18
out		22	7	29		genital		18		18
fight		28		28		number	7		11	18
forces		28		28		brazil		12	4	16
leave		28		28		deport		16		16
black	14		13	27		flee		16		16
england		16	11	27		girl		16		16
their		18	9	27		group		16		16
zimbabwe	23		3	26		kill		16		16
claim		24		24		militant		16		16

Appendix 7: How Top 50 most frequent collocates compared



Appendix 7_How Top
50 most frequent coll

Table 1: How did the top 50 collocates of nodes compare in the selected newspapers under study?

Ranking	Independent			Times	
	Collocates	Freq.		Collocates	Freq.
1.	south	637		and	579
2.	and	379		south	513
3.	president	93		republic	199
4.	first	78		president	164
5.	against	69		against	119
6.	people	51		east	112
7.	east	43		they	99
8.	former	43		democratic	90
9.	national	40		rebel	84
10.	country	39		army	79
11.	trip	36		troops	59
12.	man	35		democrats	59
13.	republic	32		first	52
14.	we	29		all	49
15.	african	27		ireland	47
16.	west	26		new	46
17.	tour	26		government	46
18.	woman	25		former	46
19.	many	25		africa	46
20.	irish	25		many	44
21.	one	24		over	42
22.	australia	24		woman	40
23.	leader	22		we	39
24.	ireland	22		white	39
25.	congress	22		people	39
26.	last	21		leader	37
27.	force	21		rwanda	36
28.	us	20		australia	35
29.	democracy	20		open	34
30.	they	19		country	33
31.	rule	18		tutsi	32
32.	percent	17		clash	32
33.	out	17		reuters	31
34.	over	17		tour	30
35.	europa	17		african	29
36.	troops	16		war	28
37.	two	16		soldier	28
38.	nations	16		leave	28
39.	state	15		force	28
40.	party	15		fight	28
41.	black	15		last	27
42.	police	14		england	27
43.	india	14		black	27
44.	win	13		zimbabwe	26
45.	north	26		talks	26
46.	help	13		pakistan	26
47.	africa	13		us	24
48.	white	12		claim	24
49.	move	12		sudan	23
50.	truth	11		work	22

Appendix 8a: List of collocates and categories of operationalised DHA discursive strategies in the *Independent*



Appendix 8a_List of collocates and categories

Appendix 8a_List of top 23 collocates and categories of operationalised DHA discursive strategies in the *Independent*

23 Unique collocates in the <i>Independent</i>	
Examples of Linguistic Realisations of significant collocate found in the corpus	Discursive strategies of discourses about African issues
north/india/europe/west	Social actors were objectivised by spatialisation in reference to place of origin with which they are closely associated in each context
nations/west	Collectivisation by collectives used to foreground sameness or homogeneity which allows for uniform or undifferentiated treatment and allows readers to identify or feel solidarity with or against it. e.g. '... African and Caribbean nations , Cuba and the Soviet bloc were outraged.' <i>user/Lylian/corpus9 irishpress_allyearstiles</i>
Man	Strategy of somatisation through engendering where genderonyms was employed to reference social actor
rule/party/state/congress	Politicisation discursive strategy through party political alignment, as well as through organisationalisation Social actors were referred to by organisationisations through political organisationyms to indicate where they belong.
democracy	Politicisation discursive strategy for national self-identification that emphasised tolerance
truth/trips	Politicisation by political actionalisation
help	Politicisation by means of social problemisation, where social actors are victims of conflicts, social/economic/political problems
national	Social actors referred to in terms of politicisation ascription of membership to a state e.g. ... and contribution to the national debate on the issue of global hunger. (Source: <i>user/Lylian/corpus9 irishpress_allyearstiles</i>)
open/win/out	Strategy of actionalisation with professionalisation in reference to work
two/one/	Quantification
Irish	De-spatialisation through anthroponyms based on local orientation
Move	Economisation – issues referencing social actors' lack of wealth and organisationalisation in terms of social actors (IMF) role in the economy e.g. '... they say, move so slowly and cause so much hardship in the Third World.' <i>user/Lylian/corpus9 irishpress_allyearstiles</i>
Police/percent	Economisation-professionalisation through professionalisation

