

Language Use in Print Media War Reports: Aspects of Stylistic Analysis

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Abstract

*This study examines language use and communicative strategies employed by journalists in war reports in newspapers and magazines. Using Leech and Short's (1995) model of concept of linguistic stylistics as its theoretical framework, this study analyses language use in the news reports on the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 and the Libyan civil war of 2011. Two newspapers: **THISDAY** and the **New York Times** and two magazines: **TIME** and **Newsweek** were selected as sources of data. Sample extracts of headlines, editorials and features from the newspapers were subjected to different levels of stylistic analysis. Findings showed that the use of the simple present tense in the headlines, compound and conjoined words, cohesive devices as well as reported speech forms and morphological features, (acronyms/abbreviations) are significant communicative strategies employed by journalists to achieve meaning in the war news reports being studied. Based on the findings the paper recommends that journalists should consider the deployment of stylistic features often at the syntactic and lexical levels as they are found to be central in revealing different linguistic choices in news reporting, particularly war reporting.*

Keywords: *Linguistic Stylistics, War Reporting, Print Media, Israel-Lebanon war 2006, Libyan civil war 2011.*

Introduction

This paper focuses on patterns of language use and communicative strategies in media war news reports in newspapers and magazines. Specifically, the study examines the stylistic features at the levels of syntax and lexis in the selected media war reports. The objective here is to account for the linguistic choices made and how meaning is generated and conveyed in print media news reports on war.

Globally, war constitutes an important social phenomenon. It is a subject of concern to governments all over the world. This is because of its catastrophic impact on the lives of all concerned. Supporting this view, Nobel Laureate

Richard E. Smalley (2008:246) identifies war as the “sixth (often) biggest problems facing the society of mankind for the next fifty years”.

We decided to focus specially on the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 and the Libyan civil war of 2011 because both wars made front pages in the various papers being studied due to the consequences the wars had on millions of people in the world. The international notoriety of late Colonel Gaddafi, the former Libyan president, seems to have contributed to the newsworthiness of the Libyan civil war, which was covered widely by journalists across the world. The devastating effect of the wars in Israel and Lebanon as well as Libya helped the public, statesmen, politicians and various governments all over the world to learn from such wars in order to provide better leadership and create meaningful lives. Some of the international media such as *CNN*, *BBC*, the Nigeria media and other local media, still constantly make reference to the events.

Obviously, the two wars selected for this study are not the only wars that have been widely reported by the print media but their choice is based on the fact that they are both relatively recent and, as such, the events captured in the reports can be said to be current in the minds of the people. It is, therefore, against the backdrop of these two recent disruptions in world peace – Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 and Libyan civil war of 2011 – and the journalistic output which they engendered that this study is set with a view to investigating the stylistic elements in the language of war reporting as evident in the selected newspaper and magazine stories.

The main objective of the study is to provide answers to the following questions:

- a) What are the syntactic features used in the headlines and other parts of the war reports?
- b) What are the lexical features employed by journalists in the various war reports to generate meaning?

Since we have chosen to examine how language is deployed in the print media war reporting, we are limiting this study to selected newspaper and magazine reports on the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 and the Libyan civil war of 2011, which culminated in the assassination of the former Libyan President, Muammar Gaddafi in October, 2011. The print media, and not the broadcast, was selected for this study because newspapers and magazines have an advantage of showcasing both linguistic items and visual images simultaneously. Four papers comprising two newspapers, *THISDAY* and *The New York Times*, and two

magazines *Newswatch* and *TIME*, provide the population from where we drew relevant data for this study. These papers were selected because of their wide circulation and readership; their range of coverage of issues of national and international concern; and to reflect English language users in native and non-native domains. In addition, these papers were selected because they adopt different stylistic approaches in their war discourses. While *THISDAY* and *Newswatch* are Nigeria-based media, *TIME* and *The New York Times* are papers based in the United States of America.

