

Depiction of Mob Attack on Capitol Hill: A Linguistics-Stylistic Analysis of US Newspaper Headlines

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ABSTRACT:

Newspaper editorials are a vital part of media discourse, which is an extremely important field of research in stylistics and rhetoric analysis. Particularly, some features of editorial headlines and their important role in catching readers' attention have made the interface between the linguistic analysis of newspaper editorial headlines and stylistic significance of the headline language. Recent Capitol Hill episode of public attack on US parliament building got heavy coverage of US print media. Through conducting a contrastive textual analysis of selected headlines, picked from the editorials of the English newspaper, Washington Post (WP), New York Times (NYT) and The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) the present study aimed at exploring the kind of textual and rhetorical strategies the three newspapers used for propagating their preferred ideologies. The results of the study indicated that headlines in the three papers presented an attitude of the writers (newspapers) toward the topic. However, based on the analysis of the data, it became clear that there were certain differences between the three sets of headlines in terms of presupposition, and certain rhetorical devices.

Key Words: *Media discourse, stylistics, United States, Newspapers, Rhetorical devices*

INTRODUCTION

David Crystal (1957) stated in "The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language" that newspapers present a broad spectrum of unique linguistics variations compared to other areas of language study. The writing Style of Print Media is diverse compared to the others because there are some essential limitations of language use due to constraints of time and space. There is usually a need to express more with fewer words and limited space. Intrigued needs to be emphasized, secured, and used to utilize broad kind, sensational features, brief passages, and brief sentences. In different ways, the occurrence of photos, the respectability of the data detailed and required to keep up human intrigued will affect the diction and linguistic use. In this manner, a particular language structure is applied in writing characteristics and these are foremost noticeable highlights of a daily paper. Dialect is the one of the most important sources of communication.

Additionally, the most important thing is that as far as individuals do not communicate successfully, its nature and foundation are not investigated. Language of

different fields has its own Register'; there are numerous specialized areas like science, medication, law, religion, and mass communication. Such distinctive professional areas established distinctive manners of dialect. That has to be considered cautiously if we need to get it, to utilize these for purpose of communication and reciprocate realities and data from one individual to another. Among wide range of dialect styles, the dialect of daily paper reporting illustrates wider variety of particular aspects of language. Therefore, to draw the readers' focus and make the deadlines catchy, daily paper columnists need to utilize diverse methods in drafting headlines. The headlines of newspapers are moreover composed in a distinctive style that is not like standard dialect. The language of newspaper headlines usually does not follow the traditional grammatical rules rather their construction is meant to attract the readership. These are utilized in discrete manner and a few extraordinary language structures.

Furthermore, that appeals to the mind and inclinations of supposed reader since from where ever reader access the paper, while starting reader looks at the main

reporting and images. Thus, such main reporting should be highly focused and investigated with great caution. Dialect of Newspapers has assumed the status of a distinct genre. According to Bell (1991), Newspapers reporting's are further characteristics of the daily paper. Headlines in editorials are like the entry door of a house. While arguing the composition of news van Dijk (1988) says that headlines and lead paragraphs provide a summary of news reports. However, it has been observed that the headlines do not consistently summarise the reports. Bell (1991) and Nir (1993) describe two types of headlines; one works likewise theoretical of an important scene of plot and whereas others develop a single specific explanation of the story. In spite of the fact that in utmost matters, features do carry on those capacities in news headline, which neither outlines nor display the description of the headlines of the newspaper. Lindemann (1990) generally agrees with prior mentioned two functions of headlines. However, he opines these Main features of daily paper describe the multifarious complexities in front of their readership in reasonable manner. The newspapers headlines are frequently eye catching and replete with suspense. The newspaper headlines have only particular purpose of attention-seeking rather than information dissemination as headlines do not exactly depict the articles they present. It can be argued, daily paper features are more influential instead of enlightening. The controversy of deciding the part of the features would be problematic if anyone looks at the sort of scripts of daily paper where the main captions are described. For occasion benefit data, point of views, and news (Bell, 1991), the script of daily papers would both semantically and pragmatically need different types of news reports to be constructed on the content and the recipient. Hence, a few thinks to emphasise on analysis of the features of daily paper. To prepare the EF (English as a foreign language) learners with the etymological techniques sent by feature journalists, White (2011), for example, inspected the prosodic, syntax, and semantic designs that are utilised in drafting Spanish and English reports.

