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ASSASSINATION OF HEZBOLLAH LEADER IN SOME SELECTED AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS' HEADLINES: A FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

A B S T R A C T

Headlines play a vital role in news articles, particularly when addressing complex subjects such as political statements and military actions. The term "headline" has evolved since its origins in the late 19th century, representing the prominent title of a report designed to capture attention and summarize content. As headlines transitioned from handwritten titles to catchy phrases in newspapers, their significance grew, especially in the digital age where they are crucial for online engagement. Different headline types, including straight news, feature, and command headlines, serve specific purposes and must be clear, engaging, and relevant, often incorporating keywords for better discoverability. The ideology of newspapers significantly influences headline crafting, reflecting the publication's beliefs and shaping readers' perceptions and emotional responses. The research methodology adopted in this study is an eclectic one which consists of Dor (2003) and Gattani (2005) and highlights the dual functions of headlines: umbrella functionality, which connects stories to readers, and macro/micro functionality. Macro functionality includes informative, indicative, and eye-catcher headlines, while micro functionality encompasses summarizing main ideas, highlighting key aspects, attracting attention, and aiding story selection. The political landscape of the Middle East has been notably affected by figures like Hassan Nasrallah and Hezbollah, as demonstrated through impactful headlines that reflect their significance for regional stability. The study tries to identify the main functions of the headlines which are manipulated by the editors of the American newspapers which are New York Times (NYT) and the Washington Post (WP). The data consists of eight headlines taken from the American newspapers which are New York Times the Washington Post.

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اغتيال زعيم حزب الله في بعض عناوين الصحف الأمريكية المختارة: تحليل وظيفي

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الملخص:

تلعب العناوين الرئيسية دورًا حيويًا في المقالات الإخبارية، لا سيما عند تناول مواضيع معقدة كالتصريحات السياسية والعمليات العسكرية. وقد تطور مصطلح "العنوان الرئيسي" منذ ظهوره في أواخر القرن التاسع عشر، ليُمثل عنوانًا بارزًا لتقرير مُصمم لجذب الانتباه وتلخيص المحتوى. ومع تحول العناوين الرئيسية من عناوين مكتوبة بخط اليد إلى عبارات جذابة في الصحف، ازدادت أهميتها، لا سيما في العصر الرقمي حيث تُعدُّ أساسية للتفاعل عبر الإنترنت. تخدم أنواع العناوين المختلفة، بما في ذلك العناوين الإخبارية المباشرة، والمقالات المميزة، والعناوين الرئيسية، أغراضًا محددة، ويجب أن تكون واضحة وجذابة وذات صلة، وغالبًا ما تتضمن كلمات مفتاحية لتحسين قابلية الاكتشاف. تؤثر أيديولوجية الصحف بشكل كبير على صياغة العناوين، حيث تعكس معتقدات الصحيفة وتُشكل تصورات القراء وردود أفعالهم العاطفية. منهجية البحث المُعتمدة في هذه الدراسة انتقائية، وتضمنت دور (٢٠٠٣) وغاتاني (٢٠٠٥)، وتسلط الضوء على الوظيفتين المزدوجتين للعناوين الرئيسية: الوظيفة الشاملة التي تربط القاصص بالقراء، والوظيفة الكلية/الجزئية. تشمل الوظائف الكبرى عناوين رئيسية إعلامية وإرشادية وجذابة، بينما تشمل الوظائف الصغرى تلخيص الأفكار الرئيسية، وتسهيل الضوء على جوانبها الرئيسية، وجذب الانتباه، والمساعدة في اختيار القصة. وقد تأثر المشهد السياسي في الشرق الأوسط بشكل ملحوظ بشخصيات مثل حسن نصر الله وحزب الله، كما يتضح من خلال عناوين رئيسية مؤثرة تعكس أهميتها في استقرار المنطقة. تحاول الدراسة تحديد الوظائف الرئيسية للعناوين الرئيسية التي يتلاعب بها محررو الصحف الأمريكية، نيويورك تايمز وواشنطن بوست. تتكون البيانات من ثمانية عناوين رئيسية مأخوذة من الصحف الأمريكية، نيويورك تايمز وواشنطن بوست.

الكلمات المفتاحية: العنوان، وظائف العنوان، الأيديولوجية، حسن نصر الله

1-Introduction

Headlines are the most important elements in the newspaper since they inform the reader of what the article is about or as Dor (2003) explains that headlines are often scanned by most readers without reading the articles. Richardson (2007) believes that the language of newspapers can 'do' things in society. Van Dijk (1988) believes that a headline expresses the major topic of the text. It summarizes the whole report. Headlines are titles that appear over news articles. Opinion leaders, courts, government, newspaper editors, etc., play a crucial role in shaping issues in the society and setting the boundaries of what is talked about and how it is talked about. Newspapers are particularly known to lead in the initiation of discourse on key national issues by picking on statements and actions of prominent national figures, celebrities and happenings around the nation and exposing them to their readership. This study will explain the main functions of the headlines in the American New York Times about the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah.

