

Language of the Modern News Discourse

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The concept of “discourse” is one of the central concepts in modern human sciences. It is used in philosophy, political science, sociology, linguistics, psycholinguistics and literary criticism. The semantics of the concept largely depends on the field of science and its subject.

Discourse today does not have a single definition. As a rule, the author himself attaches definition to it, depending on what meaning he wants to put into it. Discourse can be understood as speech or a textual unity in combination with both linguistic and non-linguistic factors. Discourse can have a social orientation since it acts as a component of communication between people.

To differentiate the concepts of discourse and text, the oppositions of function and structure, dynamics and statics, concreteness and abstractness, actuality and virtuality, process and result are used. In the foreign and post-Soviet literature, attempts have been made to classify the entire variety of points of view presented [Василенко 2012].

Thus, in a broad sense, discourse is a communicative event within the confines of interaction between people in a specific context. Accordingly, it can be verbal, written, include verbal and non-verbal components. In a narrow sense, discourse is text or conversation. It can be called a finished product that is not subject to further changes.

According to Teun Van Dijk, discourse is a complex communicative phenomenon that includes the entire set of

extralinguistic factors that accompany the communication process, such as social context (ideas about the participants in communication and their characteristics); peculiarities of production, distribution and perception of information; cultural and ideological background [Van Dijk 1985].

Because of the mass media, language becomes an instrument of influence and manipulation, it is considered as a source of social power. Language is influenced by society and at the same time contributes to the understanding of political phenomena. In turn, the media discourse is an ambiguous and complex phenomenon characterized by its own peculiar features and individual aspects.

Media discourse is a momentary cross-section of the linguistic and cultural situation of the community, because, due to its nature, it reflects the linguistic and cultural state of society. Media discourse is crossover and diverse [Шевцова 2021].

Today news discourse is considered in linguistics as one of the types of media discourse. Many people participate in the creation of news discourse, who collect, analyze and disseminate relevant new information through the media in the form of news texts.

The main features of the news discourse are the relevance of information, the significance of the described event, spatial and psychological proximity to the recipient of information, the occurrence of a single structure. However, news discourse is a kind of appeal, emphasis or formation of viewpoint. Thereupon, the news chronicles do not detail the event; they only name it.

One of the characteristic properties of news discourse is also its focus on the reader or listener. The authors of the news messages try to convince the audience of the truthfulness of the news information.

There are several interpretations of conviction, by which in this article we mean the process and the result of a predominantly verbal influence on the listener / audience, provided with the aim of forming stable opinions and assessments in the recipient, or

changing his behavior, carried out in the conditions of the addressee's freedom of will and the ability to think rationally [Василенко 2018: 23].

First of all, persuasion is the result of the speaker's speech impact on the addressee. However, there is no doubt about the psychological factor of speech impact.

News discourse has characteristic linguistic features that are used to represent news in an announcement. Among these linguistic means, one can single out specific lexical means used in that part of the news message, which represents current events taking place in the world and in the country. This thematic vocabulary, which has a clear evaluative value, is an integral part of everyday news bulletins in English. In a news chronicle, attention can be focused on negative events, for example, on war, crimes, disasters.

Examples of such vocabulary include the use of the nouns '*alert*', '*threat*', '*disaster*', as well as the adjectives '*violent*', '*trapped*', '*dangerous*'.

Timeliness is an important property of news discourse. The latest news of the country and the world are considered the most interesting. A similar characteristic of news discourse is relevance. News provides fresh information and influences viewers, as the event that is covered in the news has a direct application to each individual. At the same time, the appropriate vocabulary with an emotional connotation is used.

For example, in the text describing the situation in the economic market between two states, evaluative vocabulary ('*outraged*', '*acting like a bully*') and thematic political vocabulary ('*confrontation*') are used. In combination with the verb '*deepen*' and the participle '*accusing*', the meaning of political tension in relations between countries is conveyed. The purpose of this lexical completion of this news item is to draw the attention of the audience to the aggravation of relations between the two powers, which can have far-reaching consequences.

One of the basic constituents of news coverage is unambiguousness. Every news report conveys the facts, leaving no doubt about the veracity. News messages very rarely contain the words *'if'*, *'but'* and *'maybe'*.

Competence is a criterion related to the credibility of the sources of the message. This property of news discourse is important because it significantly affects the success of the story presented in the report. And one of the most important features is factuality. Each newsletter contains specific numbers, names or geographic names, which at the same time makes the news message more meaningful.

The main feature of news discourse can be called attracting the attention of the viewer. A summary of the main events that will be covered in a news release can affect the audience more than the report itself. They draw the viewer's attention to the key events of the day, showing the importance of a particular event or incident. Influenced by this feature, the messages use such indicator words as *'headlines'*, *'breaking news'*, *'tonight'*, *'our exclusive'*, *'today'*, *'then'*.

At the morphological level, a significant feature of the English-language news discourse is the use of Present Simple and Past Simple, Present and Past Continuous and Present Perfect tense, which in turn indicate that the events covered in the news happened recently and have a result in the present or occur at the given moment of speech. The use of modal verbs expressing the probability or possibility of an action is also distinctive.

At the syntactic level, structurally, in English-language news messages, complex sentences are used to convey the maximum amount of information within one message. Segmentation and parcelling is used to divide this information and highlight the main parts in it.

Simple one-member and two-member sentences are also used. Simple two-member sentences help to make the news story easier to perceive, which allows to engage and grab the audience's attention quickly. One-member sentences, in turn,

divide the news message into smaller semantic groups, thereby highlighting the main information and keywords from each news report.

As for the headlines in the news discourse, the following features can be noted. The most popular modern heading structure is a simple full sentence with subject, predicate, and other parts of the sentence. Often these are extended sentences filled with various expressive means and stylistic devices: rhyme, alliteration, slang words, metaphors, epithets, comparison and irony [Shevtsova 2019: 73].

Therefore, the characteristic features of news discourse are the prevailing focus on permanent news, timeliness, unambiguity, competence and factuality, the desire to attract the attention of viewers, as well as to convince them of the veracity of the information. These qualities of the news discourse determine the language features described in the article. The language of news discourse is characterized by conciseness and concreteness. The use of various clichés, the use of terminology, the use of means of expressiveness of speech helps to influence the audience and attract attention. The use of various syntactic structures and sentences of different levels of complexity allows authors to highlight the main information and focus on it.

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