Linguistic Devices Used in the News Bulletins of the Top Five News Radio Channels

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Abstract:

Reporting on news radio channels takes on a unique tone. The News Bulletin frequently employs oblique language to build suspense and anticipation among its audience. Radio stations frequently employ idiomatic compounds and rhetorical expressions in order to make their news broadcasts more interesting and memorable. Since they provide a concise overview of the entire news story and are often the deciding factor for whether or not a listener continues listening. The goal of the current study is to examine the linguistic features of News Bulletin in a sample of news from the five most popular news radio stations: National Public Radio (NPR), BBC World Service, CNN Radio, Fox News Radio, and MSNBC. Fifty news broadcasts from these five news radio stations were collected for this study. All of them reported on the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine. The use of an analytical strategy, specifically the Montgomery (2007) model, which offers a holistic view and gives equal weight to the linguistic, semantic, and discursive properties of the news bulletin, enabled the achievement of the research goal. The data analysis revealed that full sentences as well as ellipses were the most utilized expressions in the news bulletins of the news radio channels. The qualitative research showed that the News Bulletin uses the 'tactical incompleteness strategy,' a helpful concept from Montgomery's model, in almost all of its semantic, linguistic, and discursive choices.

Keywords: linguistic features, News Bulletin, news, discourse strategies, functions of News Bulletin, news radio channels.

Introduction

Humans use language to communicate their thoughts, beliefs, ideas, experiences, etc. in a way that both parties can understand (Odegbenle, 2013). language is essential for human communication and has the power to shape and form people's minds. It has both secular and sacred applications. (Eka, 2000) proved the value of language by showing how it helps humans understand and represent the world around them.

Radio is one of the earliest forms of electronic media, and language serves as a primary medium of exchange in all forms of media. it has been very important over the past few decades. It's generally agreed that the radio is best used for informing, enlightening, and entertaining its users. The language of a radio station uses has a big impact on how many listeners it can draw in and keep. (Chukwunalu, Nwankwere, & Asif, 2022)

Radio broadcasts cover a wide range of topics, from arts and culture to politics and news. The format and presentation of each program variety are unique. For instance, the opening news bulletins of political news programs tend to adopt a particular tone and wording. It is the most vital information in any radio report. It's what makes or breaks whether people will continue listening to your news cast. In other words, newscasts serve as bridges that take listeners from outside to inside the news.

The aforementioned factors highlight the importance of actively detecting and analyzing news bulletins. In this regard, news broadcasts make use of linguistic elements. Their responses vary depending on which linguistic devices are used. Several scholars (Bonyadi & Samuel, 2013) , (Chovanec, 2014) (Alipour & Monjezi, 2016) and (Al-Hindawi & Hmood Ali, 2018) have looked at the language used in news broadcasts.

However, the majority of those authors focused on print media in their examinations. For this reason, the current study seeks to analyze the linguistic features of the Bulletin in the selected news of The conflict between Russia and Ukraine from the five most popular news radio stations: National Public Radio (NPR), BBC World Service, CNN Radio, Fox News Radio, and MSNBC.

The language of news has been investigated by many researchers such as Mardh (1980),Fowler (1991), and Reah (2002) . However, the vast majority of them focused on written news analysis. whereas the current study deals with linguistic devices of the listened news. furthermore The majority of studies on news analysis have been conducted from the perspective of critical discourse analysis, but in this study, the model by Montgomery (2007) is used because it provides a more complete picture by taking into account the linguistic, semantic, and discursive aspects of headlines as a whole.

For the study of news analysis, numerous models have been employed in many previous studies. The majority of them focused on critical discourse analysis and discourse analysis as a whole. Some of them, to a little extent, concerned radio news. The purpose of this study is to compare the language used in selected news across five widely listened-to news channels: National Public Radio (NPR), BBC World Service, CNN Radio, Fox News Radio, and MSNBC, using Montgomery's (2007).The goal is to compare the news from these five sources to see if there are any variances using this model, given that the breadth of topics covered is the same.

