THE NEW SUEZ CANAL AS MIRRORED BY THE HEADLINES OF THE TOP NEWS WEBSITES

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Abstract

News media play an important role in shaping public opinion. Because news is a representation of the world in language (Fowler, 1991:4), this research investigates the manner in which headlines of the top news websites mirror The New Suez Canal, which is a great project and a symbol of Egyptian national pride, on the sixth and the seventh of August 2015, which mark the inauguration of the New Suez Canal. This research investigates the linguistic structures of headlines in the top news websites. The variety of syntactic and lexical features of the sample headlines is analyzed. To describe the syntactic features of headlines, three categories are investigated: the structure, the function and the complexity of the headlines. To describe the lexical features of headlines, individual words under different categories of nouns, verbs, articles, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, pronouns, prepositions are examined. This paper incorporates critical discourse analysis as a method for analysis.

Key words: The New Suez Canal, media, headlines, syntactic features, lexical features

الملخص البحث :

الملخص العربي وسائل الإعلام الإخبارية تلعب دورا هاما في تشكيل الرأي العام و لأن الأخبار تصور العالم من خلال اللغة (فولر ١٩٩١) فهذا البحث يتحرى طريقة تصوير عناوين الأخبار في مواقع الانترنت الشهيرة لقناة السويس الجديدة والتي يعتبرها المصريون رمز للفخر الوطني المصري وذلك في السادس و السابع من أغسطس عام٢٠١٥ حيث تم افتتاح قناة السويس الجديدة.هذا البحث يفحص التركيب اللغوي لعناوين الأخبار في تلك المواقع الشهيرة حيث تم تحليل العديد من السمات التركيبية و الخاصة بمعاني تلك العناوين و من أجل وصف التركيب لتلك العناوين تم تحليل ثلاث فئات و هي البناء و الوظيفة و مدى تعقد العنوان و لوصف السمات الخاصة بالمعنى فقد تم فحص الكلمات المفردة التي تدخل في نطاق الأسماء و الأفعال و الأدوات و الصفات و الحال و الروابط و الضمائر و حروف الجر. هذا البحث يتضمن التحليل النقدي للخطاب كأداة للفحص.

1.The Problem and Its Setting

"To do great things is difficult, but to command great things is more difficult." These words are quoted from Friedrich Nietzsche, the nineteenth century German philosopher. The researcher believes that this quote perfectly goes with the spirit of New Egypt with its miraculous achievement: the New Suez Canal, the symbol of the Egyptian national pride. The consensus was it would take 3-5 years, but President Al Sisi declared it would be completed within one year and funded only by the Egyptians. This mega-project was the nation's priority as it will catapult Egypt into a major or strategic international player and help secure the country's development. Egypt celebrates the grand opening of the New Suez Canal, with world leaders arriving to attend the inaugural ceremony on 6 August 2015.

In today's society, mass media is a vital source for getting information on current events and politics. News media play an important role in shaping public opinion. The information on which people interpret the world around them comes from a wide range of sources. It comes from personal interactions with others, from their knowledge and experience; it also comes from the public media – television, radio, newspapers and magazines, the Internet and so on. The main mode through which most of these sources provides information is language. Accordingly, this paper is about the language used in news websites.

Because news is a representation of the world in language (Fowler,1991:4), this research investigates the manner in which headlines of the top news websites mirror this great project on the sixth and the seventh of August 2015. The research has

chosen these two specific days because they mark the inauguration of the New Suez Canal.

This research is an attempt to examine the linguistic structures of headlines in the top news websites. The content analysis is based on a 2- day corpus of headlines. The variety of syntactic and lexical features of the sample headlines is analyzed. To describe the syntactic features of headlines, three categories are investigated: the structure, the function and the complexity in the headlines. To describe the lexical features of headlines, individual words under different categories of nouns, verbs, articles, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, pronouns, prepositions are examined.

2. Aim of the Study

A headline, as Ungener (2000: 48) believes, describes "the essence of a complicated news story in a few words". Dor (2003: 720) adds that a headline is "a communicative device whose function is to produce the optimal level of affinity between the content of the story and the reader's context of interpretation". Consequently, this paper intends to investigate the linguistic-syntactic and lexical- features of headlines of top news websites concerning their representation of the New Suez Canal Project.

