



## A Descriptive Model of Resilient Economy: A Discourse Analysis of the Language Utilized by the Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran

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### Abstract

This investigation is an endeavor to appraise the language of Resilient economy aiming at modeling it discursively for the first time in Iran. In this vein, postulating the thematic analysis proposed by Ary et al. (2010) as the analytical framework, this study integrated the concepts utilized in the discourse of Resilient economy extracted from various materials, articles, excerpts, interviews, and questionnaires through diverse qualitative techniques such as open, axial, and selective codifications. Moreover, to select a subset of common concepts and remove the redundant ones, factor analysis was applied as a quantitative technique. The findings elucidated two major theoretical views, i.e. macroscopic and microscopic. Macroscopic view accounts for the themes of history and philosophy behind Resilient economy, while microscopic view illuminates four themes of requirements, principles, objectives, and application procedures, which altogether comprised a model describing Resilient economy in the Iranian context. In the denouement, it was concluded that Resilient economy is the essence of Islamic and monotheistic economy where justice, fairness, democracy and knowledge shine as its premises, conducive to bolstering independence, flourish, innovation, entrepreneurship, and constant success and growth. Parenthetically, the study proposed some implications for economics teachers and discourse analysts at the end.

## 1. Introduction

Western persistence in devising sanctions for Iran was directed mostly toward Iranian economics, one of the most prominent pillars in every society. In line with the immediate requirements of the time, the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, coined the terminology Resilient<sup>1</sup> Economy for the first

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<sup>1</sup> - Resilient or "Moghavemati" economy is a new term in economics, coined by the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, for the first time in 2008, as a strategically economic policy towards the sanctions.

time in 2008. Such concept, though bearing a close affinity with academic economics, does not exist in previous literature. Therefore, the best definition has been proposed by the leader as an economics that brings about growth and prosperity for a nation even in time of pressure and sanction. As Galtung (1967) puts it, in most cases, international economic sanctions have a significantly negative economic impact, but they have little political impact. According to the supreme leader's remarks, Resilient economy, has got a number of pillars including robustness of economics, private sector reinforcement in line with the 44th Iranian constitution principle, national production support, financial resources management, consumption management, introversion via focusing on domestic production and the activation of domestic industries and manpower, and extraversion, dealing with exporting through the identification of the global market. He continues, "Resilient economy is not a motto". It can be operationalized through establishing knowledge based companies. In other words, Resilient economy is exemplified through entrepreneurship. Ayatollah Khamenei has named the years based on the yardsticks in Resilient economy since 2008. Therefore, 2008 was labeled as the year of prosperity, 2009 the year of production model reform, 2010 additional labor additional aspiration, 2011 economic jihad, 2012 national production Iranian work and asset support, 2013 political jihad economic jihad, 2014 economy and culture with national agency and jihadi management, 2015 government and nation, empathy and compassion, 2016 Resilient economy, action and practice, 2017 Resilient economy, production and employment, 2018 supporting Iranian products, 2019 production boom, and 2020 production jump. As [Sorkhedehi \(2012\)](#) claims, and in consonant with the Iranian supreme leader's remarks, the most crucial step in Resilient economy happens to be cultural and ideological reform. Amongst the existing resolutions, doing away with economic policies based on capitalist economics and other materialist schools of thought proves to be the best alternative. Obviously, formulating a kind of Iranian and Islamic model compatible with Islamic life style, is directed towards the same goal. What is more, each field of study calls upon a fixed set of discursive features. Discourse, as such, is a broad term with many a definition, which, as [Titscher et al. \(1998\)](#) puts it, "integrates a whole palette of meanings" encompassing a range of academic disciplines including linguistics, sociology, philosophy economics and many others. Since Resilient economy goes beyond the mainstream paradigm in economics, a discourse analytical perspective based on the discourse analytical theory of [Van Dijk \(1977, 1980, 1981; Van Dijk & Kintsch, 1983\)](#), sounds illuminating. In an endeavor to unearth the discursive features, drawing upon a discourse analysis of language use and policy, this paper aims to develop a putative Iranian-Islamic discourse model for the suggested Resilient economy to cope with sanctions. For the purposes of this paper, the definition of discourse was applied, based on [Van Dijk's \(1977\)](#) general concept of discourse as text in context, seen as the "data that is liable for empirical analysis" ([Titscher et al. 1998](#)). It can be observed that an insufficient number of investigations has

been conducted in the area of Resilient economy and in particular germane to Resilient economy models. To fill this gap, this study aims at exploring and developing a putative descriptive model for Resilient economy on the basis of its language and discourse. Therefore, in particular, the present research seeks answers to the following questions:

- What significant themes can be extracted from the discourse of Resilient economy?
- How may these themes be integrated to end up with a putative descriptive model for Resilient economy?

In other words, the present paper makes an attempt to propose a putative model for Iran's Resilient economy according to its language and discourse, i.e. via the analysis of a number of excerpts from the statements of the supreme leader in this area as well as some relevant documents or contents germane to diverse descriptions and interpretations of Resilient economy. Such a model can benefit both economics teachers and students so as to perceive the complicated essence of the Resilient economy discourse by providing them with the right framework.