2-The Etymology of Headline

The word "headline" is very important in the world of news and writing. It helps grab our attention and tells us what an article or news story is about. The term "headline" first appeared in English in the late 19th century. It comes from the words "head" and "line." Head refers to the top or beginning of something, while line means a row of words. So, a "headline" is literally a line of words at the top of an article that tells us what the story is about. The word "headline" originally comes from the combination of two words which are head and line. It has its roots in the newspaper industry. According to historian Smith (2005) in his book 'The Story of Newspapers', the word "headline" began to be used in the late 19th century. Before that, newspapers often used smaller titles or just the first few words of an article to attract readers.

3-Historical Development of Headline

A headline is the big, bold title you see at the top of a newspaper article or a story. In the early days of printing, headlines were often hand-written and placed at the top of the pages. They were meant to catch the reader's attention and summarize what the article was about. Johnson (2010) mentions in her research paper *The Evolution of Newspaper Language* that by the 1900s, the use of headlines became more standardized, with clear, catchy phrases that helped readers quickly understand the main point of the article. As newspapers grew in popularity, so did the importance of headlines. Editors started to realize that a strong headline could draw more readers to an article. In the 1920s, headlines became even bolder and more creative.

With the rise of the internet in the late 20th century, the word "headline" expanded beyond print newspapers. Online articles began to use headlines to grab the attention of readers who quickly skim websites. Scholar Davis (2018) discusses this shift in her book *Digital Media and Modern Communication* published in Chicago, explaining how headlines became crucial in the digital age, often using keywords to improve search ability. Today, headlines are not just found in newspapers; they appear in magazines, blogs, and social media posts as well. They play a crucial role in how information is shared and consumed.

4-Headlines: An Overview

Headlines serve as titles that appear above news articles. According to Van Dijk (1988), a headline encapsulates the primary subject matter of the text, providing a summary of the entire report. Bird and Merwin (1955) further assert that headlines highlight key points in concise, easily comprehensible language, functioning as a "miniature replica" of the story.

Headline writers aim to engage and influence readers. Cotter (2010) notes that "headlines are short, maximally informative, and the font size or typeface acts as a semiotic representation of importance." The memorable impact of headlines is achieved through their linguistic characteristics (Develotte and Rechniewski, 2001). Headlines are crucial components of newspapers, as they inform readers about the content of the articles. Dor (2003) explains that most readers tend to scan headlines, highlighting their significance in the reading process.

5-Newspapers Headlines and Their Types

Newspapers are important sources of information. They tell us about events happening around us. Naji (2025) clarified that 'Newspapers play a crucial role in societies by providing information about current events, politics, and various aspects of world "and she stated newspapers ' language is designed to convey information clearly and concisely. One of the most interesting parts of a newspaper is the headlines. Headlines are the big, bold titles at the top of articles. They grab our attention and give us a hint about what the article is about. According to McGowan (2016) and Pritchard (2018), there are different types of headlines, and each serves a unique purpose. Headlines come in different types, and each serves a unique purpose which is as follows:

- a) **Straight News Headlines:** These headlines give the main facts of a story. They answer the questions: Who? What? When? Where?
- b) **Feature Headlines:** These headlines are more creative and often focus on interesting stories or human interest. They might use clever words or phrases.
- c) **Question Headlines:** Sometimes, newspapers ask a question in the headline to draw readers in.
- d) **Command Headlines:** These headlines tell readers to do something.
- e) **List Headlines:** These headlines give a list of items or tips..." This tells readers they will learn several helpful ideas.
- f) **Informative Headlines:** These headlines provide clear information about the article's content. It tells us exactly what the article is about.
- g) **Exclamatory Headlines:** These headlines express strong feelings or excitement. headline shows that something surprising has happened

Descriptive Headlines: These give a detailed description of the article headline tells us about a specific event and who is involved.

6-The Features of Headlines

There are some features of headlines which are important as follows: -

1- Clarity and Conciseness

According to Smith (2020) effective headlines should be clear and concise. This means they should use simple language so that readers can understand them easily. He emphasizes that a good headline gets straight to the point and tells the reader what to expect from the article.

2- Engagement and Interest

Johnson (2019) believes that headlines should engage readers. He states that a catchy or interesting headline makes people want to learn more. A headline can spark curiosity and encourage readers to click on the article. He suggests using strong words or questions to create excitement.

3- Relevance and Accuracy

Chen (2021) highlights the importance of relevance and accuracy in headlines. She explains that headlines should reflect the content accurately without misleading the reader. This builds trust with the audience.

4- Use of Keywords

Lastly, Lee (2022) emphasizes the use of keywords in headlines. Keywords are specific words that represent the main idea of the article. They help readers find articles online and improve search engine results.

In summary, headlines are essential for communicating the main ideas of articles. Scholars agree that effective headlines should be clear, engaging, relevant, and include important keywords. By understanding these features, we can create better headlines and become more effective readers.

7- Newspapers ' Ideology and Headlines

Newspapers shape our view of the world not only by reporting events but also through the beliefs and values—their ideology—that guide which stories they choose and how they frame them. Each paper emphasizes different topics (social issues, business, politics, sports), and this focus appears in its headlines, which use words like “struggling,” “victorious,” or “urgent” to steer readers’ emotions. For example, a progressive outlet might run “Local Community Fights for Cleaner Air,” while a conservative one might headline “Businesses Thrive Despite Environmental Concerns.”

Being aware of a newspaper’s ideology helps readers recognize how headlines reflect underlying beliefs and values. By consulting multiple papers with differing viewpoints, readers gain a fuller, more balanced picture of current events and sharpen their critical reading skills, looking beyond the surface of headlines to the messages beneath.

8- Methodology

The model adopted in this study is an eclectic one which consists of Dor (2003) and Gattani (2005) and presents separate but complementary analyses. These are summed up in terms of macro and micro functionality. Gattani (2005) identifies three broad macro headline functions which are the informative headline which gives a good idea about the topic of the news story; the indicative headline which addresses what happened in the news story and finally, the eye-catcher headlines which do not inform about the content of the news story but are designed to entice people to read the story. Concerning Dor (2003), headlines are “the negotiators between stories and readers” and have four functions which are to summarize, to highlight, to attract and to select. Gattani (2005) states that these complementary aspects may be divided into umbrella and macro/micro functionality. The analysis is based on identifying the types of headline functions and calculating their total frequency in newspapers. This is to observe how headlines functions can serve in reporting political news in the American New York Times. So, Headlines are important parts of articles and stories. They help readers decide if they want to read more. Headlines work in two main ways: umbrella functionality and macro/micro functionality which are as follows. Figure (1) indicates the adopted model.

1-Umbrella Functionality

This is the big idea that headlines connect stories to readers. They act like a bridge that helps people to understand what the story is about before they read it.

2-Macro /Micro Functionality

1-Macro Functionality

This refers to the broader roles that headlines play. According to Gattani (2005), there are three main types of headlines:

- **Informative Headlines:** These headlines give a clear idea about what the news story is about. For example, a headline like "Local Team Wins Championship" tells you exactly what the article will discuss.
- **Indicative Headlines:** These highlight what happened in the news story. An example could be "City Council Approves New Park," which indicates a specific event.
- **Eye-Catcher Headlines:** These are designed to attract readers but may not reveal much about the content. For example, "You Won't Believe What Happened Next!" entices readers to click but doesn't inform them about the story's topic.

2-Micro Functionality

This focuses on the specific roles that headlines serve. So, according to Dor (2003) identifies four functions:

- **To Summarize:** A headline summarizes the main idea of the article.
- **To Highlight:** A headline emphasizes important aspects.
- **To Attract:** A Headline attracts attention
- **To Select:** A headline helps readers choose which stories to read.

Figure (1) the adopted model Dor (2003) and Ganttee (2005)

