An Exploration of Morpho-Syntactic Elements of Block Language in Journalistic Discourse

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Abstract: This study aims to explore the morphological and syntactic elements that characterise what is known as "block language" in journalistic discourse through a comparative analysis of Arabic and English texts. The study adopted a mixed qualitative-quantitative methodology, and the sample comprised 100 texts (50 Arabic texts from Al-Quds Al-Arabi and 50 English texts from The Guardian).

The results showed that nominal constructions are the most prevalent, accounting for 88% of Arabic texts and 82% of English texts. This is followed by grammatical ellipsis, accounting for 76% of Arabic texts and 70% of English texts. The passive voice is then used, accounting for 58% of Arabic texts and 72% of English texts. The study also showed that Arabic texts tend to use more ellipsis and syntactic reduction, while the passive voice is more prominent in English. It turns out that block language is not just a stylistic choice, but a functional strategy aimed at brevity, displaying apparent neutrality, formulating ideological positions, and sometimes concealing the agent or responsibility."

The study recommends continuing research into the ideological dimensions of block language across various media genres, and the need to integrate the analysis of morphological and syntactic phenomena into journalism and translation curricula, thus contributing to the development of critical awareness and analytical reading skills of media texts.

Keywords: Block Language, Journalistic Discourse, Functional Grammar, Media Linguistic Interaction

استكشاف العناصر الصرفية والنحوية للغة المغلقة في الخطاب الصحفي

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المستخلص: تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى ايجاد العناصر الصرفية والنحوية التي تُميّز ما يُعرف بـ"اللغة المغلقة" في الخطاب الصحفي من خلال تحليل مقارنة للنصوص العربية والإنجليزية. واعتمدت هذه الدراسة منهجية نوعية وكمية، شملت 100 نصاً صحفياً (50 نصًا عربيًا من صحيفة القدس، و50 نصًا إنجليزيًا من صحيفة الغارديان).

وأظهرت النتائج أن التراكيب الاسمية هي الأكثر شيوعًا، حيث شكلت 88% في النصوص العربية و82% في النصوص الإنجليزية. يلها الحذف النحوي بنسبة 76% في النصوص العربية و70% في النصوص الإنجليزية. وتم أستخدام المبني للمجهول بنسبة 58% في النصوص العربية و72% في النصوص الإنجليزية. كما أظهرت الدراسة أن النصوص العربية تميل إلى استخدام الحذف والاختصار النحوي بشكل أكبر، ومن ناحية أخرى شكل المبني للمجهول النسبة الأكبر في اللغة الإنجليزية. وقد تبين أن اللغة المغلقة ليست مجرد خيار أسلوبي، بل استراتيجية وظيفية تُستخدم لتحقيق الإيجاز وإظهار الحياد الظاهر وصياغة المواقف الأيديولوجية، وأحيانًا إخفاء الفاعل أو اخلاء المسؤولية.

وتوصي الدراسة بمواصلة البحث في الأبعاد الأيديولوجية للغة المغلقة عبر مختلف أنواع الإعلام الاخرى وضرورة دمج تحليل الظواهر الصرفية والنحوية في مناهج الصحافة والترجمة. وهذا ما سوف يساهم في تنمية الوعي النقدي ومهارات القراءة التحليلية للنصوص الإعلامية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: لغة الكتلة، الخطاب الصحفي، القواعد الوظيفية، التفاعل اللغوي الإعلامي.

1- Introduction

Journalistic discourse constitutes a dynamic field of linguistic communication, characterised by its condensed information, reliance on concise linguistic structures, and the use of specific rhetorical and grammatical techniques aimed at engaging the reader and conveying information with the highest degree of efficiency. Among the linguistic phenomena that characterise this discourse is what is known as "block language," a linguistic pattern characterised using short or incomplete sentences, or grammatically incomplete structures that serve a clear communicative function within a journalistic context (Giomi, R., 2023).

The study of the morpho-syntactic elements of this type of language is of great importance for understanding the ways in which journalistic discourse reshapes the traditional rules of language to suit the demands of brevity, excitement, and rapid reception. As Halliday (1985) points out, language does not function merely as a means of expressing thought; it is also shaped by the requirements of the social context, meaning that each type of discourse produces its linguistic patterns.

Fragmented language, as employed in news headlines, newspaper introductions, and subheadings, often ignores traditional grammatical structures such as the predicate verb or linking phrases, relying instead on noun chaining, the omission of grammatical connectives, or the use of the passive voice for shorthand. This was noted by Crystal and Davy (1969) in their analysis of media discourse, who asserted that journalistic syntax cannot be analysed solely from a traditional grammatical perspective but requires functional analysis tools that accommodate language choices within their context.

Accordingly, this research seeks to explore the morphological and syntactic phenomena of fragmented language within journalistic discourse, focusing on patterns of ellipsis, the use of the passive voice, nominal construction, and reduced constructions. It also aims to understand how journalism reshapes the grammatical system of language to serve its communicative goals, based on the analysis of real-life samples of articles and headlines in contemporary print media Zappavigna, M., 2023).

Recent research shows that analysing this type of language not only sheds light on the mechanisms of journalistic writing, but also contributes to the development of applied linguistics, language teaching, and mass communication studies (Biber et al., 1999). Hence, the importance of this research stems from its exploration of the intersection between linguistic structure and media context, raising important questions about the flexibility of grammar in contemporary discursive practices.

Despite the prevalence of fragmented language in journalistic discourse, many Arabic linguistic studies still approach journalistic discourse from the perspective of content analysis or semantic structure, without delving into the morphological-syntactic structure that produces this style of language. The problem of this research stems from the need to understand how journalism alters conventional grammar rules through so-called reduced constructions, ellipsis, nominal construction, and the use of passive voice, without compromising the communicative function of journalistic texts (Bednarik, M. 2023).

This study stems from an academic desire to understand the morphological and syntactic foundations that constitute what is known in contemporary linguistic studies as "fragmented language" in journalistic discourse, particularly in headlines and introductions characterised by abbreviation and condensation. The research aims to analyse the linguistic forms adopted by this language in terms of morphological structure (such as the omission of articles or the use of abbreviated forms of words) and syntactic structure (such as the deliberate omission of essential grammatical elements such as the verb or the grammatical conjunction).

The study also seeks to examine the communicative functions performed by these structures, questioning how fragmented language succeeds in conveying its messages effectively despite its apparent failure to conform to the traditional grammatical system. This includes an analysis of linguistic phenomena such as grammatical ellipsis, the heavy use of nominal construction, the absence of pronouns, and abbreviated explanatory structures.

In addition, it aims to expand the theoretical discussion on the relationship between linguistic structure and social context, drawing on functional grammar theories, such as Halliday's "systematic functional grammar" and Biber et al.'s (1999) model for describing the differences between written and spoken language. This is done to understand how the linguistic system adapts to the needs of media discourse and to develop a comprehensive conception of journalistic language as a communicative system with its own rules within a fast-paced environment directed at the public.

2- Literature Review

Journalistic discourse represents a fertile field for linguistic studies, due to its unique stylistic and structural characteristics, most notably the phenomenon of block language, which relies on brevity and condensation, achieving maximum impact with the fewest

words. Many studies have examined this phenomenon from various perspectives, but the greatest focus has been on the English language, with few studies addressing it in the Arabic context or within a comparative framework combining the two languages.

Wu (2023) explored stylistic changes in digital texts, highlighting the importance of functional analysis in explaining how language functions within media discourse. He noted that modern media often craft concise linguistic styles that surpass traditional grammatical rules, aiming to quickly deliver information and capture attention. While Ding et al. (2023) carried out a study on the connection between linguistic economy in media discourse and societal polarization, concluding that extreme brevity and the exclusion of detail may lead to divergent interpretations of events, further splitting public opinion.

In the same context, Banks (2024) reviewed recent developments in the theory of systematic functional grammar, highlighting its superior ability to analyse unconventional linguistic phenomena in journalistic discourse, such as syntactic ellipsis, nominal constructions, and conversion from verbal to nominal to achieve stylistic and functional aims. Additionally, Amari & Hamlawi (2025) discussed critical discourse analysis of news texts, emphasising how abbreviated linguistic structures, such as block language, are employed for ideological purposes like concealing the actor or reorganising information to reinforce the media organisation's stance. Ashraf (2025) also examined the influence of digital media on linguistic transformations in Modern English, noting the widespread use of phenomena such as ellipsis, linguistic condensation, and nominalisation. He argued that these phenomena are no longer merely stylistic devices but have become institutionalised linguistic patterns in digital media discourse.

Despite these valuable studies, most have focused on English discourse or linguistic phenomena in the digital context, without examining the morphological and syntactic aspects of block language in Arabic journalistic texts or conducting a detailed comparison between the two languages. These studies also have not comprehensively addressed the direct relationship between these linguistic phenomena and the ideological dimension in constructing journalistic discourse.

The research gap lies in the absence of a comparative analytical study that explores the distinctive morphological and syntactic elements of block language in both Arabic and English and links these phenomena to the communicative and ideological purposes of journalistic texts, particularly in headlines and introductions, which are among the textual areas most densely populated with block language.

The originality of this study lies in the fact that it is the first, to the researcher's knowledge, to integrate morphological and syntactic analysis of block language in Arabic and English journalistic texts, using a dual analytical model that combines the methodology of systematic functional grammar and structural content analysis. This model allows for a deeper understanding of the relationship between linguistic structure and the ideological function of journalistic discourse and contributes to enriching applied studies in the field of media linguistics, in addition to providing a practical tool that benefits researchers, translators, and professionals in the field of media.

The originality and innovation of this study are evident in the following points: Bilingual comparative analysis (Arabic-English), focusing on the morphological and syntactic levels, using of a dual analytical model, and adding new insights into the function of block language. Thus, this study seeks to fill the research gap represented by the absence of comparative analysis between Arabic and English at the morphological and syntactic levels in the context of block language, and it makes an original contribution to the field of applied linguistics studies and media discourse analysis.

Block Language

Fragmented language, also known in some modern linguistics as block language, is a prominent stylistic linguistic phenomenon in media discourse, particularly in newspaper headlines, news introductions, and subheadings. It refers to the use of concise linguistic structures that do not necessarily meet the rules of a complete sentence according to the traditional grammatical system but perform a complete communicative function within their context. This style is widely used in the media due to its brevity, density, and rapid transmission of meaning, which aligns with the practical requirements of print and visual journalism.

The concept of segmented language, as a functional linguistic phenomenon, emerged with the development of stylistic studies and discourse analysis, particularly in the 1960s, when David Crystal and Derek Davy pointed out that newspaper headlines could not always be understood through the standard grammatical structure of the sentence. In their book Investigating English Style (1969), they said:

"Newspaper headlines often constitute a unique grammatical system, departing from the usual rules of grammar to achieve a special communicative purpose"

According to Bell (1991), what drives journalists to use this abbreviated structure is their need for time and space compression, along with the need to quickly capture the reader's attention, especially in an era where media platforms have multiplied and competition for audience attention has become more intense. He adds that "journalistic language approaches a code pattern, relying on a shared background knowledge between sender and receiver, and relying on the reader's ability to infer meaning from context" (Bell, 1991:178).

Recent studies have indicated that fragmented language is a functional linguistic phenomenon, reshaping morphological and syntactic rules to meet the demands of contemporary media, such as speed of reception, attention-grabbing, and condensed meaning. As researchers have explained, this language relies on the elimination of unnecessary grammatical elements, the use of nominal structures, and reliance on context to understand the full meaning (Al-Jarf, 2021).

Some of the most prominent characteristics of segmented language are:

- Ellipsis: such as the omission of a verb or conjunction, as in "Protests are on the rise" instead of "Protests are now escalating."

- Nominal sequences: such as "Emergency session in Parliament," where the sentence is composed of only nouns.

- Reliance on nominal verbs or passive structures: as in "Shooting in the West Bank," without specifying the subject.

These characteristics demonstrate that segmented language does not violate linguistic rules so much as reuses them to suit the media context. This is consistent with the theory of functional grammar, which asserts that linguistic structure is shaped by the social purpose of discourse (Halliday, 1985).

Recent studies have examined this phenomenon as a rhetorical and discursive tool, explaining that fragmented language is used to create rhythm and strengthen the psychological impact of information, especially in breaking or controversial news (Montgomery, 2007). Researchers also believe that this language serves an ideological function, as linguistic reduction is sometimes used to manipulate the order of information or emphasise one aspect over another, opening the door to "directing public opinion through structures" rather than just the literal meaning (Van Dijk, 1988).

Based on the above, fragmented language is considered a complex linguistic phenomenon involving grammatical, stylistic, functional, and ideological factors. It is not merely "incomplete language," but rather a precise linguistic construction designed to fit the requirements of a media context that targets a broad audience in a short time and with the highest degree of impact. Therefore, its study falls within discourse analysis, which takes into account the relationship between language, context, and communicative purpose.

The morphological and syntactic structure of journalistic discourse

Journalistic discourse, particularly in headlines and news introductions, is a rich field for linguistic analysis, as it exhibits extensive use of block language, which relies on reduced morphological and syntactic structures. This language is characterised by specific grammatical features aimed at achieving brevity, clarity, and attractiveness, which distinguishes it from traditional grammatical structures.

1. Ellipsis

Grammatical ellipsis is widely used in newspaper headlines to achieve brevity, by omitting verbs or conjunctions without altering the meaning. For example, in the headline "Emergency Meeting in Parliament," the verb "held" or "is held" is omitted, implying from the context that the meeting has taken place or will take place. Scholars suggest that this type of ellipsis is used to speed up the transmission of information and attract the reader's attention (Al-Jarf, 2021).

