

## **Otherization in the Foreign Policy Discourse of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi<sup>1</sup>**

Homa Asadi<sup>2</sup>  
Farhad Sasani<sup>3</sup>

Received: 2012/11/30

Accepted: 2014/06/11

### **Abstract**

This research focuses mainly on how foregrounding and backgrounding function in the foreign policy discourse of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi between the years 1320-1356. In this way, "otherization" as well as "self" and "other" identities have been specified. In this research, "self" and "other" identities as well as their general criteria are determined according to systemic-functional linguistic theory via lexical analysis. The corpus examined includes all the texts of Shah regarding the foreign policy between the years 1320-1356. These texts are incorporated in an eleven-volume book titled *A collection of compilations, speeches, messages, interviews and remarks of his imperial majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, shahanshah and aryamehra of*

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<sup>1</sup> (DOI): 10.22051/JLR.2015.1851

<sup>2</sup> Doctoral Candidate, Linguistics, Alzahra University , (Corresponding Author).  
h.asadi@alzahra.ac.ir,

<sup>3</sup> Associate Professor, Linguistics Department, Alzahra University, fsasani@ alzahra.ac.ir

*Iran.* This research shows that polarity of identities in Mohammad Reza's discourse is not binary; rather it is a continuum including middle poles as well. "Self" and "other" poles are formed into the general discourse framework according to the shared ideological features. United Nation, United States of America and world nations are stable poles of "self" while Mohammad Mossaddeq, Jamal Abdul Nasser, communism, Tudeh Party and colonialism (without referring to any specific country) are stable poles of "other". The Soviet Union and Israel are also middle poles of this continuum. The results reveal that selection and activation of the words are in such a way that positive points of the "self" and negative points of the "other" are emphasized, whereas negative points of the "self" and positive points of the "other" are de-emphasized.

**Keywords:** discourse of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, foreign policy of Iran, otherization, self, other