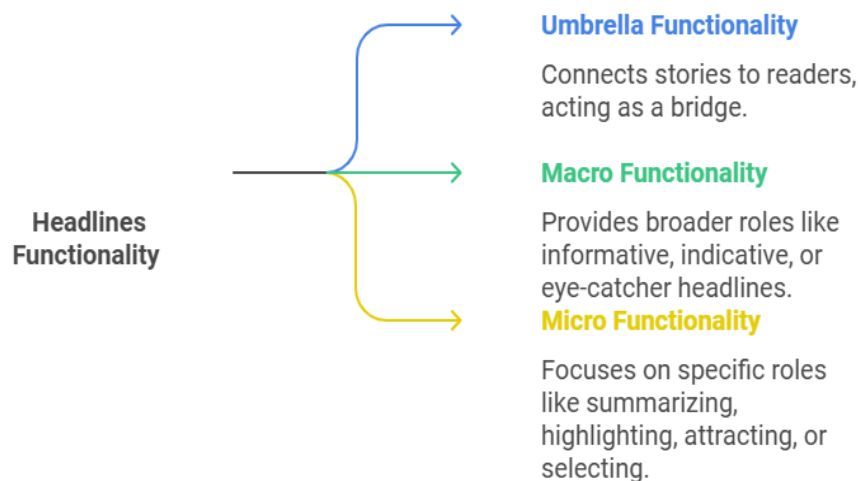
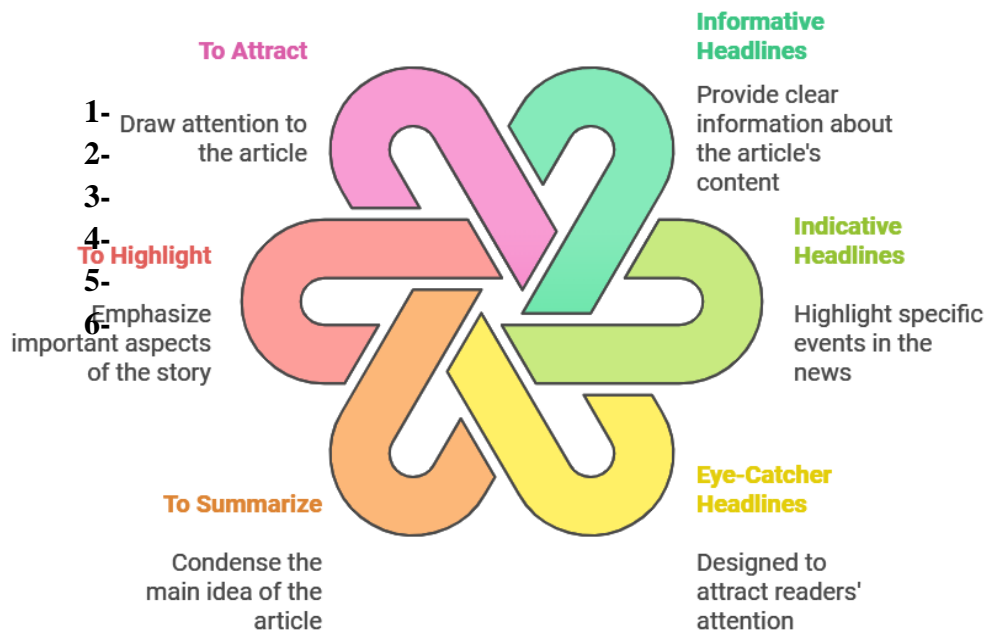


Figure (2) the macro / micro functionality of headlines

The Multifaceted Role of Headlines



9- Data Collection and Description

The data consists of eight headlines taken from the American newspapers which are New York Times regarding the New York Times, it is an American daily newspaper founded in New York City in 1851 and is publicly traded. Since the mid-1970s, the New York Times has expanded its planning and organization, adding special weekly sections on various topics that complement regular news, editorials, sports, and features and the Washington Post, locally known as The Post and, informally, WaPo or WP, is an American daily newspaper published in Washington, D.C., the national capital. It is the most widely circulated newspaper in the Washington metropolitan area and has a national audience. Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia. So, these headlines cover the news of assassination of Hassan Nasrallah by the Zionism.

10-Background of Hassan Nasrallah

Hassan Nasrallah became the Secretary-General of Hezbollah in 1992, following the assassination of his predecessor, Abbas al-Musawi. Under his tenure, Hezbollah transformed from a militia group into a formidable political force in Lebanon and an influential player in regional politics. Nasrallah's rhetoric often emphasizes resistance against perceived foreign aggression, particularly from Israel and Western powers. Hassan Nasrallah has been a significant leader in the Middle East for over three decades, primarily known as the head of Hezbollah, a political and military organization based in Lebanon. His leadership has shaped not only Hezbollah's direction but also the broader geopolitical landscape of the region.

11-Data analysis and Discussion

11-1- New York Times

Headline (1) "Israel Strikes Lebanon Again After Killing Hezbollah Leader"

Published Sept. 28, 2024 Updated Oct. 2, 2024

Headlines play an important role in how news is consumed and understood. So, this headline has the following main functions

1-Umbrella Functionality

This headline helps readers to understand the main idea of the news before they dive deeper into the details. The headline "Israel Strikes Lebanon Again After Killing Hezbollah Leader" tells the readers that there is more than one story and there is a conflict between Israel and Lebanon. This conflict will continue and something serious is happening. So, the headline connects readers to the story by explaining that these actions are part of ongoing tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. Israel conducted airstrikes in Lebanon, which means they used planes to drop bombs on specific targets. This followed the assassination of a Hezbollah leader, an important figure in the party.

