



Sudan University of Science and Technology
College of Graduate Studies
College of Languages



**Analysis of Discourse Features of Media Texts Written
by Native and Non-native Writers of English :
A Comparative Study**

تحليل السمات الخطابية للنصوص الإعلامية المكتوبة بواسطة
الكتاب الأصليين وغير الأصليين للغة الإنجليزية : دراسة مقارنة

**A Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Ph.D. in English : (Applied Linguistics)**

Submitted by: Looloo Mohammed Saleh Alraim

Supervised by: Dr. Abdalla Yassin Abdalla

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DEDICATION

To my family & to my friends

I dedicate this work.

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All gratitude is due to Allah Almighty for giving me the means to achieve this work. Then, I am grateful to everyone who has provided me with inspiration, materials, moral support and different modes of assistance during the writing of this thesis. I am particularly grateful to my supervisor Dr. Abdallah Yassin Abdallah for his helpful discussions, guidance, encouragement and feedback. His depth knowledge in Applied Linguistics has been an invaluable support to me throughout the period of this work. Without his tremendous support in the past few years, my dream to fulfill the Ph.D. thesis would not have come true.

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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to analyze and compare the discourse features of media texts written by native and non-native writers of English. It attempts this hoping to find out how actually written discourse makes meaning in terms of the grammatical structures and their meanings in the social contexts. To this end, Michael Halliday's approach of Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL) was applied to carry out the analysis. SFL approach focuses on how the grammar of a language serves as a resource for making and exchanging meanings between people. It is concerned with the grammatical patterns and lexical items used in the text, as well as the choices of these items, leading to meaning understanding in relation to the social contexts. The materials for the study were collected mainly from two online newspapers articles; *The Washington Post* and *Arab News*. The analysis focused upon the interpretation and description of three levels of meanings; the ideational meaning by investigating the *Process Types*, the interpersonal meaning examining *Mood & Modality* system and the textual meaning considering the *Cohesive Devices*. The findings of this study could provide the basis for exploring language awareness and highlight the discourse features of media texts, in addition to the differences in discourse language between native and non-native writers of English. Some of the major findings arrived at show that the native media authors tend to write informally and use more complex sentence structure, while the non-native authors address their audience formally and focus on simple sentence structure. Based on the findings, the study recommends the application of the SFL approach in language classrooms. Finally, the researcher suggests to conduct a further study investigating the features of oral media discourse by native and nonnative speakers of English.

ABSTRACT
ARABIC VERSION

المستخلص

تقوم هذه الدراسة بتحليل ومقارنة السمات الخطابية للنصوص الإعلامية المكتوبة بواسطة الكتاب الأصليين وغير الأصليين للغة الإنجليزية، كما تهدف الى معرفة كيف يتكون المعنى في النص المكتوب باعتبار التراكيب النحوية ودلالاتها في السياق الاجتماعي. لتحقيق هذا الهدف، تم تطبيق نظرية العالم اللغوي مايكل هالديدي " *Systematic Functional Linguistics - SFL* " لإجراء التحليل. تركز هذه النظرية على تفسير كيف تعمل التراكيب النحوية كمصدر لفهم وتبادل المعاني بين الأشخاص. كما أنها تهتم أيضا بتأويل المفردات اللغوية التي استخدمت في النص للوصول الى فهم المعنى المقصود من خلال السياق الاجتماعي. تم جمع بيانات الدراسة من مقالات صحيفتين الكترونييتين و هما: " *الواشنطن بوست* و *عرب نيوز* ". ركز التحليل على تفسير وشرح ثلاثة مستويات من المعاني وهي: المعنى الفكري من خلال استقصاء أنواع عمليات الأفعال (Process Types)، والمعنى التبادلي بين الأشخاص بتحري أنواع الجمل ودرجة تأكيد الأفعال (Mood & Modality)، و المعنى النصي من خلال دراسة أدوات ربط الجمل (Cohesive Devices). هذا وتسهم نتائج البحث في زيادة الوعي لفهم كيف تعمل اللغة، وإبراز السمات الخطابية للمقالات الإعلامية، بالإضافة الى الاختلافات في لغة المقال بين الكتاب الأصليين وغير الأصليين للغة الإنجليزية. وأظهرت بعض نتائج الدراسة بأن الكتاب الأصليين للغة الإنجليزية يميلون للكتابة بشكل غير رسمي ويستخدمون بكثرة تركيب الجملة المعقدة المكونة من أكثر من عبارة، بينما الكتاب الغير أصليين للغة الإنجليزية يخاطبون القراء بشكل رسمياً ويكثرون من استخدام تركيب الجملة البسيطة المكونة من عبارة واحدة. بناءً على نتائج البحث، توصي هذه الدراسة بضرورة تطبيق نظرية العالم هالديدي (SFL) في فصول اللغات التعليمية. ولمزيد من البحوث في مجال تحليل النصوص، تقترح الباحثة بأن يتم دراسة الاختلافات في سمات النصوص الاعلامية الشفهية للمتحدثين باللغة الإنجليزية كلغة أولى والمتحدثين بها كلغة أجنبية.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subjects	Pages
Dedication	I
Acknowledgements	II
Abstract	III
المستخلص (Abstract Arabic Version)	IV
Table of Contents	V
List of Tables	VIII
List of Figures	IX
List of Abbreviations	X
List of Appendices	XI
CHAPTER ONE : INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Overview	1
1.1 Context of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study	5
1.4 Research Questions	6
1.5 Resaerch Hypotheses	6
1.6 Significance of the Study	6
1.7 Research Limits	7
1.8 Research Methodology and Materials	7
1.9 Summary of the Study	8
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.0 Overview	10
2.1 Conceptional Framework	10
2.1.1 Discourse	10
2.1.1.1 Definition of Discourse	10
2.1.1.2 Discourse Analysis	11
2.1.1.3 Types of Discourse	12
2.1.1.3.1 The Relationship between Speech and Writing	12
2.1.1.3.2 Manner of Production	14
2.1.1.3.3 Differences in Form between Written and Spoken Language	17
2.1.1.4 Discourse and Text	19
2.1.1.5 Composing Process	19
2.1.1.6 Composing & Discourse	23
2.1.1.6.1 Cohesion	23
2.1.1.6.2 Coherence	24
2.1.1.6.3 Background Knowledge	26
2.1.1.7. Historical Background	28