The goal of the current study leads us to an important questions;

1. How are the news bulletin news chosen in terms of language devices and discourse structure in the sample articles from the five radio news channels ?

2. What changes in language and discourse structure can be seen for the Bulletins examined in the data, taking into account that the theme is maintained across all data sets?

Theoretical framework:

The current study follows Montgomery's model from 2007. Discourse genres are assumed to be distinct arrangements of discourse elements that serve a particular or limited set of communicative goals and are known to speakers of a given language by a shared label, such as "refer," "oration," or "jest," or "lecture." There are many such genres, and "news" is just one. There are two parts to Montgomery's paradigm, and these are the news' semantics and lexico-grammar.

The news' semantics:

The people, circumstances, and events that make up the news, as defined by Montgomery (2007)

In the beginning Persons in news are identified by terms that refer to them as representatives of major associations or organizations rather than as specific individuals, the description of people occurs not by individuation but by a 'membership categorization device' (MCD). There is no need for an MCD unless the individual is exceptionally famous.

The semantic rule that's in effect here is as follows:

1. Individualize when the person is already well-known; otherwise, place them in the group that stands out the most (Montgomery, 2007)..

2. Choosing an action that runs counter to the MCD's is encouraged as a second semantic norm for news (Montgomery, 2007). Journalists typically answer questions such "who," "where," "when," "how," and "why?" when they introduce a story. It's not that news doesn't happen 'only here,' but rather that it happens 'out there. However, wherever "there" is (whether "your region," "the nation," or "the world"), it is gathered from that location.

The news' lexico-grammar:

Sometimes in the news, a unique grammatical style is used. It's unusual to listen a whole sentences, although ellipsis, indefinite articles or deletion of it , furthermore nominalization are all rather prevalent. The use of lexical compounds is also commonplace. However, it would be misleading to suggest that compression alone determines news syntax

Literature review

As an alternative to print media, news can also be reported via radio broadcasts. "Media is broadcast journalism, which encompasses television, radio, and the internet," writes Astor (1992, page 145). Broadcast radio aims to inform a large audience using more conversational language than is common in print journalism. Radio journalism refers to the practice of publishing news and journals via electronic means as opposed to more traditional mediums like newspapers and posters (Bahadur Bam, 2020).

As Arfan Lodhi (2019) puts it, "media is power because it permeates our lives like oxygen." In order to change how people think about things, or how things turn out, mass communication is crucial. The most important aspect in convincing someone to agree with your point of view is the way you phrase your arguments.

Based on that, the researcher reviews a number of earlier studies that dealt with radio journalism, its language, and the extent to which it affected the audience.

Discourse can refer to several different things depending on context. It usually designates a form of language that is employed in both oral and written communication. means of expression, including formally delivered speeches, casual conversations, written diaries, textbooks, newspapers, and the like. Different fields of study have made use of the term "discourse," leading to a plethora of interpretations.

"discourse - language in use" does "much more than map reality and convey information" (Montgomery, 2007). Discourse analysis, and in particular critical discourse analysis, provides a means of discerning the ideologies of authors or reporters that are taken up by their readers, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

Fishman (1991) who defended radio's role in the spread of information and argued that the medium's language should reflect that of the general public. His theoretical foundation included an order of importance for programs to reverse language changes and a classification of eight stages of language change.

In the research of Mencher (2000, p. 42) highlights the characteristics of broadcasting language, including accuracy, moderation, Moderate and impartial, Objectives , concise and easy to understand. Focused and condensed.

In addition, as Van Dijk (2013) notes, rhetoric often has an indirect ideological influence. Social attitudes shaped by ideologies can impact the personal judgments of group representatives whose minds are modeled after concrete individuals and events. Thus, the meaning that is generated in writing, discussion, and discourse about such occurrences is under the influence of mental models with ideologies. People's ideologies can influence the models they use while delivering a discourse.