2. Nominal Sequences

Nominal structures are used extensively in journalistic discourse, where sentences are constructed solely from nouns without verbs, giving the text a formal and direct feel. For example, "Global price increases" is a nominal structure to carry a worldwide increase in prices, which omits the need for a verb. Studies show that this pattern is used to condense information and present it directly (Biber et al., 1999).

3. Using Passive Voice

The passive voice is used in journalistic discourse to avoid identifying the perpetrator, especially in cases where the perpetrator is unknown or unimportant, or to avoid placing responsibility on a specific party. For example, "Shooting in the West Bank" is used without specifying who fired the shots. Researchers suggest that this usage helps maintain neutrality and avoid bias (Van Dijk, 1988).

4.   Condensed Structures

Condensed structures are used in newspaper headlines to convey information in as few words as possible, making it easier for readers to quickly understand the content. For example, "Violent Confrontations... Injuries and Arrests" is a condensed structure that reports confrontations that resulted in injuries and arrests without the need for full sentences. Researchers suggest that this pattern is used to balance brevity and clarity (Montgomery, 2007).

Systematic Functional Grammar

Functional Grammar (SFG) is one of the most influential theories in discourse analysis. It was developed by Michael Halliday into a theoretical framework that integrates linguistic structure and social context. This theory posits that language is not merely a set of fixed grammatical rules, but rather a dynamic, functional system used to achieve communicative purposes in various social contexts (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Functional grammar is based on three basic linguistic functions: the ideological function expresses experiences and concepts in the world; the interactional function regulates the relationship between speaker and addressee; and the textual function, which organises discourse and gives it coherence and consistency (Wu, 2023). These functions interact to shape the meaning of each sentence and enable an understanding of language as a tool for the social production of knowledge.

In journalistic discourse, these functions are evident. Brief headlines such as "Violent Clashes in the West Bank" employ the ideological function to convey a real event, while the textual function contributes to coherently formulating the message without resorting to a full sentence structure, which is consistent with the characteristics of "fragmented language" discussed previously. Research indicates that the widespread use of nominal constructions, grammatical ellipsis, and the passive voice in journalism is a practical application of functional grammar, where language is reshaped to suit a media purpose directed at a broad audience (Jiang, 2021).

The interactive function in journalism is also highlighted by the choice of words and positions, particularly in political or economic coverage, where language is used not only to convey the news, but also to guide opinion or create an implicit position. Recent studies have shown that sentence structures change depending on the relationship between the writer and the reader, as in analytical headlines or economic commentaries (Wang, 2023).

Contemporary researchers also believe that Halliday's theory permits a deeper analysis framework of media texts and how power and ideology are represented through language, making it an effective tool for critical discourse analysis (Banks, D. 2024). With the evolution of media, it has become necessary to use flexible analytical frameworks that go beyond traditional grammar and accommodate the multifunctionality of language, something that functional grammar theory provides.

Linguistic economy in journalism

Linguistic economy is a fundamental principle in the analysis of journalistic discourse. It refers to the tendency of language to use the fewest words possible to convey the greatest possible meaning, while maintaining clarity and precision. This principle is part of the "law of minimum effort," proposed by American linguist George Kingsley Zipf, which states that humans tend to minimise the effort expended in communication, leading to the adoption of more efficient linguistic strategies (Zipf, 1949).

1.   **Aspects of linguistic economy in journalistic discourse**

In the journalistic context, linguistic economy manifests itself in several ways, including:

- **Ellipsis**: Grammatical elements such as verbs or conjunctions are omitted without affecting the meaning. For example, in the headline "Emergency Meeting in Parliament," the verb "convened" or "is held" is omitted, implying from the context that the meeting either took place or is expected to take place.

- **Nominal sequence**: It is widely used in journalistic discourse, where sentences are constructed solely from nouns without verbs, lending a formal and direct feel to the text. For example, "Global price increases" is a nominal construction that conveys a worldwide increase in prices without requiring a verb.

- **Using the passive voice**: It is used in journalistic discourse to avoid identifying the perpetrator, especially in cases where the perpetrator is unknown or unimportant, or to avoid placing responsibility on a specific party. For example, "Shooting in the West Bank" is used without specifying who fired the shots.

- **Condensed Structures**: These are used in newspaper headlines to convey information in as few words as possible, making it easier for readers to quickly understand the content. For example, "Violent Confrontations... Injuries and Arrests" is a condensed structure that communicates the occurrence of confrontations that led to injuries and arrests without the need for full sentences.

These characteristics show that segmented language does not violate the rules of language so much as it reuses them in a way that suits the media context, which is consistent with the theory of functional grammar, which asserts that linguistic structure is shaped by the social purpose of discourse (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

2. **Linguistic Economy as a Communication Strategy**

Linguistic economy in journalism is a communication strategy that aims to achieve brevity, clarity, and attractiveness. Researchers suggest that the use of abbreviated structures, noun hierarchy, and grammatical ellipsis helps accelerate the transmission of information and capture the reader's attention, especially in an era where media platforms are evolving and competition for audience attention has become more intense (Samboruk & Golubykh, 2020).

Linguistic economy also contributes to enhancing the textual function of journalistic discourse, helping to organise and present information coherently and cohesively. This demonstrates the importance of linguistic economy in achieving the communicative goals of journalism by presenting information effectively and influentially (Ding, X., Horning, M., and Rho, E. H. 2023).

3- Methodology

This research relies on the descriptive-analytical approach, which is used in linguistic studies to analyse texts and interpret linguistic phenomena within their social and cultural contexts. This approach focuses on describing linguistic phenomena as they are, without modifying or changing them, while analyzing them to understand their functions and the reasons for their use Ashraf, Z. (2025).

In addition, the research is based on the theory of Systemic Functional Grammar developed by Michael Halliday, which is a theoretical framework through which language can be analysed as a functional system used to achieve specific communicative purposes in specific social contexts (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

The Sample

The research community consists of written journalistic discourse in Arabic and English newspapers, with a focus on headlines and news headlines that display extensive use of fragmented language.

Sample selection criteria:

- Newspapers with wide circulation and significant public influence.
- Texts containing headlines and news headlines that display the use of fragmented language.
- A variety of topics, including politics, economics, and culture.

The sample size was determined based on the study's objectives and the nature of the analytical approach used. Fifty headlines and news introductions were selected from each of two well-known newspapers, one in Arabic and one in English, for a total of 100 journalistic texts. The focus was on headlines and introductions because they represent areas of heavy use of what is known as "block language," which is the primary focus of this research.

The selection of this number is consistent with the recommendations of analytical linguistics studies that adopt the qualitative discourse analysis approach, where sample size is considered "flexible" and related to analytical depth rather than statistical representation (Silverman, 2013). Since the goal here is not statistical generalisation, but rather a precise qualitative description and analysis of morphological and syntactic patterns in journalistic discourse, the selected sample is sufficient to generate results that are susceptible to analysis and interpretation.