2.1.2 Media	29
2.1.2.1 Media Discourse	30
2.1.2.2 Newspapers	31
2.1.2.2.1 Print & Online Newspapers	32
2.1.2.2.2 Newspapers Language	34
2.1.2.2.3 Structure of a Newspaper Article	35
2.2 Previous Related Studies	37
2.3 Summary of the chapter	49
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	51
3.0 Overview	51
3.1 Study Methodology	51
3.2. Study Materials	57
3.3 Analysis Procedure	60
3.4 Summary of the Chapter	61
CHAPTER FOUR DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS & DISCUSSION	63
4.0. Overview	63
4.1. The Analysis	63
4.1.1. Ideational Meaning Analysis	63
4.1.1.1. Process Types Analysis	64
4.1.1.1.1. Material Process	66
4.1.1.1.2. Mental Process	72
4.1.1.1.3. Relational Process	75
4.1.1.1.4. Verbal Process	77
4.1.1.1.5. Existential Process	81
4.1.1.1.6. Behavior Process	83
4.1.2 Interpersonal Meaning Analysis	84
4.1.2.1 Mood Analysis	86
4.1.2.1.1 Declarative Mood	86
4.1.2.1.1.1 Emphasis	87
4.1.2.1.1.2 Contraction	88
4.1.2.1.1.3 Initial Adverbial Modifying a Clause	88
4.1.2.1.1.4 Obligation/Advice/Condemnation Expressions	89
4.1.2.1.1.5 Participial clauses	90
4.1.2.1.1.6 Simple/Complex Sentence Structure	90
4.1.2.1.1.7 Generalization	92
4.1.2.1.1.8 Symbolic Language	92
4.1.2.1.1.9 Reported Speech	93
4.1.2.1.1.10 Expressing Opinion with Assertion	95

4.1.2.1.1.11 Passive Voice	96
4.1.2.1.1.12 Redundancy	96
4.1.2.1.1.13 Abbreviation use	97
4.1.2.1.2 Imperative Mood	98
4.1.2.2 Modality Analysis	99
4.1.2.2.1 High Modality Value	100
4.1.2.2.2 Median Modality Value	100
4.1.2.2.3 Low Modality Value	102
4.1.3 Textual Meaning Analysis	103
4.1.3.1 Cohesive Devices Analysis	104
4.1.3.1.1 Conjunction	106
4.1.3.1.2 Reference	109
4.1.3.1.3 Ellipsis	113
4.1.3.1.4 Substitution	115
4.1.3.1.5 Lexical Cohesion	116
4.2 Summary of the Chapter	121
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS	123
5.0 Overview	123
5.1 Summary of the Study	123
5.2 The Findings	124
5.3 Verification of the Research Hypotheses	126
5.4 Recommendations	127
5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies	128
Bibliography	129
Appendices	139

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: General Differences between Online and Print Newspapers....	33
Table 3.1: List of Sample Newspaper Articles.....	59
Table 4.1: Process Types Frequency and Percentage in WP Articles.....	64
Table 4.2: Process Types Frequency and Percentage in AN Articles.....	65
Table 4.3: Modality Values.....	85
Table 4.4: Mood Frequency and Percentage in WP Articles.....	86
Table 4.5: Mood Frequency and Percentage in AN articles.....	86
Table 4.6: Modality Frequency and Percentage in WP Articles.....	99
Table 4.7: Modality Frequency and Percentage in AN Articles.....	99
Table 4.8: Cohesive Devices Frequency and Percentage in WP Articles	104
Table 4.9: Cohesive Devices Frequency and Percentage in AN Articles.	104
Table 4.10: Lexical Cohesion Relations.....	108

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: The Five Ws.....	36
Figure 2.2: Parts of Newspaper Article.....	36
Figure 3.1: Systemic Model of Language Strata.....	52
Figure 3.2: The Levels of Discourse-Semantics.....	53
Figure 3.3: The (Sub)systems of Context of Situation, Discourse Semantics, and Lexico-grammar.....	53

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AN : Arab News

SFL : Systematic Functional Linguistics

TL : Target Language

WP : The Washington Post

LIST OF APPENDECIES

Appendix A : The Washington Post Articles

Appendix B : Arab News Articles