Significance of Study

The Daily paper publications as sort of supposition writings (van Dijk, 1995) are diverse from other sorts of daily paper discourse, so news reports are gathered to show assessments and opinions regarding the news occasions that are earlier detailed within the daily papers. In this way, as a result the distinctive features of news reports such as typifying the substance of the columnists, stimulating the readers' interest (Reah, 2002), additionally their imperative part in viewing readers' consideration, recognition, and reading method (van Dijk, 1988), the current research is an endeavor to explore the representation or depiction of attacking mob on US parliament house known as 'Capitol Hill' located in countries capital city- Washington DC through three

distinctive daily newspapers in their headlines. The presidential elections of 2020 were led by Democratic Party nominee Mr. Joe Biden. The then incumbent President of United States of America Mr. Trump did not accept his defeat in elections. He rather accused his political opponents for rigging of presidential election. On 6 January 2021, when the legislators were engaged in the endorsement of election results, a mob stormed the parliament building. The encounter between US Capital Police and remonstrating mob resulted into injuries and deaths of some US citizens. The episode remained focus of countries media for few weeks. The study in hand has focused the print media depiction of current occasion. However, contrastive perspective of reporting of the same event by three different newspapers is also the objective of this research. Being related to a recent event of international significance, this study is unique in its own way. For accomplishing the study objective, the formulated research questions are described in following sub section.

Research Questions

- 1) How US print media headlines have depicted Capitol Hill incident?
- 2) How do the headline contents of three different newspapers vary from each other?

Literature Review

Shie (2010) concentrated over lexical headline varieties within Time Supplement (TS) features and The New York Times (NYT) captions in a comparative research. The study established such colloquialisms, figures of speech, informal jargon, specialised terms, and vocabulary that is not included in English, were set up more considerably in NYT features. Such varieties of lexical aspects diminished the casualness of TS features but complement their availability to common readers of TS. Bonyadi & Samuel (2013) conducted the discourse analysis on online media "detik.com". It used Fairclough's theory in the analyses that tried to view content in three dimensions: text, discourse and social practice. The method relied in analysing the data was pragmatic identity method by Sudaryanto. The results revealed that the journalists used some figurative language to attract readers' attention. While arranging the headlines, the newspaper developers used subjective and evocative vocabulary.

Moe (2014) focused on news headlines linguistically that are used in 'The New Light of Myanmar'- a Myanmar based State inherent daily paper. The study examined the Characteristics of dialect of particular daily papers consistently through distinct levels of language: Graphetic level, graphological level, phonological level, grammatical level, lexical level and semantic level. At phonological level, 'the rhyming words' and 'alliteration' were elaborated with examples from headline contents. The study findings, found that

the linguistics aspects of newspaper headlines were quite varying from different varieties of dialect.

Shostaka & Gillespieb (2014) aimed at defining a few of the characteristic aspects of communication strategies of constructing features in British newspapers. The study used formative and linguistic methods in describing three peculiar demonstrative strategies and examined various models of headlines from peculiar newspapers and weekly editions. The results revealed that communication strategies of news features from variety of peculiar papers were more informative and persuasive; they shaped views, understanding of readership whereas weekly editions frequently focused on advertisement and entertainment. Weekly editions appeal recipient's concentration to incidental occasions and provoke deep interest in personals of superstar.

Sari (2019) conducted a contrastive literary analysis of chosen features taken from publications of the English daily papers, 'The New York Times' and other Persian daily paper, 'Tehran Times'. The purpose of research is to investigate the sort of literary and rhetorical methods utilised by the two daily papers to proclaim their wanted belief systems. The research findings showed that features within the two papers described a subjective state of mind of the daily paper designers toward the issue enclosed. Whereas, data analysis revealed definite contrasts within the two sets of features in terms of Presupposition and certain Explanatory devices.

Olugbenga (2020) examined newspaper headlines captions of Boko Haram attack on the Nigerian Army Base in Metele, North East Nigeria of 18th November, 2018. There were headlines in approximately thirty newspaper, twelve daily Nigerian newspapers published since November 21st and December 15th (24 days) formed sample of study. The analysis of headlines was at linguistic levels: lexical, syntactic and semantic. The study findings revealed that journalistic writings were either used to portray objective views or whip up psychological sentimentalities in the choice of lexis and expressions. The results further revealed that journalistic style of headlines writing inconsistently conformed to linguistic rules and conventions of the language use. Therefore, the paper recommended that newspaper editors take into account the linguistic inadequacies of their readership by presenting headlines and other captions in simple language; and placing less emphasis on propaganda, sentiments, and emotions in the language of newspaper headlines.

Asghar et al. (2020) examined the disparity of the power in political discourse presented in a television interview, HARDtalk. They concluded that during the interview, the interviewer takes more power as he/ she has the control of the direction of discourse. The research examines the lexico-grammatical features of the political discourse. Aman et al. (2021) analyses the political discourse of the speeches of the state

representatives of Pakistan and India in General Assembly in United Nations. They concluded that the political discourse is represented through several different frames. The frame that could effectively describe the purpose of discourse or serve best for achieving the goals of the discourse is selected to present it. The present study is novel as it deals with the linguistic and stylistic analysis of print media discourse in a political context.