The Model

This study relies on a dual model to analyse fragmented language in journalistic discourse. It combines the theory of systematic functional grammar, as developed by Michael Halliday (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), and a structural content analysis approach based on describing and analysing linguistic structures within their grammatical form and communicative context. This model was chosen due to its ability to deconstruct journalistic discourse according to integrated linguistic levels, including morphological, syntactic, and

functional structures. This model allows for a deeper understanding of how meaning is produced through reduced or non-standard structures in news texts.

This analytical model operates on three main axes. First, the morphological level, where the structure of words used in headlines and introductions is analysed, focusing on phenomena such as the omission of conjunctions or the prevalence of nominal derivatives as substitutes for verb phrases. Second, the syntactic level, which analyses the structure of journalistic sentences, particularly in cases of grammatical omission or the extensive use of nominal and passive structures, which are recurring linguistic phenomena in what is known as block language (Al-Jarf, 2021). Finally, the functional level, where the principles of systematic functional grammar are employed to analyse the purpose of these structures within the media context, whether the purpose is informative (ideological function), interactive (directing an opinion or creating a position), or organisational (coordinating the discourse and linking it to the overall context).

This model also considers the interaction between structure and context, a crucial component of Halliday's theory, analysing each linguistic instance not only in terms of its form but also in terms of its function within the overall communicative structure of the journalistic text (Wang, 2023). Accordingly, the model does not view the abbreviated structures in journalistic discourse as linguistic errors or violations of rules, but rather as functional linguistic strategies that reflect the priorities of brevity, speed, and impact in a fast-paced, information-saturated media environment.
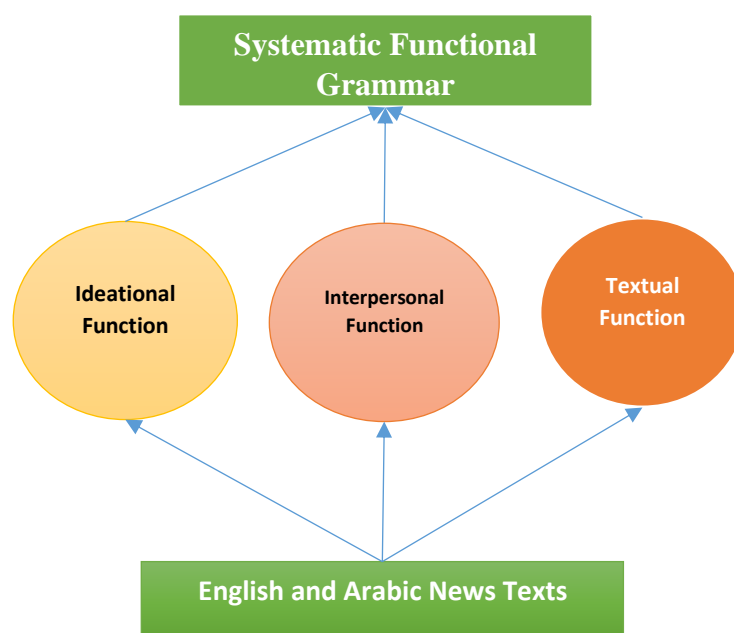

Figure (1): The analytical model of the study considering systematic functional grammar (SFG)

Data Collection and Description

The data collection process in this research is based on a textual discourse analysis strategy, employing the Directed Content Analysis tool, based on the framework of systematic functional grammar. The collection process was carefully designed to provide a representative sample of journalistic texts characterised by the extensive use of fragmented language, particularly in headlines and news introductions, where the need for brevity and linguistic suggestiveness is higher than in other sections of a journalistic article (Breeze, 2019).

The sample texts were selected from two well-known newspapers: Al-Quds Al-Arabi, representing Arabic journalistic discourse, and The Guardian, representing English-language discourse. Data was extracted from the digital versions of these newspapers through searches based on keywords related to political and economic events, with a fixed time frame to ensure a balance in the events covered. The texts were taken from the period between January and March 2024, allowing for the observation of linguistic phenomena in contemporary and interactive contexts.

A manual analysis tool was used, supported by pre-coded sheets designed according to specific axes: type of structures, presence or absence of verbs, morphological form, syntactic function, and other characteristics. The data were organised into an electronic matrix using Microsoft Excel to ensure accurate organisation and ease of retrieval during qualitative analysis.

The total number of texts was 100 (50 Arabic, 50 English). The text types were headlines and news introductions (lead + headline). The study covered the following subject areas: politics, economics, and international events. It also targeted linguistic features such as grammatical deletion, nominal constructions, the passive voice, and sentence compression.

Each text was classified based on its grammatical structure, the nature of its use of segmented linguistic devices, and its style of presenting information. This methodology allowed the data to be segmented into units amenable to precise analysis, enhancing the reliability of the results (Saldaña, 2021).

Specific procedures were followed during the coding phase to ensure transparency and objectivity, according to the following steps:

1. Coding Scheme Preparation:

An initial list was designed that included five main linguistic themes: grammatical ellipsis, nominal constructions, passive voice, nominalization, and syntactic reduction. The list was based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar framework, regarding previous studies such as Al-Jarf (2021) and Banks (2024).

2. Coder Training:

Before the actual coding began, the researcher and an independent research assistant were trained on the use of the code list using an initial sample of 10 texts (5 Arabic, 5 English). Specific examples were discussed to reach an initial consensus on the interpretation of linguistic phenomena.

3. Coding Process:

All texts were manually coded using pre-designed data collection forms, which included fields to identify the type of linguistic phenomenon, its location in the text, and its communicative function. Data was entered into an Excel matrix to facilitate sorting and statistical analysis.

4. Reliability Check:

To establish internal consistency, a random sample representing 20% of the total sample was recorded by an independent research assistant. The agreement between the researcher and assistant was calculated using Cohen's Kappa, which reached 0.91, indicating a very high degree of reliability.

5. Data Analysis Steps:

A descriptive statistical analysis was conducted to calculate the frequencies and percentages of each linguistic phenomenon in both Arabic and English texts. This was followed by a comparative analysis between the two languages to identify similarities and differences in the use of morphological and syntactic phenomena. Finally, a functional semantic analysis was conducted for each linguistic phenomenon. This work is done by using Halliday's SFG framework, which relates the results to the ideological and communicative dimensions of journalistic texts.

These procedures help ensure the scientific transparency of the study and make it easier for other researchers to replicate or build upon it in the future in similar contexts.

Ensuring Validity and Reliability

To ensure the validity of the analysis, a peer debriefing strategy was followed. A 20% sample of the texts was independently reanalyzed by a research assistant. The consistency rate between the two analyses was calculated at 91%, reflecting the high reliability of the coding procedures.

Data Analysis

The data analysis in this study was based on an in-depth qualitative approach, employing Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) as the primary analytical framework, relying on morphological, syntactic, and functional levels of analysis. The analysis was carried out following systematic steps aimed at revealing the reduced linguistic structure—or what is known as "segmented language"—in

journalistic discourse, using coding and analysis tools based on both linguistic content and pragmatic context (Amari, F. Z., and Hamlawi, N. 2025).