2-Macro /Micro Functionality

1- Macro Functionality

Concerning the macro functions, the headline serves the following one: -

a- Informative headline: This provides essential information about the reports ' content, which is the main events or actions. In other words, the headline directly informs readers about the event's key details that Israel strikes Lebanon after Hezbollah Leader's death.

2- Micro Functionality

The headline serves only one micro function which is: -

a-To highlight: This function emphasizes important aspects of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

Headline (2)"Netanyahu Suggests Israel Killed Likely Replacements for Hezbollah's Leader

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/08/world/middleeast/netanyahu-hezbollah-nasrallah-replacement.html> \

Headlines in news reports are very important since they help readers to understand what the report is about before they state the details.

1-Umbrella Functionality

The headline states the saying of Prime Minister Netanyahu who suggested that Israel might have taken other actions against key figures in Hezbollah. In other words, this means that Zionism may have targeted people who could replace the current leader of Hezbollah if something were to happen to him.

1- Macro Functionality

Netanyahu's claims indicate a strategic move by Israel to weaken Hezbollah's leadership structure. By targeting likely replacements for Hezbollah's leader, Israel aims to destabilize the organization and diminish its operational capabilities. This head line has the following one: -

a -Informative headline: This headline provides essential information about the report's content. It allows readers to grasp the main idea quickly which "Netanyahu Claims Israel Killed Hezbollah's Potential Leaders". In other words, it focuses on Netanyahu's statements regarding Hezbollah leadership and highlights critical geopolitical tensions and offers insights into military strategies in the region.

2- Micro functionality

a-To highlight: This function emphasizes important aspects and facts that are significant tensions in the region and underscore the complex dynamics of international relations and military strategy. The headlines highlight that Hezbollah has been a prominent player in Middle Eastern politics.

Headline (3)"Attitudes About Nasrallah Appear More Positive in Middle East Since His Death" By Julian E. Barnes Reporting from Washington • Oct. 2, 2024

1-Umbrella Functionality

The recent death of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, has led to a noticeable shift in public Sentiment in the Middle East. The attitudes in some quarters continue to be changing in favour of Nasrallah, blamed on the intertwining of multiple factors: political, social, and cultural factors.

2-Macro / Micro Functionality

1- Macro Functionally

This headline serves the main functions as follows: -

- a. Informative headline: This headline provides essential information about the content of the report. Informing the readers that Nasrallah's death sparks in the Middle East and many people in the region have started to feel more positively about him. This change in attitude is important because it shows how people can view leaders differently over time. The headline gives a clear picture about the feelings of people in the region of Middle East. So, again the headline connects readers to the main story.
- b. Indicative headline: This implies the direction of the report, hinting at the conclusions or themes without revealing all details. One of the main themes that, many viewed Nasrallah as a symbol of resistance against foreign intervention, particularly from Western countries and Israel.
- c. Eye-catcher headline: This is designed to grab attention and pique curiosity, often using provocative language, his death more positive in the middle. In conclusion; the changing attitudes towards Nasrallah in the Middle East highlight the intricate relationships between leaders and their communities.

2-Micro functionality

The headline serves the following function: -

- a- To highlight: The headline highlights that many views about Nasrallah who is considered as a symbol of resistance and strength in a region often marked by political turmoil.

Headline (4) "Hassan Nasrallah, Who Led Hezbollah for Decades, Killed at 64"

By Neil MacFarquhar and Ben Hubbard • Published Sept. 28, 2024 Updated Oct. 4, 2024

1-Umbrella Functionality

This headline pays the attention of readers to the history of Hassan Nasrallah's life and his politics within the area. So, the headline clarifies who is the figure by mentioning three themes in the same line which are first his name, second his political life in leading his party, and third the date of his assassination. Nasrallah became known for his strong speeches and determination, often discussing topics like resistance and unity. His leadership had impacts throughout not only Lebanon but other nations in the Middle East.

2-Macro /Micro Functionality

1- Macro functionality

The function of this headline about Hassan Nasrallah's death has only this function:

- a- Informative headline: This headline clearly informs readers that Hassan Nasrallah, a leader of Hezbollah, has died at the age of 64. It gives a direct idea of the news.

2- Micro functionality

The headline has the following four important functions:

- a. To summarize: The headline gives readers the main idea that Hassan Nasrallah, a long-time leader of Hezbollah, has assassinated. The headline summarized the whole story in two events which are the description Hassan Nasrallah's life and his assassination.
- b. To highlight: The headline highlights two key points: Nasrallah's leadership role and his age at the time of death. This emphasizes the significance of his life and the impact of his leadership.