Radio linguists have been studied by (Valentine, Kopcha, & Vagle, 2018). They studied US majority of radio stations through the lens of phenomenology and concluded that radio language is a combination of oral and textual communication, and that the social factors that influence how people sound on the radio are different from those that influence how people sound in other settings. This seems like an attempt to argue that radio language is not static.

(Montejo & Adriano, 2018) claimed that the language used in news revealed the political leanings of the news media, who consciously chose only those speeches or news stories that might arouse readers' sensational emotions

Finaly It was determined by Monsefi and Mahadi (2016) in their paper Wordplay in English News bullitens that linguistic devices improved headline skills, aided discourse, matched the economy of space, emphasized or downplayed the significance of social variables. The rhythms of the word strings also left an indelible effect on the minds of the readers.

Methodology

This study employs Montgomery's (2007) model to examine a selection of radio news bulletins in order to determine whether or not a comparison of linguistic devices and patterns can shed light on the goals of news bulletins from widely-respected frontline news channels with respect to the discourse's upper semantic strata, ideology, and genre of news discourse. in addition to check whether the five most-listened radio channels all follow the same formula when reporting the news or there are differences .

This research relies heavily on content culled from news radio broadcasts. in order of circulation, based on various rankings and reviews . the radio channels were chosen from several popular websites that evaluate and provide rankings for widely listened radios. These websites are commonly used to discover popular radio stations and evaluate their content. Here are a few examples:

1. TuneIn (www.tunein.com): TuneIn is a popular website and mobile app that allows users to listen to radio stations from around the world. It offers a vast collection of radio stations across various genres and provides user ratings and reviews for many stations.

2. Radio Garden (www.radio.garden): Radio Garden is a unique website that allows users to explore live radio stations from different countries on an interactive globe. it offers a fascinating way to discover widely listened radios globally.

3. Streema (www.streema.com): Streema is a platform that provides access to thousands of radio stations from around the world. It features user reviews and ratings for many stations, allowing users to evaluate and discover popular options

The list below contains the five commonly listened news radio channels :

1. NPR (National Public Radio)

2. BBC World Service

3. CNN Radio

4. Fox News Radio

5. MSNBC Radio

In the second step of the radio channels selection, 10 random news stories were taken from each channel. Reaching fifty news stories overall. For more accurate manual analysis and to rigorously utilize the analytic model to the data, this corpus size was controlled.

The sampling strategy combined systematic and random methods. The researcher first gathered news from the five most popular radio channels, The search for news was based on one theme ((the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine in 2022 (March and April)) in order to keep the focus consistent. The final data for this study consists of fifty news stories selected randomly from the larger pool. The gathered news will be analyzed in order to gain insight into the use of linguistic devices in the news on these channels.

The Model of Analysis

The analysis model for the current data will be Montgomery's (2007) model which combines two analytic tools: the semantic tool as well the Lexico-grammar tool. The Semantic tool divides into people, events, and circumstances, whereas The analysis of the Lexico-grammar tool is going to do independently, based on the linguistic details and structure of news. This model was chosen by the researcher because it was compatible with the intended research goal and could be used to examine the linguistic components of each news story.

Results and Discussion

The data were presented sequentially in the same way that they were collected and analyzed. To get a better understanding of the linguistic devices used by the five news radio channels , the data were presented in the same order as they were collected and analyzed. Following is a summary of all the analysis results from using the semantics tools in the news bulletins , as well as a comparison of the five news radio channels.

The first phase of data analysis is the semantic tool, which is broken down into three categories: individuals, events, and circumstances.

