ISSN-L: 2544-980X

The Language of English Newspapers

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Abstract: This article deals with the nature of English newspapers which is represented in the types of articles, vocabulary and the function of style. The main aim of the research is to discuss the role of word choice in transmitting the news on science and technology, art, literature to the public.

Key words: newspaper, news items, abbreviations, hard and soft news.

The English newspaper writing dates from the 17th century. The first newspapers carried only news, without comments, as commenting was considered to be against the principles of journalism. By the 19th century, newspaper language was recognized as a particular variety of style, characterized by a specific communicative purpose and its own system of language means. It includes a system of interrelated lexical, phraseological and grammatical means serving the purpose of informing, instructing and, in addition, of entertaining the reader. As a result of this diversity of purposes, newspapers contain not only strictly informational, but also evaluative material, comments and views of the news-writers, especially characteristic of editorials.

As we know, there are two types of national newspapers in Britain and most of them express a political opinion therefore they may be right wing or left wing. **Broadsheets/Quality newspapers (large size)** The Times (the oldest newspaper, right wing), Sunday Times (right wing), Daily Telegraph (right wing), The Sunday Telegraph (right wing), The Observer (slightly left wing), The Guardian (slightly left wing), The Independent (neutral) Financial Times (neutral).

Tabloids/Popular newspapers (compact-sized format) *The Sun (the biggest –selling, right wing), Daily Express (right wing), Daily mail (right wing), Daily Star (right wing), Daily Mirror (left wing), Sunday Mirror (left wing), News of the World (right wing).* There are also other newspapers for example local and regional newspapers.

All of these newspapers include certain types of articles. Hereby, we are going to discuss the features, functions and vocabulary of these newspaper articles.

Editorial is a commentary on television or radio expressing the opinion of the station or network (adj. 1. Of or relating to an editor or editing: an editorial position with a publishing company; an editorial policy prohibiting the use of unnamed sources. 2. of or resembling an editorial, especially in expressing an opinion: an editorial comment). The modern newspaper carries material of an extremely diverse character. On the pages of a newspaper one finds not only news and comments on it, but also stories and poems, crossword puzzles, and so on. Since these serve the purpose of entertaining the reader, they cannot be considered specimens of newspaper style. Nor can articles in special fields, such as science and technology, art, literature, etc. be classed as belonging to newspaper style.

There are two types of news in English newspapers. The hard news focuses on: politics, economy, war, disasters, accidents, science, technology, law, crimes, and protests. The soft news focuses on: people, places, issues that affect the reader's lives, communities' problems etc...A hard news story is usually an account of what happened, why it happened and how the reader will be affected. The hard news has little value after 24-48 hours. The soft news is usually timeless, that is the story happens over a longer time span. It could appear any day over reasonably long period without affecting its newsworthiness. *Case: Quattro chi As an example, we could look at a real story – the death of the Italian, Fabrizio Quattrocchi, who was kidnapped and then killed in Iraq, (April 2004).*

The facts appeared as hard news in stories mentioning the classic components of a news story: who, where, when, how and why. During the period of his capture, soft news stories appeared focusing on other angles, such as his family, his work, the daily life of Italians working in Iraq etc..

Analysis of newspapers involves a consideration not only of reporting styles but also of headline styles since both of them reveal much about ideology and aims of an individual paper. Headlines will be the focus of our analysis. To catch the reader's attention, headlines need to be simple, easily readable and appropriate to the kind of paper in which they are printed. The choice of words for a headline is affected by the ideas to be expressed and by the kind of reader associated with a paper. The structure is often described as telegraphic. Sometimes a headline can be ambiguous, it can have two meanings. For example ambiguity can occur when a word could be interpreted differently depending on its word class. e.g. local man finds Picasso drawing in shed. The ambiguity occurs in whether the word drawing is a verbal noun premodified by Picasso or whether it is a present participle. **shed: capannone/tettoia.* Headlines may have a visual function. The

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The function of brief news items and reports is to inform the reader. They state only facts without giving commentary. This accounts for the total absence of any individuality of expression and the lack of emotional colouring. The vocabulary used here is neutral and common literary. It is essentially matter-of-fact, and stereotypical forms of expression prevail. But apart from this, a newspaper has its specific vocabulary that can be found in its other features as editorials, articles, and advertisements.

