

Ewa Glapka
Szczecin University
ewa.glapka@usz.edu.pl
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Dr. Khazriyati Salehuddin
GEMA Online® Journal of Language Studies

Dear Dr. Salehuddin,

I am pleased to submit my manuscript, “Unveiling Agency: Positioning Analysis as a Linguistic Framework for Investigating the Agency of the Veiling Subject within Dominant Discourses of Hijab,” for consideration in *GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies*. Since your journal fosters a diverse range of innovative and insightful perspectives, including new – discursive and literary – approaches to the hijab, I would be honored to contribute to this ongoing scholarly conversation by sharing my perspective on examining the hijab from a discursive-analytic point of view.

In the paper, I apply positioning and stance analysis to interview data collected from South African Muslim women, revealing how they negotiate agency within competing discourses of the hijab. This analytical framework has not yet been applied to the hijab. While numerous studies explore veiling from sociopolitical, historical, or feminist perspectives, the approach presented in this paper shifts the focus toward the linguistic and discursive processes through which agency is constructed. By tracing shifts between orders of positioning and interviewees’ stance-taking, the analysis provides a systematic account of agency as fluid, contested, and situationally enacted. The paper demonstrates that hijabi women’s narratives are shaped not only by religious and cultural discourses but also by their own meaning-making strategies, challenging essentialist views of veiling.

The analytical framework advanced in the paper is meant as a tool that facilitates dialogue across studies. In engaging with existing scholarship on the hijab, my literature review and discussion directly reference studies published in *GEMA*, adding to their insights a distinct contribution from the South African context. By bringing a new analytical perspective and geographical focus, this paper facilitates a cross-regional discussion on hijab discourse, making it relevant to the journal’s global readership.

I confirm that this manuscript has not been published or submitted elsewhere. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to *GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies*. Should the reviewers or editorial team have any suggestions for improvement, I would be happy to revise the manuscript accordingly to ensure it meets the highest scholarly standards.

Sincerely,
dr Ewa Glapka
Szczecin University