The first chart bellow shows the individual data analysis that presents both the Membership Categorization Device (MCD) and Individualization Strategy (IS) used in 21 news stories from among 50 from the first radio channel,which is 42%. The second radio channel used only individualization strategy in 13 news stories out of 50 (26%) whereas the third radio station utilized just the MCD in nine news stories, which is 18% of the total. In seven news stories or 14% of all news , none of the Semantic classification strategies are used in the rest of the radio channels , according to our model of analysis.
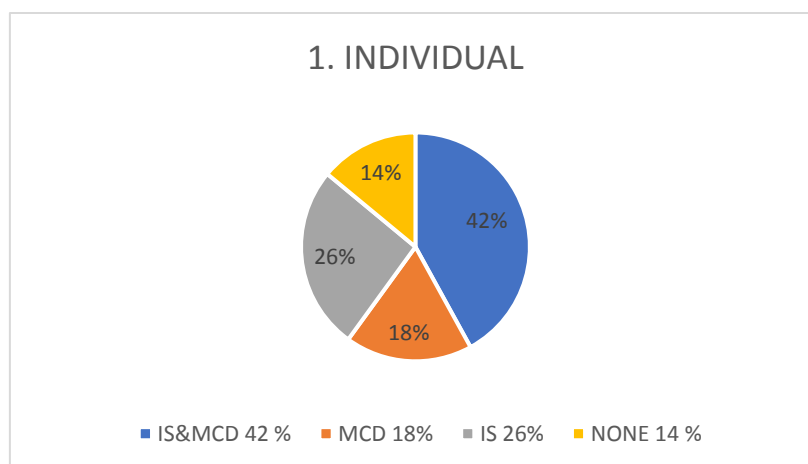

Figure 1. the data analysis in terms of the factor of 'individuals

Regarding to the second figure, the category-bound activities, the results showed its intersection with MCD in 22 news stories, or 45%. whereas In 28 news stories, there is no explicit mention of intersection with MCD, which is 55 % of total news
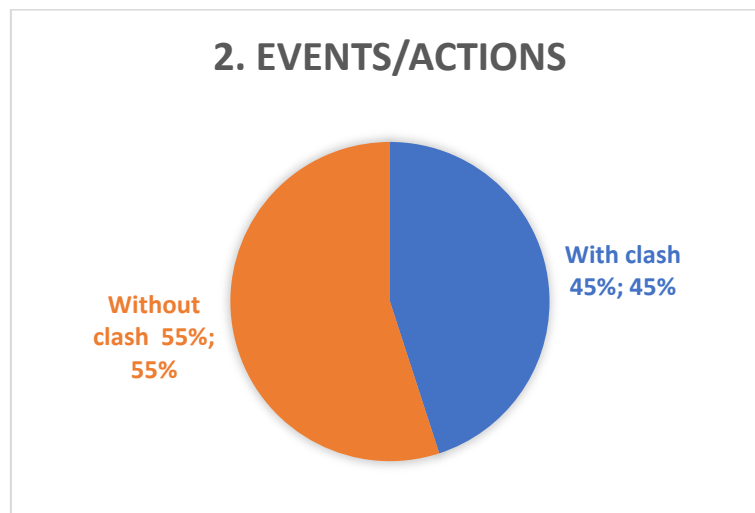
Figure 2. the data analysis in terms of the factor of 'Events'

Circumstances, the third category in the semantics analysis, was using emerging in all the news is depicted. The results in the third figure showed that While only 8 news stories (or 16%) made reference to the event's circumstances , 42 news stories (or 84%) did not mention such reference of circumstances in relation to the events that were the focus of the news bulletins.
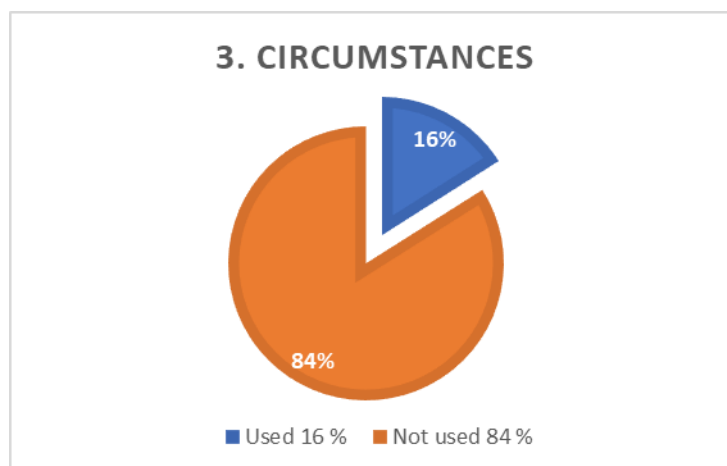