Language use in reporting war is deemed important because it may project harmony and prevent emerging war. Also, language use in newspaper is an issue we encounter in our everyday life. Therefore, it is essential to examine those stylistic elements that are used distinctively in the papers so as to understand how meaning is generated and conveyed in war reporting. The essential function of language use in news reporting is for effective communication of the intended message. Bell (1994:7) states that newspapers and magazines are language-forming institutions, thus their language use should convey very clear messages. This research is centered on stylistic features as used distinctively in newspapers and magazines. It is important to point out here that our objective is to analyse those stylistic features of grammar used distinctively to report about the Israel-Lebanon war, 2006 and the Libyan civil war 2011 to create meaning.

Many scholars have emphasized the usefulness of linguistic features in news reporting. Chilwa (2012:106) identifies lexical cohesion, naming, syntactic structure, compound and complex sentences as some linguistic elements used by journalists in news reports. He mentions others such as symbolism, metaphor, hyperbole, personification and idioms as literary devices in the news texts employed by news writers as stylistic and discourse strategies to add colour and beauty to their texts and also as a means of generating meaning. On the importance of conjunction in a news report, Freeman (1970) opines that a writer, anticipating his thought, and wishing to indicate the relationship of each segment to the next... should endeavor to employ the use of cohesive devices such as conjunctions.

Reported speech is another important syntactic feature of language use in the print media news reports. Reported speech refers to the way that one person's utterance is made out by someone else. Many forms of reported language have been identified. They are direct, indirect and free indirect speech form (FIS). Direct forms (direct speech) are generally defined as those that provide the exact

wordings of the original as pointed out by Huddleston et al. (2002:1023) and Quirk et al. (1985:1021). On the other hand, indirect forms are those that are not bound by the verbatim presentation criterion. The direct speech is always enclosed in quotation marks.

In newspaper reports, Redeker (1996:221) claims that most notably reactions and opinions are often reported in the free indirect discourse (or free indirect speech). This implies that free indirect speech is used often in various kinds of newspaper reports. Thus, FIS is a form of reported speech that is important and worthy of consideration in this study because it can enhance the reader's interest and involvement in news reporting. It may also be considered as an aspect of meaning making in news reports.

The essence of reported language as another form of language use in print media news reports has been emphasised. In a study on the function of reported language in the discourse of newspaper reports, Urbanova Zuzana (2009:82) asserts that reported language comprises more than one-third of the news reports and that in news construction, newspaper reports seem to rely on reported language to a great extent.

From the point of view of stylistic studies, Crystal and Davy (1969) explain that it is very difficult to detect any common characteristic feature or style of language usage by a particular newspaper or magazine. Therefore they decided to label all journalistic styles as 'journalese'. In the same study, they explore different aspects of language use in news reporting in newspaper headlines, type of word order, punctuation, vocabulary, paragraphing, idioms etc. In this study, we examine the stylistic features at the levels of syntax and lexis and how the journalist uses them in generating meaning in war reports.

Language is of essence in making available to the public information concerning on-going and previous wars. For example, in a study on "Rhetoric", Lukin (2005:38) identifies deep grammatical patterns in speeches, media reports, press releases as some examples that create the climate for war. She illustrates this with the State of the Union address by George W. Bush delivered after the September 11, 2001 attack on the American World Trade Centre. She identifies the grammatical resource of modality as the second strategy. Accordingly, Lukin identifies modality words like: "perhaps", "probably", "maybe", "might", "could", "must" and phrases like "I think that...", or "we judge that ...".