Accordingly, this research aims to develop the following questions:

1. What are the syntactic features of headlines of top news websites with reference to the New Suez Canal?

2. What are the lexical features of headlines of top news websites with reference to the New Suez Canal?

3. Review of Literature

3.1 Introduction: Media and Headlines

The media is the whole body of communications that reach large numbers of the public via radio, television, movies, magazines, newspapers, and the World Wide Web. As A written type, newspapers have the most readers due to its easy accessibility and its wide range of content

(Reah 2002). Shams (2007) justifies the wide publicity of newspapers stating "newspapers present news through three kinds of codes: typographic, graphic and linguistic" (13). Mass media are so powerful in shaping public opinions. Macnamara (2003) explains the powerful effects of mass media.

Summers (1995) define news as "reports of recent events in the news papers" (953). Reah (1998) narrows the definition to "information about recent events that are of interest to a sufficiently large group" (4).

Newspapers do have a great deal of influence over public opinion, over which issues are discussed and on what terms an issue is discussed (Allan 2004,47; 77). Stuart Allan (2004,3) argues that news media play a crucial part in "establishing a discursive space, one framed by the state and economic domains on either side, for public deliberations over social issues".

A text-type written at the top of a newspaper article, the headline represents the most important part of the article. Headlines employ a certain language –type called block language. Block language, according to Quirk et al., (1985, 845), "appears in such functions as labels, titles, newspaper headlines, headings, notices, and advertisements." Block language typically employs a simple clause structure often omitting "closed-class items of low information value" (Quirk *e al.,* 1985: 845). This means that words that are unnecessary and their omission does not affect the overall comprehensibility of the text, such as articles, verb to be etc. are omitted.

The function of a headline is to outline what the article is about in a manner that arouses the reader's attention. Crystal (1969:174) states that:

The function of headlining is complex: headlines have to contain a clear, succinct and if possible intriguing message, to kindle a spark of interest in the potential reader, who, on average, is a person whose eye moves swiftly down

a page and stops when something catches his attention....

Headlines play an important role in the communicative act performed by newspapers. They are used, according to Taiwo (2007), "to initiate, sustain and shape discourse on the views of readers" (p. 244).

Headlines, however; do not reveal everything in their content. They do so in order to encourage the reader into reading further, arouse curiosity and draw attention.

According to Kronrod and Engle (2001), the speaker must enable the addressee "to identify the entities mentioned in the text by using appropriate referring expression. A speaker who uses a definite referring expression presupposes that a mental representation of the entity being referred to exists in the addressee's mind". This means that the speaker should provide enough information for the reader to decode the meaning of such text successfully.

Mårdh (1980), in a study of linguistic features in the headlines of English newspapers, has identified the following features as typical of headlines: the omission of articles; the omission of verbs and of auxiliaries; nominalizations; the frequent use of complex noun phrases in subject position; adverbial headlines, with the omission of both verb and subject; the use of short words; the widespread use of puns, word play, and alliteration; the importance of word order, with the most important items placed first.

Van Dijk(1988) has analyzed over 400 headlines in Dutch press and found that Dutch authorities dominated subject positions in the headlines with active verbs.

Develotte and Rechniewski (2000) applied a discourse analysis of newspaper headlines in some French and Australian newspapers. Scollon (2000) also has studied English headlines. However, there is need for further research with regard to headlines, owing to their importance and ability to change the way we think. A misleading headline can lead us astray because what we read affects what we see and think. A headline changes the way people read an article and the way they remember it. The headline frames the rest of the experience. As a result, the researcher is interested in headlines, especially those covering Egypt's fourth national project after the Great Pyramids at Giza, The Suez Canal, the Aswan High Dam : the New Suez Canal-project of the people, by the people and for the people.

3.2. Content Analysis

"The scholarly or scientific study of mass communication is fairly new. Historians have traced its beginnings to early- 20th- century work by political scientists concerned with effects of propaganda and other persuasive messages" (McLeod, Kosicki, & McLeod, 2009; Rogers, 1994; Severin & Tankard, 2000). In addition to scholars in journalism or mass communication, researchers from disciplines such as sociology and psychology have focused on mass communication processes and effects, contributing their own theoretical perspectives and research methods. Regardless of whether they were optimistic, pessimistic, certain, or uncertain about mass communication's effects, researchers have often recognized content analysis as an essential step in understanding those effects." (Riffe et al., 2014: 4-5)

In more contemporary times, Weber (1990) says: "Content analysis is a research method that uses a set of procedures to make valid inferences from text" (p. 9). Berger (1991) says: "Content analysis … is a research technique that is based on measuring the amount of something (violence, negative portrayals of women, or whatever) in a representative sampling of some mass-mediated popular form of art" (p.25)