Figure 3. the data analysis in terms of the factor of 'circumstances'

The result of comparing the five radio channels showed that;
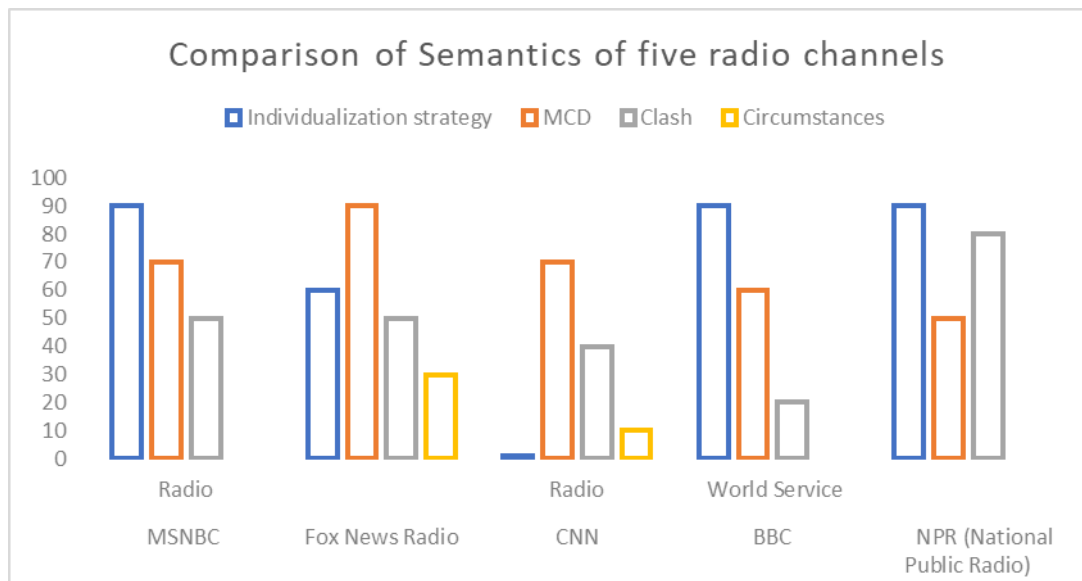

Figure 4. The comparison across the data of radio channels in factors of the 'Semantics'

First, in terms of individualization strategy, it is used mostly by CNN Radio 10 in its news, which makes 100%. BBC World Service , NPR (National Public Radio) and MSNBC Radio used it at the same level, which contains 9 news stories (90%)); however, Fox News Radio used IS in 6 news stories out of 10, which makes 60% out of 100%.

MCD was the most utilized device by Fox News Radio in 9 news stories which covers 90%. MSNBC Radio and CNN Radio used MCD at the same that contains 7 out of 10 which covers 70% of their news. BBC World Service used MCD in 6 out of 10, or 60%, while NPR (National Public Radio) used it in 5 out of 10.

In relation to the activities category , intersection is mostly observed in NPR (National Public Radio) , which contains 8 .Fox News Radio and MSNBC Radio used it in 5 news stories , while CNN Radio used it in 4 . It was the least used device by the BBC World Service, with 2 news stories .

The circumstances category was mentioned in 3 news stories (30%) on Fox News Radio , while CNN Radio used this device just in 1 news out of 10, which makes for 10%. Other channels didn't address it at all.