## 2. Literature Review

Among the main proponents of assessing and modelling the ways economists use their own discourse can be observed in the study by [McCloskey et al. \(1980\)](#), pursuing the "rhetoric of economics" and attracting academic interest from not only their economics colleagues, but also from applied linguists. They maintain that there are two attitudes towards the discourse of economists, termed the official and unofficial, the explicit and implicit, and that the official, explicit attitude (which is the rhetoric aspect) illustrates a scientific methodology which is "modernist", a modernism which consists of an integration of logical positivism, behaviorism, operationalism, and the hypothetico-deductive model of science. Other economists besides [McCloskey et al. \(1980\)](#) have also been actively evaluating aspects of economics discourse. [Henderson \(2010\)](#), for example, proposes a seemingly parallel, but unconnected investigation of the diverse ways that metaphor in economics can be assessed, explicating that they are very common both in economics as a science, and in discussions involving economic policy. In the same vein with [McCloskey et al. \(1980\)](#), [Henderson \(2010\)](#) considers metaphor as a series of tropes (as in metaphor, simile, and analogy), and maintains that what he terms as "living" and "dead" metaphors are an integral part of the economics lexicon, and are in fact inter-woven into the concept-structure of introductory economics textbooks ([Dudley-Evans & John, 1997](#); [Dudley-Evans, 2001](#); [Hewings & Hewings, 2002](#)). In fact, economic discourse has been analyzed by diverse scholars from different perspectives. For instance, [Denton and Spencer \(1998\)](#) have conducted an investigation in terms of specialized vocabulary, i.e. noun/verb combinations in textbooks from biology, chemistry, economics and law. [Jones \(1995\)](#) has

examined "constellations" of cohesive devices in business discourse. Mead and Henderson (2008) assessed the relationship between conditional form and meaning in economics writing. Mason (1992) investigated the linguistic mechanisms used by economists in developing abstract concepts. Hewings et al. (1989) worked on modelling in economics textbooks, and aspects of lexical realization. Henderson and Hewings (1990) examined the use of key words used to build economic models which is exactly in line with the present investigation. Tadros (1985) investigated linguistic (as opposed to economic) prediction in economics text. Related work by Mirowski (1991) traces mathematical discourse in economics and its historical influence, suggesting that mathematical expression in economics discourse was neither inexorable nor unhindered, but revealed a rather disjointed narrative due to the fact that "in the context of the development of the evolution of economic thought, the participants were far from convinced that the subject matter intrinsically demanded mathematical expression" (p. 146). Hewings and Hewings (2002) examined the problems that students have with the ways that introductory economics textbooks switch between the real world and degrees of abstraction in their explanation of fundamental theories and notions, but concentrates primarily on the ways that this is carried out syntactically in the verbal aspect of the text (p. 31). Finally, other researchers who have touched upon economics discourse are Tadros (1985), Allen and Pholsward (1988), Cameron (1991), Mason (1992), Mauranen (1993), and Mead and Henderson (2008). However, among the conducted studies in the literature of economics, no study can be found on the discursive modelling of Resilient economy, which is a novel term in the realm of economics, through a discourse analysis of its language use and policy. For the first time, in the present paper, a discursive model for Iran's Resilient economy is suggested on the basis of the supreme leader's respective utterances with the hope that the would be constructive to economics teachers, students, and academic discourse analysts in the way that the application of such model can provide them with a clear depiction of the genuine nature of Resilient economy.

### **3. Methodology**

A significant qualitative method that has been utilized regularly in educational and social investigations is thematic analysis, which is designed to develop themes based on the raw data collected in a study (Ary et al., 2010). Thematic analysis, which is inductively derived from the phenomenon, represents and meets four criteria: fit, understanding, generality and control (Strauss & Corbin, 1990). Considering the aforementioned points, the following sections (participants, instrument, data collection and analysis procedures) will be identified.

#### **3.1 Sample**

The number of participants involved in the study is as follows:

**Phase 1:** Firstly, the number of participants involved in the beginning of the present study are 15 professors of economics who were randomly selected and interviewed. It is worthy of note that convenience random sampling was applied in this respect (Ary et al., 2010).

**Phase 2:** Secondly, the number of participants in the last phase of the study was another 15 professors of economics who were given the questionnaire.

### 3.2 Materials

Diverse online/offline or soft/hard materials and sources germane to Resilient economy were utilized and postulated as the major textual discourse from which the concepts were extracted. Among these materials, the Iranian supreme leader's website, i.e. Khamenei.ir, and "rasekhoon.net" website were the most significant references for the extraction of these discourse-economic concepts.

### 3.3 Instruments

#### 3.3.1 Interview

Qualitative interviews may be used as the main strategy for data collection, or in conjunction with other methods such as observation (Bogdan & Biklen, 1982). Patton (1990) discusses three types of qualitative interviewing: 1) informal, conversational interviews; 2) semi-structured interviews; and 3) standardized, open-ended interviews. To this end, the first instrument utilized in this study was a semi-structured interview, which is the primary method of data collection in thematic analysis (Ary et al., 2010). Through the interviews, the researchers tried to extract the significant concepts used by the economics professors in terms of Resilient economy. Some questions and hints were given during this session to explore the concepts both directly and indirectly. The questions of this phase included the concepts that were presented in the literature review and in the various materials, the most important of which dealt with the statements of the supreme leader of Iran with regard to Resilient economy.

#### 3.3.2 Questionnaire

A researcher-made questionnaire consisting of 25 items was extracted from the interview data and the materials concepts. The items of Resilient Economy Questionnaire (REQ) (Appendix 1) included Resilient economy concepts that diverse professors and materials in economics employed, using the language and discourse of Resilient economy.

#### 3.3.3 Reliability and Validity of the Instruments

The reliability of the questionnaire was computed through Cronbach's Alpha. The results show an acceptable reliability index of 0.72 for the questionnaire. As for validation, exploratory factor analysis was run. The participants of the study filled out the questionnaire. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin's Measure of sampling adequacy revealed a reasonable value of 0.68, and

Barlette's test of sphericity's result was significant, yielding an acceptable value ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 10). Accordingly, 4 factors were extracted from the 25 items.

### 3.4 Data Collection Procedure

The data needed for this study were collected in several distinct phases:

**Phase 1:** Examining diverse online/offline or soft/hard materials and sources germane to Resilient economy which were utilized and postulated as the major textual source, the researchers extracted the respective concepts until they came to data saturation, i.e. they did not face any new concept related to Resilient economy. Among these materials, the Iranian supreme leader's website, i.e. Khamenei.ir, and "rasekhoon.net" website were the most significant references for the extraction of these discourse-economic concepts.