The headlines of news items, apart from giving information about the subject-matter, also carry a considerable amount of appraisal (the size and placement of the headline, the use of emotionally coloured words and elements of emotive syntax), thus indicating an interpretation of the facts in the news item that follows. But also Editorials (leading articles) are characterized by a subjective handling of facts, political or otherwise and therefore have more in common with political essays or articles and should rather be classed as belonging to the publicistic style than to the newspaper.

The vocabulary stock of the newspaper style **includes special political and economic terms**, e.g., *stability, elections, antiterror war, terrorist network, opinion polls, human rights, budget deficit, immigration, presidential vote, race, opponent, business, security, to devastate, officials, hostages, protest, breakdown, regime, local terror cells, emergency anti-terror funding*

Lofty*, bookish* words including certain phrases based on metaphors and thus emotionally coloured: war hysteria, escalation of war, overwhelming majority, a storm of applause, global hunt for terrorists. *lofty borrowings as: alto/eccelso *bookish: libresco/pedante

Newspaper clichés, i.e., stereotyped expressions, commonplace phrases familiar to the reader, e.g., public opinion, free markets, long-term agreements, a melting pot, to cast a veto over, crucial/pressing problems, zero tolerance, political correctness. Nevertheless, these clichés are indispensable in newspaper style: they prompt the necessary associations and prevent ambiguity and misunderstanding.

News items, press reports and headlines are full of **abbreviations** of various kinds. Among them abbreviated terms are names of organizations, public and state bodies, political associations, industrial and other companies, various offices, etc. known by their initials - Acronyms - are very common; e.g., **EU** (European Union), **UNO** (United Nations Organization), WTO (World Trade Organization), **EEC** (European Economic Community), **CNN** (Cable News Network), BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), **CEO** (Chief Executive Officer), **MBA** (Master of Business Administration), **BAC** (Blood Alcohol Concentration).

The widespread use of initials in newspaper language has been expanded to the names of persons constantly in the public eye, and one can find references to **JFK** (John Fitzgerald Kennedy). Sometimes the whole statements are referred to by their initials, e.g., **WYSIWYG** (What you see is what you get), **FAQ** (Frequently asked questions), **BTW** (By the way), 9/11 (September 11, 2001).

Neologisms are very common in newspaper vocabulary. The newspaper is very quick to react to any new development in the life of society, in science and technology. Hence, neologisms make their way into the language of the newspaper very easily and often even spring up on newspaper pages. Now, in the early 21st century, neologisms relating to computers and the Internet outnumber all others, for example, *cybersickness* (a feeling of illness caused by using a computer for long periods of time), *keypal* (someone with whom one regularly exchanges e-mail). Foreign words. These come from different languages. Some are traditionally used in newspaper writing, others have recently come from the areas of new technology (computers, Internet, business, entertainment and changes in society), for example, *beaucoup* (= a lot of money; from French); *ad hoc* (= specialized; from Latin); *bona fide* (= real, true and not intended to deceive somebody (from Latin) ex: *I wanted to prove my bona fides; curriculum vitae* (CV) (= resume; from Latin); *sine qua non* (= something that you must have; from Latin); *carte blanche* (= complete freedom; from French); *nouveau riche* (= someone who has only recently become rich and spends a lot of money, a word borrowed from French).

Thus, and function of newspaper materials are structured according to the purpose and importance and prefer the impressive and emphasizing units from local and foreign vocabulary stock. The headlines and main part of the article requires special skills of word choice from the author.

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