The following is a representation of the data with respect to the lexico-grammar of news which is employed in the Montgomery's model

The second phase of data analysis is the lexico-grammar used to analyze all of the news data. The term "full sentence" accounts for 45 of the total news stories involving lexicogrammatical considerations. while ellipsis was used in 35 out of 50 news stories (or 70% of the sample). 10 of the fifty news items (or 20% of the total) make use of nominalization. Additionally, the results

demonstrated that lexical compounding was employed in 6 out of 50 (12%) news stories, while the non-finite clause strategy was employed in 4 out of 50 (8%) news stories.
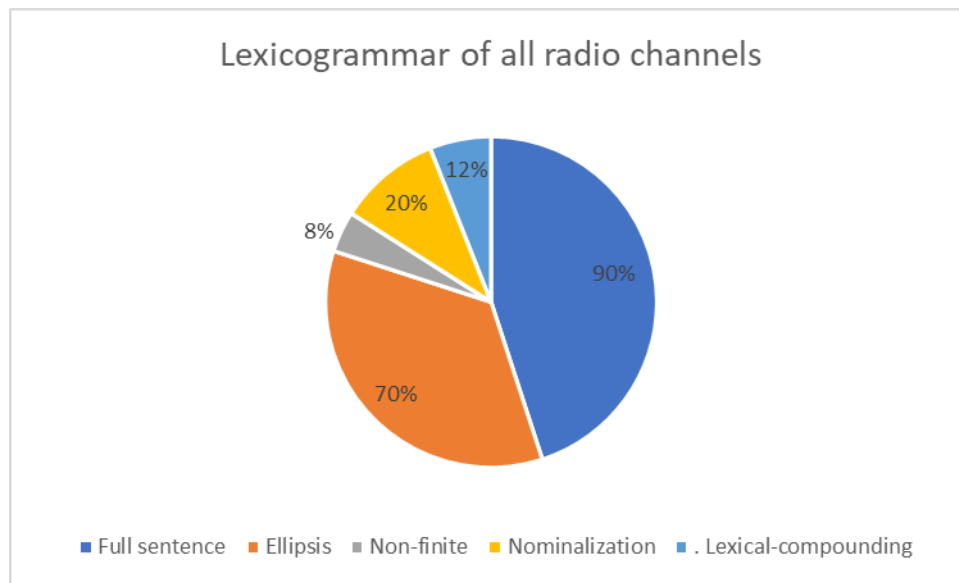

Figure 5. An outline of using lexico-grammatical devices used in all data

In this paragraph, we compare the lexico-grammatical strategy made by the five radio stations we analyzed for their news broadcasts. The data showed that CNN Radio, BBC World Service, and Fox News Radio all favor and use the strategy of "full sentence" 9 times out of ten, while MSNBC Radio used this strategy in 8 news stories and NPR (National Public Radio) used it in 7 news stories.

NPR (National Public Radio) used the ellipsis strategy in 8 news stories, whereas, MSNBC Radio used 'ellipsis' in 7 news stories and CNN Radio used it in 6 news stories. Fox News Radio and the BBC World Service both used it at the same level, which contain 5 news stories.

Fox News Radio used "nominalization" more than any other radio channel, in 6 news stories (60 percent). whereas CNN Radio, BBC World Service, and NPR (National Public Radio) have used it at the same level with only one news story out of ten. while, it was not utilized by MSNBC Radio.

'Non-finite clause' strategy was used in different counts by the 5 channels: CNN Radio used it in 2 news stories; BBC World Service and NPR (National Public Radio) used it in just 1 news story out of 10. while MSNBC Radio and Fox News Radio didn't use it in their news.