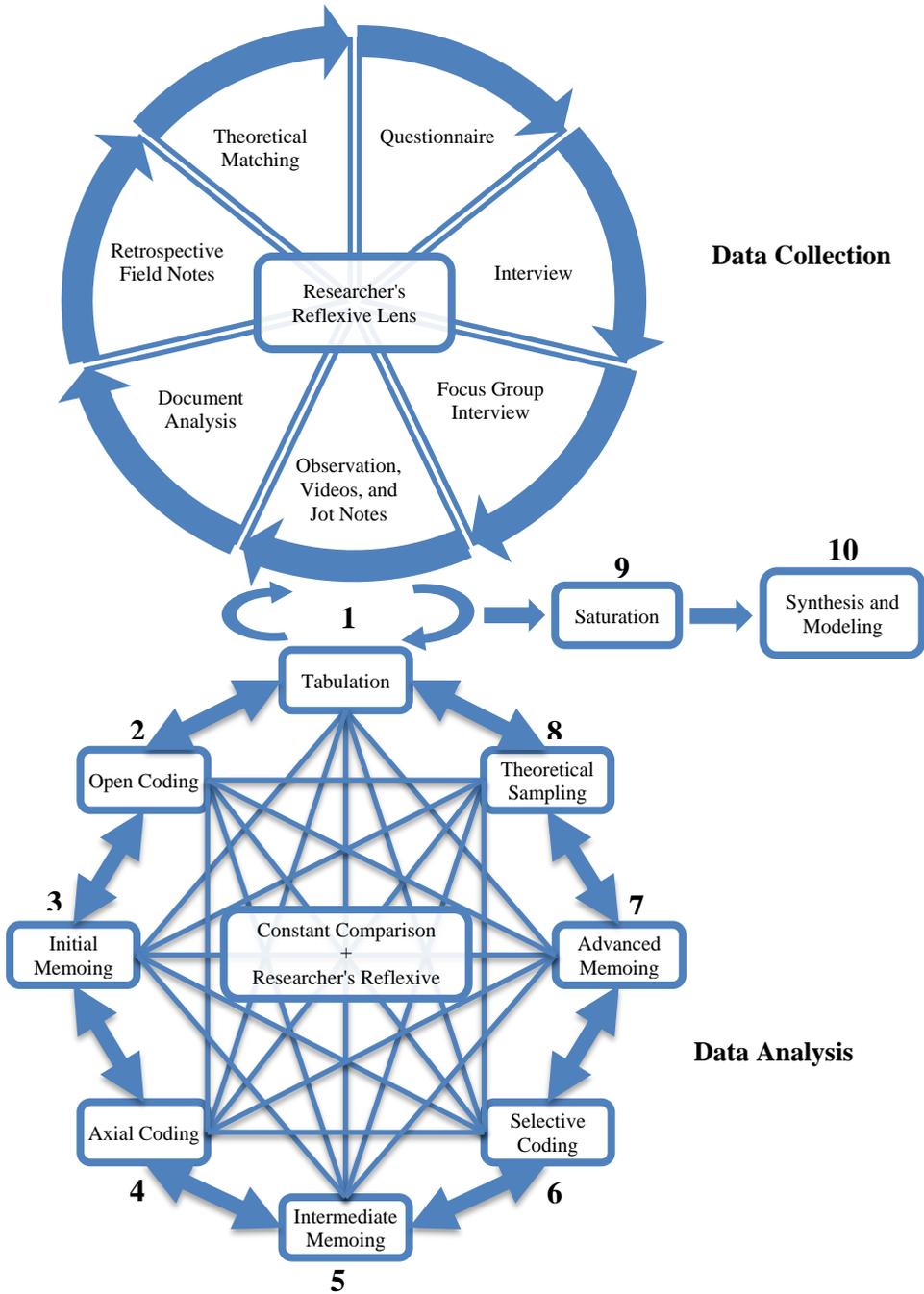
**Phase 2:** Through an interview, the concepts of Resilient economy used by 15 participants (professors of economics) were extracted. The questions were predetermined since the interview was goal-oriented, making the concepts used by the professors known as well as revealing the commonalities among them and ignoring those rare concepts used by special participants. Additionally, in order to reduce misconceptions between the researchers and interviewees, the interview was done in Persian, but some English technical words and expressions were asked for the accuracy of translation.

**Phase 3:** Benefiting from three types of codification, namely, open coding, axial coding, and selective, the researchers codified the concepts, extracted from the first phase and transcribed from the second phase, to specify the significant categories out of the preliminary collected concepts, so that the outcome was a thematic and discursive model of Resilient economy which will be presented later.

**Phase 4:** A questionnaire on the language use in the realm of Resilient economy was developed based on the results obtained in the third phase to confirm the dependability of the extracted themes in the model via a factor analysis<sup>1</sup>(Table 11). This researcher-made questionnaire was given to another 15 participants or economics professors to determine to what extent they endorse each theme or category. The suitability of factor analysis was evaluated through Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity measure of sampling adequacy as a measure of homogeneity of variables (Sharma, 1996) (Table 10).

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<sup>1</sup>- For more explanation on the details of the factor analysis, refer to the results of the quantitative analysis.



**Figure 1. Data Collection and Analysis Procedures**

(Adopted from Strauss & Corbin, 1998; Charmaz, 2006; Gasson & Waters, 2013; Cited in Soozandehfar & Sahragard, 2017)

### 3.5 Data Analysis Procedure

As it is shown in Figure 1, the analysis began with the identification of the concepts emerging from the raw data, a process sometimes referred to as open coding (Strauss and Corbin, 1990). During open coding, the researcher identified and tentatively named the core conceptual categories into which the observed phenomena were grouped. The goal was to create descriptive, multi-dimensional categories which formed a preliminary framework for analysis. The next stage of analysis involved the re-examination of the categories, technically referred to as axial coding (Strauss & Corbin, 1990) during which the categories around the core categories were specified. Finally, through selective coding, the central or core categories were systematically integrated to other categories, validating those relationships, and filling in categories that need further refinement (Strauss & Corbin, 1990). Upon analysis of the data, the researchers of the current study benefited from Strauss and Corbin's (1998, as cited in Nouhi, 2010) model, stating that the heart of data analysis in thematic analysis is based on three types of coding procedures: open, axial, and selective. Firstly, concepts from the textual sources and participants' comments were extracted and transcribed, respectively. Then, the extracted and transcribed data were codified according to the above coding strategies to specify the categories, which are, eventually, reduced to some major themes. Finally, the themes were confirmed by designing a questionnaire through running factor analysis preceded by Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity.