In a study titled *Language in War Situations: A Stylistic Study of the War Speeches of Yakubu Gowon and Emeka Ojukwu*, Oha (1994:10) as quoted in Chilwa (2012:61) examines how the conflict between the two warring sides was demonstrated in language through the use of quantitative and qualitative methods. Oha's study is basically on oral war rhetoric and how various meanings are determined by stylistic strategies. The outcome of Oha's study as noted by Chilwa shows that "a better understanding of verbal behaviour in a war situation depends on the recognition of the inter-dependency relation between style (language choice) and situation on one hand, and style and meaning on the other (61). In addition, Chilwa explains that in Oha's study, language was demonstrated as an instrument to support or condemn and also used as a weapon to control social behaviour. Our study is related to Oha's study in terms of stylistic analysis but ours is different in methodological framework.

This study is premised on the concept of linguistic stylistics. According to Isidore (2012), linguistic stylistics has to do with stylistic study that relies heavily on the scientific rules of language in its analysis. Our choice of this conceptual underpinning is based on the benefits this study will derive from its application. For example, the application will show the structure of the (English) language and functional significance of the interpretation of the various media war reports being studied here. The foregoing therefore provides the premise for the examination and analysis of linguistic stylistic features used in the print media war reporting in the reports of the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 and the Libyan civil war of 2011.

In this connection, we have adopted Leech and Short's (1995) linguistic stylistic analysis approach, particularly because it provides a detailed linguistic checklist of style markers in four categories, namely the lexical, the grammatical, the figures of speech, and the context and cohesion categories. In this study, we examine the stylistic features. In the analysis of the war reports at this level, the stylistic analysis accounts for variations in selected lexical and syntactic elements as used in the war reports.

Methodology

This study is basically qualitative. It examines an aspect of language use in media studies. Specifically, it focuses on language use in print media war reports of the Israel-Lebanon war, 2006 and the Libyan civil war 2011. The theoretical framework is based on Leech and Short's (1995) linguistic approach which provides a detailed linguistic check-list of style markers in four categories: lexical, grammatical, figures of speech category, and context and cohesion. The choice of

sampling in this study is purposive. The decision to use this is because the data was gathered based on the researcher's judgement of their significance to the study. Another reason was the need to meet the study aim and objectives as set by the researcher. There was also the need to have a sizable and manageable data. The total data for this study is 25 news extracts of reports culled from the headlines, editorials and feature articles from *THISDAY*, *Newswatch*, *TIME* and *The New York Times*. A breakdown of the news extracts shows that the one-month Israel-Lebanon war, 2006 has 10 news extracts and the 8 months Libyan civil war, 2011 has a total of 15 extracts culled from the reports. The disparity in the number of extracts used in the various war reports stems from the fact that the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 lasted only one month while the Libyan civil war of 2011 lasted eight months. Therefore, the latter attracted more reports as the situation lingered. The Israel-Lebanon war lasted between July 12 and August 19, 2006, while the Libyan civil war lasted from February to October, 2011 when the former Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi was assassinated. For easy comprehension and identification the war report extracts were coded as follows: H - headlines, E - editorials and F - feature articles, as in the following: The Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 news report headline ILW H, editorials ILW E and feature articles ILW F. For the Libyan civil war of 2011 news report headline LCW H, editorials LCW E and feature article LCW F.

TABLE I: Sample Table for news reports on the Israel-Lebanon war, 2006

	<i>THISDAY</i>	<i>Newswatch</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>The New York Times</i>	Total
Headlines	2		2	1	5
Editorials		2			2
Features		1	2		3
Total	2	3	4	1	10

TABLE II: Sample table for news reports on the Libyan civil war, 2011

	<i>THISDAY</i>	<i>Newswatch</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>The New York Times</i>	Total
Headlines		2		2	4
Editorials		2			2
Features	2	2	1	4	9
Total	2	6	1	6	15

Tables I and II show the 25 extracts of the selected newspapers and magazines from where we purposively selected our data.