Neuman (1997) lists content analysis as a key non-reactive research methodology (i.e. non-intrusive) and describes it as: "A technique for gathering and analyzing the content of text. The 'content' refers to words, meanings, pictures, symbols, ideas,

themes, or any message that can be communicated. The 'text' is anything written, visual, or spoken that serves as a medium for communication" (pp. 272–273). Stone et al. state that "Content analysis is any research technique for making inferences by systematically and objectively identifying specified characteristics within text" (Stone, Dunphy, Smith &Ogilvie, 1996, with credit given to Holsti, p. 5)

Content analysis is, then, a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words or concepts within texts. It refers to a general set of techniques useful for analyzing and understanding collections of texts. Researchers analyze the presence, meanings and relationships of such words and concepts, then make inferences about the messages within the texts. Texts can be defined broadly as books, book chapters, essays, interviews, discussions, newspaper headlines and articles, historical documents, speeches, conversations, advertising, theater, informal conversation, or really any occurrence of communicative language.

Neuendorf (2002) defines content analysis as "the primary message centered methodology" (9). He cites studies such as Riffe and Freitag (1997) and Yale and Gilly (1988) which "reported that in the field of mass communication research, content analysis has been the fastest-growing technique over the past 20 years or so" (Neuendorf ,2002: 1).

3.2.1. Media Content Analysis

A specialized sub-set of content analysis, media content analysis is a well established research methodology. Kimberley Neuendorf (2002) writes about media content analysis saying:

Content analysis is a summarizing, quantitative analysis of messages that relies on the scientific method … and is not limited as to the types of variables that may be measured or the context in which the messages are created or presented.

Neuendorf's definition means that media content analysis is quantitative research, not qualitative.

Shoemaker and Reese (1996) are other prominent authors on media content analysis. They do not fully support Neuendorf's strict interpretation of content analysis as quantitative research only. Shoemaker and Reese categorize content analysis into two traditions – the behaviourist tradition and the humanist tradition. The behaviourist approach to content analysis is primarily concerned with the effects that content produces. the humanist approach looks backwards from media content to try to identify what it says about society and the culture producing it.

Berelson (1952) suggested five main purposes of content analysis as follows:

To describe substance characteristics of message content;

To describe form characteristics of message content;

To make inferences to producers of content;

To make inferences to audiences of content;

To predict the effects of content on audiences.

3.2.2 Quantitative v Qualitative Content Analysis

When a researcher is conducting a study, they have the option of recording data using either quantitatively or qualitatively. Quantitative data is numerical, and represents how much there is of something. Qualitative data in contrast to quantitative data is descriptive; data is represented in words rather than numbers. Content analysis is a method of changing qualitative data into quantitative data (e.g. television programmes), so that it can be statistically analyzed or used descriptively.

Quantitative content analysis collects data about media content such as topics or issues. Shoemaker and Reese (1996) note: "Reducing large amounts of text to quantitative data … does not provide a complete picture of meaning and contextual

codes, since texts may contain many other forms of emphasis besides sheer repetition" (p. 32). Newbold et al. (2002) note that it is not valid to assume that quantitative factors such as size and frequency of media messages equate to impact or are the only or even the main determinants of media impact.

Qualitative content analysis relies heavily on researcher 'readings' and interpretation of media texts. This intensive and time-consuming focus is one of the reasons that much qualitative content analysis has involved small samples of media content.

Neuman (1997) comments on the quantitative-qualitative dichotomy in content analysis: "In content analysis, a researcher uses objective and systematic counting and recording procedures to produce a quantitative description of the symbolic content in a text". Neuman adds that: "feminist researchers and others adopting more critical and interpretative approaches favour it (Qualitative content analysis)" (p. 273).

Newbold et al. (2002) advocate attention to quantitative and qualitative approaches as well.To summarize, quantitative content analysis can conform to the scientific method and produce reliable and accurate findings. Qualitative analysis of texts is necessary to understand their deeper meanings and likely interpretations by audiences – surely the ultimate goal of analyzing media content. So a combination of the two seems to be the ideal approach- a combination of quantitative and qualitative content analysis methodologies is necessary to fully understand the meanings and possible impacts of media texts.

3.3 Linguistic analysis Tools
3.3.1 Syntactic Features

Syntax is basically the structure of sentences. It is the grammar, structure, or order of the elements in a language statement. It is the is the set of rules that language uses to combine words and morphemes to create sentences. Sentences have to follow certain structural rules in order to make sense.