### 4. Results and Discussion

The data analysis in this study was performed in a cyclical style in interaction with data collection (Figure 1). The analysis of the data started with the tabulation of sensitizing concepts and in vivo codes. In other words, according to Charmaz's (2006) constructivist approach towards thematization, the analysis began with certain research interests and general concepts referred to as sensitizing concepts that provided a place to start. Also, the next step was listing the special terms used by the supreme leader reflected in various documents as well as those mentioned by the participants during the interviews. Such tabulation of concepts and codes was the result of data collection cycles. Table 1 illustrates some exemplars of the in vivo codes.

*Table 1. exemplars of in vivo codes*

Knowledge-based economy	Extra effort
Humanities	Private sector
Creativity	Independence
Maximum use of time, sources and facilities	Unity
Innovation	Frugality
Jihadi lifestyle	Decreasing reliance on oil
Cooperation	Entrepreneurship
Resilience ("Moghavemat")	Reforming consumption

Initial or open coding was the next step of data analysis, where more crucial words, phrases, or chunks from both documentary and interview data relating to different dimensions of Moghavemati economy were identified and coded accordingly. Then, via the initial memoing, the identified chunks were more interpreted and classified as tentative analytical categories so as to better direct and focus on further data collection. Some instances of the openly coded data are presented as follows.

- *We are always **concerned about the price of oil**<sup>B.11</sup>, the **forbidden sale of oil**<sup>B.12</sup> under certain circumstances, the **problems arising when exporting**<sup>B.13</sup> it and certain customers' **refusal to give us our money**<sup>B.14</sup>. When every economic dimension revolves around oil, then the economy becomes **insecure**<sup>B.15</sup>. The economy should become secure. (Khamenei.ir, Oct 25, 2017)*
- *In foreign policy, top priorities for us, today, include **preferring the East to the West**<sup>H.17</sup>, preferring the neighboring countries to the far reached locations, **preferring nations and countries that share in our common goals**<sup>H.18</sup>. We should not be dependent on foreign countries<sup>H.19</sup>. If we want to boost the economy within our country, we need to have **quality exportation, thoughtful importation, and good economic relations**<sup>H.20</sup>. I am not against foreign funding; however, the leaders and managers should be Iranian<sup>H.21</sup>. The work must not be entrusted to foreigners<sup>H.22</sup>. If too much work is entrusted to foreigners, Iranian managers will lose their grip on matters. (Khamemei.ir, Feb 18, 2018)*
- *We all should **keep our country strong, impermeable and uninfluenced**<sup>J.9</sup> by enemy. This is one requirement of Resilient economy. **Resisting is one of the essential pillars in Resilient economy**<sup>J.10</sup>. We have to be able to **resist against everything**<sup>J.11</sup> which may be subjected to enemy's plot. (Khamenei.ir; Mar 21, 2013)*
- ***We should help private sector**<sup>K.2</sup>. Well Resilient economy has got some conditions, some pillars. One of them is **reliance on people**<sup>K.3</sup>. These policies of principle 44 should be followed with more emphasis and care ... One of the requirements in this regard can be making use of governmental and democratized potentials, **benefiting both knowledge and techniques of knowledgeable individuals and investments**<sup>K.4</sup>. (Khamenei.ir; meeting with president and cabinet members 1391/06/03)*
- *Nowadays we are confronted with **global tension**. It is where the **importance of entrepreneurship lies**<sup>N.7</sup>. There is an enemy in the world who is after turning back his dominance on this country through economic tensions, sanctions and many other instruments... **We are to establish an actual Resilient economy in our country. That is what entrepreneurship means**<sup>N.8</sup>. Our friends were right claiming to turn the sanctions. I believe in it. Our nation and agents alike neutralize the*

*sanctions and frustrate the enemy.* (Khamenei.ir; meeting with entrepreneurs, 1389/06/16)

- ***Another pillar of Resilient economy is to support the national production, industry and agriculture***<sup>P.1</sup>. *Given statistics by some people are good ones. However, the people in charge inside the government have let us know that some companies are exposed to a number of difficulties and disorders. Some industries have been closed in some places. We have been provided with disparate reports and it is not favorable... Activate small and moderate firms*<sup>P.2</sup>. *The big firms are fortunately active and beneficial. They are doing a good job in terms of making profit and employment. Most of our big firms are like this. As you said, our cement, steel and major productions are good. You need to think of small and moderate firms*<sup>P.3</sup>. *They are important and can affect peoples' lives directly.* (Khamenei.ir; meeting with president and cabinet members, 1391/06/03)
- ***As one of the friends said, a student center has been formed to research Resilient Economy***<sup>S.19</sup>. *I appreciate it. These are the activities our country is in need of. You should think, study and research*<sup>S.20</sup> ...*This kind of young thoughtful motivation is determinant for the future*<sup>S.21</sup> *of the country.* (Khamenei.ir; visit with university students, 1390/05/19)
- ***One issue in Resilient economy is consumption management***<sup>T.8</sup>. *It should be managed. The issue of wasting is very important. Now how can we curb wasting? Culturalization is required*<sup>T.9</sup>. *It is mostly the duty of media especially radio and TV organization. You ought to do it. We as an Islamic nation should be keen on Islamic lessons. Wasting is avoided in Islam severely*<sup>T.10</sup> *but we do not observe it. It is necessary to start operational parts from government. The government must be after storing as it is a giant consumer... Put emphasis on inner products rather than the foreign ones and you yourselves follow it.* (Khamenei.ir; meeting with president and cabinet members 1391/06/03)

Though axial coding, where the constant comparison and mediation between open and axial codes were performed, the respective core categories by connecting the sub-categories, and specifying the range of their properties and dimensions were identified. In fact, while in open coding the data were fractured, in axial coding they were reconnected in ways that were conceptually much more abstract than would be produced by a thematic analysis. At this time, intermediate memos worked further on the partial codifications. In fact, it was played with significant or frequent codes extracted from the axial coding phase. In intermediate memos, preliminary diagrams or charts were drawn to sort the codes, and to preliminarily synthesize and hypothetically integrate theoretical ideas in an interactive process in order to capture and perceive new thoughts and connections. Tables 2 to 9 respectively illustrate the categorization processes

regarding the above open-coded exemplars, which were core-categorized via the axial coding process.

