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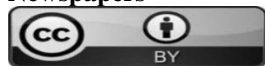
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A Contrastive Stylistic Study of Climate Change News Daily Mail
and USA Today Newspapers

A B S T R A C T

This study investigates the stylistic features of newspaper articles. In order to achieve the objective of the study, the sampling method was used to collect four newspaper articles from two newspapers. Two articles from Daily Mail newspaper and two article from USA Today newspaper. It hypothesizes that the news language of USA Today newspaper relies on collocations, and hyperbole more than the language of Daily Mail when reporting on Climate Change News. Moreover, the news language of Daily Mail newspaper is more reliant on the active voice than the language of USA Today Newspaper since it suits its affirmative tone when reporting on Climate Change News. The study aims to identifying the stylistic characteristics used in the news language of Daily Mail and USA Today newspapers on Climate Change, and Pointing out the stylistic similarities and differences in the news language of Daily Mail and USA Today newspapers. Both qualitative and quantitative were used for data analysis. Three models are adopted for the purpose of the analysis of the texts. The main findings drawn from the stylistic analysis of those two newspapers are presented at the end of the study, and they are followed by a list of references.

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دراسة أسلوبية لاستخدامات المبالغة والمبني للمعلوم والمبني للمجهول وارتصاف الكلمات

في صحيفة ديلي ميل وصحيفة أمريكا اليوم: تغير المناخ كحالة*

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جامعة الكوفة / كلية الآداب / قسم اللغة الإنكليزية

الملخص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في السمات الأسلوبية للمقالات الصحفية. ولتحقيق هدف الدراسة، استخدمت طريقة أخذ العينات لجمع أربع مقالات صحفية من صحيفتين. مقالتان من صحيفة ديلي ميل ومقالتان من صحيفة أمريكا اليوم. تقترض الدراسة أن اللغة لصحيفة USA Today تعتمد على ارتصاف الكلمات والمبالغة أكثر من لغة صحيفة ديلي ميل عند نشر أخبار تغير المناخ. أيضاً، تعتمد اللغة الإخبارية لصحيفة ديلي ميل على المبني للمعلوم أكثر من لغة صحيفة أمريكا اليوم لأنها تتناسب لهجتها الإيجابية عند الإبلاغ عن أخبار تغير المناخ. تهدف الدراسة إلى تحديد الخصائص الأسلوبية

المستخدمة في اللغة الإخبارية لصحيفتي ديلي ميل وأمريكا اليوم حول تغير المناخ، وتحديد أوجه التشابه والاختلاف الأسلوبية في اللغة الإخبارية لصحيفتي ديلي ميل وأمريكا اليوم. استُخدم كل من النوعية والكمية في تحليل البيانات. وقد اعتمدت ثلاثة نماذج لغرض تحليل النصوص. وترد النتائج الرئيسية المستمدة من التحليل الأسلوبي لهاتين الصحيفتين في نهاية الدراسة، وتتبعها قائمة بالمراجع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الأسلوب ، ارتصاف الكلمات ، المبالغة ، المبني للمعلوم والمبني للمجهول ، لغة الصحف.

1. Introduction

Newspapers are acknowledged as a phenomenon based on language, distinct from other forms of mass communication due to their variety of linguistic characteristics. Writers need to use certain language tactics, such frequent subheadings, brief paragraphs, and concise phrases, to grab and maintain readers' attention (Wolseley et al., 1946, p.119). Newspapers have their own unique vocabulary, full with quirks, patterns, and elements. They must be written in engaging, conversational language that is reinforced by creative techniques in order to pique readers' interest. Said another way, Newspaper English is thought of as a unique language system and writing style with a specific communication objective (Arakelyan& Mkrtchyan, 2015, p.2).

Since language is such a powerful tool, it is an important issue to investigate (Justova, 2006: 6; cited in Mawj, 2021, p.490). Arakelyan& Mkrtchyan's statements are supported by a review of several climate change-related news stories from US and British publications. The newspapers Daily Mail and USA Today provide stories on climate change in a compelling manner that might be described as rich in stylistic elements, aiming to pique readers' attention and increase awareness. The fact that no prior research has been done on the stylistic analysis of Climate Change news in two distinct newspapers, based on the researcher's evaluation of some prior works in a related field of study, has piqued attention.