NPR (National Public Radio) used the lexical compounding method in three news stories, whereas CNN Radio used it in two news stories. MSNBC Radio only used one lexical compounding in all news analyses. Finally, neither Fox News Radio nor the BBC World Service used this feature in their political news reports.
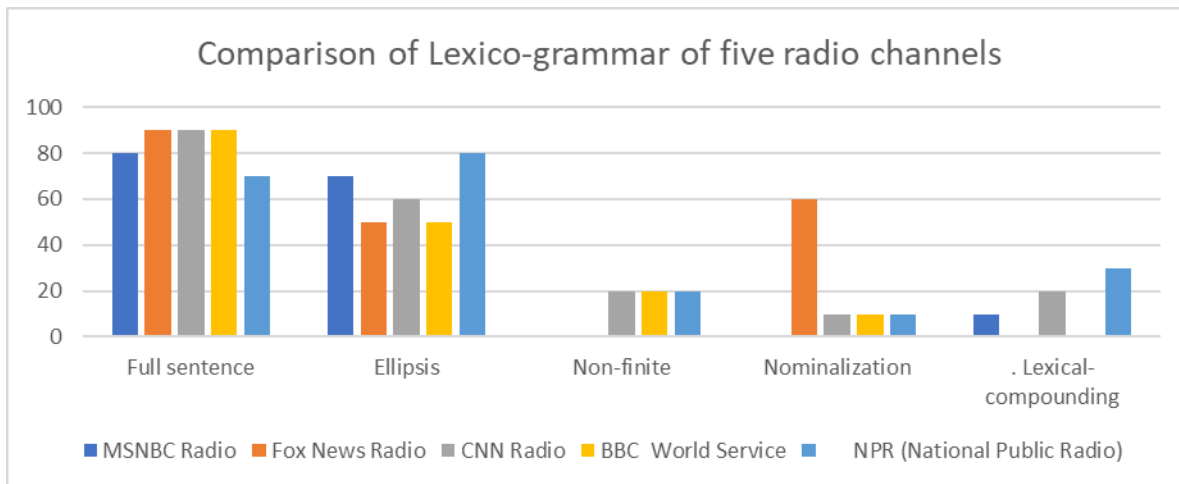
Figure 6. The comparison across the radio data in factors of 'Lexicogrammar'

Discussion

the discussion deals with of the significant results of data analysis of the news stories on five widely listened radio channels, Using Montgomery's (2007) framework for the analysis of news bulletins, sought to identify linguistic devices that are used in the news structure.

1. The findings of our study demonstrate that political news stories on political radio channels serve informative functions as well. The best news stories "tell and sell," according to Gattani; that is, they immediately inform the listener of the news while also persuading them that, it is worthwhile listening to. Our research demonstrates how radio news works as a "tell and sell," as Gattani notes. As a result, 42 out of 50 of the news stories were full sentences, which helped the listeners receive more accurate information.

2. The news stories used (27 out of 50) flattening effect that attracted the audience's attention. This flattening effect, as noted by Montgomery (2007), is another notable feature of news that represents full sentences in their linguistic structure. According to Montgomery (2007), news articles that are full sentences frequently have a flattering effect. The main aim of this strategy is to attract the audience's attention, it has used 27 of the 50 news stories.

3. Ellipsis was the second common device mark. It's a common tactic in English, and it's used frequently in the news as part of the tactical incompleteness strategy to keep audiences engaged and eager for more. Most of the ellipsis in these reports was caused by the omission of articles. Articles in the news can give the impression that the information presented is dated, but when they aren't used, the news seems current and exciting. This demonstrates that radio channels are a good fit for Montgomery's

4. Both the individualization strategy and MCD were favored in terms of news semantics

5. Regarding the circumstances, These five channels don't give any specifics about when or where the action takes place. This demonstrates that most news channels adhere to a tactical incompleteness strategy by avoiding the addition of context to their reporting, to attract and keep audiences continue to the story.

6. Fox News Radio, in keeping with Montgomery's model of lexico-grammar, employs a nominalization strategy more frequently than other channels. Nominalizations aid in maintaining ambiguity , condense data into memorable noun phrases, and pique the interest of audiences. This is because nominalization is used less frequently than individualization, which emphasizes the names of prominent political figures and their conflicts with one another.