**Table 2. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category B**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
Decreasing Reliance on Oil Incomes <sup>B</sup>	<p>concerned about the price of oil<sup>B.11</sup>            forbidden sale of oil<sup>B.12</sup>            problems arising when exporting<sup>B.13</sup>            refusal to give us our money<sup>B.14</sup>            every economic dimension revolves around oil, then the economy becomes insecure<sup>B.15</sup></p>

**Table 3. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category H**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
Controlling Leadership <sup>H</sup>	<p>preferring the East to the West<sup>H.17</sup>            preferring nations and countries that share in our common goals<sup>H.18</sup>            should not be dependent on foreign countries<sup>H.19</sup>            need to have quality exportation, thoughtful importation, and good economic relations<sup>H.20</sup>            I am not against foreign funding; however, the leaders and managers should be Iranian<sup>H.21</sup>            The work must not be entrusted to foreigners<sup>H.22</sup></p>

**Table 4. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category J**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
Strengthening Economy <sup>J</sup>	<p>keep our country strong, impermeable and uninfluenced<sup>J.9</sup>            Resisting is one of the essential pillars in Resilient economy<sup>J.10</sup>            to resist against everything<sup>J.11</sup></p>

**Table 5. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category K**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
Utilizing national and public capacities <sup>K</sup>	<p>We should help private sector<sup>K.2</sup>            reliance on people<sup>K.3</sup>            benefiting both knowledge and techniques of knowledgeable individuals and investments<sup>K.4</sup></p>

**Table 6. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category N**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
Entrepreneurship <sup>N</sup>	<p>global tension. It is where the importance of entrepreneurship lies<sup>N.7</sup>            We are to establish an actual Resilient economy in our country. That is what entrepreneurship means<sup>N.8</sup></p>

**Table 7. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category P**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
National Production Support <sup>P</sup>	Another pillar of Resilient economy is to support the national production, industry and agriculture <sup>P.1</sup> Activate small and moderate firms <sup>P.2</sup> You need to think of small and moderate firms <sup>P.3</sup>

**Table 8. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category S**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
The Significance of Researching <sup>S</sup>	a student center has been formed to research Resilient economy <sup>S.19</sup> You should think, study and research <sup>S.20</sup> young thoughtful motivation is determinant for the future <sup>S.21</sup>

**Table 9. A Categorization Exemplar of the Axial-Coded Core Category T**

Axial-Coded Core Category	Open-Coded Data
Consumption Management <sup>T</sup>	One issue in Resilient economy is consumption management <sup>T.8</sup> how can we curb wasting? Culturalization is required <sup>T.9</sup> Wasting is avoided in Islam severely <sup>T.10</sup>

The next phase dealt with selective coding which was a critical step towards the final theoretical integration of the data. In this phase, the researcher attempted to provide a general explanation of the processes or schemes apparent in memo diagrams in relation to particular conceptual relationships. Selective coding procedures included the use of the storyline technique (Strauss & Corbin, 1990) as a mechanism of both integrating and presenting thematic concepts. Accordingly, this study employed a theoretical coding during the selective coding stage. Theoretical codes were drawn from existing theories to assist in theoretical integration, to add explanatory power to the final product in this study, and to situate it in relation to the theoretical body of knowledge stated in economics. Advanced memoing was also utilized to refine the conceptual themes, and to build and clarify the research. Such final memoing was to adopt further theoretical concepts, to sort all the previous memos and codes, and to integrate concepts leading to diagramming. In fact, advanced memoing was the draft of the visualization of the themes and categories in this study. Although advanced memoing is usually done when the study reaches data saturation, the draft theory or model was revised in this study through adding some theoretical terms and replacing some concepts or titles with some other parallel terms in existing theories or models in the economics literature. Table 3 reveals a thematization exemplar of the selectively coded themes derived from the above-mentioned axially coded core categories. Consequently, according to the above-elaborated procedures, the categorization and thematization processes were accomplished and the extracted themes were further divided into 2 broader

themes, namely, “Microscopic View” and “Macroscopic View.” By Macroscopic view of Resilient economy, the researchers intended to reveal the historical and philosophical backgrounds of Resilient economy, i.e. its position and origin. By contrast, Microscopic view of Resilient economy deals with the four categories extracted from the discourse of Resilient economy in Iran, i.e. its requirements, principles, objectives, and application procedures. Table 10 presents the entire results of the data analyses.

**Table 10. Results of Codification and Thematization (Selectively Coded Themes)**

Views	Themes	Core Categories
Macroscopic View	Islamic and monotheistic economy	Propagating jihadi lifestyle Propagating Islamic lifestyle Religion-centeredness Jihadi spirit
	Fairness-based economy	Economic justice Avoiding official beurocracy Humanity
	Democratic economy	Democratization of economy Public collaboration
	Knowledge-based economy	Innovation and flourish Recognition of roles Creativity Maximum use of time, sources and facilities Economic wisdom
	Abiding economy	Constant achievements Living contrivance Government-nation consolidation
	Parallel economy	Focus on inflation Resistant-making Capability Vigilance
	Mentoring economy	Efficient taxation system Efficient monetary and banking system Entrepreneurship Reforming consumption behavior Frugality
	Defensive economy	Harm-removal Recognition of enemy's decision Disabling enemy's attack Resilient culturalization Jihadi spirit