Methodology

This study is descriptive in nature and qualitative an approach and method. Qualitative study is many things to many people (Denzin & Lincoln 2005a). That perspective regarding qualitative study is embraced by number of research specialists, for occurrence Silverman (1997) theorised that there was no concurred doctrine that is crucial for all qualitative social studies. So, the researchers started the research process with an open mind and without intending to test preconceived hypotheses.

Study Population and Sample

English language broad sheet daily Newspapers formed the population of this study. However, due to their wide circulation being repeated awardees of Pulitzer prizes, being over a century old and limited scope of this study, only three newspapers' headlines namely 'Washington Post', 'The Wall Street Journal' and 'The New York Times' were selected as sample of this research. Political stance of various Newspapers is generally full of controversies and debates. Therefore, the stance of was not giving consideration while selecting the sample newspapers. The Capitol Hill was attacked on 6 January 2021 and it followed an extensive reporting by print media. The President-elect Mr. Biden was sworn in at Lincoln's Memorial on 20 January 2021. So, the initial phase of turmoil was settled with the lapse of tenure of President Trump in his office. Accordingly, the newspapers' headlines from 7 January to 21 January 2021 were culled from three selected daily newspapers for analysis.

Theoretical Framework

According to Crystal & Davy (1969,) especially a part of dialect, or a content can be considered in form of a number of associated stages of depiction The stages that ought to be studied within the research of the dialect of daily paper features that are graphetic level, graphological level, phonological level, syntactic level, lexical level and semantic level.

Presuppositions "allow speakers and writers to make claims without actually asserting them, and, moreover, take specific beliefs for granted although they might not be" (van Dijk, 1995, p. 273). In actual, it describes the writers with a type of a "linguistic device that can be used at word/phrase surface to influence readers" (Huckin, 2002, p. 161. Hence, taking into account the manipulative description of presupposition and the rhetorical mechanism, the chosen features are examined

in form of presupposition, it develops explanatory aspects known as parallelism, alliteration, consonance, metonymy, pun, testimonial, citation out of context, allusion, neologism, antithesis, and irony.

Limitations and Delimitations

The study material of this research was selected headlines from three selected daily newspapers. Therefore, all the newspapers and other newspaper genres such as detailed editorials and semiotics could not be included due to limited scope of this paper.

Data Analysis

The collected Corpus

No	Type	Example	Presupposition
1	Lexical	Trump mob storms Capitol	Trump supporters are a mob, mob attacks capitol
2	Existential	Calls intensify to remove Trump from office	There are calls to remove Trump
3	Lexical	More in Congress seek Trump ouster	Congress wants ouster of Trump
4	Existential	House moves ahead with bid to remove Trump	Trump has to be removed
5	Lexical	House finalising impeachment push	There is an impeachment push
6	Existential	Republicans join drive for impeachment	There is a drive for impeachment
7	Lexical	Trump impeached again	Trump was impeached before
8	Lexical	How DC police held their ground	DC police had held their ground
9	Lexical	Well before riot, DC was reeling	There were riots

Table1. kinds of Presupposition in Washington Post (WP)

No	Type	Example	Presupposition
1	Existential	After Pro-Trump Mob Storms Capitol, Congress Confirms Biden’s Win	Mob was pro Trump, Biden won
2	Implicative Verb	Capitol Attack Leads Democrats to Demand That Trump Leave Office	Capitol was attacked
3	Existential	Democrats Ready Impeachment Charge Against Trump for Inciting Capitol Mob	Trump incited insurrection
4	Lexical	For Trump and the Nation, a Final Test of Accountability	Trump is acting against Nation
5	Existential	Inside a Deadly Siege: How a String of Failures Led to a Dark Day at the Capitol	Siege was deadly, there were security failures
6	Existential	House to Move to Impeach Trump After Push to Have Pence Remove Him From Office	Trump be impeached
7	Lexical	House Sets Impeachment Vote to Charge Trump With Incitement	Trump Incited
8	Existential	McConnell Privately Backs Impeachment as House Moves to Charge Trump	McConnell Supports Impeachment
9	Implicative verb	Trump Impeached for Inciting Insurrection	Trump incited insurrection
10	Existential	Post Trump, Republicans Are Headed for a Bitter Internal Showdown	Future showdown of Republicans will be bitter
11	Existential	Biden Inaugurated as the 46th President Amid a Cascade of Crises	Crises are still existing in US

Table2. kind of Presupposition in ‘New York Times (NWT)’

No	Type	Example	Presupposition
1	Existential	Congress Certifies Joe Biden’s Election Win Following Day of Turmoil	Biden won elections, there was turmoil

The sample of headlines were collected by the researchers from the online archives of the daily newspapers: Washington Post (WP), New York Times (NYT) and The Wall Street Journal (WSJ). Henceforth, the abbreviations noted in brackets will be used for corresponding newspapers.