Appendix 8b: List of collocates and categories of operationalised DHA discursive strategies in the *Times*



Appendix 8b_List of
collocates and categories

Appendix 8b_List of top 23 collocates and categories of operationalised DHA discursive strategies in the *Times*

23 Unique collocates in the <i>Times</i>	
Realisations – significant collocate	Discursive strategies of discourses about African issues
rebel/tutsi/clash/fight/army/war/soldier/talks	Discursive strategy of militarisation. Africans categorised in military and invasion.
sudan/Rwanda/Zimbabwe/Pakistan/England	References of where people are from. Along with van Leeuwen (1996)'s categories of representation, DHA's referential strategy argues that identifying a social actor by way of spatialisation is often a subtle form of discrimination or inclusion.
Democrats/democratic/government	Politicisation discursive strategy through party political alignment, as well as through organisationalisation e.g. government
New	Metonym (flag word) attributes used for Africans – outgroup- apart from Irish in this case eg. The newest of " new Irish " are a diverse mix of skin colours and native tongues, to judge from the crowds ... (corpus8_irishtimes_allyears)
Open	Strategy of actionalisation with professionalisation in reference to work
Claim/leave	Africans searching for residency in Ireland – where if the law or right rejects an application for an African to reside in Ireland, then the action will be to remove, or for the applicant to leave the State. This is linked to the topos of authority, topos of humanitarianism, topos of law, topos of right, and topos of justice
Work	Strategy of economisation. Africans as economic migrants/searching for work. Linked to topos of justice, topos of responsibility, topos of finance
Reuters	This relates to the discursive strategy politicisation through professionalisation

Appendix 9a: Extended concordances of and collocate in the *Independent* for 2008



Appendix 9a_Extended concord:

Occurrences of AND in 30 random concordances in the *Independent* 2008

a group of inmates are being flown to freedom in Africa on their release. And while the movement might bear some similarities to the IRA airlift from Mountjoy
 east Africa in the coming days where they will be given to families struggling with poverty and unemployment. The goats were being cared for by prisoners after the farm manager
 offer help. When they are brought to Africa, they will be given to families to supply milk and sell any excess for profit. The recipient family will then pass on the first born female
 ing of civilians, which has so far led to over one million people being internally displaced and over 210,000 pouring over the border into the nearby Dabaab refugee camp in Kenya. §
 ib refugee camp in Kenya. Some 8,000 Somali civilians have been killed so far this year and , with Ethiopia's troops still firmly entrenched on their neighbour's soil, that number is gc
 st be asked – if a government chooses to maintain one of Africa's largest military forces and embark on a long-term occupation of its neighbour, then can it really be then trusted to
 superstitions that are behind scores of gruesome murders every year. A belief in witches and the evils purportedly wrought by them – from famine to sporting failure – is widespread.
 who say that witch-hunts are an economic phenomenon. Pointing to modern day Africa and Renaissance Europe, they argue that pensions, not education, are the best means of cu
 Is it still necessary to say that you are an African-American or that you are black? and I say, 'Yes' – so that we can remind our children. It took a lot of people struggling to brin
 spite the handshakes and smiles for the cameras in Harare, clear signs of the bitterness and division remained. MPs from the Movement for Democratic Change and the former ruling
 f the bitterness and division remained. MPs from the Movement for Democratic Change and the former ruling division remained. MPs from the Movement for Democratic Change and the former ruling
 ans from both camps threw stones at each other, forcing the police to fire warning shots and the former ruling par ty, Zanu PF, jeered at each other during the signing ceremony, whil
 a were no reports of serious injuries. Mr Mugabe was heckled as he read a long speech and set dogs on them. The crowd succeeded in storming the barrier but were contained by a
 babwe's economy has collapsed amid hyper-inflation, millions of its people are starving and made anor v off-the-c uff remarks, sometimes in the vernacular Shona language. T he d
 inselled against more general economic sanc tions because of Zimbabwe's vulnerability and dependent on overseas food aid, and recently a cholera epidemic has begun that is spre
 e died in Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak. Thousands more have been infected both there and the suffering of its people. So far 575 people have died in Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak.
 ave been infected both there and in neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and in neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia amid a breakdown in
 at can be categorised as terrorists. While organised crime, fuelled by trafficking in drugs and Zambia amid a breakdown in clean water supplies to much of the country. Prices of gooc
 with its litany of low-life enemies of society, a major investigation into human trafficking and guns, remains the biggest single headache for the gardai, it is the vile practice of human
 ported, in a matter-of-fact way, that gardai had raided brothels in seven provincial cities and prostitution, involving three police forces, came to fruition with the arrest of nine people y
 Ireland is at the core of that story. The trafficking of women from eastern Europe, Africa and towns. The fact that the raids were part of an international investigation into human traffi
 own to meet the demands of a growing sex trade here. Women and children are bought South America into Ireland has grown to meet the demands of a growing sex trade here.
 f the past years. We deserve a better life, we deserve a life without fear, hunger, poverty sold, coerced, beaten and murdered. This is the slave trade of the 21st century, and Irell
 ope for the future." In contrast, Mr Mugabe's speech was almost entirely about the past, oppression." United Mr Tsvangirai said that the "road ahead is long and it will not be eas
 ns were justified. Flanked by his generals, he gave a history of the anti-colonial struggle and a demonstration that despite Zimbabwe's economic meltdown, he still believed that all h
 three quarters of the city's 8,000 to 11,000 prostitutes were from Eastern Europe, Africa and delivered a trademark denunciation of Britain. "Why, why why the hand of the British? W
 hristmases' with Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn, 'Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa' Asia. The conclusion was unavoidable for Mr Cohen – international organised criminals th
 reland yesterday. Mr Annan, who is spearheading an international effort to end poverty and Baz Luhman's 'Australia', with Nicole Kid-man, based on the Grafton Street Christmas I
 (€79m) to cover the shortfall up to March 2009. With millions of Zimbabweans starving and hunger in Africa, appealed to world governments not to "take their eyes off the poor" be
 : "The whole world is angry because they see avoidable deaths – of children, mothers, and cholera raging, British leader Gordon Brown called on the international community yest
 families . . . This is a humanitarian catastrophe. This is a breakdown in civil society. It is:

Appendix 9b: Extended concordances of and collocate in the *Independent* for 2018



Appendix
9b_Extended concord:

Occurrences of AND in 30 random concordances in the *Independent* 2008

a group of inmates are being flown to freedom in Africa on their release. And while the movement might bear some similarities to the IRA airlift from Mountjo
ast Africa in the coming days where they will be given to families struggling with poverty and unemployment. The goats were being cared for by prisoners after the farm manager
offer help. When they are brought to Africa, they will be given to families to supply milk and sell any excess for profit. The recipient family will then pass on the first born female
ing of civilians, which has so far led to over one million people being internally displaced and over 210,000 pouring over the border into the nearby Dabaab refugee camp in Kenya. S
b refugee camp in Kenya. Some 8,000 Somali civilians have been killed so far this year and , with Ethiopia's troops still firmly entrenched on their neighbour's soil, that number is gc
st be asked – if a government chooses to maintain one of Africa's largest military forces and embark on a long-term occupation of its neighbour, then can it really be then trusted to :
superstitions that are behind scores of gruesome murders every year. A belief in witches and the evils purportedly wrought by them – from famine to sporting failure – is widespread :
who say that witch-hunts are an economic phenomenon. Pointing to modern day Africa and Renaissance Europe, they argue that pensions, not education, are the best means of cu
Is it still necessary to say that you are an African-American or that you are black? and I say, 'Yes' – so that we can remind our children. It took a lot of people struggling to brin
spite the handshakes and smiles for the cameras in Harare, clear signs of the bitterness and division remained. MPs from the Movement for Democratic Change and the former rulin
f the bitterness and division remained. MPs from the Movement for Democratic Change and the former ruling par ty, Zanu PF, jeered at each other during the signing ceremony, whil
ans from both camps threw stones at each other, forcing the police to fire warning shots and set dogs on them. The crowd succeeded in storming the barrier but were contained by a
e were no reports of serious injuries. Mr Mugabe was heckled as he read a long speech and made anor v off-the-c uff remarks. sometimes in the vernacular Shona language. T he d
babwe's economy has collapsed amid hyper-inflation, millions of its people are starving and dependent on overseas food aid, and recently a cholera epidemic has begun that is spre
nselled against more general economic sanc tions because of Zimbabwe's vulnerability and the suffering of its people. So far 675 people have died in Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak.
e died in Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak. Thousands more have been infected both there and in neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia amid a breakdown in
ave been infected both there and in neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia amid a breakdown in clean water supplies to much of the country. Prices of gooc
at can be categorised as terrorists. While organised crime, fuelled by trafficking in drugs and guns, remains the biggest single headache for the gardai, it is the vile practice of human
with its litany of low-life enemies of society, a major investigation into human trafficking and prostitution, involving three police forces, came to fruition with the arrest of nine people y
ported, in a matter-of-fact way, that gardai had raided brothels in seven provincial cities and towns. The fact that the raids were part of an international investigation into human traffi
Ireland is at the core of that story. The trafficking of women from eastern Europe, Africa and South America into Ireland has grown to meet the demands of a growing sex trade here.
own to meet the demands of a growing sex trade here. Women and children are bought and sold, coerced, beaten and murdered. This is the slave trade of the 21st century, and Irel
f the past years. We deserve a better life, we deserve a life without fear, hunger, poverty and oppression." United Mr Tsvangirai said that the "road ahead is long and it will not be eas
ope for the future." In contrast, Mr Mugabe's speech was almost entirely about the past, and a demonstration that despite Zimbabwe's economic meltdown, he still believed that all hi
ns were justified. Flanked by his generals, he gave a history of the anti-colonial struggle and delivered a trademark denunciation of Britain. "Why, why why the hand of the British? W
three quarters of the city's 8,000 to 11,000 prostitutes were from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. The conclusion was unavoidable for Mr Cohen – international organised criminals 'th
hristmases' with Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn, 'Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa' and Baz Luhrman's 'Australia', with Nicole Kid-man, based on the Grafton Street Christmas I
reland yesterday. Mr Annan, who is spearheading an international effort to end poverty and hunger in Africa, appealed to world governments not to "take their eyes off the poor" be
(€79m) to cover the shortfall up to March 2009. With millions of Zimbabweans starving and cholera raging, British leader Gordon Brown called on the international community yest
: "The whole world is angry because they see avoidable deaths – of children, mothers, and families . . . This is a humanitarian catastrophe. This is a breakdown in civil society. It is:

Appendix 10a: Extended concordances of and collocate in the Times for 1998



Appendix 10a_Extended concor

Occurrences of AND in 30 random concordances in the Times 1998

30AL is not known to miss an opportunity to raise some always-needed funds for Africa and he has recruited Sonia O'Sullivan to run a lap of honour between the minor and senior q
i. He changed his name to honour the deposed Ghanaian president, Kwame Nkrumah, and Guinea's first president, Sekou Toure. The civil rights leader, the Rev Jesse Jackson, sa
95. Their efforts expanded after the August 7th bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 253 people, including 12 Americans. Optimistic Dana cuts its loss
s half-believe that Africa is populated solely by starving babies, their emaciated mothers and a few kindly Irish nurses? They also include a creeping cynicism: agencies spend some
is committed to murdering American military stationed in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere. Tutu says guilty should face trial BISHOP: Desmond Tutu, head of South.Afr
n human rights: time to remove beam in our own eye Western attitudes to human rights and the Third World are riddled with contradictions. We give aid to poor countries, then take
qe population. Better to vote on an empty stomach, we seem to say, than to be well fed and have no vote at all. In Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia are seen as better than Rwanda and
Mr bin Laden is also suspected of ordering the bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. "We decided that if he had a connection, as we believe he dic
risis demanding immediate action; famine - a scarcity of food causing people to migrate and maybe starve; charities - agencies that help people in need; remedy - feed the hungry p
having a profound impact on how aid agencies do their work. When faced with unstable and unpredictable circumstances, the otherwise straightforward task of delivering aid to peop
g. When Algerian security forces or government-backed militias engage in torture, rape and murder, the authorities refer to "excesses". But when the same atrocities are committed
ps who refuse to differentiate between victims have been denied access to the country, and the government vehemently refuses to allow an international commission of inquiry into
by the regime of President Zineddine Ben Ali. Tunisian officials would argue that torture and the imprisonment of at least 2,000 people suspected of links with the Islamic movement
In Algeria, bands of roving killers wipe out whole villages by night, burning or mutilating and beheading men and women, infants and old people. Israel's supreme court has legalise
tion. And those who populate these camps have left behind a trail of dead relatives, old and young, as they trekked from their homelands through miles of barren terrain, with neithe
ful it is. The international community delivers thousands upon thousands of tons of food and medical aid every month. Huge sums of money are being spent on transportation. Aid a
encies such as Concern, Goal and Trocaire work tirelessly and courageously in difficult and dangerous conditions, and thousands of individual aid workers are doing their level besi
a company statement. It says inflation in Zimbabwe is running at more than 30 per cent and African Gold hopes the "political difficulties are only short term". Herbalist offers treatme
doc#0 again and will continue to do so. The humanitarian disaster in Sudan is the result of war and the cost in human life is intolerable. If even a fraction of the money spent on fuelling this
doc#0 elopment, the future would be secure. Instead, we see millions of pounds disappearing and Sudan slowly disintegrating as a viable political entity. What is needed now is an all-out
ch of its four business regions - north-west Europe, the former Soviet Union, west Africa and the Far East. There was record production, and "two significant new oil and gas discove
ier Soviet Union. It further stresses to shareholders its investment focus on North Africa and the Middle East and maintenance of North American and Dutch portfolios of oil and gas
secretary, Mr William Daley, yesterday pledged "substantial" aid to rebuild Kenyan lives and businesses shattered by the August 7th car bombing at its Nairobi embassy. Mr Daley, who
in the Kenyan capital during a three-nation visit to Africa, visited the site of the bombing and laid a wreath at a small memorial to the victims. Festive season is a gift for travel comp
aigns seem to have had little impact. Condoms are freely available at clinics, as is pre- and post-test counselling. The first case of AIDS in Zimbabwe was reported in 1985. But the
when officials from the Ministry of Health visited Uganda, did HIV/AIDS prevention, care and control take on significance. Uganda has been widely applauded for tackling the epidem
ow socioeconomic status; migrant labour pattern; a worsening socio-economic situation and unemployment. Certainly cultural patterns have not contained the situation. Men see it z
have as many sexual partners as they want. Urban polygamy, where a man has a wife and several mistresses, is common. Culturally, a man is expected to have a younger wife, te
r basic rights such as political participation. Women are the hardest hit, both by poverty and by a vast array of powerful, discriminatory barriers. We must always make it clear that w
sued, even after years of exposure. In Kisangani, I remember him cradling a dying child and demanding 'what can we do about this'." On the high seas EUROAFRICA Shipping Line