Sentences are made up of smaller phrases. There are several difference types of phrase that can be used in a sentence, but the two phrases which must be used in a sentence for it to make sense are a noun phrase and a verb phrase. A phrase is a group of words that does not a subject doing a verb. In a phrase, we must have a word which is called the head. This is the core of the phrase, what the phrase can't exist without. So in a phrase like 'the man' or 'ran far away', in the first phrase 'man' is the head because it is the main part of the phrase, and in the second phrase 'ran' is the head because it is essential for the phrase to exist.

A noun phrase is usually the person or thing that is performing the verb in the sentence. The person doing the verb in a sentence is known as the subject. A noun phrase has to be made up of a noun, such as a name or a tangible object. Sometimes, a determiner is needed in a noun phrase. A noun phrase consists of a noun and all its modifiers - i.e. determinants, adjectives, and any clauses or prepositional phrases that modify the noun. A verb phrase consists of a verb and all its modifiers - i.e. adverbs, auxiliary verbs, prepositional phrases, and adverbial clauses.

As for clauses, they are sets of words that include at least a verb and probably a subject noun. In some cases and languages, the subject may be implied. A sentence is actually a clause. But a sentence can have more than one clause: There may be a main clause (or independent clause) and one or more subordinate clauses. This kind of sentence is called a complex sentence. A sentence may be one of four kinds, depending upon the number and type(s) of clauses it contains. An independent clause contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. A dependent clause contains a subject and a verb, but no complete thought.

A simple sentence has one independent clause. A compound sentence has two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. A complex sentence has one <u>dependent clause</u> (headed by a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun) joined to an <u>independent clause</u>. Finally, a compound – complex sentence has two independent clauses joined to one or more dependent clauses.

Sentences have functions in language. Most sentences are simple statements about the world or one's thoughts or feelings. These are called declarative sentences or just declarations. Questions are of three kinds: The first is the yes/no question, There are also choice questions, which require a simple answer selected from the options given in the question and the final kind is the wh- question, which involves the use of interrogative words. Another function of sentence is the command. The usual kind involves the speaker telling someone else to do something. The last function of sentence is the exclamation. This kind of sentence expresses an emotional reaction to the situation.

To describe the syntactic features of a headline, the researcher investigates three categories: the structure, the function and the complexity in the headlines of the top news websites.

As far as the structure of the headlines is concerned, following Mardh's (1980) model, the corpus is divided into verbal and nominal headlines. Verbal headlines are dominated by a verb phrase or part of it. They may have finite verb phrases (showing tense), non-finite verb phrases (gerunds, infinitives, and participles), headlines with omitted auxiliaries and subject complement headlines. Nominal headlines are headed by a noun. The syntactic variation in nominal headlines is analyzed in terms of modification: unmodification, premodification, postmodification, and pre and postmodification.

According to the second category (i.e. the function), following Mardh's description (1980), the corpus is divided into four types: statement, question, command and exclamation. As to the third category (i.e., the complexity), the headlines are classified into three groups according to the number of (in) dependent clauses: simple, compound, and complex. A complex headline, for instance, would have an independent clause with at least a dependent clause.

3.3.2. Lexical Features

The adjective refers to things concerning words or the vocabulary of language as distinguished from its grammar and construction.

To describe the lexical features of the headline, the researcher investigates words of different categories as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, articles and conjunctions.

Under the category of nouns, proper and common nouns are explored. As for verbs, tense (past, present, and future), voice (active and passive) and type (stative and dynamic) are examined. Verbs in English can be classified into two categories: stative verbs and dynamic verbs. stative verbs usually refer to a state or condition which is not changing or likely to change. Richards and Schmid (2002, 511) describe stative verbs as the ones which would express emotions, knowledge and beliefs and show relationships. Dynamic verbs (sometimes referred to as "action verbs") usually describe actions we can take, or things that happen. Dynamic verbs, according to Richards and Schmid (2002, 511), are the ones which would express activity and process.

Articles are used to modify nouns. Technically, an article is an adjective, which is any word that modifies a noun. Usually adjectives modify nouns through description, but articles are used instead to point out or refer to nouns. There are two different types of articles that we use in writing and conversation to point out or

refer to a noun or group of nouns: definite and indefinite articles. Definite article, the, is used when the reader is thought to know what is talked about. It refers directly to a specific noun or groups of nouns. Using the definite article means that the writer assumes that the reader knows the identity of the noun's referent (because it is obvious, because it is common knowledge, or because it was mentioned in the same sentence or an earlier sentence. Indefinite articles are the words a and an. Each of these articles is used to refer to a noun, but the noun being referred to is not a specific person, place, object or idea. It can be any noun from a group of nouns. Use of an indefinite article implies that the writer assumes that the reader does not have to be told the identity of the referent.