**Table 10 (Continued). Results of Codification and Thematization (Selectively Coded Themes)**

Views	Themes	Core Categories
Microscopic View	Requirements	Creativity Humanity Realism Capability Willingness Dutifulness Unity Planning Vigilance Frugality Simplicity Jihadi spirit Cooperation
	Principles	Maximum use of time, sources and facilities Movement based on agenda Reduplicated labor and effort Economic jihad Resistant-making Crisis removal Focused command Propagation of Islamic economy Living contrivance Economic wisdom Religion-centeredness Public collaboration Turning threats into opportunities Circumventing sanctions Harm-removal Recognition of enemy's decision Disabling enemy's attack Recognition of roles Focus on inflation Massive and long-term look towards economy Resilient acculturalization Making legitimate wealth Efficient taxation system Promoting efficient human power Avoiding official beurocracy Efficient monetary and bank system Decreasing reliance on oil incomes Increasing exploitation in production

**Table 10 (Continued). Results of Codification and Thematization (Selectively Coded Themes)**

Views	Themes	Core Categories
Microscopic View	Objectives	Independence Government-nation consolidation Innovation and flourish Democratization of economy Constant economic growth Supporting national production Supporting Iranian labor and investment Protecting national firms Entrepreneurship Reforming consumption model Constant achievements Propagating jihadi lifestyle Economic justice Propagating Islamic lifestyle Introversion and domestic production Extraversion and identification of the global market,
	Application Procedures	Currency demand management Demand control Distribution of substantial goods Collaboration of the three powers Stability of prices Decreasing reliance on oil incomes Optimum management in consumption Strengthening the private sector Establishing employment Government structure's reform Use of domestic products Educational system reform Advertising system reform Export increase Liquidate increase Making special economic relations Controlling dealership Subsidies targeting Competition in production and distribution Consistency of bourse indexes Creating substructure and customs powers Balanced import Creating knowledge-based institutions Precise economic statistics Immediate reaction to enemy Commercialize the knowledge Making competitive atmosphere Absorbing investors Discourse making Procuring food security

As presented in Table 10, there are two themes selected for the Resilient economy applied by the researchers: Macroscopic and Microscopic views. These two notions were identified based on the nature of discourse about Resilient economy, that is, macroscopic view was applied at the general level of history and philosophy, while microscopic view dealt with the four categories of requirements, principles, objectives, and application procedures. From the representative samples of authentic quotes above taken from the speeches of the supreme leader of Islamic Republic of Iran, it is evident that Resilient economy is founded upon enforcing country in general and economy in particular as not to surrender to the demands and ambitions of the enemy. Obviously, based on what was mentioned about resilient economy, empowering people and private sector through introversion, i.e. focusing on domestic production and the activation of domestic industries and manpower, as well as through extraversion, i.e. exporting through the identification of the global market, which are among the requirements for the realization of such empowerment, can lead to strengthening country's economy. However, economic corruption have to be catered for constantly in order not to direct the country's economic progression towards the reverse path. In times of crisis and sanctions, a country should hinge upon national production in order to fill the gaps. Needless to say, industry, agriculture, cement and steel talk first in this regard due to the supreme leader's claims. According to the supreme leader's perspective, management of foreign exchange sources is to be taken into close consideration as a determinant source of income for the economy of the country. Moreover, as an inherent part of our Islamic lessons and based on the supreme leader's assertions, wasting has been severely condemned in all phases of our lives. While being under pressure and based on the requirements of the time, saving proves to be a necessity rather than an alternative. However, this kind of strategy should be applied not only to peoples' private lives but to the government as the executive agent of rules.

What is more, in line with the statements of the supreme leader, there exists a large number of lecturers and writers, who have elaborated on the concept of Resilient economy and its ingredients. Amongst them, [Esmaeeli \(2008\)](#), [Arabi \(2010\)](#), [Ekhtiari \(2010\)](#), [Ghasemi \(2010\)](#), [Iravani, \(2010\)](#), [Kamrani Rad \(2010\)](#), [Khandouzi \(2010\)](#), [Peighami \(2010\)](#), [Pooria \(2010\)](#), [Soleimani \(2010\)](#), [Ghaemini \(2011\)](#), [Jabbari Haris \(2011\)](#), and [Maleki \(2012\)](#) to name just a few. For instance, [Ekhtiari \(2010\)](#) has called upon economic and non-economic factors of inflation, the role of sanctions in increasing inflation and potency and significance of Resilient economy in neutralizing sanctions, beside other things. In the same vein, [Ghaemini \(2011\)](#) and [Sorkhedehi \(2012\)](#) have accentuated on the role of life style and family function in the manifestation of Resilient economy. That is, by means of adhering to our Islamic lessons and avoiding extravagance, our wish can be accomplished. Needless to say, family is the most noticeable context for internalizing such an outlook and behavior.

## 5. Quantitative analysis

To confirm the dependability of the extracted themes in the codification, it was decided to develop a questionnaire accordingly, so that the themes were put into exploratory factor analysis, i.e. principal component analysis (PCA), via SPSS. To this end, the analysis was preceded by an evaluation of the sampling adequacy through Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test (Kaiser, 1974) as well as an assessment of the inter-variable relationship strength via Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (Bartlett, 1954). In other words, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy yielded an index of 0.68, implying a reasonably adequate sample. Besides, Bartlett's test of sphericity showed a statistically significant index ( $p < 0.05$ ), revealing the items' reasonable inter-relationships. Table 11 clarifies the points.

**Table 11. Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity**

Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy	0.688	
	Approx. Chi-Square	4260.802
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	df	11
	Sig.	0.002

Note:  $p < 0.05$

Accordingly, factor analysis was regarded to be appropriate with all the 25 items, centering around four explored factors. For the confirmation of the questionnaire validation, this study conducted an Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA). In other words, the collected data in this study on the 25 items were submitted to the extraction method of Principal Component Analysis (PCA), which extracted 4 components with eigenvalues exceeding 1.0 which counted for 70% of the variance. In fact, the Rotated Component Matrix in EFA yielded satisfactory loadings on the 4 factors. Table 12 shows the variances and loadings of these 4 extracted components based on the current sample used in the present study through the Principal Component Analysis extraction method.

