

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
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**A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH
ELECTRONIC NEWS REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

In addition to being a means of communication, language is also believed to maintain and change power relations in society, to express inner thoughts and emotions and have an impact on our mind. This explains why many linguists have recently carried out research in the field of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to discover the relationship between language, power and ideology.

News reports, as a matter of fact, play a crucial role in our age of globalisation. They portray vividly the world around us with much updated information about all fields of life. News not only makes a contribution to enriching human beings's scientific general knowledge but also helps people to keep pace with temporary social issues.

In the age of industrialisation and modernisation, we are facing more and more extreme weather changes, global warming and environmental degradation. Forming a habit of living in harmony with nature has, therefore, become one of the greatest concerns drawing much attention of the global public in the past recent years. With the boom of the mass media, we are provided with much useful information featuring the topic in concern. As a result, we can learn about the reality of environmental problems as well as about the possible solutions and benefits of environmental sustainability.

When it comes to discourse features, news reports, functioning as a media discourse, bear certain typical properties that differentiate them from other types of discourse. Linguistically, depicted on English electronic news reports (EENRs) on environmental sustainability is the values of words, the values of grammar and the ideology about the need to protect and sustain the environment embedded in the language.

Practically, the topic of environmental protection is included in the reading texts of English textbooks at upper secondary schools in Vietnam and in the position of a teacher at upper secondary school, I take great interest in the topic concerned.

For the aforementioned sources of inspiration, I have made up my mind to carry out a study entitled: “A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH ELECTRONIC NEWS REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY”. Through the research, it is hoped that readers and learners will be able to comprehend the news structure, the lexical features, grammatical features, and properties of textual structure within this type of discourse in critical perspective.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

The aim of the research is to find out discourse features of EENRs on environmental sustainability in terms of vocabulary analysis, grammar analysis, textual structure and the ideology embedded in the discourse within the framework of CDA. It is hoped that the findings of the study are of some use for students, teachers and especially for those specializing in language and journalism in grasping typical characteristics of this kind of discourse.

1.2.2. Objectives

With the aforementioned aims, the researcher tries to achieve the following objectives:

- To investigate the discourse features of English electronic news reports on environmental sustainability in terms of lexical, grammatical, and discourse structure analysis in light of CDA.

- To discover the ideology embedded and conveyed in the discourse of English electronic news reports on environmental sustainability.

- To suggest some implications for teaching and learning English as well as using English for journalism.

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study concentrates on the investigation into discourse features of EENRs on environmental sustainability in light of CDA. Our scope of investigation is limited to 69 English electronic news reports released from 2017 to 2018, collected from the *UN News* website: <https://www.un.org>, managed by the UN Web Services Section (WSS) belonging to the UN News and Media Division (NMD).

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To achieve the aims and objectives, the following research questions are put forward:

1. What is the textual description in EENRs on environmental sustainability in terms of vocabulary, grammar and discourse structure analysis in CDA perspective?

2. How is ideology conveyed in the discourse of EENRs on environmental sustainability?

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Theoretically, this research does a small contribution to the implication and extension of the study of CDA. Practically, this study is expected to raise readers' awareness of a global concern about environmental sustainability and the electronic news reports' ideology about the UNO's attitudes towards environmental sustainability. From the pedagogical stance, the findings of the study can be used as a meaningful reference for schools and other educational institutions in establishing their educational programs about environmental sustainability. The study might also be of some use for those who specialize in language and journalism.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1, INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2, LITERATURE REVIEW and THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Chapter 3, RESEARCH DESIGN and METHODOLOGY

Chapter 4, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Chapter 5, CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS STUDIES