Presentation of Data

TABLE III: Data from the Papers

	Wars Under Focus	Data Set	Data Code	No. of Extracts
1	Israel-Lebanon War	Headlines	ILW H	5
		Editorials	ILW E	3
		Features	ILW F	2
	Total			10
2	Libyan Civil war	Headlines	LCW H	4
		Editorials	LCW E	2
		Features	LCW F	9
	Total			15

Findings and Discussions

In this study we found that syntactic features are realized through, the construction of headlines in the simple present tense, the construction of headlines with the compound and conjoined keywords, the use of cohesive devices and the use of reported speech forms. Below are examples from the data:

Syntactic Features

(a) The construction of headlines in the simple present tense.

From the headlines analyzed, journalists deploy the simple present tense to transport the reader closer to the scene of the war events in order to portray the

time “now or the immediate”. This type of headline is found easy to understand because of its brevity. Let us consider the following examples:

Gaddafi Regains Control (*Newswatch*, March 28, 2011)

EXTRACT LCW H1

ISRAEL EXPANDS GROUND FORCES INSIDE
LEBANON

(*The New York Times* August 2, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW H1

QADDAFI’S FORCES STRIKE WITH FURY AS
UNREST GROWS (*The New York Times*, February 22,
2006)

EXTRACT LCW H2

QADDAFI SURVIVES A NATO AIRSTRIKE THAT
KILLS A SON (*The New York Times*, MAY 1, 2011).

EXTRACT LCW H3

Help comes for Libyan War Victims (*Newswatch* May 2,
2011)

EXTRACT LCW H4.

The headlines above are all centered on current events (at the time the data were all covered). For instance, the following insightful words in italics are used to portray the present tense: ‘*regains*’, ‘*expands*’, ‘*survives*’ and ‘*comes*’. Current events could refer to issues that are just occurring or that recently occurred. Consequently, all the extracts above can be said to border on events that just occurred. The analysis confirms the research findings of Wright and Hope (1996), Anaeto et al. (2009) and Omojuyigbe (2016) that the use of the present tense in headlines conveys immediacy and makes them more vivid.

(b) The construction of headlines with compound words and conjoined keywords

The use of morphological features at the levels of compounding and conjoined keywords and acronyms contributes to the structural frame of the various war reports being studied.

A compound word is made up of two base words while conjoining, involves using a conjunction, usually a coordinating conjunction to join two words. The analysis reveals that headlines cast with compound words or conjoined keywords are

always brief and concise. Also, the main attraction of such headlines lies within the compound words and conjoined key words. Let us consider the following examples:

SEARCH & DESTROY (*TIME* July 10, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW H2

THE WAR FOR HEARTS AND MINDS (*TIME* July 10, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW H3

Cease-Fire in the Middle East (*THISDAY* August 6, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW H4

Israel-Hezbollah: Impossible Comprise? (*THISDAY* August 6, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW H5

The analysis reveals that the italicized words in EXTRACT ILW H4, ‘*cease-fire*’, and EXTRACT ILW H4 ‘*Isreal-Hezbollah*’, joined with hyphens are called hyphenated compounds. We notice different class combinations in the construction of these headlines with the compound words. For examples, ‘*cease-fire*’ is verb + noun and *Isreal-Hezbollah* is noun + noun. This analysis reveals that the use of compound words in headlines comes in different forms. Apart from the use of compound words, this analysis underscores the relevance of the use of the coordinating conjunction ‘and’ as a link between one word and another. We can observe also that headlines containing both compound words and conjoined words have significant relationships because they are sharp and easy to understand. In addition, we can say that the journalist stylistically and strategically explores their use to enable the reading public to comprehend the composition and relationship of the different words as used in the data.

(c) The use of acronyms

Acronyms in our data are realized using the initials of words. They may be written in small letters or capital letters. The analysis of acronyms in this paper indicates that they come in two categories: Those pronounced as letters of the alphabet and those pronounced as words.