Appendix 10b: Extended concordances of and collocate in the *Times* for 2018



Appendix 10b_Extended concor

Occurrences of AND in 30 random concordances in the *Times* 2018

the outskirts of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, resulted in the deaths of several people	and	caused hundreds to flee their homes. "Several lives were lost and properties damaged
ths of several people and caused hundreds to flee their homes. "Several lives were lost	and	properties damaged due to this attack," head of the Oromia police commission, Alemay
s have been arrested. "The perpetrators are criminals organised in groups to kill people	and	cause damages to the properties of targeted citizens," he said. "This is a shameful act."
opia's new, reformist leader. "Prime minister Abiy Ahmed strongly condemns the killings	and	acts of violence against innocent citizens ... These cowardly attacks represent a grave c
ainst innocent citizens ... These cowardly attacks represent a grave concern to the unity	and	solidarity of our people & will be met with appropriate response," said Fitsum Arega, the
h between armed groups battling for control of the city, and the vulnerability of migrants	and	refugees held in indefinite detention across Libya was thrown into sharp focus. An estim
us enclave in north Africa is a chance to get back on track. "The idea is to go to Meilla	and	show a lot of character," said Solari. "I have great hopes. To work at Madrid is a great o
sing borders will not work if large numbers of people are determined to escape poverty	and	conflict and seek a better life away from where they have been born. Spies and space c
hiopia. The Offaly man, who lives in Galway, has dedicated his career to ending hunger	and	poverty in rural Africa. For the past 25 years, Scully and his team have witnessed first-h
years, Scully and his team have witnessed first-hand some of the malnutrition, hardship	and	suffering experienced by millions of people across the continent. And this spring, Gorta
a better life. The selfless charity worker fundraises tirelessly to help save lives in Africa	and	we asked him about his motivation in life and what needs to be done here in Ireland. "I f
ta, Romania, America and Ireland; setting up the Street Children Programme in Luanda	and	Angola; running in the North Pole Marathon; and being a husband and dad – while anot
a husband and dad – while another of my proudest achievements is being able to help	and	support families living in poverty and working with such inspirational staff and colleague
ch as iron are already major public health problems globally, particularly among women	and	children in sub-Saharan Africa. The Food and Agriculture Organisation's 2018 State of F
deceased, who is in his 20s, and the arrested woman are understood to be from Malawi	and	Kenya" respectively and are well-known to each other. One line of enquiry is he was kill
as," the judge said. Mr Martin said his client had returned from Africa to face the charge	and	he asked the judge to suspend any sentence or his client's career would be ended. "It s
ide or so in. And we want now to explore the opportunities for Irish businesses in Africa	and	of course the partnerships that are possible between Ireland and African businesses." 1
opean structure complementing Nato's. Geopolitical change in Russia, the Middle East	and	Africa presents Europe with new security and diplomatic problems quite distinct from th
216 while trying to cross the Mediterranean from Africa and the Middle East to flee war	and	poverty, according to the UN agency International Organization for Migration (IOM). The
ide Libya, a key departure point for mainly sub-Saharan Africans, have been disrupted	and	the European Union has stepped up efforts to increase Libyan coastguard patrols. Datei
er said the issue was "not what Europe can do for Africa. The question is what Europe	and	Africa can do together." The EU External Investment Plan, the commission says, aims t
it Plan, the commission says, aims to raise significant sustainable investments in Africa	and	European neighbourhood countries by 2020. From the €44 billion announced, program
It is also not enough simply to urge African states to more effectively manage migration	and	promise them a few euro for their pains. That reality has provided those in the EU who l
egrated in world trade is for once ahead of the game. There are 49.7 million Kenyans,	and	Sabine Cessou reports in Le Monde Diplomatique that 26 million of them use mobile ba
on to Italy. He has refused access to Italian ports for ships which had rescued migrants,	and	clashed repeatedly with French president Emmanuel Macron over who should welcom
decline", with the most significant deteriorations found in the Middle East, North Africa	and	sub-Saharan Africa, driven by war, terrorism, oppressive regimes, and the declining av
ast, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, driven by war, terrorism, oppressive regimes,	and	the declining availability of food and shelter. "Prosperity is dependent on good leadersh
Justice Max Barrett ruled. The mother, a native of an African country, is an Irish citizen	and	her disabled son has Irish residency. Another son, aged 20, and the woman's teenage d
s such as how to protect people who migrate, how to integrate them into new countries	and	how to return them to their home countries, was approved in July by all 193 member na
ants into Europe since the second World War, many fleeing conflicts in the Middle East	and	Africa. The issue has led to a government crisis in Belgium, Austria has said it will not s