Adjectives modify nouns. Adverbs are a very broad collection of words that may describe how, where, or when an action took place. A conjunction joins parts of the sentence and a preposition is a word that links a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to some other part of the sentence.

4. Methodology

To analyze the headlines of top news websites concerning the coverage of the New Suez Canal, such headlines are collected from the internet for a two-day period from 6 to 7 August, 2015. The corpora include a large number of headlines from diverse news websites.

This research uses content analysis to explore the syntactic and the lexical features of the headlines in the corpus from the top news websites. This paper incorporates critical discourse analysis as a method which builds on the social constructionist idea that society is created by language; social actors create a "common sense" reality through language usage and social interactions (Van Gorp, 2007:62). This implies that reality is constantly subject to change through different uses of language. In terms of journalistic texts, this means that newspapers, through their language use and structures, present a limited option of interpretations of the issue at hand to be made by the audience.

Fowler (1991) presents a number of tools that can be used to open up a text and reveal its underlying structures and values – these are tools such as transitivity, transformation, modality, and lexical analysis. Lexical analysis will be utilized in this paper along with a structural analysis.

5. Data Analysis

5.1. Syntactic Features of Headlines

In this section, the researcher examines the syntactic features of a large number of headlines-a hundred- across the top English and Arabic news websites in order to illustrate the manner these websites mirror the New Suez Canal. The researcher applies quantitative content media analysis to give an accurate display of frequencies of headline structure, function and type. The researcher applies a qualitative media content analysis as well in an attempt to explore, critically, the meanings related to certain syntactic choices.

The Website	The Headline	Syntactic Features
CNN- August 6	Egypt Inaugurates Suez Canal Expansion.	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Google News: ahramonline-August6	Egypt celebrates New Suez Canal, but real challenges lie ahead.	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, compound
Google News: Bloomberg-August 6	New Suez Canal: Good News for Shipping Industry	Nominal (premodification),statement, simple
Google News: The Times-August 7	New Suez Canal is nation's rebirth, says Egypt leader.	Verbal (subject-complement), statement, simple

The Website	The Headline	Syntactic Features
Google News: The Maritime Executive- August 6	New Suez Canal: A Dredging Triumph	Nominal(premodification), statement, simple
Google News: Marine Log-August 6	New Suez Canal inaugurated in a elaborate ceremony	Verbal (Omitted auxiliary), statement, simple
Google News: Ghana Broadcasting Corporation. August 6	Egypt's Sisi inaugurates "new Suez Canal"	Verbal(finite verb phrase),statement, simple
Google News: State Information Service- August 7	EU: New Suez Canal facilitates global trade movement	Verbal(finite verb phrase),statement, simple
Google News:الان August 6	مصر تفتتح قناة السويس الجديدة و تؤكد مضيها في مواجهة الإرهاب	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, compound
Google News: سي ان ان العربية August 6	مصر تفتتح قناة السويس الجديدة للملاحة الدولية رسميا في احتفالية تاريخية	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Google News: سي إن إن العربية August 6	مصر تحتشد في قناة السويس الجديدة	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Google News: Euro news- August 6	الرئيس المصري عبد الفتاح السيسي يدشن قناة السويس الجديدة	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Reuters- August 6	Egypt's Sisi launches nationalist New Suez Canal celebration.	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Reuters- August 6	Egypt's Sisi vows to defeat terrorism at launch of New Suez Canal.	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Reuters- August 6	Egypt's Sisi open New Suez Canal, says to defeat terrorism	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, compound
BBC News Online- August 6	Suez Canal Expanded	Verbal(omitted auxiliary), statement, simple
BBC News Online- August 6	Egypt launches Suez Canal Expansion	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: Dawn- August 7	Building a parallel canal	Nominal (premodification),statement, simple
Yahoo: Daily News- August 7	India Congratulates Egypt on the completion of ambitious New Suez Canal	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: The Japan news- August 7	Suez Canal extension unveiled	Verbal(omitted auxiliary), statement, simple
World News: Huffington	Egypt Humor Sails Across	Verbal(finite verb phrase),

