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**OPEN PEER REVIEW**

# The Process of Securitizing the ISIS Threat in the Discourse of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Emphasizing the Copenhagen School Theory

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## 1.   Round 1

### 1.1.   Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Studying the ISIS threat solely from a military or strategic perspective cannot fully explain Iran's security behavior." would benefit from a clearer transition into the theoretical contribution. Suggest clarifying how discourse analysis specifically fills this analytical gap.

The phrase "intended audiences" is introduced but not explained. The paper would benefit from briefly identifying who these audiences are—domestic, regional, and international—in the introduction itself.

The claim that "Iran regarded regional security as part of national security" is accurate but requires a citation or evidence to ground this assertion.

The quotation is effective but not referenced. Suggest citing the original source or publication outlet of the quote for academic credibility.

The categorization of the audience into domestic, regional, and international is analytically strong. However, it would benefit from deeper elaboration on the failure of international persuasion efforts—e.g., cite UN reactions or Western media framing.

The description of "extraordinary measures" is effective but lacks detail. Recommend giving one concrete example (e.g., formation of the Fatemiyoun Brigade) with brief context to support the argument.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

*1.2.    Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The authors state that the Copenhagen School "offers an analytical framework particularly suited for understanding new and transnational threats." Suggest adding one or two specific examples from literature (beyond ISIS) to show its application to similar contexts.

The sentence "According to this theory, merely uttering a sentence such as 'we are under threat'..." simplifies speech act theory. Recommend expanding this point with reference to felicity conditions of speech acts to deepen theoretical grounding.

The review of existing literature is comprehensive, but the article does not clearly differentiate how this paper goes beyond previous media-based or military analyses. Suggest adding a sub-paragraph explicitly stating the novel contribution of discourse-level analysis using primary elite rhetoric.

The phrase "the Islamic Republic of Iran has succeeded in constructing and stabilizing a discourse" needs clarification. What does "stabilizing" mean in discourse terms—consistency over time? Widespread internalization? Clarify this concept.

The term "social project of psychological mobilization" regarding shrine defenders is insightful but vague. Suggest elaborating with one cultural artifact (e.g., TV series or campaign) as an illustrative example.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2.    Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.