11-1-1 Results from the New York Times Headlines Analysis

1. Umbrella Functionality:

- The headlines provide an umbrella functionality that is a critical tool in connecting readers to the overarching themes and events in the Middle East, especially those dealing with Israel and Hezbollah.
- They allow the readers to get the essential narrative and connect readers to the go into detailed content of the news.
- They capture the most important events, such as the military attacks by Israel, the killing of Hassan Nasrallah, and the change in public opinion and geopolitics that followed.

2. Macro Functionality:

- **Informational Headline:** The headlines provide information on the events, like military strikes, the changes in leadership within Hezbollah, and the people's reactions over the death of Nasrallah. They keep readers informed about the main topics and consequences of the news stories.
- **Indicative Headline:** Most headlines indicate broader ramifications of the reported events, suggesting a change in power equations and regional stability.
- **Eye-catching headline:** The compelling use of language and phrases draws the reader into the intricacies of the geopolitical situation, making the events grave and inviting to read.

2. Micro Functionality:

- **To highlight:** The micro functionality acts to draw out the key elements of the stories, including the importance of Nasrallah's leadership and the reactions to his assassination. This makes the events reported even heavier with emotion and politics.
- **To summarize:** The main idea of every news headline is summarized in a few words that make reading or getting a notion of a report easier without requiring huge knowledge of prior events.
- **To attracting:** Headlines are crafted to spark curiosity and concern, encouraging readers to engage with the content more deeply, as they present dramatic developments that could affect regional and global dynamics.

Overall, the analysis reveals that the headlines not only inform but also strategically engage the audience, guiding them through complex narratives and fostering a deeper understanding of the unfolding events in the Middle East.

12-2-The Washington Post

In this part, the researcher analyses the second American newspaper which is "The Washington Post"

**Headline (1)"Israelis cheer Nasrallah assassination but are wary of what comes next".
By Shira Rubin and Rachel Chason / September 29, 2024.**

1- Umbrella Functionality

This Headline captures the attention of readers to the content of the story in order to explore the rest of report. it informs readers about a significant political event which is about Nasrallah's assassination immediately and directs them to the coming unknown events in the future as a result of the assassination of Nasrallah.

2-Macro /micro-Functionality

1-Macro Functionality

The headline provides the following macro functions: -

- a. Informative headline: This headline informs readers about the key subjects involved (Israelis and Nasrallah) and the event (his assassination). It presents factual information that helps readers to understand the coming reactions.
- b. Indicative headline: The headline indicates the two major themes of the report which are celebration of the assassination and apprehension about future actions. This suggests a dual perspective that is important in understanding the broader implications of the event.
- c. Eye-catcher headline: The headline has contracted words in their meaning which are strong words like "cheer" and "assassination" make for an attention-grabbing headline. It begs the question of what the reactions were and what happened as a result, prompting readers to read further into the story.

2-Micro Functionality

The headline serves several functions, such as:

- a. To attract: The headline attracts the readers by raising their curiosity on how different groups react to Nasrallah's death. The term "cheer" means overwhelming emotion, inviting readers into the why behind this reaction and what it would mean for the future.
- b. To Select: The headline selectively focuses on the most important aspects of the story. The cheers from Israelis and their wariness put the reader in a frame of understanding. The wording here shows that there might be an immediate sense of relief or joy, but there is also a significant concern about what may follow in terms of violence or escalations in conflict.

Headline (2) "Hasan Nasrallah, Hezbollah leader and force in Middle East, is killed".

By Liz Sly / September 28, 2024.

1-Umbrella Functionality

The headline shows the very important consequences of the death Hasan Nasrallah on regional stability. His death may create a void in the leadership of Hezbollah and thus can lead to an internal power struggle or a strategic shift. The implication could further change the balance of power in Lebanon and across the Middle East regarding different forces at play vis-à-vis Iran, Syria, and Israel.

2-Macro /micro-Functionality

At the head of one of the strongest political-military structures of Lebanon is its leader, Hasan Nasrallah, and it exerts huge influence on the situation in the Middle East concerning Lebanon, Israel, and conflicts involving one way or another mentioned actors. Nasrallah became notorious for his charisma and the ability to rally support for Hezbollah, which he had led since 1992. Under his leadership, Hezbollah has been posing itself as a protector of Lebanon against perceived external threats, especially those from Israel, through a complex relationship of fear and admiration.

1-Macro Functionality

This headline has the following macro functions: -

- a. Informative headline: The headline tells the reader the key subject who was killed and his position.
- b. Eye-catcher headline: This type of headline is intended to surprise the public by inserting words such as "leader and force in Middle East, is killed". In this headline, sensationalist language has been used to seize the interest of readers in finding out what might happen in case of Nasrallah's death.