7. The five radio channels don't use 'non-finite clauses' or 'lexical-compounding' . As well, they don't fit the baseline assumptions of Montgomery's model in terms of the lexico-grammatical devices.

As a result The radio channels don't fit the baseline assumptions of Montgomery's model in terms of these lexico-grammatical devices.

Conclusion

This study set out to analyze the language devices used by the five most popular radio stations to report the news based on the model that was employed , following a brief description of all the results one by one :

The use of linguistic devices is crucial when presenting news, a fact that is apparently not lost on journalists. Their primary objective is to get people interested in listening to the entire news item.

1. The five radio channels chosen in this study semantically matched Montgomery's model.
2. The news broadcasts on the five channels analyzed here showed both shared and distinctive lexico-grammatical characteristics. The extensive use of ellipses and full sentences was consistent across all radio channels.
3. The BBC World Service and CNN Radio News followed Montgomery's model when using the terms "nominalization," "non-finite clause," and "lexical-compounding" in their news stories. This means that both of these radio stations stick to a more traditional approach to the language they use to report the news.
4. There is a moderate approach represented by NPR (National Public Radio) and MSNBC Radio. Whereas Fox News Radio, on the other hand, avoided using conventional language in its news reports, suggesting that its style deviates from Montgomery's model, at least in terms of the headlines.
5. The most important lesson is that journalists can better capture their readers' attention, convey the message they want to convey, and persuade their listeners to keep listening by making strategic use of a variety of language devices.

المستخلص

الأدوات اللغوية المستخدمة في نشرات الأخبار لأفضل خمس قنوات إذاعية إخبارية

انفال صبيح حمود

تتميز تقارير الأخبار على القنوات الإذاعية بأسلوب فريد. فغالبًا ما تستخدم النشرات الإخبارية لغة غامضة لبناء التشويق والحماس بين جمهورها. كما تستخدم المحطات الإذاعية تعابير اصطلاحية وتعابير بلاغية لجعل بث الأخبار أكثر إثارة وتميزًا. حيث توفر النشرات الإخبارية لمحة موجزة عن قصة الأخبار بأكملها وغالبًا ما تكون العامل المحدد في تحديد ما إذا كان المستمع يستمر في الاستماع أم لا. ويهدف هذا البحث الحالي إلى دراسة الميزات اللغوية لنشرات الأخبار في عينة من الأخبار لأفضل خمسة محطات إذاعية للأخبار وهي: الإذاعة العامة الوطنية(NPR) ، وخدمة الأخبار العالمية ال بي بي سي، وإذاعة سي إن إن، وإذاعة فوكس نيوز، وإم إس إن بي سي.

تم جمع خمسون بثًا إخباريًا من هذه الخمسة المحطات الإذاعية لهذه الدراسة. وقدم نموذج مونتغمري (2007) استخدامًا لاستراتيجية تحليلية توفر رؤية شاملة وتعطي وزنًا متساويًا للخصائص اللغوية والدلالية والخطابية لنشرة الأخبار، مما جعل تحقيق هدف البحث ممكنًا.

كشفت تحليل البيانات عن أن الجمل الكاملة من جهة و استخدام خاصية الحذف لبعض الكلمات الوظيفية (الكلمات النحوية التي لا تحمل معنى فوريًا وغرضها هو إضافتها إلى بنية الجملة بدلاً من معناها) هي الأكثر استخدامًا في نشرات الأخبار في المحطات الإذاعية. وأظهر البحث النوعي أن نشرة الأخبار تستخدم "استراتيجية النقص التكتيكي"، وهو مفهوم مفيد من نموذج مونتغمري، في معظم خياراتها الدلالية واللغوية والخطابية

الكلمات المفتاحية:

الخصائص اللغوية، نشرة الأخبار، الأخبار، استراتيجيات الخطاب، وظائف نشرة الأخبار، محطات الإذاعة الإخباريه

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