So far, there have been a lot of studies on CDA. Carvalho (2008) maintains Van Dijk, Fairclough, and Wodak are the most prominent representatives of this branch of discourse analysis, with media discourse having been thoroughly examined by the first two. Tyrwhitt-Drake (2005) offered a critique of Fairclough's critical discourse analysis (CDA) and suggested an alternative approach to doing CDA. Hobday (2006) closely examined the language used in *Canada: A People's History* to analyse power relationships in the series. Grue (2006) argues that CDA can profitably adopt insights from the metaphor theory of Lakoff (1993), the psycholinguistic and language processing arguments of O'Halloran (2003) and classical rhetorical analysis. Hoffmann (2009) explored the ways in which the term "overshare" has been used in *The Huffington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Taylor (2011) critically analysed the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council and Australian Forestry Standard. Stobbs (2012) investigated the methods and lexis used by Barack Obama to foster a sense of inclusion of the American public in his inaugural speech. Priatmoko (2013) described language, power, and ideology of president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's speech about the Jakarta bombings. Liu (2015) explored

the Internet as a rich text for environmental marketing. Wallström (2017) examined how the New York Times portrays Melania Trump in her role as First Lady.

Phạm Thị Tuấn (2016) provided a critical analysis of the two speeches on women by Hillary Clinton in 1995 and 2013 based on Fairclough's framework. Luu Thị Kim Nhung (2016) critically analyzed how the power relation between the developed and developing countries as well as the ideologies about these countries's responsibilities for climate change were discursively constructed in *The Independent* and *The New York Times*' coverage of the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change between 2004 and 2013. Phạm Thị Quỳnh Như (2016) investigated the critical discourse features of abstracts in education journal articles in English and Vietnamese. In the discourse of advertisement, Phạm Thị Hồng Hạnh (2016) investigated linguistic features in Online Game Advertisements. Nguyễn Đăng Mai Linh (2017) illustrated the relationship between language, ideology and political stance in the discourse of Chinese and Vietnamese online media coverage of the East Sea dispute.

Available literature reveals in the previous works, the researchers also made an analysis on ideology, power, and language through the values of vocabulary, grammar and textual structure. However, most research has been done on a number of discourse categories such as articles, speeches, and there has been no research on the discourse of electronic news reports in English, especially on the subject of environmental sustainability. Therefore, a study entitled "A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH ELECTRONIC NEWS REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY" was conducted with the aim of contributing a minor part to the field of study in concern.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDS

2.2.1. Theory of Critical Discourse Analysis

2.2.1.1. *Definition of discourse and critical discourse analysis*

a. Discourse

b. Critical Discourse Analysis

2.2.1.2. *Basic concepts in CDA*

a. Language

b. Power

c. Ideology

2.2.2. Approaches to CDA

2.2.3. Fairclough' Analytical Framework of CDA

2.2.4. Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and CDA

2.2.5. Environmental sustainability and English electronic news reports on environmental sustainability

2.2.5.1. *Definition of environmental sustainability*

2.2.5.2. *Newspapers and Electronic Newspapers*

2.2.5.3. *Notion of electronic news reports*

2.2.5.4. *Textual structure of electronic news reports*

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

In this study, the qualitative and quantitative methods were used to generate a concrete discourse description features including vocabulary, grammar and textual structure with experiential, relational and expressive values in the discourse of EENRs on environmental sustainability within the framework of CDA.

3.2. DATA DESCRIPTION

All sources of data for the study were collected from the website -

UN News, which is: <https://www.un.org>, operated by the UN Web Services Section (WSS) belonging to the UN News and Media Division (NMD).

The average length of each news report varies from 400 words to 650 words. Based on the Wess (2015)'s topics of environmental sustainability and on the basis of the researcher's notion of environmental sustainability, the data collection was categorized into the following contents:

- Climate moderation
- Ocean pollution and air pollution mitigation
- Biological diversity conservation
- Water scarcity management
- Renewable energy sources
- Forest protection
- Soil and land preservation
- Ozone layer protection

3.3. INSTRUMENTATION

The software WordSmith version 5.0 by Mike Scott is employed to support partly in figuring out the analysis results to meet the aims and objectives of the thesis.

3.4. DATA COLLECTION

Followings are steps for data collection in the research:

Firstly, the researcher searched for sources of news reports on the theme of environmental sustainability from websites.

Secondly, the researcher chose the reliable website in English and classified the news reports in accordance with the content of the theme concerned.

Next, after choosing news reports having the content related to the research topic, the researcher began to filter the samples so that the range

of word number is acceptable.