Acronyms pronounced as letters in our data

UN- United Nations, US- United States, USA- United States of America, NTC- National Transition Council, UK- United Kingdom, AU- African Union, ALF- African Leadership Forum, NLC- National Libyan Council, EU- European Union, G8- Group of Eight, IDF- Israel's Defense Forces, CNN- Cable News Network (*THISDAY* August 10, 2011)

EXTRACT LCW F1

Acronyms pronounced as words used in our data

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
AMU - Arab Maghreb Union
LFICO - Libyan Government Funds Holdings in Italy (*New York Time*
September 14, 2011)

EXTRACT LCW F2

We observed that acronyms are stylistic strategies deployed by journalists in war reports for easy recall of long expressions to comprehend words correctly. This is also an aspect of generating meaning in war reporting.

(d) The use of cohesive devices in the editorials and features.

An analysis of cohesive devices in this study reveals the use of three categories of conjunctions. These are 'AND' used as a CO-ORDINATING conjunction to join independent clauses: 'NOT ONLY... BUT ALSO', used as a CORRELATIVE conjunction in a sentence to add emphasis. 'MOREOVER' used as a CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB to show a relationship between the connected clauses.

Examples from the data:

The new generation of Libyans were unmoved by *Gaddafi's* earlier heroic deeds *and* so, were not in awe of him. (*Newswatch* November 7, 2011).

EXTRACT LCW E1

Any inquiry bound to examine the conflict would *not only* affect Olmert himself *but also* other key figures like Amir Perez, the minister of defense staff and other commanders (*Newswatch* August 28, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW E1

Fuelled by social networks and a desire to taste democracy, which they hear of in other lands but which they never knew in Libya, they pressed on. *Moreover*, the revelations of corruption and a life of opulence lived by the Gaddafi clan incensed them. (*Newswatch* November 7, 2011)

EXTRACT LCW E2

From the above, it is obvious that the example in extract LCW E1 shows that the ideas joined together are main clauses. EXTRACT ILW E1 highlights the significance of correlative conjunctions in the data. The analysis indicates that the correlative conjunction is a part of conjunctions, especially the second pair of the extract which reads ‘*not only* Olmert himself *but also* other key figures like Amir Perez, the minister of defense, Dan Halutz, the chief of defense staff and other commanders’. Here, the analysis shows that the following lexical words: ‘not only’ ... ‘but also’ are correlative conjunctions used in the sentence to add emphasis. EXTRACT LCW E2 shows the use of the conjunctive adverb ‘moreover’ to indicate a relationship between the connected clauses. It is used here to give details and additional information meant to spur the Libyan rebels to action for the purpose of overthrowing the notorious Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Gaddafi.

(e) The use of reported language

Often in their writings, journalists represent the thought of people in the news in reported language, which gives incisive information about news events. Reported language is relaying a person’s utterance without using the direct words. A major finding shows many categories of reported language employed in the data. These are the direct speech form marked with quotation marks at the beginning and end of a statement “”. The other forms are the indirect speech form and the free indirect speech form. The indirect speech form refers to a statement that is reported by another person other than the original speaker. Examples of direct, indirect and free indirect speech forms as used in the data are shown below:

The direct from includes the following:

Gaddafi challenged the oil companies by telling them, “a people who have lived without oil for 5,000 years can live without oil for a few years in order to attain their legitimate right” (*Newswatch* September 5, 2011).

EXTRACT LCW F3

“This is my country. I will die here. I will fight to the last man. We shall exterminate the rats and cockroaches... I will not be president... I am not elected...I am not King.... I am just the leader... Libya wants me, my people love me... it is the rodents that have a problem. And I shall exterminate them one by one Insha Allah!!!” (*THISDAY* October 24, 2011)

EXTRACT LCW F4

Then, Ehud Olmert, Israel’s Prime Minister, made a speech in Southern Israel which has been heavily attacked since the crisis erupted. He had said that there would be “pain, tears and blood”... (*The Newswatch*, August 14, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW F1

"Qaddafi doesn't have the power, he doesn't have the position to leave," he said of himself, "with my rifle, I will fight for my country". (*The New York Times* May 1, 2011)