2-Micro functionality

This headline serves several functions

- a. To attract: It draws readers by sparking curiosity. Many people are interested in how the world is reacting to Nasrallah's death, and it attracts the potential significant changes in the region which may be occurred.
- b. To select: The headline states specific aspects of the story. This selection shapes how readers perceive the event, suggesting that Nasrallah's death is not just a personal loss but a catalyst for broader regional unrest.

Headline (3) "Nasrallah's assassination shreds illusion of Hezbollah's military might".

By Liz Sly / September 29, 2024

The understanding of Hezbollah's military prowess has been created more through a combination of success on the field of battle and strategic propaganda.

1-Umbrella Functionality

The death of Nasrallah could undermine this image, showcasing vulnerabilities within the organization itself. The headline captures readers to the results of the events after the assassination. Hassan Nasrallah an efficient leader who has led Hezbollah through many conflicts and shaped its military strategies. His leadership has been significant in building an image of the group as a strong force that can resist regional adversaries, especially Israel and other Western influences. The assassination of Hassan Nasrallah would doubtless mark a turning point in the dynamics of Hezbollah political party.

2-Macro Micro Functionality

The political and military landscape of the Middle East was struck with shock-the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Hezbollah. Such a turn of events called into question the prospects for this organization as a military force-a structure thought to be invincible-until it finds itself confronted with a catastrophe that destroys this very image. The paper will look closer at the implication of such an assassination and discuss the functions of the headline with respect to depicting the weight of the news.

1-Macro Functionality

The headline's macro function shows the following ones: -

a. Informative headline: The informational value of the headline lets the readers know the significant leader who was killed and his murder has hurt Hezbollah directly. In other words, this headline does set up for the readers a general understanding of what happened, places it into context.

b. Indicative headline: The headline indicates further implications of the event of assassination. In other words, it reflects a changed perception over perceived strengths of Hezbollah and invites the readers to consider how such a change in perception could affect stability and security in the region.

c. Eye-catcher headline: The use of the phrase "shreds illusion" is sensational, and because of this imagery, the reader is likely to engage in reading it. Such a headline serves to entice the audience and will thus lead them into a more profound study of the event and its aftermath.

Headline (4) "Who was Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah?" By Liz Sly / September 29, 2024

1-Umbrella Functionality

The headline starts with a question about the personality of Hasan Nasrallah. This question serves as an umbrella function since Nasrallah's role might combine aspects of political, military, and social leadership. He managed to deftly navigate the political dynamics of Lebanon plagued by sectarian conflicts and pressure from without. He made himself not only a leader of Hezbollah, but an important actor in a larger geopolitical field.

2-Macro /micro-Functionality

1-Macro Functionality

At the macro level, the headline states the following macro functions; -.

a. Informative headline: This headline informs the readers the following informational values which are first: the key figure "Hasan Nasrallah" and his position and influence on his military party power and second the event of his death.

b. Indicative headline: This headline shows that Nasrallah's leadership and what it entails. This makes the readers curious about his position and the effect caused by him.

2-Micro functionality

When examining headlines related to Hasan Nasrallah, particularly in the context of his death, we can break down their micro functions into three key areas:

- a. To attract: the headline of Nasrallah's death was normally used as a means to attract readers: this headline would raise the curiosity of readers to know the importance of his life and leadership.
- b. To select: The headline selects parts of the story. It could depict the various protests that have taken place as a result of his death, showing just how much passion and political

meaning was tied to his person. That would be a framing of the event in the minds of the readers that this was an event of historical importance.

11-2- The Results of the Washington Post Headlines Analysis

Various headlines by The Washington Post, on the assassination of Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, expose the complexity of political issues and reactions toward this major event. These headlines are crucial in bringing readers abreast of the repercussions that come with Nasrallah's death and shape the public's perception.

1-Umbrella Functionality

Headlines function as entry points for readers, bridging them to the content. For example, the headline "Israelis cheer Nasrallah assassination but are wary of what comes next" conveys some immediate emotional reactions from Israelis, where both relief and concern were mixed, and it's this duality that holds much more significant meaning for political consequences. Also, "Hasan Nasrallah, Hezbollah leader and force in Middle East, is killed" shows the possible regional instability after his death, meaning that his leadership was crucial to shape Hezbollah's influence and military strategies.

