RESEARCH PAPER

on Terrorism and Exclusivism (REPTEX)

No. 5

February 2019

Multilingual Again: Recent Linguistic Developments of IS

Jihadism research is still dominated by the idea that the study of English language magazines may be a key to jihadism.¹ We will not discuss here the interesting problem that the vast majority of jihadi communication is in Arabic, around 95% of this communication.

We will try to tackle another problem: the ignorance of the communication on *tele-gram* for quite a long time the hub of jihadi communication online. If we take an approach that is geared to the real online jihadi communication and not to the technical shortcomings of mainstream jihadism research, we will notice that there is a problem besides the problems concerning of foreign fighters returning back to Europe or wanting to return: IS is still addressing a mulitilingual audience and we may assume: a multilingual subculture of fighters and followers.

Sometimes IS is doing so by reissuing material. Thus we find a video featuring the German jihadi Denis Cusbert aka Abu Talha al-Almani with the title *Hayya ala l-Jihad* (Up to Jihad) with a crossover of Arabic, English and German (and something that may be Turkish).

Several Groups and Channels in Western European Languages are available. E. g., there is a whole group of European language presences on *telegram* referring to the video titled *Flames of War*. There is an English group *The Flames of War*, a French one *Les Flammes de la Guerre* and a Spanish one called *Las Llamas de la Guerra*.² And there is an Arabic language group called *Lahīb al-harb* (flames of war).

A whole series of files of images have been published in French using the outlet "al-Nour", the "light" referring to a famous chapter and verse in the Quran. A small selection will give an idea of the propaganda published.

Some of the images refer to the forms of fighting in the ranks of IS:



¹ An interesting aspect of the multiple ignorance and the way jihadis are exploiting it discusses Ali Fisher in How jihadist Groups exploit Western researchers to promote their theology (https://onlinejihad.net) (accessed February 26, 2019).

² BTW: There is tabletop military strategy game and a video game using this name.

We read many calls to be active in social media describing it as an equivalent to military jihad:





Theo-juridical statements are available:



Preaching to the sympathizers of IS is there:



Statements combining theology and warfare:



General propaganda talk trying to encourage members and followers of IS:



Propanda talk summarizing the theology of IS:



This is just a small selection of French language material put online last month. But there are reissued videos, too:



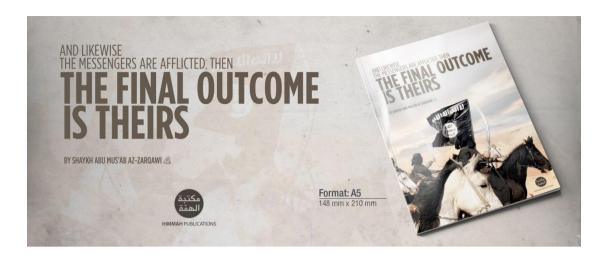
The same we will find in English or a cross-over of Arabic and English:



The same restating the coming of IS:



The final victory of IS is taken for granted:



And in French again:



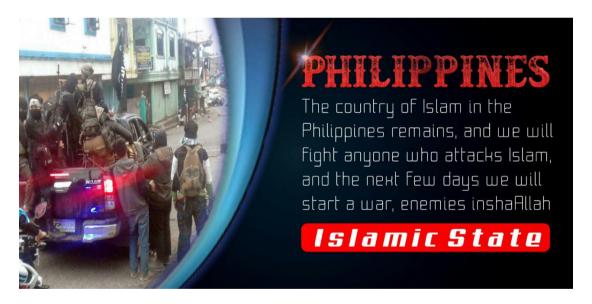
And the global perspective of IS is emphasized in another Arabic-English cross-over:



Again the theology of violence of IS condensed in five principles in an Arabic-English cross-over:



Leaving the European theatre aside, there are other regions interesting for IS:



Nasheeds addressing the fighters of Marawi are available, too. Other parts of Southeast Asia are included in the propaganda efforts of IS:



Persian language material is online:



And cross-over of Spanish, English, Arabic addressing Russians:



In a specialized channel on *telegram* focussing on a Spanish speaking material we find other cross-over videos in Arabic with English and Spanish subtitles. English-only posts, esp., on battle news are published for the IS-*wilaya* of West Africa. Other material tries to strengthen the power of perseverance of IS followers:



The gist of the ongoing propaganda efforts may be summarized in the following image. Add the publishing of new technical military related material, a reassessment of the imminent risks may be needed.

Again blending Arabic and English:

