

An Investigation into the Subjectivity in Saudi Newspaper: Hard News from Appraisal Perspective

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Abstract: This present study addresses the question of how the reporter's evaluated hard news and highlighted the type of news which was appraised mostly by the reporters. Particularly, it analyses the attitudes of the reporters of Saudi English newspaper. This research seeks to examine the hard news in particular. It adapts the critical analysis and the appraisal theory by (Martin & White, 2005) to investigate the data, which comprises 40 reports chosen randomly, posted during 2015-2016 as the most recent reports. The most important findings of this study show that a reporter employed different evaluating strategies while reporting hard news. These strategies could be illustrated by the following. Firstly, the occurrences of judgmental instances were the most frequent among other subsystems of attitude and formed 42.5%. While the Affect instances were formed 32.5% of the total, moreover, appreciative instances were detected apparently in the data but formed only 25%. Secondly, the instances of positive attitude were a bit more frequent than the negative attitude. On the other hand, regarding the directness of expressing reporters' attitudes were inscribed. Finally, which is the most interesting finding is that the reporters revealed their attitude extensively toward political report more than other types of hard news. This study strongly recommends that more writing courses for both academic and professional purposes are integrated into the training program of future news reporters.

Keywords: Saudi Arabia, Saudi Newspaper, Critical Discourse Analysis, Appraisal Approach, News Discourse, Newspaper Subjectivity.

تحقيق حول ذاتية الصحف السعودية في نقل الأخبار القاسية: دراسة من منظور تقييمي

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الملخص: تتناول هذه الدراسة السؤال عن كيفية التقييم الصحفي للأخبار القاسية، وتسلسل الضوء على نوع الأخبار التي تم تقييمها في الغالب من قبل المراسلين. وبشكل خاص، تقوم بتحليل مواقف مراسلي الصحيفة السعودية الإنجليزية. يسعى هذا البحث إلى فحص الأخبار القاسية على وجه الخصوص. وهي تتكيف مع التحليل النقدي ونظرية التقييم من قبل (Martin & White, 2005) للتحقيق في البيانات، والتي تضم 40 تقريرًا تم اختيارها بشكل عشوائي، وتم نشرها خلال 2015-2016 كأحدث التقارير. تُظهر أهم نتائج هذه الدراسة أن المراسل استخدم استراتيجيات تقييم مختلفة أثناء الإبلاغ عن الأخبار الصعبة. يمكن توضيح هذه الاستراتيجيات من خلال ما يلي. أولاً، كانت حالات حدوث الأحكام هي الأكثر شيوعًا بين الأنظمة الفرعية الأخرى للموقف وشكلت 42.5%. في حين تم تشكيل الحالات المتأثرة بنسبة 32.5% من الإجمالي، إلا أنه تم الكشف عن حالات تقديرية على ما يبدو في البيانات ولكنها شكلت 25% فقط. ثانياً: كانت حالات المواقف الإيجابية أكثر تكراراً من الموقف السلبي. من ناحية أخرى، تم تدوين موضوع التعبير عن مواقف الصحفيين. وأخيراً فإن النتيجة الأكثر إثارة للاهتمام هي أن

المراسلين كشفوا عن موقفهم بشكل كبير تجاه التقرير السياسي أكثر من أنواع أخرى من الأخبار الصعبة. توصي هذه الدراسة بقوة أن يتم دمج المزيد من دورات الكتابة للأغراض الأكاديمية والمهنية في البرنامج التدريبي لمراسلي الأخبار المستقبليين. الكلمات المفتاحية: المملكة العربية السعودية، الصحف السعودية، تحليل الخطاب، نظرية التقييم، تحليل الأخبار، ذاتية أخبار الصحف.

Introduction

The recent increase in media does not mean that there is an increase in the accuracy and objectivity of the information and news that is being delivered to people through the media. As long as there is mass media that has lack in the truth in the introduced news, the subjectivity does spread out. Media discourse is defined as a spoken or written broadcast-oriented to a listener or a reader who is not present in the immediate news environment ⁽¹⁾. Therefore, news reporters accumulate their stories with a myriad of linguistic, visual, informational and graphological content and structure to render them truthful. These could come from the description of live events, interviewing an eyewitness, use of headlines, and a direct quote from sources, among others ⁽²⁾. While it is true that reporters strive to provide actual news service, they are argued to base their business on ideological agendas as evidenced by their presence in the texts they produce to influence their audience's understanding and reaction to the events being reported ⁽³⁾.

Fairclough ⁽⁴⁾ attributes the bias of mass media too, at least, two reasons. First, the representation of social life in mass media undergoes a form of reconceptualization through the use of "*semiotic codes, conventions, norms, and practices*." Second, mass media is connected to "*centers of power in politics, government, and business*"; thus, they function as "*vehicles for disseminating their own messages in the furtherance of their strategies*." Using proper critical discourse analysis (CDA) terminology, news reporters exercise power over their audience by their access to public discourse and communication as exemplified by the news corporations they represent, and most importantly by the global view of the mass media as the fourth estate. Such privileges provide news reporters with "*total freedom to say what they want, where and when they want and to whom they want*" ⁽⁵⁾. In so doing, they could convey news services to their audience either manipulatively or persuasively.

According to Martin and White ⁽³⁾, "*hard news refers to the fast-paced information that is usually placed in the front of the newspaper*" see(p,20). Fairclough ⁽⁶⁾ observes that although the core of journalism in Saudi and the UAE, in general, has been the news, the latter has obtained many secondary meanings that hard news has over recent times gained accuracy to differentiate items of definite news value from items of marginal significance.

The Saudi government has some of the stringent internet practices in the world. Criticism of the royal family, the religious leaders, and the government is never tolerated and is not even passed through the censors. It is observed that in some cases, this can lead to the closure of some of the new offices as well as

journalists being banned in the Kingdom. Therefore, in this media environment which is tightly-controlled, there is much that newspapers in Saudi which cannot print out to the public. Based on that, Saudis are increasingly looking elsewhere for entertainment and news that is uncensored⁽⁷⁾. The influential force of the Saudi news discourse has recently been the subject of some critical reports and studies. Generally speaking, some factors are conceived to have tremendously affected the Saudi media discourse. These include the Gulf Wars 1&2, the 9/11 events and the so-called Arab Spring (2010).

These events, both individually and collectively, have exposed the weakness of the Saudi media discourse and have, thus, contributed to its development in significant ways. Al-Mutairy⁽⁸⁾ argues that part of the weakness of the Saudi media discourse was given impetus by its explanatory and justificatory nature. It made use of formulaic expressions that could turn out to be hard to grasp for the audience.

A further weakness inherent in the Saudi media discourse is assumed to emanate from its tendency to react to events rather than making them. Such discourse trends indeed and do not influence the direction of public opinion. Following the aforementioned events, the Saudi media discourse has changed dramatically both regarding the issues it addresses, and its discourse structure, benefitting from the widespread of satellite channels and the social media⁽⁹⁾.

These exposed weaknesses and difficulties are both areas where the study of language could reveal individual and collective attitudes. According to Martin and Rose⁽¹⁰⁾, the appraisal theory is developed by Professor Martin; it is “concerned with evaluation: the kinds of attitudes that are negotiated in a text, the strength of the feelings involved and the ways in which values are sourced and readers aligned, and it is hoped that by its application in this study, changes in the way that news is reported in Saudi Arabia will be uncovered, allowing conclusions and recommendations to be made for the future.

Research Problem

Evaluation of the media and its approach to news has been widely investigated, with the philosophical approach to journalistic ethics being examined. Inside this general research, the field of linguistics has gone further, within which researchers “*consider themselves as policing the subtle manipulation of language to distort reality*”⁽¹⁾. These two approaches have left several opportunities unexplored, and this is where there is, therefore, a research gap. Language and media studies have mainly focused on how language expresses the reporters' attitudes towards events as the construction of culture and how language represents reporters' cultures and ideologies. The topic of language appraisal in media news, as per the researcher's knowledge, has been rarely investigated in Arab countries; accordingly, the current study sets to investigate subjectivity aspects of news reports in the English papers in Saudi Arabia Through finding the levels of subjectivity, and showing the areas where attitude has caused distortion.

Theoretical Framework

Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis or CDA refers to a type of research that mainly studies the way inequality is acted out, abuse of social power and dominance are replicated, by talk and text in the political and social perspective. CDA analysts take a stand to understand and expose, with their ultimate goal being to resist social inequality at all costs⁽¹¹⁾. According to Rogers⁽¹²⁾, CDA framework is based on the understanding of systematic functional linguistics and social theories. CDA has been used in critically asking questions of power and on social injustice.

Critical discourse analysis provides the analytical context, skills, and tools through which we can study language shapes, constituents, and constructs of the social world and reveals how the methodological approach of the critical discourse analysis enhances our cultural studies⁽¹³⁾. *"Discourse is not a simple entity that we can define independently; we have to analyse a set of relations to best have an understanding of it"*⁽¹⁴⁾. A complex set of relations touches on communication between people who write and talk. It also describes the relationship between actual communicative events such as newspapers and the more abstract ones like languages, genres, and discourses. CDA analysis is the dialectical analysis of the relation between discourse and other elements.

Critical Discourse Analysts mainly works with social topics that have been applied, for example, colonialism, racism, mass communication, political, gender, and economic discourse. They tend to go beyond the immediate issues of the day. Their understanding gives indirect insights into a long-term analysis of important causes and conditions of the issues⁽¹¹⁾. CDA scholars endeavor to bring more insights into the important role of discourse in the production of inequality and dominance.

Appraisal Theory: Attitude

The appraisal theory, developed by⁽³⁾, *"is a model of evaluation evolved within the general theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)"* (p.7). The appraisal theory focuses on the third meta-function of SFL namely interpersonal meta-function. Appraisal itself is regionalised as three interacting domains— 'attitude,' 'engagement' and 'graduation.'

According to Martin and White⁽³⁾, the appraisal framework outlines how:

- Text producers (both speakers and writers) interpret and understand certain authorial identities for themselves.
- Authors were dealing or align themselves with potential or authentic respondents.
- Speakers or writers build and an epitome audience for their texts.

Attitude is concerned with the feelings of people such as their emotional reactions, evaluation of things and their judgment of behavior⁽³⁾. As such, it comprises three resources:

- A. Appreciation – resources for expressing dislikes, likes (tastes aesthetic).
- B. Judgment – resources for expressing norms.
- C. Affect – resources for articulating emotional responses and states.

Research Objectives

In order to appropriately address this study's subject matter, this research project aims to achieve the following research objectives:

- 1- To investigate the subjectivity of the Saudi English Newspapers when reporting hard news.
- 2- To use appraisal theory to examine the attitude of the report with regard to Affect.
- 3- To use appraisal theory to examine the attitude of the report with regard to Judgement.
- 4- To use appraisal theory to examine the attitude of the report with regard to Appreciation.
- 5- To find out if there is a specific type of hard news which is more likely to be Affected by a lack of subjectivity.

Research Questions

This study attempts to investigate how the four types of hard news are evaluated in terms of Affect, Judgement, and Appreciation. Therefore, the present study addresses the following questions:

- 1- What is the extent to which subjectivity appears in Saudi English newspaper when reporting the hard news?
- 2- How are different types of hard news appraised in term of Affect?
- 3- How are different types of hard news appraised in term of judgment?
- 4- How are different types of hard appraised in term of Appreciation?
- 5- Which type of hard news was appraised most frequently?

Research Limitations

The present study is limited in its scope to the selected evaluative resource of the Appraisal Theory, *i.e.*, attitude. The data is also limited to hard news presented in the following Saudi English newspapers: Saudi Gazette, Al-Riyadh and Arab news, and AlSarq Al-Awsat during 2015-2016. In addition, as it is unable to encompass the entire range of types of hard news only four types were selected. Also, there are critics of Critical Discourse Analysis.

Literature Review

Discourse Analysis Definition

Discourse analysis can be defined as a common term given to various methods to examine the usage of written, signed, or spoken the language. As this definition suggests, text can be explored and analysed from various points of view. It is possible to focus on the purposes of the text, the level of formality, participants of communication, use of words, sounds, grammatical structures, etc. It means text can be analysed on different levels.

Yule views discourse analysis as *"the analysis of language in use."* The discourse analyst focuses on *"an investigation of what that language is used for,"* it means purpose and aim of communication, as has been mentioned before ⁽¹⁵⁾. On the other hand, Cook tells us that the main focus of discourse analysis is on language, nevertheless he emphasizes the importance to examine communication's context: *"who/which parties are communicating; the kind of situation and society; via some medium; how different forms and acts of communication evolved"*⁽¹⁶⁾.

Levels of Analysis

News Discourse

Crystal ⁽¹⁷⁾ mentions a few levels of analysis which are highly important for a detailed analysis of a text. Each level represents one area of linguistics such as lexicology or phonetics and phonology. On the basis of these areas, different levels of analysis can be differentiated: phonetic and phonological, graph logical, grammatical, lexical. Verdonk mentions the importance of pragmatics and claims that pragmatics is founded on the meaning of language use in discourse, that is when it is applied in an appropriate perspective to realise certain aims ⁽¹⁸⁾. He mentions semantics too, which is "the study of formal meanings as they are encoded in the language of texts" ⁽¹⁸⁾. These two fields of study, pragmatics, and semantics, concern "the extrinsic contextual factors" related to contextual and textual meaning. These factors affect the linguistic meaning of a text ⁽¹⁸⁾.

Media discourse is a discipline that drew many scholars in the twentieth century and continues to do so in the twenty-first. There has been the development of many theories in this area, where much focus in media discourse examination has been shown by the majority of the scholars ⁽¹⁹⁾. Various factors including trying to comprehend the behaviors of the speaker and also understand them fully from the inside motivate them ⁽²⁰⁾. Also, their results were presented and discover the viewers who were focused on further knowledge of them. Hence, a huge approval in newspaper, publishers, and journals is identified in this type of analysis as those types of studies play a significant role in marketing. The entire society has been interested in news and

thus causing the news discourse analysis to attain a huge significance⁽²¹⁾. Generally, the said analysis is a matter of linguistics; although, it has a relation to other disciplines including sociology, psychology as well as philosophy.

Like spoken or printed texts, news discourses are described in terms of their general and distinctive features of organization⁽²²⁾. So, the structures and textual functions of headlines or leads of news reports as well as the style, ordering, and thematic organization are to be analysed. The developments in the fields of speech communication, cognitive psychology, social psychology, and ethnography have revealed that discourse is a communicative event that is complicated as involves a socialised setting, showing the contributors and their characteristics together with production processes and reception processes. The contextual analysis of a media discourse is thus important for giving insights about how this discourse is produced and used⁽²¹⁾.

Discourse and Social Power

According to Halliday⁽²³⁾, the language is a social activity. This definition has led to critical discourse analysis advocates to link the structure of the language and the structure of the society. Also, this motivated⁽²⁴⁾ to claim that the selection of grammar and vocabulary is made on an ideological basis. Kress and Van mention that critical discourse analysis concentrates on power relations that are not equal in public discourse through showing how the general public discourse usually serves the interests of the different powerful forces as compared to those that are less privileged. In addition, some social groups are referred to how different linguistic elements influence other ordinary preferences of various people. Moreover, a more desperate situation occurs when the various lay individuals unconsciously make the difference in power distance deeper because they are not informed of the different facts that are their immediate rights⁽²⁵⁾.

Media discourse, either spoken or written, are various discourses that may employ different abuses of social power, inequality, dominance, and eventually maintain and change their social practices. Critical discourse analysis questions the continuing process of an event; and how the event such as bank advertising may, therefore, maintain the present social structure, revise or change it⁽²⁶⁾. Almost all critical discourse analysis followers suggest that we might unconsciously or consciously be misled or influenced by the persistent marketing or strong advertising language⁽²⁶⁾. They believe that the study of texts like advertising is legitimate and common for CDA to work on.

Approaches to News Language and Subjectivity

According to Timuçin⁽²⁷⁾, argues that the language used by different type of newspapers is explicitly different even when they refer to the report of the same event, and that linguistic insight into the use of

language can be of assistance understanding this diversity. Williams⁽²⁸⁾ claims that the highest and the most underhand power practice focuses on improving the views, thoughts, and inclination of individuals using the language. However, it is plausible to argue that subjectivity should not always be taken for granted. There is evidence suggesting that some readers are aware of manipulative tactics of news reports.

Indeed, some people are ignorant of how to separate the author's ideology from the fact that is being reported. As Woods⁽²⁹⁾ demonstrates, a specific perception or ideology can be resisted when someone understands what is going; though, the resistance can be hard when there is no clue of the perception or the ideology. Several linguistic devices can be applied to embody certain ideology aiming at influencing the reader's perspective. According to many studies, those features are analysed and clearly shown in several ways as examining the rhetoric devices, investigating the loaded language, figuring out the modality, or by exploring the evaluative resources. In this research project, the researcher places more emphasis on the evaluative resources used in the newspaper. Evaluative resources are used to help the writer to pass his attitude, judgment, and emotions. This can be analysed within the Appraisal framework that is used to explore and explain how the writer passes his attitude implicitly. Therefore, it investigates the subjectivity from a linguistic perspective.

Several studies have used Appraisal Theory to explore the evaluative resources in media discourse, but still, there has a little attention paid to newspapers in particular. This study argues for the need to examine how newspaper reports influence the reader's point of view⁽³⁰⁾ that discusses the analysis in media where she states a current effective view to comprehending biases that are found in the discourse of media. In addition, she explains the significance of 'assessment' in regard to comprehending how we can distinguish the subjectivity of both writer's and the speaker is in a text. 'Assessment,' about⁽³⁰⁾, is generally described as linked with creativity, which is, in other words, the expression of the speaker's/writer's beliefs, personality, emotions, will, personality, feelings, attitudes, judgements, etc. In addition, according to⁽³⁰⁾, studies on 'subjectivity' are often comprised of three different aspects of language; the writer's/speaker's context as influencing the linguistic expression, 'Affects' expression of the speaker towards propositions that are comprised in texts/words and lastly the expression of modality's speaker as well as the epistemic status of the various propositions that are comprised in the text/word.

Bednarek⁽³¹⁾ also indicates that in the linguistic analytical evaluation context, regarding the expression of the opinion of a speaker/writer; hence, capable of tracing the analyses, which created through language to either a news anchor, reporter or a source. Media texts' analysis show occurrences that reveal the attitudes as well as views of a journalist regarding dimensions of diverse meanings. It is agreed that any

evaluative instances implied by a speaker or a writer can be noticed by those who consider their work as policing the subtle manipulation of language to detach opinions from reality.

Among other reasons, the Appraisal framework has been applied, for the evaluation of stance in different media discourse. In addition, Martin applied the Appraisal to examine the many ways that writers impacted on their readers to take a particular stance in an editorial obtained from a Hong Kong magazine in regard to actions taken against the Middle Eastern people's appearance in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Macau in the period directly after the terrorist attacks of the 11th September. Martin⁽³²⁾ discovered that the editorial had earlier on positioned readers in a state of sympathy with Americans for the losses they incurred, but then via the use of different expressions of Effect that have been shifted to incline to a more negative, essential position of America. Moreover, Martin was able to illustrate that a close reading of assessment in discourse has the capacity to illuminate how editors and writers position readers to incline themselves with the individuals in the society who take a certain ideological position in regard to America as well as how social complexities, ideology, and social relations are demonstrated in both texts and through the ways that they are understood by different readers. Consequently,⁽³³⁾ they used the critical and Appraisal discourse analysis to investigate stance in a report that concerned the signing of the constitution of the EU from a UK tabloid newspaper. They then applied their evaluation to outline how semantic patterning influences readers to elucidate statements that seem to be neutral in somewhat negative ways.

Methodology

Research Design and Sample

This study is a descriptive study that seeks to support its findings using qualitative information that can be obtained and analysed from the review of different literature that addresses the subjectivity of Saudi newspaper, especially when addressing the hard news. A selection of events reported by the selected Saudi English newspaper was identified in order to uncover their bias on different events. Moreover, the attention will be focused on one of the three subtypes of Appraisal Theory: attitude, in the articles examined by the researcher. The data are 40 articles taken from Saudi English newspapers: Saudi Gazette, Riyadh, and Arab News. These articles were analysed according to the categories of the Appraisal Theory to point out the evaluative resources used to propagate ideologies. These articles were all considered as “hard news” as they contain critical issues of national concerns which revolve around politics, society, and economy. The data analysis explored the meanings of the selected evaluative strategies that may bring into the interpretation of the events in the news reports with a hope to bring better insight into the subjectivity that affects the readers' viewpoint.

Instrument

Generally speaking, content analysis is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words or concepts within texts or sets of texts. Researchers quantify and analyse the presence, meanings, and relationships of such words and concepts, then make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writer(s), the audience, and even the culture and time of which these are a part. Thus, the method of content analysis enables the researcher to include large amounts of textual information and systematically identify its properties, such as the frequencies of most used keywords by locating the more important structures of its communication content. Such amounts of textual information must be categorised to provide a meaningful reading of content under scrutiny.

Procedures

All in all, it took about 6 months to collect data for the study. Data collection tasks were organized around the types of news included in the study. In other words, a series of sessions was devoted to one type of news reports at a time. The availability of materials in the papers’ archives made it easy to access and analyse news reports.

Data Analysis

As indicated earlier, this study employs the appraisal theory within the framework of CDA, and the analysis is limited to the first domain of appraisal theory, *i.e.*, an attitude which involves three subtypes, namely Affect, Judgment and Appreciation, which in term comprises other subtypes. Each category can be expressed positively or negatively. Furthermore, the evaluative meaning can be realised directly by explicit evaluative words or indirectly by implicit meaning. This indicates that the units of analysis a single word in some instances while a whole utterance in others. Accounting the data was done manually.

Many instances of a predominate subsystem of attitude are given in the fourth chapter because the qualitative analysis is lengthy – the analysed data can be found in the appendices. The examples of political reports are coded as A, those who are concerned with economic reports are coded as B, those related to natural disaster reports are coded as C, and finally, examples that have something to do with crime reports are coded D. Whether inscribed or invoked, the evaluating instances in the given examples are underlined. Each instance is coded concerning Martin and White’s abbreviation⁽³⁾ as follows:

Table (1) The 14 codes used for the data. Abbreviations per⁽³⁾.

+ ‘positive attitude.’	cap ‘Judgement: capacity.’
- ‘negative attitude.’	ten ‘Judgement: tenacity.’
des ‘Affect: desire.’	ver ‘Judgement: veracity.’

+ 'positive attitude.'	cap 'Judgement: capacity.'
hap 'Affect un/happiness.'	prop 'Judgement: propriety.'
sec 'Affect: in/security'	great 'Appreciation: reaction.'
sat 'Affect: dis/satisfaction'	comp 'Appreciation: composition.'
norm 'Judgement: normality.'	val 'Appreciation: valuation.'

Results & Discussion

Summary of attitude in the four types of news report						
		Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
Affect	Count	26	7	8	17	58
	% of total	14.3%	3.8%	4.4%	9.3%	32.0%
Judgement	Count	27	22	7	21	77
	% of total	14.9%	21.1%	3.8%	11.6%	42.5%
Appreciation	Count	18	19	4	5	46
	% of total	9.9%	10.4%	2.2%	2.7%	25.4%
Total	Count	71	48	19	43	181
	% of total	39.2%	26.5%	10.5%	23.8%	100%

presents an overview of the subsystem of attitude. It shows the total attitudinal instances of each subsystem of attitude in the selected reports and compares the relative numbers of instances found in each case. The data provided in this table revealed how reporters generally expressed their attitude, in terms of 'Affect,' 'Judgement,' and 'Appreciation' towards the four types of hard news: political, economic, natural disaster, and crime reports.

As can be seen in

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the more attitudinal stances in the four types were Judgemental (42.5%). In addition, there was also a considerable amount of Affect instances; 32% of attitudinal stances were Effectual. Moreover, there were also a lot of Appreciation instances; 25 % which is considered as the least attitudinal stance.

Table (2) Summary of Attitude (Affect, Judgement, Appreciation) in the four types of news report

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As for Judgement, the percentage of Judgement stances found in each type of news was significantly different. That is, the percentage of Judgemental stances in economic reports was the highest among other types of the news; 41%. A considerable percentage of Judgement stances were in political reports; 15% and the crime reports 11%. While the last occurrence was in the natural disaster reports; 4%

As for Affect instances, the percentage of effectual stances found in the political reports; 14% was more than the percentages of Affect in other types of hard news. A considerable amount of effectual percentages found in criminal reports; 9% and no significant difference between economic reports; 3% and natural disaster reports; 4%.

With regard to the Appreciation, the percentage of Appreciation instances in the economic reports; 10% which was actually a bit more than the percentage of the instances found in the political reports; 9%. Finally, there was no difference between the percentage of the Appreciation instances found criminal reports; 2% and the natural disaster reports; 2%.

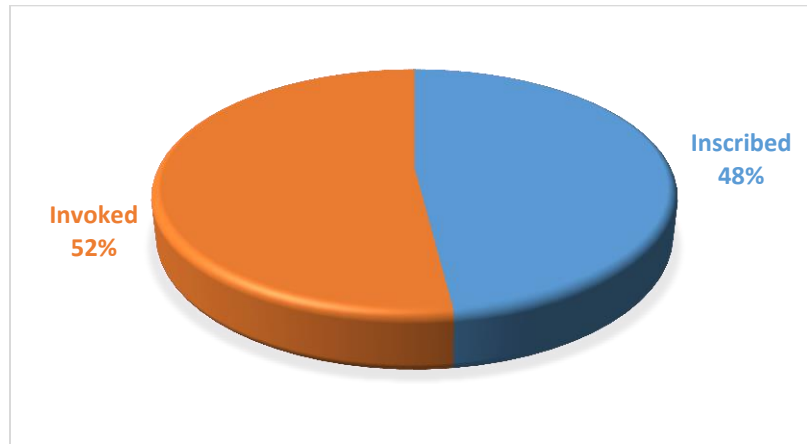


Figure (1) Degree of attitudinal directness in all types of reports

Figure shows the approximate percentage of the attitudinal stances in all the four types of hard news with reference to the degree of directness. i.e., inscribed, and invoked. From the pie chart, we can see that a bit less than half of the attitudinal instances in all the types of hard news were inscribed; 48% while a bit more than half of the total was invoked; 52%

Table (3) Degree of attitudinal directness in the four types of a news report

The degree of attitudinal directness in the four types of a news report						
		Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
Inscribed	Count	32	21	4	30	87
	% of total	17.6%	11.6%	2.2%	16.5%	48.1%
Invoked	Count	39	27	16	12	94
	% of total	21.5%	14.9%	8.8%	6.6%	51.9%
Total	Count	71	48	20	42	181
	% of total	39.2%	26.5%	11%	23.2%	100%

From

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		Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
Inscribed	Count	32	21	4	30	87
	% of total	17.6%	11.6%	2.2%	16.5%	48.1%
Invoked	Count	39	27	16	12	94
	% of total	21.5%	14.9%	8.8%	6.6%	51.9%
Total	Count	71	48	20	42	181
	% of total	39.2%	26.5%	11%	23.2%	100%

, it is apparent that the percentage of the invoked attitudinal instances was a bit more than the percentage of the inscribed ones. 21% of the invoked attitude found in the political reports as the highest percentage among other types of hard news. Also, a notable percentage found in the economic reports; 14% and actually there was no significant difference between the percentages found in natural disaster reports; 8% and crime reports; 6%.

The inscribed attitude was mostly found in political reports; 17% and crime reports; 16%. A considerable amount was also found in the economic reports; 11% while the lowest percentage found in the natural disaster 2%

Affect

The analysis attempts to reveal the emotional reaction of the reporters of hard news toward the political, economic, natural disaster and crime events. Table shows the subtypes of Affect in all four types of hard news. In addition, the table percentage of the total positive and negative instances of each subtype.

Table (4) Summary of Affect in the four types of a news report

Summary of Affect in the four types of a news report							
			Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
Subtypes of Effect	-hap	Count	0	0	3	2	5
		% of total	0%	0%	5%	3.3%	8.4%
	-sat	Count	1	0	0	2	3
		% of total	1.6%	0%	0%	3.3%	5%
	-des	Count	1	0	0	0	1
		% of total	1.6%	0%	0%	0%	1.6%
	-sec	Count	4	3	6	7	20
% of total		6.7%	5%	10.1%	11.8%	33.8%	
+hap	Count	8	0	0	2	10	
	% of total	13.5%	0%	0%	3.3%	16.9%	
+sat	Count	3	3	0	2	10	
	% of total	5%	5%	0%	3.3%	16.9%	
+des	Count	4	1	0	2	7	
	% of total	6.7%	1.6%	0%	3.3%	11.9%	

Summary of Affect in the four types of a news report							
	+sec	Count	5	0	0	0	5
		% of total	8.4%	0%	0%	0%	8.4%
	Total	Count	26	7	9	17	59
		% of total	44%	11.9%	15.2%	28%	100%

It is apparent from the table that the most prevalent subtypes of Affect in the four types of hard news was security (+ve & -ve) with a total of 42% and the lowest was desire (+ve & -ve) with a total of 13%.

As for the values in all the four types of hard news, the positive values of Affect instances in all the four types of hard news formed 51% of the total while the negative ones were 49%. The positive value of happiness;17% was more than any other subtypes of Affect, while the positive values of security; 8.4% was the lowest percentage. On the other hand, negative values of security; 33% was the most distinguished one among the negative values of other subtypes of Affect, while the percentage of the negative value of desire; 1.6% was the lowest percentage.

As for the types of reports, the attitudinal instances were found mostly in the political reports that formed 44% of the total while the percentage of Effect found in the economic reports was lowest.

Judgment:

Table illustrates how the reporters Judged the events they report regarding the four types of hard news: political, economic, crime, natural disaster reports.

Table (5) Summary of Judgement in the four types of a news report

Summary of Judgement in the four types of a news report							
			Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
Subtypes of Judgement	-cap	Count	4	4	2	4	14
		% of total	5.2%	5.2%	2.6%	5.2%	18.4%
	-norm	Count	0	0	0	3	3
		% of total	0%	0%	0%	3.9%	3.9%
	-ten	Count	0	1	0	0	1
		% of total	0%	1.3%	0%	0%	1.3%
	-ver	Count	0	0	0	3	3
		% of total	0%	0%	0%	3.9%	3.9%

Summary of Judgement in the four types of a news report							
	-prop	Count	3	0	0	5	8
		% of total	3.9%	0%	0%	6.5%	10.5%
	+cap	Count	11	11	0	3	25
		% of total	14.4%	14.4%	0%	3.9%	32.8%
	+norm	Count	1	0	0	1	2
		% of total	1.3%	0%	0%	1.3%	2.6%
	+ten	Count	4	3	3	0	10
		% of total	5.2%	3.9%	3.9%	0%	13.5%
	+ver	Count	1	0	0	1	2
		% of total	1.3%	0%	0%	1.3%	2.6%
	+prop	Count	3	3	2	0	8
		% of total	3.9%	3.9%	2.6%	0%	10.5%
	Total	Count	27	22	7	20	76
		% of total	35.5%	28.9%	9.2%	26.3%	100%

It is very notable that the percentage of capacity; 51% was more than any other subtypes of Judgement. Normality and veracity have the same percentage; 6.5% which was considered as the lowest percentage.

As for the values in all the four types of hard news, the positive values of judgment instances in all the four types of hard news formed 62% of the total while the negative ones formed 38%. The positive value of capacity, at 32%, was more than any other subtype of judgment, while the lowest percentage of positive values of were normality, 2.6 %, and veracity, also 2.6%. there was no instance for positive capacity in natural disaster reports — also, no instance for tenacity in crime reports. In addition, no positive veracity was detected in either economic or natural disaster reports. Also clear from the table is that, as perhaps one would expect, there was no instance of positive propriety in the crime reports.

On the contrary, negative values of the capacity of 14% were the most notable one among the negative values of other subtypes of judgment, while one instance of the negative value of tenacity which formed 1.3% no instance for the negative value of normality in the political, economic and natural disaster. Also, natural disaster and crime reports had no instance for the negative value of tenacity no instance for veracity in political, economic and natural disaster reports.

In regard to the types of reports, the attitudinal instances were found mostly in the political reports that formed 35% of the total. A considerable amount of Judgemental resources was found in economic

reports, 28%, which was a bit more than the percentage of the crime reports, 26%, while natural disaster reports were less than any other types of hard news, 9%.

Appreciation:

Summary of Appreciation in the four types of news report							
Subtypes of	Appreciation		Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
		-com	Count	2	0	1	1
	% of total	4.3%	0%	2.2%	2.2%	8.6%	
-reac	Count	0	3	2	0	5	
	% of total	0%	6.5%	4.3%	0%	10.8%	
-val	Count	0	0	0	1	1	
	% of total	0%	0%	0%	2.2%	2.2%	
+com	Count	0	3	0	0	3	
	% of total	0%	6.5%	0%	0%	6.5%	
+reac	Count	7	8	1	0	16	
	% of total	15.2%	17.3%	2.2%	0%	34.7%	
+val	Count	9	5	0	3	17	
	% of total	19.5%	10.8%	0%	6.5%	36.9%	
Total	Count	18	19	4	5	46	
	% of total	38%	41.3%	8.6%	10.8%	100%	

compares the frequencies of Appreciation stances found in the four types of hard news.

Table (6) Summary of appreciation in the four types of a news report

Summary of Appreciation in the four types of news report							
Subtypes of	Appreciation		Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
		-com	Count	2	0	1	1
	% of total	4.3%	0%	2.2%	2.2%	8.6%	
-reac	Count	0	3	2	0	5	

Summary of Appreciation in the four types of news report							
		% of total	0%	6.5%	4.3%	0%	10.8%
	-val	Count	0	0	0	1	1
		% of total	0%	0%	0%	2.2%	2.2%
	+com	Count	0	3	0	0	3
		% of total	0%	6.5%	0%	0%	6.5%
	+reac	Count	7	8	1	0	16
		% of total	15.2%	17.3%	2.2%	0%	34.7%
	+val	Count	9	5	0	3	17
		% of total	19.5%	10.8%	0%	6.5%	36.9%
	Total	Count	18	19	4	5	46
		% of total	38%	41.3%	8.6%	10.8%	100%

As indicated in

Summary of Appreciation in the four types of news report							
			Political Reports (A)	Economics Reports (B)	Natural disaster Reports (C)	Crime Reports (D)	Total
Subtypes of Appreciation	-com	Count	2	0	1	1	4
		% of total	4.3%	0%	2.2%	2.2%	8.6%
	-reac	Count	0	3	2	0	5
		% of total	0%	6.5%	4.3%	0%	10.8%
	-val	Count	0	0	0	1	1
		% of total	0%	0%	0%	2.2%	2.2%
	+com	Count	0	3	0	0	3
		% of total	0%	6.5%	0%	0%	6.5%
	+reac	Count	7	8	1	0	16
		% of total	15.2%	17.3%	2.2%	0%	34.7%
	+val	Count	9	5	0	3	17
		% of total	19.5%	10.8%	0%	6.5%	36.9%
	Total	Count	18	19	4	5	46
		% of total	38%	41.3%	8.6%	10.8%	100%

, there was the smallest number of instances among other attitudinal subsystems. It is clear from the table that the percentage of the reaction was a bit less than half of the total, at 45%. A considerable amount also was valuation, which formed 39% of the total, while the percentage of composition, at 15%, was the least.

In terms of the values in all the four types of hard news, the positive values of Appreciation instances in all the four types of hard news formed 78% of the total while the percentage of the negative ones was 22%. The positive value of valuation, at 36%, was more than any other subtype of Appreciation, while the lowest percentage of positive values of composition was less than any other subtype of Appreciation, at 6.5%. There was no instance of positive composition in political, natural disaster, and crime reports. Also, no instance for reaction in crime reports. The same for valuation in natural disaster reports.

For negative values of reaction, 10.8% was a bit more noticeable than the composition, 8.6%, while the valuation has the lowest percentage, 2%. There was only one instance for negative valuation in all the four types of hard news while no instance found for negative composition in economic reports. Moreover, political and economic have no instance of the negative value of reaction.

As for the types of reports, the attitudinal instances were found mostly in the economic reports that formed 41% of the total. Actually, it was only a bit more than the political reports (39%) while the natural disaster and crime reports revealed no significant difference between them.

Discussion of Findings

The present study was designed to explore subjectivity in Saudi newspapers when reporting hard news. The first question in the study sought to address to what extent subjectivity appears in Saudi newspapers when reporting hard news. The data shows that there is subjectivity when reporting hard news, matching findings of studies conducted across the globe in the different socio-political milieu. In fact, it is an expected result as it is agreed that “*all forms written by a human being are inevitable subject various biases*” as expressed by⁽³⁴⁾. What is more, subjectivity is the reporters’ only tool to persuade the readers of their version of the events being reported. Whether or not the reporters intend to produce manipulative reports, it can still be argued that taking refuge in a variety of linguistic resources to establish subjectivity serves the same function as the (convincing) visual resources employed by TV reporters. However, the similarity in “*all forms written by human beings...*” as maintained by⁽³⁴⁾ is questionable since various socio-political contexts impose certain constraints on news production, thus, affecting the degree and type of linguistic resources used to establish subjectivity in news reports. Previous research⁽²⁹⁾, as reported in the literature review, also seems to support this conclusion.

The second, third and fourth questions address how different types of reports were appraised and evaluated in term of Affect, Judgement, and Appreciation. The result of this study indicates that the most

dominant subjectivity strategies used by the reporters were judgmental at 42.5%. Comparatively, 32% were effectual, while only 25% were appreciative. The result confirms that the reporters used evaluative meaning which is utilised to judge human behavior in term of social esteem and social sanction. Moreover, the findings show that positive judgmental attitude formed 62% of the total. We can conclude that reporters tend to praise and admire more than criticise and condemn. Needless to say, this tendency to report news is peculiar to developing countries where it is generally understood that such news discourse could help to build a nation. At the same time, it represents a point of departure from reports in socio-political contexts where issues of national unity are not urgent. Despite the fact that judgment was the dominant subsystem, there was a significant difference between the types of hard news which employed such a subsystem. We can see that, for the most part, the reporter preferred to reveal their judgmental attitude toward the political reports.

When considering Affect, the effectual instances formed 32.5%. Reporters also tend to evaluate events emotionally. Again, political reports were the prevailing types of hard news, and they engaged much feeling and emotion positively and also negatively. Only the economic reports were the humblest in terms of the number of effectual stances. We can conclude that the reporters were showing a sense of either satisfaction or dissatisfaction towards political reports. What was unexpected was that natural disaster employed such a small number of emotional instances, even though the reported disasters caused many cases of death and damage. It was not surprising, however, to find reporters revealed a sense of insecurity while reporting crimes.

Regarding Appreciation – as indicated earlier, the appreciative instances were less than any other subsystem. This result confirms that reporters do not prefer to evaluate processes and natural phenomena. Actually, it was as expected that the occurrences of valuation, as a subtype of Appreciation, were the most frequent among other subtypes.

The fourth question that this study attempts to answer is about the type of hard news that the reporters tend to evaluate more. Political reports were the prevailing types of hard news that reporters tended to evaluate in term of Affect, Judgement, and Appreciation.

A possible explanation for this is that political and military conditions strongly influence the feeling of insecurity. *“Threats of war, the possibility of terrorism or even just political isolation of one’s contrary are examples of situations that affect people’s sense of national insecurity”* as stated by ⁽³⁵⁾ who indicates clearly that this may be one of the reasons for this phenomenon.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Conclusion

The present study has limited its scope to the selected evaluative resources of the Appraisal Theory, i.e., Attitude. The data is also limited to hard news presented in the following Saudi English newspapers: Saudi Gazette, Al-Riyadh and Arab news, and AlSarq Al-Awsat during 2015-2016. In addition, it is unable to encompass the entire types of hard news only four types were selected, and even within these there need to be a certain selectivity simply because of the number of reports actually appearing – a daily newspaper could theoretically contain almost four hundred reports in each category in the course of a year.

Within these limitations, the study was as thorough as possible, and examined as many reports as possible, including reports of the same event in different newspapers. This last part helped to reveal some of the less obvious cases of Affect, where the journalist had used words which emphasised the feelings involved, and not simply the facts. The major conclusion, however, is that although reporters often claim to report the news regardless of their own opinion objectively, or the opinion of the newspaper's owner (or indeed the newspapers' readers), the truth is that in almost every case the reporters' 'voice' can be detected in the article, even if only to a very small degree. This does not suggest that it is necessary to regard every news report as being biased or unreliable. On the contrary, it suggests that, in general, the news reports are as objective as they can be, allowing for the fact that they are written (and read) by humans. However, the research does point to the conclusion that, when reading a news report, the reader should carefully analyse what the reporter has actually written, rather than simply accepting the report as factual.

Recommendations

In the light of research results, the researcher recommends the following:

- Conducting more future studies in this field by using all the three subtypes of appraisal, attitude, judgment, and engagement.
- Conducting a study to compare the usage of evaluative resources when reporting local news and global news.
- Investigating the difference between Arabic news and English one with reference to the culture, and between the newspapers of different countries reporting on essentially the same news item.

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