1. Initial Coding

First, all journalistic texts were subjected to a close reading process to identify linguistic units relevant to the research topic, such as:

- Ellipsis
- Nominal Structures
- Passive Voice
- Nominalization

Initial coding models were developed specifically for this research, based on Halliday's (2014) classifications, and reviewed by an independent linguist to verify their linguistic and contextual validity.

2. Functional Categorization

After the coding process, each linguistic example was classified into one or more of the language functions identified by Halliday in his theory:

- Ideological function: to represent reality or an event.
- Interpersonal function: to build relationships and direct attitudes.
- Textual function: to organize the text and connect its components.

This classification is important in understanding how reduced structures are used to achieve informational, political, or emancipatory goals in media discourse (Eggins, 2004).

3. Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis was conducted between Arabic and English texts, aiming to explore similarities and differences in the use of fragmented language. The frequency and functional diversity of fragmented structures were measured in both languages, revealing important linguistic and cultural differences related to journalistic expression styles in the Arabic and Anglo-Saxon contexts (Bhatia, 2017).

4. Pragmatic Interpretation

In this phase, the results of fragmented language use were analyzed in light of the political and social contexts in which the texts were written. For example, the tendency of some headlines to omit the subject or rely on passive voice was interpreted as a rhetorical device aimed at mitigating a situation, obfuscating responsibility, or even as a means of ideological expression (van Dijk, 2008).

A dual analytical model was constructed, combining tools of functional grammar and structural content analysis, with the aim of monitoring morphological and syntactic phenomena (such as structural deletion, nominal constructions, the passive voice, etc.). A table was provided for each linguistic phenomenon, detailing its definition, linguistic indicators, and examples from the research sample. Functional analysis also was used to determine the function of each phenomenon in journalistic discourse (ideological, interactive, or textual).

Table (1): Classification of linguistic phenomena and their functions in block language in journalistic discourse

linguistic phenomenon	Definition	Linguistic indicators	Arabic Example	English Example	Function in journalistic discourse
grammatical elision	Deleting a grammatical element such as a verb or conjunction without changing the meaning	absence of action or connection	التصعيد السياسي وما يقابله من ترقب الدولي	Political escalation... international anticipation	Brevity, suspense, directing attention to the event, not the actor
Nominal structures	Structures consisting of consecutive nouns without verbs	Accumulation of names in context	عشرات الضحايا في تفجير!	Bombing. Dozens of victims.	Summarize the event in a brief piece of information, giving it

| linguistic phenomenon	Definition	Linguistic indicators	Arabic Example	English Example	Function in journalistic discourse
					the quality of established facts
passive voice	Hide the subject and focus on the event	Using Passive Voice	التحقيقات المستمرة حول تفجير مرفأ بيروت	Beirut Port Explosion... Investigations Continue	Apparent neutrality, concealing the perpetrator for political or ideological reasons

4- Findings

This section aims to present and analyze the results obtained by applying the proposed analytical model to a selected sample of Arabic and English journalistic texts. This analysis is based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches, whereby linguistic phenomena are not merely observed at the level of numerical frequency, but rather, understanding is deepened by interpreting their functional connotations within the discursive context.

One hundred journalistic texts (50 in Arabic and 50 in English) were examined using precise coding tools based on morphological, syntactic, and functional classifications defined by a theoretical model based on the theory of systematic functional grammar. Linguistic patterns representing what is known as "block language" were extracted from these texts, including grammatical omissions, nominal constructions, linguistic abstraction, and other manifestations of syntactic stress.

The results reveal that these phenomena are not random or accidental, but rather constitute a recurring structural component that reflects an institutional approach to constructing headlines and journalistic introductions. The data also revealed variations in the frequency of some linguistic structures between Arabic and English texts, indicating cultural and discursive differences in journalistic information presentation styles. This does not negate the presence of fundamental similarities in the mechanisms of brevity and abbreviation adopted in both contexts.

Accordingly, this section is divided into a detailed presentation of the tables showing the distribution of the linguistic categories under study, followed by a detailed description of each category individually, with frequency analysis, percentages, and illustrative examples that support the findings.
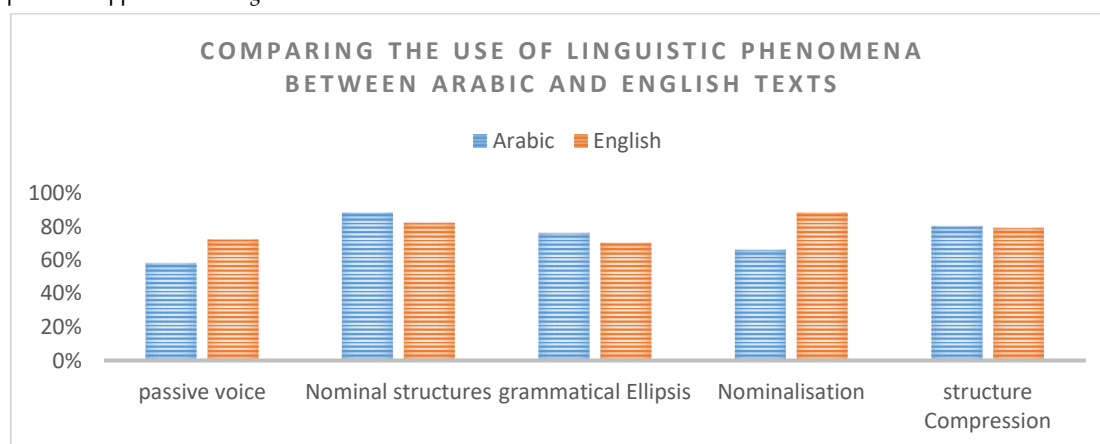
Figure 2: Comparison of the use of some linguistic phenomena between the Arabic and English texts in newspaper headlines.

Figure 2 illustrates that the analysis of linguistic phenomena in Arabic and English journalistic texts yielded a set of important findings that shed light on the expressive methods adopted by media discourse in both contexts. Through the study of five main linguistic phenomena nominal constructions, grammatical ellipsis, the passive voice, nominal derivation, and structural compression. It became clear that journalistic language generally tends toward condensation and abbreviation, serving its rapid and direct communicative nature.

Nominal constructions were the most frequent phenomena, accounting for 88% of the Arabic text and 82% of the English text. This indicates that journalistic style relies on freezing the verb and converting it to a noun to remove temporal references and condensed information. This approach enables journalists to present events as a final, abstract fact. While ellipsis was recorded in 76% of Arabic

texts and 70% of English texts. This pattern is one of the most prominent characteristics of newspaper headlines, which strive for brevity and conciseness while maintaining semantic effectiveness. Ellipsis is not viewed as a mistake, but rather as a deliberate rhetorical choice that relies on the reader's awareness.