Finally, the researcher conducted the classification of news reports based on the number of words and the content from the website mentioned above.

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

To analyze the data collected, the researcher followed these steps:

First, the collected data were examined so as to uncover discourse features including the use of vocabulary, grammar and textual structures with experiential, relational and expressive values in accordance with 10 question-framework by Fairclough (2001).

The analysis results were displayed in percentage via tables. Then distinctive features of EENRs on environmental sustainability were determined, discussed and evaluated.

3.6. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

The procedure for the study was as follows:

- Revising previous researches and studies, aiming at showing related studies that have been carried out.

- Reading the theories related to the study to grasp theoretical backgrounds as the basis for the data analysis.

- Collecting all needed news reports from the reliable website in English that can meet the above criteria.

- Analyzing collected data in terms of textual description comprising vocabulary analysis, grammar analysis and textual structure in light of CDA by using the qualitative and quantitative methods to find out distinctive discourse features of English electronic news reports on environmental sustainability.

- Synthesizing and discussing the findings.

- Drawing conclusions and putting forward some implications.

3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

Since the EENRs collected from the UN website for this study are totally authentic sources of data, not invented examples, the quality of the data is quite reliable. These data are quite up-to-date. Additionally, the conclusions of the study are drawn from the analysis of evidence, statistics, frequencies, so the objectivity of study is assured.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. VOCABULARY ANALYSIS

4.1.1. The experiential value of **words**

The finding results reflect the use of plenty of words and expressions related to the topic of environmental sustainability; for example, *combating desertification; minimizing water scarcity; biodiversity protection; forest protection; fighting against air pollution, ocean pollution; tackling climate change; renewable energy sources; bird conservation; biological diversity; land degradation and restoration; soil preservation; wildlife conservation* and ect.

There is a high frequency of typical words widely recognized in the realm of environmental sustainability, such as, *climate change, water, land, forest, energy, pollution, soil, biodiversity*.

The frequency of key terms used in the discourse is illustrated in table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1. The rewording in EENRs on environmental sustainability

Key words	Instances	Percentage (%)
Climate change	162	26.6
Water	126	20.6
Land	85	13.9
Forest	61	10
Energy	50	8.2

Key words	Instances	Percentage (%)
Pollution	47	7.8
Soil	40	6.5
Biodiversity	39	6.4
Total	610	100

The experiential value of words in the discourse is also demonstrated through meaning relations of words including synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy.

4.1.2. The relational value of words

The research results demonstrate the relationship between the participants in the discourse on the topic of environmental sustainability through the employment of euphemisms and words that conform to the formality or informality to show relational values.

(1) *As many countries prepare to mark Valentine's Day, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is calling on people to **end their "toxic relationship"** with single-use plastic and **find "new love,"** with more environmentally sustainable options.* [20]

In example (1), the metaphor indicates an appeal to the public to give up the use of single-use plastic products and use environmentally sustainable products instead.

The statistics are shown in table 4.5.

Table 4.5. The use of euphemisms and formal and informal words in English electronic news reports on environmental sustainability

Relational values	Number of instances	Percentage (%)
Euphemism	21	22.1
Formal word	69	72.6
Informal word	5	5.3
Total	95	100

4.1.3. The expressive value of words

In the discourse, a wide range of content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) bear evaluation of their meaning with 519 instances recorded in total. The expressive value of words may indicate inclination, probability, importance or significance, seriousness or criticism.

The most prominent content words with evaluation value are the ones in the sense of inclination, accounting for 50.3% of the instances in total. The adjectives recorded in the discourse include *sustainable, successful, effective, majestic, healthy, positive, clean, green, safe, secure* and the adverbs used include *safely, wisely, sustainably, resolutely, effectively, meaningfully, significantly, intelligently, decisively*.

In the sense of seriousness, the typical adjectives and adverbs recorded in the discourse are *serious, extreme, severe, dangerous, destructive, harmful, catastrophic, perilous, devastating, unsafe, alarming, disrupting, fierce, deadly, unsustainable, badly, dangerously, severely* and the nouns mostly documented in the discourse include *threat, risk, havoc, danger, challenge, insecurity* with 131 instances, accounting for 25.2%.