2. The Concept of Newspaper

Newspaper is a term used to describe a periodical or serial publication that is published on a regular basis and typically at short intervals and contains news, commentary, features, and advertising. Newspapers today come in both print and online versions. Internet news are made possible by information and communication technologies, whereas, print newspapers are been around for many years before. Print newspaper is a term used to describe publications that are printed on paper and ink (Cambridge Advanced Learners' Dictionary, 3rd ed).

Academic American Encyclopaedia (1989, p.171) defines a newspaper as an unbound publication that is published on a regular basis and aims to inform, analyze, influence, and amuse people. According to Fiske (1994), a newspaper is a fantastic medium that may be used to communicate and transmit one's thoughts, demonstrate one's strength, or even further persuade the audience who reads it. A newspaper is also used and regarded as a source of power in society at the same time (p. 19).

3. Style

Style, according to Thornborrow and Wareing (1998, p.2), is choosing a certain set of linguistic elements or forms above others. Further, McIntosh (1998) believes that style is "a word that surfaces when we are talking about different means to a single end". The idea of style is that it is a manner not a matter, it is not a function but a form. Some actions or events are called "stylish". In other words, people have paid great attention to how the events are constructed or actions are performed (p. 221).

Similarly, Style is the variation of saying the same information, it can be general or particular for certain works. Furthermore, style is distinguished from other types of styles through theoretical elements. Thus, sentence structure types, choice of words, types of figure of speech, and other utilizing elements can help in distinguishing one style from another (Abrams, 1999, p.303).

Style, according to Verdonk (2002, p.3), is the language ones consistently and naturally employ in speech and writing. Significantly, Leech and Short (2007, p.9-11) define Style as the way language is used in a certain genre and environment for a particular purpose, with an emphasis on its unique qualities of usage that are capable of abstraction as style.

4. Newspapers Style

The journalism in newspapers reflects the evolving interaction between the reader and the paper. The readers of the newspaper are the focus of the used language. Who the readers of these publications are is an issue for the newspaper style. Newspaper style can be described as a socially accepted and functionally conditioned system of interrelated linguistic methods that helps to inform the readers of current events and instruct them in how to assess them. Particularly in newspaper or magazine articles, speeches in public, essays, and comments on radio or television, publicist style is used (Conboy, 2010, p. 112). According to Ziyatdinova and Khusainova (2017), the primary goal of newspaper style is to provide objective information. Short news stories, press releases, educational articles, advertisement, and announcements are used to accomplish this (p. 68).

Newspapers witness numerous changes in its style of writing. However, they still exhibit some of the traits of dense, informational prose, heavy reliance on nouns and integrated noun phrase formations. The language traits of newspapers appear to be a reflection of two key factors: the economic impact and the informational intent of newspaper prose. In other words, the "informational boom" has put pressure on information to be communicated as effectively and inexpensively as possible, leading to compressed styles that largely rely on tightly integrated noun phrase constructs (Biber, 2003, p.170).

According to Stovall (1998, p.17), the writers have to utilize certain tools, such as grammar, punctuation, specific word meanings, and accurate spelling, to express information and thoughts. English is a fundamental instrument for writers, who have to utilise both its capabilities and its constraints effectively. Due to its dynamic nature, English may be viewed as a complicated language. As a result, new words and expressions constantly enter the language, while others disappear or take on new meanings. All these alterations take place in conjunction with newly discovered phenomena that require linguistic description.

5. The Eclectic Model

To answer the research questions and analyse the data stylistically, a model from three distinct models is going to be adopted since no model can achieve the study aims on its own. the first one is Crystal and Davy (1969) model, and the other two are Van Dijk (1988) model, and Leech and Short (2007) model.

6.1 Crystal and Davy (1969)

Crystal and Davy (1969) provide a model for describing the language varieties linguistically. This model is based on interlinked levels of description: phonological, graphological, grammatical, lexical, and semantic. They apply this model in analysing some language varieties including newspaper reporting. voice is applied in this research.