**Table 12. Variances/Loadings of Four Extracted Components**

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	8.690	19.750	19.750	8.515	19.353	19.353
2	6.359	14.452	34.202	5.870	13.341	32.694
3	5.333	12.121	46.322	5.216	11.854	44.548
4	4.004	9.101	55.423	3.749	8.521	53.070

Note: Extraction Method, Principal Component Analysis.

Although validating the questionnaire through factor analysis, this study also asked two economics experts who were familiar with Resilient economy principles to read the questionnaire and comment on the appropriateness of the wording and relevance of the items, leading to a consensus.

This researcher-made questionnaire was given to another 15 participants or economics professors to determine to what extent they endorse each theme or category. The participants responded to the statements by selecting from five options, namely, 'strongly agree,' 'agree,' 'have no idea,' 'disagree,' or 'strongly disagree.' The items of the questionnaire were examined in terms of their frequency of selection so as to determine the extent to which the participants endorse the statements (Table 13). To provide a more succinct and comprehensible pattern of the participants' answers to the questionnaire, the first two alternatives ('strongly agree' and 'agree') and the last two ('disagree' and 'strongly disagree') were combined. Moreover, the items of each factor were merged, too.

**Table 13. Descriptive statistics of Factors Endorsed by the Participants**

Factor	Percentage		
	SA+A	NI	D+SD
Factor 1: Requirements	63%	13%	24%
Factor 2: Principles	81%	11%	8%
Factor 3: Objectives	74%	9%	17%
Factor 4: Application Procedures	47%	32%	21%

Note: SA, Strongly Agree; A, Agree; NI, No Idea; D, Disagree; SD, Strongly Disagree.

As Table 13 illustrates, more than 50% of the economics professors agreed with all factors except the last. This means that the economics professors of the observed context may not agree on the type of economic practices of Resilient economy, however, endorse the theoretical concepts extracted from the qualitative design. Among the categories explicated by the participants, it is observed that the principles are the ones that are most frequently used (81%). Regarding the last factor, it was revealed that 47% of the participants agreed with it, while 21% disagreed and the rest had no idea. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the application procedures or the types of practices play a crucial role in understanding the nature of Resilient economy. In the studied context, this may be due to the fact that the practices designed for Resilient economy may not satisfy the economics professors. This issue has made Resilient economy a challenging task which may require experts to reappraise and restructure the procedures of Resilient economy.

## 6. Concluding Remarks

According to the findings, through the analysis of the materials, interviews, the questionnaire, and the results of data analysis, the researchers may conclude

that in general, most economics professors agree upon the fact that Resilient economy is rule-governed and principled. Also, it needs some requirements through which the objectives can be achieved, though it is not the case with regard to its application procedures. Generally speaking, by looking at the results obtained in this investigation, the following conclusions can be reached in response to the research questions posed at the beginning:

1. *What significant themes can be extracted from the discourse of Resilient economy?"*

Having scrutinized a body of quotes by the supreme leader, the researchers have come to a large number of concepts, reduced to four categories in the field of Resilient economy, i.e. requirements, principles, objectives, and application procedures. Out of these four categories, two major themes were inferred for the Resilient economy: Macroscopic and Microscopic views (Table 10).

2. *How may these categories be integrated to end up with a model for Resilient economy?"*

To answer the above second question in this study, a discursive model was proposed as follows (Figure 2). In fact, this discursive model consists of two major themes or views towards Resilient economy in Iran. These two themes have been concluded by the researchers, reviewers, and the experts in the field from the whole categories extracted from the raw concepts at the beginning. Taking a look at the model, one can recognize that the square in the center of the model illustrates the macroscopic view of Resilient economy based on the language and discourse of the supreme leader, who introduced the notion of Resilient economy for the first time in Iran, as well as the relevant documents in this area. The labyrinthine structure of the macroscopic square in the figure is exactly in line with what the supreme leader and other experts in Iran maintain with regard to the origin and philosophy of Resilient economy. In the same vein, from the macroscopic view, it is believed that Resilient economy is the essence of Islamic and monotheistic economy used in the history of Islam. It is maintained that Islamic and monotheistic economy is the one in which justice and fairness shine; an economy which is a symbol of democracy and knowledge. In other words, Islamic and monotheistic economy contains the needed features of today's economy not only to counter the sanctions, but also to bring about independence, flourish, innovation, entrepreneurship, and constant success and growth. It is an economy which can be regarded as a complete model to be followed by all. It is also a mentoring and defensive economy at the times of pressure on the part of the enemies. It is a parallel economy which is ready to immediately create organizations parallel with solving problems and difficulties. It can bring about constant and abiding economic achievements during the time. Accordingly, these mentioned features of Islamic and monotheistic economy have been called Resilient economy in today's condition of Iran so as to be applied as a powerful tool in today's economic war against Islamic Republic of Iran in the form of diverse sanctions.

On the other hand, Figure 2 depicts the microscopic view towards Resilient economy based on its discourse in Iran. This microscopic view includes Resilient economy requirements, principles, objectives, and application procedures all of which have been extracted from the words of the supreme leader of Iran, and other experts in the field written in diverse materials, or stated through interviews and so on. Figure 2 illustrates all these macro and micro features altogether at once.

Consequently, such a model can assist both economics teachers and students alike to better understand the multi-layered and complex nature of the Resilient economy discourse by providing them with the right tool. In a related vein, it is hoped that the discourse analytical model introduced in this paper will be useful to academic discourse analysts. In the way that through the application of such model, they can be provided with further illumination of the real nature of Resilient economy.