2-Macro Functionality

1. Informative headlines: The headlines provide information about key figures and events; hence, allowing readers to conceptualize the importance of Nasrallah's assassination and the potential impact it has in relation to the geopolitical perspective. The heading "Nasrallah's assassination shreds illusion of Hezbollah's military might," for example, informs the readers how one might reassess Hezbollah's capabilities in light of the loss of a powerful leader.
2. Indicative headlines: These headlines have shown broader implications without revealing all the details, such as increased tensions and potential power struggles in the wake of Nasrallah's death. The term "shreds illusion" connotes a shift in perception with regard to Hezbollah's strength, which will make one consider the wider effects on regional stability.
3. Eye-Catcher headlines: The dramatic use of language in headlines such as "Nasrallah's death stuns Lebanon, as Israel pummels Beirut" captures attention by putting together two major events, making it urgent and engaging for the readers.

3-Micro Functionality

1. Attract: Headlines are designed to attract readers by using emotional responses and significant happenings. The word "stuns" depicts shock and urgency, and thus, the readers would want to know more about the developing story.
2. Choose: The selection of certain words determines the readers' perception of the events. The headlines, through the use of protests and global reactions, show that the assassination of Nasrallah is not a national issue but one whose impacts are felt across borders.

14. Results

The statistical analysis compares headline strategies in late-2024 coverage of Israel–Hezbollah developments by the New York Times (NYT) and the Washington Post (WP). The researcher analysed eight headlines (four per newspaper) for their macro-- functions Informative, Indicative, Eye-catcher—and micro- functions—Highlight, Summarize, Attract, Select and tallied their occurrences to produce two summary tables and a bar chart of macro-function frequencies. The resulting counts reveal clear editorial patterns: NYT headlines rely almost exclusively on straightforward informative and highlighting techniques, whereas WP headlines pair solid informational content with more frequent use of indicative and eye-catching language alongside active reader-engagement tactics.

Table (1) Statistical analysis of headlines

Newspaper	Headline	Informative	Indicative	Eye-catcher	Highlight	Summarize	Attract	Select
NYT	Israel Strikes Lebanon Again After Killing Hezbollah Leader	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
NYT	Netanyahu Suggests Israel Killed Likely Replacements for Hezbollah Leader	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
NYT	Attitudes About Nasrallah Appear More Positive in Middle East Since His Death	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
NYT	Hassan Nasrallah, Who Led Hezbollah for Decades, Killed at 64	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
WP	Israelis cheer Nasrallah assassination but are wary of what comes next	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
WP	Hasan Nasrallah, Hezbollah leader and force in Middle East, is killed	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
WP	Nasrallah assassination shreds illusion of Hezbollah military might	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
WP	Who was Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah?	1	1	0	0	0	1	1

12-Conclusions

The study has conducted a functional analysis of the headlines of the two dailies newspapers, The New York Times and The Washington Post, which are published some reports for the Assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah. Both newspapers emphasize the effects of Nasrallah's killing in altering regional dynamics, public mood, and international relationships, while multiple headline functions have been used to make a point which are as follows; -

1. Umbrella Functionality

Umbrella functionality helps both newspapers establish the connecting relationship between the reader and Nasrallah's death. The New York Times headlines point out the war between Israel and Hezbollah, showing how the assassination could heighten tensions in the Middle East. These headlines which may imply power struggles within Hezbollah and changes in the relations with other regional players.

2. Macro Functionality

- **Informative Headlines:** The headlines in both newspapers are informative. For example, the headline by The New York Times reads, "Israel Strikes Lebanon Again After Killing Hezbollah Leader," while in The Washington Post, it is headlined as, "Hasan Nasrallah, Hezbollah leader and force in Middle East, is killed." Through such headlines, the reader would understand what had just happened in regard to Nasrallah's assassination and the consequences of the action.
- **Indicative headlines** are being used by the newspapers to point at an issue but to give as little detail as possible.
- **Eye Catcher Headings:** All papers have used a kind of catchy wording for catching the eyes of readers. Expressions like "stuns" used by The Washington Post and "pushes Mideast Conflict Into New Territory" used by New York Times portray urgency and drama in which one can be compelled to read the whole story

3. Micro functionality

- **To highlight:** Headlines are used in both newspapers to highlight the important aspects of the story. The New York Times frequently emphasizes the military ramifications of Nasrallah's death, while The Washington Post highlights the public reactions, such as protests and celebrations in various countries. This selection shapes reader perceptions of the event's importance.
- **To attract:** Both newspapers use catchy, sensationalist language to allure readers. The New York Times might focus on the violent aspects of the assassination, while The Washington Post focuses on the emotional responses from communities, including mourning and celebration. This captures a wider range of public sentiment.

In the final analysis, both The New York Times and The Washington Post do an effective job in employing various headline functions to portray the complexity of Nasrallah's assassination and what it portends for the Middle East. While similar in structure and intent, their approaches to the story differ in focus and tone and thus reflect their distinct editorial perspectives.

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