EXTRACT LCW F5

David Winnick, a member of the parliament intensely criticized the development of British officers he said, although everyone despises the brutality of the Gadaffi's clan, the fact remained that the British involvement in Libya, is for a mission. “There is a civil war in Libya and this is a big escalation of Britain's involvement” he said

EXTRACT LCW F6 (*Newswatch* May 2, 2011)

“Come France, Italy, U.K, America, come, we'll negotiate with you”, colonel Qadaffi said, “you lie and say I'm killing my own people. Show us the bodies” (*The New York Times* May 1, 2011)

EXTRACT, LCW F7

The indirect speech form includes the following:

Officials said Israel war planes launched several attacks across Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah rocket launchers and hide – outs including a route to Syria in the Bekeaa Valley. (*Newswatch* August 14, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW E3

Free indirect speech form (FIS) includes the following:

In Israel nobody likes a loser. And however much Olmert's media advisers try to spin it, *Israel's war in Lebanon was bungled: the Israelites failed to destroy Hizballah's leadership or even halt its barrage of rockets, and 159 Israelites died in the conflict.* As a result, the presence of the reservists on Olmert's doorstep is much more than an eye sore. (*TIME*, September 4, 2006)

EXTRACT TLW F2

With Libya, the Obama Administration was determined to pursue the operation *only if the cost could be kept manageable and shared.* At the start of the deliberations, secretary of defense, Robert Gates made it clear that Libya was not a vital national interest of the U.S. *thus placing a limit on the costs the country would bear.* (*TIME*, September 5, 2011)

EXTRACT LCW F8

As the scale and ferocity of the fighting in Lebanon stunned the world, *nations lined up to accuse Israel of a "disproportionate" response to Hizballah's raid* two weeks ago, when it kidnapped two Israeli soldiers (*TIME*, July 31, 2006)

EXTRACT ILW E4

In a video broadcast by the satellite channel *Al Jazeera*, Libyan officials showed reporters *what they said was the destroyed house*, a large crater, crumbled concrete and twisted metal, and someone dusting off what appeared to be an unexploded bomb. It is not the first time Colonel Qaddafi has survived such a close call. (*The New York Times* May 1, 2011).

EXTRACT LCW F9

From the above editorial and feature excerpts, we find that the semantic differences in the use of the direct speech, the indirect speech, and free indirect speech lies in the understanding of the context that influences their composition. For instance the journalist in extracts LCW F3 and LCW F4, ILW F1, F5, F6, F7 employs quotation marks when he presents the speeches made by the former Libyan President Col. Muammar Gaddafi, Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and Member of British Parliament David Winnick,. The journalist quotes all of their direct speeches verbatim. The direct speech here allows the journalist to distance himself from the content of the speech or report. But in the case of the indirect speech form as represented in Extract ILW E3, the journalist expresses what was said in his own words. He stands as a reporter interpreting the message of the officials of the Israeli army to the reader. In doing this there are some noticeable semantic changes from the above extract. For example: (i) There is an omission of the quotation marks in the indirect speech; (ii) There is also the introduction of the word 'said' in the indirect speech form as shown in extracts ILW E3.

In addition to the above changes, we notice that the use of the direct speech form indicates a well thought out stylistic strategy on the part of the journalist to bring personalities in the news nearer to the reader through making them (the personalities) speak directly. The presumption here as noted by Waugh (1995), Clarke et al (1990), Omojuyigbe (2016) is to demonstrate the newsworthiness, evidentiality, objectivity, authenticity and personalization of the report. The italicized portions of the extracts ILW F2, LCW F8, ILW E4 and LCW F9 above are examples of the free indirect speech form. They contain the reconstructed portion of the war reports written in the journalist's own words. For example, in Extracts ILW F2, *Israel's war in Lebanon was bungled: the Israeli's failed to destroy Hizballah's leadership or even halt its barrage of rockets...*, Extract ILW E4, *Nations lined up to accuse Israel of a 'disproportionate' response to Hizballah's raid...*As revealed in the above extracts, the reader is given the opportunity to sense the journalist's implicit comment on the war reports. Also, in the EXTRACT ILW E the journalist deliberately retains the word 'disproportionate' which happens to be the original remark from the government press releases concerning the Israel-Lebanon war. The analysis also reveals that the use of the free indirect speech allows the journalist to control the flow of discourse of the war reports. We have in Extract LCW F9 - "*It is not the first time Colonel Qaddafi has survived such a close call*" The journalist through the use of free indirect speech here allows the reader to sense his (journalist's) implicit empathy for Qaddafi's predicament. Generally, the analysis reveals that the use of