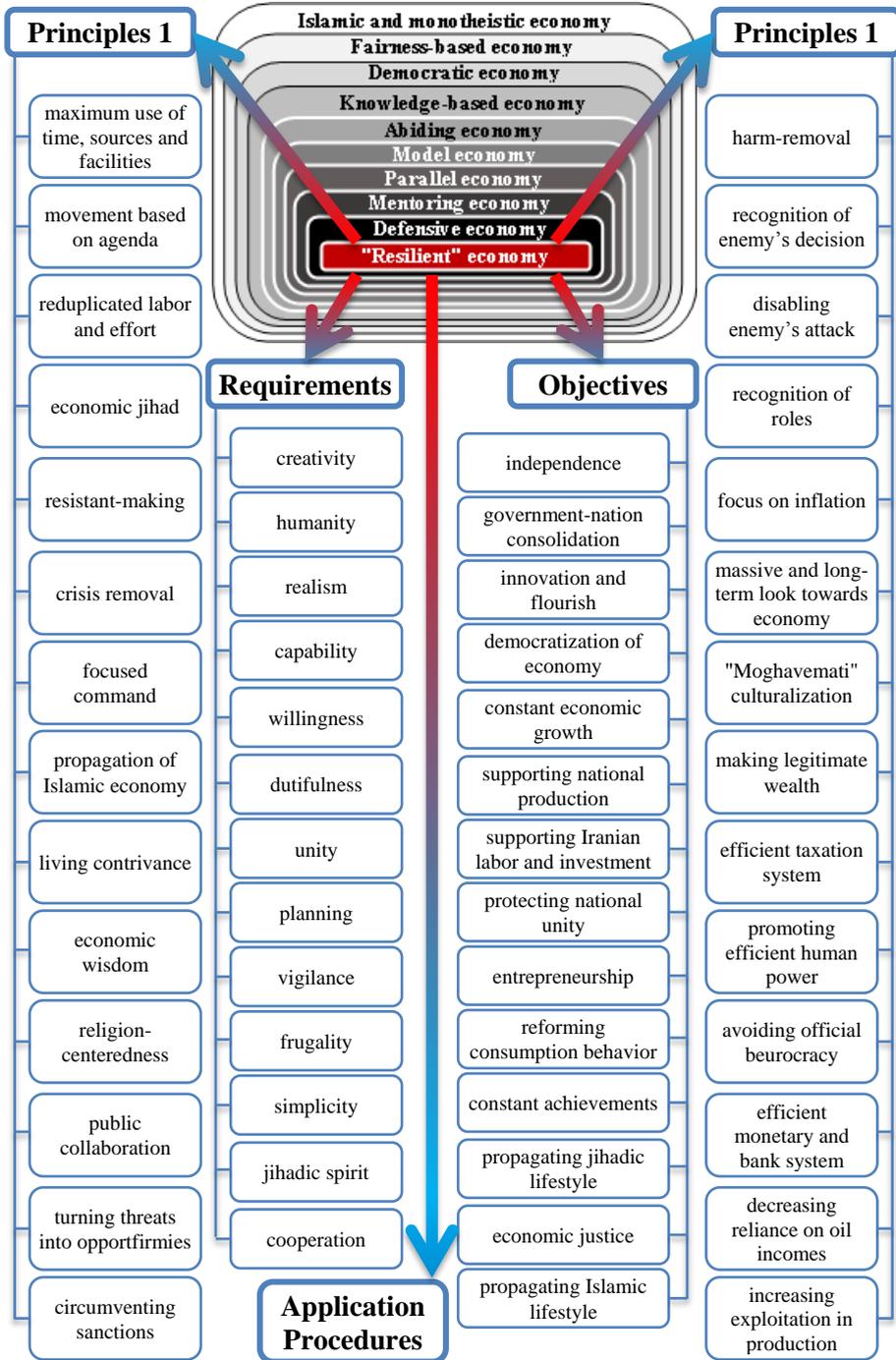


Figure 2. The Discursive Model of Resilient Economy in Iran

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## Appendix

### Resilient Economy Questionnaire (REQ)

	Items	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Idea	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	The content of resilient economy should be derived from the conditions of peoples' own life, culture, and experiences.					
2	The principles of resilient economy should be acknowledged as a social entity.					
3	The main goal of resilient economy is to bring about independence and growth.					
4	In resilient economic system, humanities should be central in order to bring about social justice.					
5	In resilient economy, all the people should have enough opportunities and rights to put into practice their innovative and creative ideas and participate in the knowledge-based jihadi practices.					
6	Resilient economy should distribute the culture of "Moghavemat" or resistance as well as recognition of enemy's decisions..					
7	Resilient economy should embody a vision of crisis removal.					
8	Resilient economy should create new forms of knowledge through maximum use of time, sources and facilities as well as creating new spaces where national unity becomes explicit.					
9	People should be accustomed to simplicity, frugality, planning, and cooperation while dealing with resilient economy.					
10	Resilient economy should foster justice and Islamic lifestyle in the society through jihadi spirit and religion-centeredness.					
11	Resilient economy should decreasing reliance on oil incomes.					
12	Resilient economy should lead the people to consumption behavior reform.					
13	While resilient economy is applied, official beurocracy should be avoided.					
14	Economic organizations should focus on efficient taxation systems in line with resilient economy.					
15	Efficient monetary and banking systems should be emphasized in resilient economies.					
16	Resilient economy focuses on inflation via peoples' reduplicated efforts and labor.					
17	In the time of resilient economy, people collaborate with one another, share ideas, focus on realistic capabilities, and try to turn threats into opportunities.					
18	Resilient economy exposes the people to a set of beliefs and values whose implicit message is that they are rich in willingness and capabilities.					
19	The society with resilient economy acknowledges and respects living contrivance and economic wisdom.					
20	People should base their creativity on making legitimate wealth and constant growth in line with resilient economy.					
21	Resilient economy help the people to support national production.					
22	Resilient economy let the society produce their own goods and rely on their own agenda.					
23	Resilient economy incorporates entrepreneurship and democracy as major principles.					
24	Most of the economic organizations are embedded within dialogue and problem-posing frameworks.					
25	People should be able to reflect upon the political, ideological, and cultural principles that inform circumventing the sanctions.					