Furthermore, passive voice appeared more clearly in English texts, at 72%, compared to 58% in Arabic texts. This disparity is explained by the fact that English journalistic language employs the passive voice as a rhetorical device to conceal the perpetrator or avoid placing direct responsibility on a specific party, thus giving the news material a neutral character.

In addition, nominal derivation reached 66% in the Arabic text and 82% in the English text, indicating that both contexts use this phenomenon to formulate less emotional and more abstract declarative sentences. It is used to present an event without being linked to a verb or subject, increasing the text's susceptibility to repetition and reformulation.

Finally, the phenomenon of grammatical compression was found at 80% in the Arabic text and 79% in the English text, a nearly perfect match, confirming that reducing sentences to their basic elements is a common strategy in modern journalism. This is evident in the omission of conjunctions, the elimination of auxiliary verbs, or the use of essential vocabulary that conveys the message in the fewest possible words.

Based on the above, it can be said that the five phenomena studied do not reflect a linguistic defect or stylistic weakness, but rather a deliberate functional shift in the linguistic structure, reflecting the rapid and direct nature of contemporary journalistic discourse. The intersections and differences between Arabic and English in these phenomena also demonstrate the influence of culture and media context in guiding linguistic choices within texts.

Table (2): Arabic News Texts - Frequency and Percentage of Morpho-Syntactic Features

Responses to Morpho-Syntactic Features (Arabic)	Ellipsis		Nominal Structures		Passive Voice		Nominalization		Structure Compression		Total	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
Frequently Used	38	*76*	44	*88*	29	*58*	33	*66*	40	*80*	184	*%73.6*
Occasionally Used	10	*20*	6	*12*	15	*30*	10	*20*	8	*16*	49	*%19.6*
Not Used	2	*4*	0	*0*	6	*12*	7	*14*	2	*4*	17	*%6.8*
Total	50	*100%*	50	*100%*	50	*100%*	50	*100%*	50	*100%*	250	%100

Table (2) displays the quantitative distribution of five morphological-syntactic phenomena associated with what is known as "block language," based on the analysis of 100 journalistic texts, 50 of which were in Arabic and 50 in English.

The categories analysed included: grammatical deletion, nominal constructions, passive voice, nominalisation, and syntactic reduction. The table shows the frequency and percentage of occurrences within each linguistic group for each category.

Ellipsis

This phenomenon was recorded in 76% of the texts recorded common use of grammatical ellipsis (38 instances), highlighting the power of this technique in shaping Arabic titles. 20% used it occasionally, and 4% did not. Ellipsis is considered one of the most prominent syntactic compression mechanisms employed to achieve brevity and condensation without losing meaning, and it is in line with what Breeze (2019) pointed out in studies of linguistic economy.

Nominal Structures

This category emerged as the most frequently occurring, with 88% of texts using it predominantly (44 instances), 12% using it occasionally, and no instances of it not being used. This finding confirms that Arabic discourse prefers nominalisation over verbalisation for purposes of reduction, as abstract nouns play an important role in presenting events as static facts, rather than narrating them as temporal processes (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Passive Voice

It appears in 58% of texts as a common usage, and is less frequent than in English. It was occasionally observed in 30% and absent in 12%. This usage reflects a desire for neutrality or to conceal the subject for political or editorial reasons. However, Arabic often replaces it with the bare noun or the complete omission of the subject.

Nominalization

This phenomenon was documented 66% of texts recorded a prevalent use of this pattern, while 20% used it occasionally, and 14% did not. This pattern reflects a linguistic style that moves away from direct kinetic expression and instead relies on conceptual abstraction, such as using "escalated" instead of "the clashes increased."

Structural Compression

It achieved a high usage rate (80% common, 16% occasional), and was absent in only 4% of texts. This pattern is a fundamental feature of headline language, where sentences are reduced to the fewest possible words while preserving the central meaning, as in: "Bombing Gaza" instead of "The forces bombed targets in Gaza."

Finally, the data demonstrates that the Arab press relies heavily on morphological and abbreviation features in the formation of its headlines and introductions, reflecting a stylistic orientation toward condensation and objectivity. The high percentages demonstrate that these phenomena are not merely secondary rhetorical devices, but rather represent established linguistic mechanisms consciously practiced within the framework of an institutionalized media discourse that responds to the demands of speed, appeal, and neutrality.

Table (3): English News Texts - Frequency and Percentage of Morpho-Syntactic Features

Responses to Morpho-Syntactic Features (Arabic)	Ellipsis		Nominal Structures		Passive Voice		Nominalization		Structure Compression		Total	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
Frequently Used	35	*70*	41	*82*	36	*72*	39	*78*	42	*84*	193	%77.2
Occasionally Used	12	*24*	9	*18*	10	*20*	9	*18*	6	*12*	46	%18.4
Not Used	3	*6*	0	*0*	4	*8*	2	*4*	2	*4*	11	%4.4
Total	50	*100*%	50	*100*%	50	*100*%	50	*100*%	50	*100*%	250	%100

Table (3) displays the results of analyzing 50 journalistic texts in English, based on classifying the responses into three categories: "Used Predominantly", "Used Occasionally", and "Not Used", across five main linguistic categories related to the fragmented structure of journalistic discourse.

Ellipsis

This phenomenon was recorded in 70% of texts as a common usage (35 instances), in 24% as an occasional use, and in only 6% of the sample it did not appear. Ellipsis techniques are used in English-language journalism, particularly in headlines, to conserve space without compromising the central meaning, such as: "Tensions escalate in Gaza" instead of a full sentence. This pattern indicates a stylistic tendency toward brevity and expressive economy (Bhatia, 2017).

Nominal Structures

This phenomenon accounted for 82% of common usage (41 instances), 18% of occasional usage, and no instances of non-use. This demonstrates the strong preference in English journalism for nominalization over dynamic expression, which contributes to presenting events as stable facts rather than ongoing processes, consistent with journalistic style in Anglo-Saxon environments (Eggins, 2004).

Passive Voice

Seventy-two per cent of texts recorded frequent use of the passive voice (36 instances), 20% used it occasionally, and only 8% did not. The use of the passive voice in English journalism is a strategic rhetorical device to avoid explicitly mentioning the perpetrator, especially in controversial or politically or morally charged topics, such as saying, "Protests were dispersed," instead of identifying the perpetrator.

Nominalization

This phenomenon appeared in 78% of texts as a common usage (39 instances), 18% as an occasional usage, and 4% as an absent usage. Nominalisation is used in English journalism to strip verbs and transform them into nouns that suggest neutrality or formality, such as "disruption," "withdrawal," and "negotiation." These findings point to a libertarian ideology based on reducing the moral clarity of an event.

Structural Compression

The most common use of this phenomenon was 84% (42 cases), compared to 12% occasional use and 4% non-use. This phenomenon appears in headlines where the focus is on keywords only, such as "UN meeting postponed," where every grammatical element that does not serve a central function in the meaning is omitted. This is considered a structural stylistic feature of modern journalism (van Dijk, 2008).