6.2 Van Dijk (1988)

Van Dijk (1988) in "News as Discourse" offers an interdisciplinary method for examining news structures. He divides news article to: Headline and the Lead, (*they express the major topics of the text*), Episode (*It expresses Main Events in Context and their Backgrounds, Consequences*), Verbal Reactions (*It is a specific news schema category that may be seen as a special case of consequences*), and Comment (*It is a category that features the comments, opinions, and evaluations of the journalist or newspaper itself*). Van Dijk views of that the most critical news information is stated first. So, this study depends on Van Dijk view and it will limit to analyse only the headline, the lead, and the first two paragraphs of each newspaper article.

6.3 Leech and Short (2007)

Leech and Short (2007) in "Style in Fiction" book create a list of linguistic and stylistic levels to facilitate organized data collection. These levels fall under the following four broad classifications: lexical level, grammatical level, figures of speech, cohesion, and context.

Lexical Level includes: General (*Is the vocabulary simple or complex? formal or colloquial? descriptive or evaluative? general or specific?*), Nouns (*Are the nouns abstract or concrete? What use is made of proper names?*), Adjectives (*Are the adjectives frequent? To what kinds of attribute do adjectives refer?*), and Verbs (*Do the verbs carry an important part of the meaning? Are they stative or dynamic? Do they refer to movements, physical acts, etc.?*)

Grammatical Level includes: Sentence Types, Sentence Complexity, Clause Types, Clause Structure, Noun Phrases, Verb Phrases, and Word Classes.

Figures of Speech includes: Grammatical and Lexical (*Are there any cases of formal and structural repetition, Is the rhetorical effect of these one of antithesis, anticlimax, etc.*), Phonological Schemes (*Are there any phonological patterns of rhyme, alliteration, assonance, etc.? Are there any salient rhythmical patterns?*), and Tropes (*Are there any obvious violations of, or departures from, the linguistic code? Does the text contain any similes, or similar constructions*)

Context and cohesion: Under cohesion, ways in which one part of a text is linked to another are considered. Under context, consider the external relations of a text or a part of a text, seeing it as a discourse presupposing a social relation between its participants.

Finally, Collocations, and hyperbole are used in the current study.

7. Data Analysis

7.1 Stylistic Analysis of Daily Mail News

Text 1.

'Most Americans say climate change is real, they just don't want to pay for it: MILLIONS reject adding even \$1 to monthly energy bills to cut carbon pollution'

'Americans are becoming less convinced that mankind causes climate change, and are even less willing to spend as little as \$1 on their monthly energy bills to cut carbon emissions, a survey shows.'

'Pollsters found that the share of Americans who agree with most scientists that global warming is a reality has remained relatively stable in recent years, currently at 74 percent of respondents.'

'But the share of those who attribute climate change to humans, as opposed to natural changes in the environment, has fallen from 60 percent in 2018 to 49 percent in the most recent survey.'

Analysis

For the use of collocations in this text, the writer employs five collocations in this text: 'climate change' which is used three times, 'carbon emissions,' and 'global warming.' Collocations are words that frequently go together. They can be used to create more idiomatic and natural-sounding language. Collocations in this text are commonly used in discussions related to climate change and are used to convey specific concepts and ideas related to the topic.

Secondly, the word '*MILLIONS*' in '*MILLIONS reject adding even \$1 to monthly energy bills to cut carbon pollution,*' is employed as a hyperbolic instance by the writer to exaggerate the number of Americans who are unwilling to spend even a small amount of money to address climate change.

When it comes to voice, this news article doesn't contain any verb phrases in the passive form. Passive voice occurs when the subject of the sentence receives the action, rather than performing it. It is typically used when the emphasis is on the recipient of the action or when the doer is unknown or less important. However, in this text, the active voice is consistently used to convey the information and survey findings as in '*Most Americans say climate change is real,*' '*Americans are becoming less convinced that mankind causes climate change,*' '*MILLIONS reject adding even \$1 to monthly energy bills,*' and '*... and are even less willing to spend as little as \$1 on their monthly energy bills to cut carbon emissions.*'

Type		Use	Frequency
Collocations		5	83.3 %
Hyperbole		1	16.6 %
Total		6	100 %
Voice	active	13	100 %
	passive	0	0 %
	Total	13	100 %

Text 2.