Presupposition

The headlines, having the presupposition, have been sifted out from all three daily newspapers under study.

2	Existential	After Capitol Riot, Resignations and Calls for Trump’s Removal	There were riots in Capitol
3	Lexical	Joe Biden Calls on Nation to ‘Start Afresh’ at Inauguration as 46th President	Previous environment is not good

Table3. kinds of Presupposition in ‘The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)’

Rhetorical Device

Rhetorical aspects named parallelism, alliteration, consonance, metonymy, pun, testimonial, quotation out of context, allusion, neologism, antithesis, and irony, are described in this sub section. Only the repeated devices will have been selected.

Alliteration

- After Pro-Trump Mob Storms Capitol, Congress Confirms Biden’s Win (NYT)
- Capitol Attack Leads Democrats to Demand That Trump Leave Office (NYT)
- Trump Impeached for Inciting Insurrection (NYT)
- For Trump and the Nation, a Final Test of Accountability (NYT)
- Inside a Deadly Siege: How a String of Failures Led to a Dark Day at the Capitol (NYT)
- Biden to Announce Broad Plan to Reverse Trump Immigration Policies (NYT)
- Biden Pledges Federal Vaccine Campaign to Beat a Surging Coronavirus (NYT)
- After Capitol Riot, Resignations and Calls for Trump’s Removal (WSJ)
- House to Move to Impeach Trump After Push to Have Pence Remove Him From Office (WSJ)
- House Plans Trump Impeachment Vote for Wednesday (WSJ)
- Pence Says He Won’t Invoke 25th Amendment, Setting Stage for Impeachment Vote (WSJ)
- President Trump Impeached by the House for Second Time (WSJ)
- Democrats in Senate to Juggle Trump Impeachment Trial, Biden Agenda (WSJ)
- A somber turn toward the presidency
- The ‘whitewashing’ of Black Wall Street (WP)

Assonance/ Rhyme

- House moves ahead with bid to remove Trump (WP)
- House to Move to Impeach Trump After Push to Have Pence Remove Him From Office (WSJ)
- House Sets Impeachment Vote to Charge Trump With Incitement (NYT)
- Pence Says He Won’t Invoke 25th Amendment, Setting Stage for Impeachment Vote (WSJ)
- How DC police held their ground (WP)
- Trump plans slew of pardons (WP)

Findings and Discussion

The findings of the current research presented different qualitative and quantitative similar aspects and contrasts between Washington Post (WP), ‘New York

Times (NWT)’ and ‘The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reporters features. In form of presupposition, the current research described that report writers in Washington Post (WP) and ‘New York Times (NYT) used lexical and existential both types frequently whereas ‘The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) suggested to state the features mostly in a neural and objective form. Moreover, rhetorical aspects such as alliteration, assonance and rhyme were evenly used by Washington Post (WP), New York Times (NYT) and ‘The Wall Street Journal (WSJ). In common, the examination of the features in the three daily papers found that the daily paper headlines not as it displayed the subject of the publications but too shown the subjective state of mind of the scholars (daily papers) toward the subject pointing at influencing and impacting the readers’ comprehension of the publication content. Such impressionistic and influential description of the news happenings and the news superstars was accomplished by depending on certain stylistic and persuasive schemes. The examination described that the three newspapers were similar to a great extent while utilising experiential presupposition, lexical presupposition for persuading resolutions. Similarly, rhetorical devices were found to be used in the three papers equally. It is pertinent to mention that no ideological bias was found amongst three newspapers as far leading two political parties of US are concerned, namely Democratic Party and Republican Party. The general contrary Trump sentiment was adequately mentioned by all three newspapers i.e., Washington Post, New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Conclusion

Daily paper publications shape a portion of media talk, which is imperative area of research in journalese and rhetoric investigation and are a source of learning for nonnative speakers and learners of English or ESL (English as a moment dialect) studies. Particularly, such highlights of reporting features, additionally their critical part in checking and coordinating readers’ consideration have made the connection in the linguistic investigation of daily paper reporting headlines and educating of ESL as an important issue in language instructing. The research in hand endeavored to arrange a systematic textual and rhetorical analysis of reporting features of Washington Post (WP), New York Times (NYT) and ‘The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) with the purpose of investigating the sort of rhetorical aspects the three newspapers are for disseminating their favored viewpoints. The study findings revealed that

presupposition was constantly depicted in the features of Washington Post and New York Times. However, the headlines of Wall Street Journal displayed similarly lesser prevalence of presupposition. As far, rhetorical aspects are concerned, all three newspapers relied on eye catching devices such as alliteration and rhyme. Therefore, current research described that the ideological perspectives of three daily papers were nearly put-up objective by the publication scholars and daily paper designers.

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