The Website	The Headline	Syntactic Features
Post- August 7	New Suez Canal	statement, simple
World News: All Africa- August 7	"New Suez Canal" First of a Thousand Steps-Sisi	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
World News: All Africa- August 7	Sisi- New Suez Canal Project Facilitates International Trade, Opens Horizons of Development, Meets Aspirations of Egyptians	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, compound
World News: All Africa- August 7	President Sisi Meets Leaders Participating in New Seuz Canal Ceremony	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: All Africa- August 7	Sisi Boarded El-Mahrousa to Start New Suez Canal Inauguration Ceremony	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: All Africa- August 7	World Media Highlights Inauguration of New Suez Canal	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: Denver Post- August 7	El- Sisi hails expansion of Suez Canal as Historic Feat	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette- August 7	Egypt promises economic hope with "New Suez Canal"	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: China Daily -August 7	"New" Suez Canal brings moments of national pride.	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: The Times of India- August 6	Egypt unveils "gift to the world", Suez Canal	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: Al Jazeera- August 6	Egypt unveils new Suez Canal extension	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: New York Post-August 6	Egypt unveils new Suez Canal extension with pomp-filled ceremony	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: Philadelphia Daily News-August 6	Egypt unveils new Suez Canal extension with pomp-filled ceremony	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: The Independent-August 6	New Suez Canal opens: Egypt's "modern wonder" is unveiled amid promises it will post trade	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, compound
World News: The Daily Telegraph -August 6	Egypt launches "New Suez Canal" celebration	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: All Africa- August 6	Egyptians Celebrate "New Suez Canal"	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News : All Africa- August 6	New Suez Canal-Inauguration Day New Phase of National Work	Nominal(premodification), statement, simple
World News:News 24- August 6	Egypt's Sisi inaugurates New Suez Canal	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News: China	"New Suez Canal" opened for	Verbal(omitted auxiliaries),

The Website	The Headline	Syntactic Features
Daily – August 6	ship traffic	statement, simple
World News:BBC News-August 6	Egypt calls Suez Canal extension "a miracle" and its gift to the world	Verbal(omitted auxiliaries), statement, compound
World News:Business Day- August 6	Sisi to unveil "new" Suez Canal as Egypt makes history	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, complex
World News: The Economist- August 6	A bigger, bitter Suez Canal	Nominal(premodification), statement, simple
World News:Public Technologies- August 6	Inauguration of the New Suez Canal, a strategic and crucial route for the world commercial	Nominal(premodification), statement, simple
World News: Sputnik-August 6	New Suez Canal Proves Egypt Ready to Tackle Any Internal Issue	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
World News:Gulf News-August 6	President to unveil "new Suez Canal" as Egypt makes history	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, complex
World News:Bloomberg-August 6	New Suez Canal: Good News for Shipping Industry	Nominal(premodification), statement, simple
World News:Zeennews-August 6	Sisi to unveil "new Suez Canal" as Egypt makes history	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, complex
World News: Sputnik-August 6	Egypt Security on High Alert Ahead of New Suez Canal Opening Thursday	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
Fox News- August 6	Egypt to unveil major Suez Canal extension billed as historic feat by the government	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
Fox News- August 7	$8.5 billion Suez Canal extension opens in Cairo	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
USA Today- August 6	Egypt's new Suez Canal to be completed for Aug.6 ceremony.	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
CBC News Online-August 6	Suez Canal Expansion Officially Opens	Verbal(finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Time.com- August 6	Suez Canal Extension Unveiled in Egypt	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
The Guardian- August 6	Suez Canal expansion unveiled in elaborate ceremony	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
The New York Times-August 7	As Egypt Unveils Its "New Suez Canal", Dissenters Make Voices Heard Online	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, compound
The New York Times-August 7	Egypt's President Leads Celebration of "New" Suez Canal	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple

The Website	The Headline	Syntactic Features
News.com- August 7	Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood protest against New Suez	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
News.com- August 6	Egypt: Medvedev attends New Suez Canal inauguration ceremony.	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Yahoo News: New Kerala- August 7	India congratulates Egypt on completion of ambitious New Suez Canal	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Yahoo News: The Nation- August 7	World leaders witness the opening of New Suez Canal	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Yahoo News: EuroNews- August 7	Perspectives: how European media covered the opening of Egypt's new Suez Canal	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Yahoo News: Arab News- August 7	Egyptian expats celebrate opening of new Suez Canal	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	Promises kept	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	We can	Verbal (finite verb phrase), statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	Rock, sand and high hopes	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	A day to remember	Verbal (non finite verb phrase),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	New Egypt, New Egyptians	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	Making history in Suez	Verbal (non finite verb phrase),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	Egypt's gateway to globalisation	Nominal(postmodification),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	Egypt's third national project	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	An exceptional day for the Armed Forces	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Al Ahram Weekly- August 7	A symbol of the new Egypt	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Yahoo News: eastday.com- August 6	New Suez Canal brings moment of national pride	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
Yahoo News: The Business Times- August 6	Egypt's gift to the world: A two-way Suez	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Yahoo News: The Telegraph - August 6	Egypt revives Suez dream amid global trade slump and escalating insurgency	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
Yahoo News: Journal of Commerce - August 6	New Suez Canal opens amid growing competition with Panama	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
NBC News- August 6	Egypt's "gift" to the world	Nominal(premodification),stat

The Website	The Headline	Syntactic Features
		ement, simple
Mail Online- August 6	Egypt's Sisi vows to defeat terrorism at launch of New Suez Canal	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
The Fortune-August 7	The New Suez Canal: A great step for a new Egypt	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Forbes- August 7	A Visit To The New Suez Canal: National Pride Or A Gift To The World?	Nominal(premodification),question, simple
France24- August 6	Sisi calls for unity against terrorism at Egypt's " New Suez Canal" launch	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
The National- August 6	New Suez Canal declared open in spectacular ceremony on edge of Sinai desert	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
Le Monde-August 7	La saga du canal de Suez, "cadeau de l'Egypt au monde"	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
Le Monde Economie-August 6	Le Rafale prend son envol au-dessus du canal du Suez	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
Le Figaro- August 6	L' Egypte inaugure son nouveau canal de Suez et affiche ses ambitions	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, compound
سكاي نيوز عربية August 7	قناة السويس الجديدة--- تحدي الانجاز	Nominal(premodification),statement, simple
العربية August 6	مصر تدشن قناة السويس الثانية وسط مراسم احتفالية	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
العربية August 6	مصر تستطيع --- مصر تقفز	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, compound
روسيا اليوم August 6	مدفيديف: قناة السويس الجديدة حدث بارز للملاحة البحرية العالمية	Verbal (omitted auxiliaries), statement, simple
روسيا اليوم August 6	مصر تفتتح قناة السويس الجديدة.. والسيسي يعتبرها نصرا على الإرهاب	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, compound
سي إن إن عربية August 6	شاهد---السيسي بالزي العسكري يفتتح قناة السويس الجديدة	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
محيط August 6	ميدفيديف: قناة السويس الجديدة حدث بالغ الأهمية لمصر والعالم	Verbal (subject-complement),statement, simple
محيط August 6	اهتمام إعلامي كويتي بافتتاح مشروع قناة السويس الجديدة	Nominal(postmodification), statement, simple
محيط August 6	٣ سفن تفتتح رسمياً قناة السويس الجديدة	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
محيط August 6	السي إن إن: افتتاح قناة السويس الجديدة يعزز من وضع مصر دولياً	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
محيط	الشباب المتطوعون يسهمون في انجاح	Verbal (finite verb

The Website	The Headline	Syntactic Features
August 6	حفل افتتاح قناة السويس الجديدة	phrase),statement, simple
محيط August 6	وزير الدفاع البريطاني: أتمنى أن تحقق قناة السويس الجديدة المزيد من الاستقرار للمنطقة	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, complex
محيط August 6	سفير الإمارات: قناة السويس الجديدة إنجاز تاريخى سيسهم في دعم الاقتصاد العالمي	Verbal (subject-complement),statement, complex
محيط August 6	سكاي نيوز: مشروع قناة السويس الجديدة أصبح مصدر فخر وطني	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, simple
محيط August 6	وزير الدفاع البريطاني: أتمنى أن تحقق قناة السويس الجديدة المزيد من الاستقرار للمنطقة	Verbal (finite verb phrase),statement, complex

The corpora include a hundred online headlines. The following table displays the frequency and percentage of headline types, function and structure.

Structure: Verbal	Structure: Nominal	Type: Simple	Type: complex	Type: compound	Function: statement	Function: Question	Function: command	Function: exclamation
N:79	N: 21	N:84	N:6	N:10	N:99	N:1	N:0	N:0
79%	21%	84%	6%	10%	99%	3%	0%	0%

As the above table demonstrates: verbal headlines have the highest percentage of structural headline types. This is due to the fact that New Suez Canal is a great event that has caused changes in international trade and needs to be described using verbs which reflect its opening and effects. Also, 99% of functional headlines are statement in the corpora. This means top websites declare that New Suez Canal is an unquestionable event that has world –wide effects. Even the one instance of question offers two options concerning the value of the New Suez Canal- a national pride or a gift to the world. The command and exclamation types of headlines are not found as they do not fin in the context of declaring the importance of such a great event. The simple headlines outnumber the compound and the complex ones. This means that online sites prefer to use easy and clear language that is suitable for headlines and, at the same time, reach the reader easily and directly.