The table's results indicate that English in journalistic contexts relies heavily on morphological and syntactic reduction tools, driven by economic considerations in production and professional standards in editing. The slight differences in proportions between categories demonstrate a high degree of editorial awareness of the use of these structures, particularly in political and diplomatic news, where neutrality or strategic ambiguity are part of the rhetorical structure.

The results of this study revealed clear similarities and differences between Arabic and English in the use of block language in journalistic discourse. English texts showed a clearer tendency toward the passive voice (72%) compared to Arabic (58%), reflecting a trend in English journalism toward apparent neutrality or concealment of the subject for ideological or political reasons. In contrast, Arabic journalism demonstrated a greater reliance on syntactic deletion and linguistic abbreviation (76%), perhaps due to the nature of the Arabic language, which allows for more concise structures without compromising meaning, and also in response to the space and time constraints of digital publishing.

Another striking comparison is that nominal constructions appeared at similar rates in both languages (88% in Arabic and 82% in English), indicating a global trend toward reducing events to brief, newsworthy headlines, regardless of linguistic or cultural differences.

Practically, the results of this study offer several practical contributions, most notably:

- Enabling Arab and English journalists to understand the most influential linguistic styles in headlines and news introductions, helping them craft more accurate and engaging content for readers.

- Benefiting translators in journalistic translation, as the study clarifies the structural differences between the two languages, helping them faithfully convey texts without losing their communicative function or ideological influence.

- Contributing to the development of journalism or translation education curricula by adding specialised educational units on block language and its morphological and syntactic characteristics.

- Providing researchers with an analytical tool that can be used in future studies to examine media discourse and analyse its ideological content.

Discussion

This discussion aims to interpret the findings considering the adopted theoretical framework, namely systematic functional grammar, as well as to examine them within the media and cultural contexts to which the texts belong. This stage of the research is essential for linking quantitative and qualitative analysis, on the one hand, and the social and ideological meanings inherent in the uses of fragmented language in journalistic texts, on the other.

The data revealed that linguistic phenomena such as ellipsis, nominalisation, the passive voice, and syntactic reduction are widely used in both languages, demonstrating that fragmented language is not merely a stylistic choice, but rather a systematic rhetorical strategy consistent with the nature of journalistic texts, which strives for brevity, attractiveness, and apparent neutrality. Despite this overall similarity, there are subtle differences between Arabic and English, involving the way of each phenomenon was distribution pattern, and its communicative impact, which will be clarified in the following sections.

When examining the results from a Hallidayian perspective, we find that the linguistic phenomena analysed are directly related to the three functions of language:

- The ideological function: through abstraction and focusing on events rather than actors.

- The interactional function: through creating a neutral or evasive discourse that addresses a diverse audience.
- The textual function: through organising the title and introduction to present information in a minimal amount of space.

From here, the discussion will be divided into thematic units that address each linguistic phenomenon separately, in both the Arabic and English contexts, highlighting their rhetorical and ideological implications, before moving on to analysing the intersections and differences between the two discursive systems.

Ellipsis

It is one of the most prominent stylistic features in journalistic discourse, particularly in headlines and introductions, where it is used to condense information, achieve brevity, and attract the reader's attention. The sample results show that grammatical omission was present in 76% of Arabic texts and 70% of English texts, reflecting a common tendency to use this phenomenon to achieve specific editorial goals.

First: *Grammatical Ellipsis in Arabic Journalistic Texts*

In Arabic headlines, grammatical ellipsis is widely used, where verbs or grammatical conjunctions are omitted, leaving the reader to infer the omitted elements based on the context.

Headline:

"نعم بيتنا يحترق .... ولكن؟" – *"Yes, our house is burning... but?"* :

[Source](#): Al-Quds Al-Arabi, December 20, 2019

Analysis: This headline features the omission of the verb or grammatical conjunction between "yes" and "our house is burning," lending the headline a dramatic character and motivating the reader to read on to understand the full context.

Second: Grammatical Ellipsis in English Newspaper Texts

In English headlines, grammatical ellipsis is used to achieve brevity and present information directly.

Headline:

"Modi's Unexpected Visit to Pakistan Will Make Little Difference."

[Source](#): The Guardian, December 26, 2015

Analysis: This headline omits contextual details and simply mentions the main event, creating a straightforward tone and encouraging the reader to explore the details of the article.

The above examples highlight that grammatical ellipsis is used as an effective stylistic device in newspaper headlines to achieve brevity, attract the reader's attention, and present information directly and concisely. The results show that this phenomenon is widely used in both Arabic and English texts, with slight differences in style and grammatical structure.

Analysis of Nominal Structures in the Newspaper Sample

Nominal structures are among the most common linguistic structures in written journalistic discourse, particularly in headlines and news introductions. They play a functional role in condensing meaning, abstracting the event from time and subject, and presenting information within an objective and abstract framework.

The sample results showed that this phenomenon was the most prevalent among all other phenomena, with its use reaching 88% of Arabic texts and 82% of English texts. This indicates an institutional trend toward the nominal style in journalistic coverage (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

First: *In Arabic newspaper headlines*

The Arabic sample used nominal structures extensively, with headlines predominantly constructed as abstract nominal sentences, which may consist of an infinitive and an omitted verb, or a subject and predicate without apparent verbs. An example of this is the headline in Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper:

Headline:

"الدفاع عن المدافعين عن التنوع البيئي من السكان الأصليين" - *"Defending Indigenous Biodiversity Defenders"*

([Al-Quds Al-Arabi](#), December 20, 2022)

In this headline, four overlapping nominal structures are used: "defence," "defenders," "biodiversity," and "indigenous people," all of which are used without any apparent verb. The overall structure presents the event as an abstract value, not linked to time or an agent, but rather to a condensed conceptual framework.

Second: *In English newspaper headlines*

In the English sample, the nominal constructions were used in almost the same way, with differences in grammatical structure due to the nature of the language. For this reason, The Guardian's headline read:

"Modi's unexpected visit to Pakistan will make little difference"

([The Guardian](#), December 26, 2015)

In this example, the nominal construction "unexpected visit" finally introduces the pre-arrival position, a linguistic technique favoured by English journalism for its ability to present a conceptual idea of the news without directly entering the scene.

The previous examples demonstrate that both Arabic and English use nominal structures in newspaper headlines to achieve brevity and condense information. However, the approaches differ between the two languages:

- Arabic tends to use nominal infinitives and derivatives to condense information.
- English relies on the omission of verbs and determiners, resulting in concise noun structures known as "noun pile-ups."

The Passive Voice in Newspaper Headlines

The use of the passive voice is a common linguistic device in journalism. It is used to present information in a way that focuses on the event or outcome, while minimising or concealing the actor. The sample results show that the passive voice was present in 58% of Arabic texts and 72% of English texts, reflecting a trend toward using this phenomenon to achieve specific editorial goals.