reported language made up of direct speech, indirect speech, and free indirect speech by the journalist serves to provide more stylistic variety. Above all, the use of reported language here can be seen as the central building block of war reports.

Lexical Features

In this study we identified some terms associated with war and conflict situations as used in the data. The study is mainly on language use in war reporting. Therefore, the war register is our natural interest and focus. The analysis reveals pervasive use of words associated with war employed to capture, describe and demonstrate war activity. The war and conflict terms found in both the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 and the Libyan civil war of 2011 include the following:

Table IV

Letters	War and conflict terms as used in the data
A	attack, airstrike, allies, ammunition, army, aerial
B	blood, brutality, bomb, bombing, battle, bullet
C	ceasefire, conflict, commanders, crisis, civilians, cornel, camp ,causalities
D	defense, destroy, disarming, die, defeat, deaths
E	erupted, exterminate, enemy
F	forces, fight, fury, foes, fighting
G	grenade
H	hideouts
I	injury, incensed
K	kills, killing
L	liberation, lieutenant
M	militia, military, massacre, mortar
O	offensive, officer, onslaught
P	pain, pistol, propaganda, patrol
R	rocket, regime, rifle, retaliation, rescue
S	strike, survives, stake, soldiers, seized, sergeant
T	tears, troop, tanks, tactics
U	unrest
V	victims, violence
W	war, wounded, withdrawal

The lexical items listed above in alphabetical order cover the choice of lexical terms that characterize the war and conflict situation in the data. The findings suggest that the war register portrays a sense of fear and anxiety in the mind of the

reader. A casual reader of these lexical items may easily understand the background from which the reports are produced. As revealed in the study, the lexical items help to reconstruct the realism of the war situation. In addition the journalist has adopted the lexical items to pass the intended message.

Conclusion

In this study, we have examined some aspects of the language use in newspaper and magazine reports of the Israel-Lebanon war of 2006 and the Libyan civil war of 2011. We did this by investigating the stylistic features used in the four selected papers namely, *THISDAY*, *The New York Times*, *TIMES* and *Newswatch*. The study revealed that stylistic elements in form of syntactic features are realized through the use of compound words and conjoined keywords, through the use of simple present tense in the headlines to create meaning. Also, it was discovered that the use of cohesive devices such as conjunctions, the use of reported speech (direct, indirect and free indirect) forms and the deployment of acronyms had a positive effect in creating awareness of the events covered. In addition, it was revealed that lexical items relating to war and conflict situations were used to create meaning in the reports.

Recommendations

Thus, upon the conclusion of this research, the following recommendations are made:

- (i) That language use in reporting war is deemed relevant because it can project harmony or prevent emerging war. Therefore, reporters, journalists, editors should be trained and retrained in the area of war reporting and language use thereby equipping them with the necessary language dynamics needed for the print media production of news reports particularly war reporting.
- (ii) Secondly, we recommend that the use of (English) language and communication skills as a course should be included in the curriculum of schools offering Journalism and mass communication in all tertiary institutions. This would equip the students of such schools with the necessary skills to report war effectively when they later get into the print media to work as reporters.
- (iii) We recommend also that reporters whose beats fall within reporting war should be versatile in the use of registers of war while reporting war events in order to report effectively.

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