5.2. Lexical Features of Headlines

In the second level of analysis, the lexical features of headlines across the corpora are analyzed. The total numbers of words in the corpora is about 774 words. Words in the corpora are classified into 8 parts of speech and their frequencies are obtained as follows:

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Adverbs	Prepositions	Articles	Conjunctions	Pronouns
366	93	159	10	80	51	13	2
47.3%	12%	20.5%	1.3%	10%	6.6%	1.7%	.26%

In order to give a better image of nouns, verbs and articles, the researcher has prepared the following tables:

Nouns	Proper Nouns	Common Nouns
366	171	195
	47%	53%

Verbs	Active	Passive	Dynamic	Stative	Present	Past	Future
93	85	8	87	6	85	6	2
	91.4%	8.6%	93.55%	6.45%	91.4%	6.45%	2.15%

The tables show that nouns have the highest percentage. This means that the headlines focus on the identification of a certain entity: New Suez Canal. The gap between proper and common nouns is not that clear. Almost all proper nouns refer to Egypt, President Sisi and the New Suez Canal. This means that the corpora centers on a specific event at a specified place: The New Suez Canal in Egypt.

As far as verbs are concerned, active verbs have the highest portion. This means that the agent, initiator of an event, is known and of due importance. Most agents are Egypt, Sisi or The New Suez Canal. Dynamic verbs show actions on the part of the subject, or the agent. The high percentage of dynamic verbs conforms to the situation expressed: opening a promising Egyptian project. The high percentage of present tense is appropriate as the headlines refer to an event that takes place at the present time. Almost all verbs are in the present simple tense to denote that the headlines are about a fact.

Adjectives are of a high portion. The most frequent adjective is the word "new" which appears in the phrase "the New Suez Canal" and refers to the great achievement of making a parallel canal. Function words such as articles, conjunctions, pronouns and prepositions are of low percentage due to the nature of headlines which focuses on content words.

6. Conclusion

Media are the means through which meanings are produced, stored and distributed on a mass scale. The present paper analyzes one form of media: news websites used to produce, sustain and protect meanings favourable to those who control each website. Online media has been chosen because getting news via the internet is easier and, thus, preferred by young people who spend much time using the internet. Another reason for the wide-spread of online news is the relative flexibility of Web-based news formats: Online news sites encourage users to be highly selective in their consumption of news content provided by editors (Heeter et al., 1989; Williams, Phillips,& Lum,1985)

Journalism is meant to achieve many goals, the most important of which is reporting and informing audiences about the outside world and representing events that the audiences did not see. However, What the media are actually doing is offering its audience selective presentations of certain events. The main function of newspapers is to provide the readers with news about the events that happened "out there." Newspapers, then, are transmitting/ transferring events in the form of language. Two issues are of importance here: the selection of the events to be reported as news and the manner of presentation. Journalists have to decide what events will be selected and reported, and in what form these events will be presented.

Hartley (1982: 47) explains how the news takes the language form it does as something determined by "the way the news-makers themselves act within the constraints, pressures, structures and norms that bring the larger world of social relations to bear on their work." The same idea is iterated by Fowler:

> Anything that is said or written about the world is articulated from a particular ideological position: Language is not a clear window, but

a refracting, structuring medium. If we can acknowledge this as a positive, productive principle, we can show by analysis how it operates in texts. (1991:10)

This is what the present research is trying to achieve: to show how the text is woven around a certain stance. By selecting which public affairs stories will be reported and by giving special prominence to some stories, the news media suggest which people, issues, and events are especially deserving of public attention. Reah (1998: 4) believes that news is the information of recent events. The selection of certain items to put on news pages affects the way in which the reader is presented with world (Reah ,1998:4). Reah (1998:8) also adds that there has never been a time when a news paper owner did not influence what appeared in that paper and its political stance .

In this paper, the researcher has noticed that CNN, CBS, BBC News, Al Jazeera, New York Post and Philadelphia Daily News share one common feature : that of using phrases as "Suez Canal Expansion" or " Suez Canal extension" instead of the phrase that really expresses the project: "the New Suez Canal". These websites seem to have a harmony and an agreement concerning their deliberate attempt not to mention "new" before "Suez Canal". This research contains 62 websites out of which only 6 websites avoid mentioning "the New Suez Canal", while the other 56 websites express clearly that Egypt's New Suez Canal is a historical event.

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