First: *The Passive Voice in Arabic Newspaper Headlines*

In Arabic headlines, the passive voice is used to present events in a way that focuses on the outcome or the victim, while minimising the focus on the perpetrator.

Headline:

"Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh martyred by Israeli occupation forces"

[Source](#): Al Jazeera, May 11, 2022

The verb "martyred" is used in the passive voice, which focuses on the result (the journalist's martyrdom) without directly mentioning the agent, who is implicitly referred to as "the bullets of the occupation."

Second: *The Passive Voice in English Newspaper Headlines*

In English headlines, the passive voice is used similarly to present an event while minimising or obscuring the focus on the actor.

Headline:

"Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot and killed in the West Bank"

[Source](#): NPR, May 11, 2022

The verbs "was shot" and "was killed" are used in the passive voice, which focuses on the event (shooting and killing) without mentioning the actor, giving the story a neutral tone.

The above examples highlight that the use of the passive voice is an effective stylistic device in newspaper headlines to achieve brevity, attract the reader's attention, and present information in a way that focuses on the event or outcome, while minimising or obscuring the subject. The results show that this phenomenon is widely used in both Arabic and English texts, with slight differences in style and grammatical structure.

Nominalisation in Newspaper Headlines

Nominalisation, or the conversion of verbs and adjectives into nouns, is a common linguistic phenomenon in journalistic discourse. It is used to condense information, achieve brevity, and present events abstractly and neutrally. The sample results show that nominalization was present in 78% of Arabic texts and 82% of English texts, reflecting a common trend toward using this phenomenon to achieve specific editorial goals.

First: *Nominalisation in Arabic newspaper headlines*

In Arabic headlines, nominalisation is widely used, transforming verbs into infinitives or derived nouns, giving the headline a formal and abstract character.

Headline:

"Destroying the Ocean to Save the Planet"

Source: The Arabic Pages, December 11, 2020

This headline is notable for the use of nominalism by converting the verb "destroy" to the infinitive "destroy" and the verb "save" to the infinitive "save", which gives the title a formal and abstract character, and focuses on the event rather than the subject.

Second: *Nominalisation in English newspaper headlines*

In English headlines, nominalisation is used similarly, transforming verbs into nouns using suffixes like "-tion" and "-ment," giving the headline a formal and abstract character.

Headline:

"The legalisation of cannabis sparks debate"

Source: The New York Times, June 15, 2021

This headline uses nominalisation, converting the verb "legalise" to the noun "legalisation." This gives the headline a formal and abstract character, focusing on the event rather than the subject.

The previous examples highlight that nominalisation is an effective stylistic tool in newspaper headlines to achieve brevity, present information abstractly and neutrally, and minimise the focus on the subject. The results show that this phenomenon is widely used in both Arabic and English texts, with slight differences in style and grammatical structure.

Structural Compression in Newspaper Headlines

Structural Compression is one of the most prominent stylistic features in journalistic discourse, used to condense information, achieve brevity, and attract the reader's attention. The sample results show that syntactic shorthand was present in 82% of Arabic texts and 85% of English texts, reflecting a common trend toward using this phenomenon to achieve specific editorial goals.

First: in Arabic newspaper headlines

Structural compression in Arabic headlines, syntactic reduction is widely used, where certain grammatical elements, such as verbs or conjunctions, are omitted, leaving the reader to infer the omitted elements based on the context.

Headline:

"Urgent... The Security Council slaps a certain country." - "عاجل..مجلس الأمن يصفع دولة معينة"

Source: Al Jazeera Media Institute

This title demonstrates extensive use of Structural compression, omitting the full context of the event and using a powerful verb, "slap," to create drama and grab the reader's attention. This type of title emphasises suspense and excitement while minimising details, encouraging the reader to read on to understand the full context.

Second: Structural compression in English newspaper headlines

Structural compression in English headlines is used to achieve brevity and present information directly.

Headline:

"Lung cancer in women's mushrooms"

Source: Bucknell University

Analysis: This headline shows a heavy use of structural compression, omitting the full context of the event and using the verb "mushrooms" (to grow rapidly) to convey the idea of an increase in lung cancer cases among women. This type of headline emphasises suspense and excitement, while minimising details, which encourages the reader to read on to understand the full context.

These examples highlight that structural compression is used as an effective stylistic tool in newspaper headlines to achieve brevity, capture the reader's attention, and present information directly and concisely. The results show that this phenomenon is widely used in both Arabic and English texts, with slight differences in style and grammatical structure.

Conclusion

This study reached the following conclusions:

1. The studied journalistic texts intentionally and functionally relied on fragmented language strategies to achieve specific media objectives.

2. Arab and English-speaking journalists tend to use intensifying linguistic structures such as nominalisation and grammatical ellipsis to condense information.

3. Five morphosyntactic features predominated in the sample: grammatical ellipsis, nominal constructions, the passive voice, nominalisation, and syntactic reduction. Nominal constructions were the most frequently used in both languages.

4. Three main linguistic patterns are used for journalistic framing: presenting the event as an objective fact (using nominalisation), concealing the agent (using the passive voice), and intensifying the event (using ellipsis and reduction).

5. Ellipsis and reduction were employed more frequently in Arabic journalism than in English journalism, while the passive voice appeared more regularly in English texts.

6. These linguistic phenomena, despite their formal simplicity, reflect ideological discursive practices that aim to influence the reader's perception and reshape the sequence of events from the perspective of the media institution producing the text.

Limitation

The scope of the study was limited to a sample of journalistic texts, amounting to only 100 texts, distributed equally between Arabic and English. This size is considered appropriate for qualitative analysis, but it may not accurately reflect all the stylistic and linguistic variations in journalistic discourse across various media institutions.

The study was also limited to two newspapers: Al-Quds Al-Arabi and The Guardian, which may affect the generalizability of the results to other newspapers with different political or stylistic orientations. Furthermore, the study focused on analysing headlines and introductions without expanding into full news texts or extended investigations, which might reveal more complex and diverse linguistic patterns.

This study remains a pioneering step toward opening new horizons in analysing journalistic discourse from a comparative linguistic perspective, which calls for future studies to transcend these limitations and expand the scope of research.

Recommendations:

This study suggests the following:

1. Expanding the sample size to include a larger number of newspapers and magazines in multiple languages, which would strengthen the results and increase their generalizability.

2. Conducting comparative studies between block language in traditional and digital media (such as online journalism and social media platforms) to identify any stylistic or functional differences.

3. Studying the relationship between the use of block language and the psychological or social effects on audiences, particularly in breaking or controversial news.

4. Integrating pragmatic analysis with morphological and syntactic analysis to explore the ideological and rhetorical functions of journalistic discourse more deeply.

5. Developing training tools for media professionals and translators that demonstrate how to deal with block language in writing or translation, while preserving the meaning and significance of both languages.

This study believes that addressing the phenomenon of block language is not merely a linguistic issue, but rather an entry point to understanding the profound relationship between language, media, and ideology, a topic worthy of further future research.

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