'Last year was Earth's fifth hottest on record: Average temperatures across the globe were 2.16°F higher than the pre-Industrial Revolution average, data shows'

'2022 is continuing to break heat records, according to worrying findings from the European Union's climate change monitor.'

'Data from Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) reveals that last year was the fifth-warmest year globally and second-warmest year for Europe.'

'Globally, 2022 was on average 2.16°F (1.2°C) warmer than the pre-Industrial Revolution average (1850-1900), the data reveals.'

Analysis

The writer employs different stylistic lexical devices in the selected piece of news. *'pre-Industrial Revolution,' 'Average temperatures,' 'heat records,'* and *'Climate Change,'* are the collocations that are employed in this text. These collocations are used to convey specific information related to temperature, climate change, and historical comparisons. They contribute to the clarity and precision of the text by using commonly used phrases and combinations of words in the context of temperature and climate conditions.

Furthermore, such phrases as "break heat records" and "fifth hottest on record," which are used to exaggerate, are examples of hyperbole in this text. For instance, in the phrase 'fifth hottest on record,' This exaggeration is employed by the author to highlight how serious the issue is. The author is highlighting the significance of climate change by stating that last year was one of the warmest years on record.

On top of that, eight finite verb phrases are utilised in this piece of news. the writer predominantly employs the active voice throughout the text. Active voice directly attributes the action of a sentence to its subject, providing clarity and directness in conveying information. In each sentence, the subject performs the action or is directly involved in the statement without involving passive voice constructions. This style often enhances readability and immediacy, allowing for a clearer understanding of the information being presented and helping to make the information more engaging and accessible to the reader.

Table 2 : The Stylistic Features of Daily Mail, Text (2)

Type		Use	Frequency
Collocations		5	71.4 %
Hyperbole		2	28.5 %
Total		7	100 %
Voice	active	8	100 %
	passive	0	0 %
	Total	8	100 %

7.2. Stylistic Analysis of USA Today News

Text 1.

'Are California's storms normal, or is climate change making them worse? What experts say'

'California faces a "parade of storms" over the next several weeks, on top of deluges that have killed at least 14 people, caused flooding, knocked out power and forced evacuations and school closures up and down the coast.'

'Given the Mediterranean climate of the state's coastal areas, wet winters and dry summers are a natural part of California's weather patterns going back millennia.'

'But are this year's storms something out of the ordinary, and something that can be attributed to climate change? In a state that is home to almost 40 million people with a \$3.6 trillion economy – on track to be the fourth- biggest in the world – the weather matters.'

Analysis

Starting with the use of collocation of in the selected parts of the news text, there are seven collocations employed by the writer in this text. For example, the first paragraph includes the following collocations: *'Mediterranean climate,' 'wet winters,' 'dry summers,' 'weather patterns.'* In order to describe the debates concerning storms, weather patterns, and climate change in California, collocations are utilised throughout the text to assist conveying unique meaning and subtleties.

The writer intends to use hyperbole in this text to grab the reader's attention and arouse their interest to the issue of climate change in California. He employs hyperbole Four times in this text: *'California faces a "parade of storms" over the next several weeks,' 'But are this year's storms something out of the ordinary,' 'or is climate change making them worse?' 'on top of deluges that have killed at least 14 people.'* For instance, the phrase *'parade of storms'* in *'California faces a "parade of storms" over the next several weeks,'* conveys the sense of frequency of the storms that California is facing. It suggests that storms are coming one after another with no end in sight.

Moreover, the writer uses passive only one time: *'something that can be attributed to climate change?'* He predominantly employs active voice to present information about the storms and climate change in California such as: *'California faces a "parade of storms" over*

the next several weeks,' 'on top of deluges that have killed at least 14 people, caused flooding, knocked out power and forced evacuations and school closures up and down the coast.' 'wet winters and dry summers are a natural part of California's weather patterns going back millennia.'

Table 3 : The Stylistic Features of USA Today, Text (1)

Type		Use	Frequency
Collocations		7	63.6 %
Hyperbole		4	36.3 %
Total		11	100 %
Voice	active	11	91.6 %
	passive	1	8.3 %
	Total	12	100 %

Text 2.

'We have already lost' in 2 key climate change signals, according to UN report'

'2022 was another year of disastrous and deadly weather and climate extremes around the world, fueled in part by human-caused climate change, the United Nations weather agency said Friday. '

'Droughts, floods and heat waves affected people on every continent and cost many billions of dollars, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in its new report "The State of the Global Climate 2022." Antarctic sea ice fell to its lowest extent on record, ocean heat and acidity levels reached record heights and the melting of some European glaciers was, literally, off the charts, the WMO said.'

'While greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and the climate continues to change, populations worldwide continue to be gravely impacted by extreme weather and climate events," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a news release.'

Analysis

Starting with the use of collocation in the selected text, the text contains three collections, which are words that commonly appears together in natural and idiomatic way. For instance, climate change is a collocation that frequently appears together in the discussion about environmental issues in the text. It describes the long-term changes in Earth's climatic patterns brought about by a number of variables, such as greenhouse gas emissions.

The writer further highlights the scale and significance of climate change-related disasters by employing hyperbole. The phrase ' *gravely impacted*' in '*populations worldwide continue to be gravely impacted by extreme weather and climate events,*' is a form of hyperbole, emphasizing the seriousness of the impact on populations. The writer utilize hyperbole in this text to underscore the urgency and significance of the issues related to climate change. Below is Table (78) that outlines the rhetorical features.

Moreover, the text contains eleven verb phrases. Ten of them are in active voice case and only one in passive voice case. '*...and climate extremes around the world, fueled in part by human-caused climate change,*' is the only instance of passive voice in this text. It emphasizes the result of the action (the year being disastrous and deadly) rather than specifying who or what caused it. As mentioned before, the text's multitopic substance is the reason for the writer's dependence on complicated phrases. Due to the several subjects in this work, the writer uses active voice predominately, which is necessary to highlight the characters rather than the news's conclusions. Table (79) presents all of the percentages related to the text's syntactic features.

Table 4 : The Stylistic Lexical Features of USA Today, Text (2)

Type		Use	Frequency
Collocations		3	60 %
Hyperbole		2	40 %
Total		5	100 %
Voice	active	10	90.9 %
	passive	1	9.1 %
	Total	11	100 %

7.3 The Overall Stylistic Analysis of Daily Mail Texts

When it comes to the overall analysis of the two texts of Daily Mail, there are ten instances of collocation in the two texts, while hyperbole receive only three examples in the two texts. For the use of voice, only active voice is employed there with 21 verb phrases. Table below explain the details.

Table 5 : The Overall Stylistic Analysis and Results of Daily Mail Texts

Type		Use	Frequency
Collocations		10	76.9 %
Hyperbole		3	23.1 %
Total		13	100 %
Voice	active	21	100 %
	passive	0	0 %
	Total	21	100 %

7.4 The Overall Stylistic Analysis and Results of USA Today Texts

Regarding the overall analysis of USA Today texts, USA Today's text uses hyperbole in the writing as an effort to convince readers of the harmful effects of climate change. six instances of hyperbole are found in USA Today texts, giving it a ratio of 37.5 %, while collocations are utilized ten times in USA Today texts. For the use of voice, only two verbs are in the passive form. The remaining verbs are 21 verbs used in the active voice.

Table 6 : The Overall Stylistic Analysis and Results of USA Today Texts

Type		Use	Frequency
Collocations		10	62.5 %
Hyperbole		6	37.5 %
Total		16	100 %
Voice	active	21	91.3 %
	passive	2	8.6 %
	Total	23	100 %

Conclusion

The stylistic study of Daily Mail newspaper and USA Today newspaper reveals the following conclusions:

- 1- The first hypothesis, " the news language of USA Today newspaper relies on collocations more than the language of Daily Mail when reporting on Climate Change News," is refuted because collocations have a high percentage in Daily Mail.
- 2- The second hypothesis, " the news language of USA Today newspaper relies on hyperbole more than the language of Daily Mail when reporting on Climate Change News," is verified.
- 3- The third hypothesis, " the news language of Daily Mail newspaper is more reliant on the active voice than the language of USA Today Newspaper " is verified.

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