The third group of content words, which accumulates 17%, is the one in the sense of importance or significance with the adjectives typically used include *vital, significant, important, crucial, essential, necessary, indispensable, practical, critical, beneficial, fundamental*.

In the sense of probability, the adjectives and adverbs founded in the data collection are *preventable, possible, affordable, accessible, credible, irreversible, inevitable, reliable, undoubtedly* which bear positive meaning and the adjectives with negative meaning include *insurmountable, unattainable, unaffordable, unavailable* with 6% of the instances in total.

In the sense of criticism, the nouns and adjectives recorded in the data collection include *hogwash, unfairness, short-sightedness, inequality, unfair* with the percentage of 1.5. The following is an illustration.

(2) *Unless the international community integrates wildlife conservation with **sustainable** development, it will not be able to protect the remaining animal species on Earth, the head of a United Nations-backed environmental treaty today said at the opening of a wildlife conference in the Philippines.* [26]

4.1.4. Metaphors

In the discourse, metaphors are used as a means to softly and persuasively convey thoughts, ideas, and beliefs of the UNO in protecting the environment. The finding results with 89 instances of metaphor show that the journalists vividly report the speakers' utterances by adding the metaphors through the new terms to put abstract concepts into concrete ones.

(3) *"Every credible scientific source is telling us that these impacts will only get worse if we do not address climate change and it also tells us that **our window of time for addressing it is closing very soon,**" she added.* [6]

In example (4), the Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change wanted to figuratively and persuasively state that the impacts of global climate change are so severe that the governments and individuals have no time to hesitate and that we need to tackle the problem urgently before it is too late.

4.2. GRAMMAR ANALYSIS

4.2.1. The experiential value of grammar

An investigation of transitivity and voice in light of Halliday's SFG was conducted to determine how these grammatical aspects confirm experiential values of the discourse.

4.2.1.1. *Transitivity*

The study results reveal that the five types of process are found in the discourse. The most frequent type of process in use is the verbal process, accounting for 50.9%. On the basis of classification on reporting verbs by Eissa (2015), the reporting verbs recorded in the discourse were categorized into three groups. The first group is 'neutral verbs' such as: *say, note, state, explain, continue, add, tell, comment, point out, elaborate, detail, spell out*. The second group is 'verbs of approval' like: *stress, emphasize, assert, reiterate, commend, underline, highlight, call on, maintain, underscore, urge, affirm, conclude, declare, size up, exhort, warn*. The third group is 'verbs of disapproval' which includes *lament*. Among these reporting verbs, *say* is used with the highest percentage, accumulating 189 instances.

(4) *He said it was also critical to protect the biodiversity of forests and watersheds to support clean and plentiful water supplies.* [2]

In the above example, the UN Secretary-General's message on the International Day for Biological Diversity was reported.

4.2.1.2. *Passive and Active Voice*

In the discourse, it is noticeable that of the total 1.035 clauses recorded, there are only 199 passive instances, accounting for only 19.2%. The active voice is used with high frequency, accumulating 80.8%. It may indicate that the purpose of discourse of EENRs on environmental sustainability is to focus on the agent who performs the action or emphasize the description of the events.

(5) *First, all stakeholders – including governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, investors and citizens – must accelerate climate action by 2020.* [6]

In example (5), with the use of the active voice, the role of governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, investors and citizens in tackling climate change is focused.

4.2.2. The relational value of grammar

Three areas of investigation: modes of sentence, modality and the use of pronouns (Fairclough, 1989:125) reflect the relational value of grammar of the discourse.

4.2.2.1. Modes of sentences

The finding results uncover that declarative sentences account for the most part in the discourse, accounting for 95.6%. The imperative sentences are included in reporting utterances with low frequency, accumulating only 4.4%. Grammatical questions are not recorded in the data collected. This explains the main function of news reports is to provide information to readers.

(6) *Every year, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic leaks into our oceans. Besides washing up on our beaches and shorelines, plastic marine debris accumulates in five garbage patches around the world: the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the largest.* [48]

Example (6) brings the readers a vivid picture of ocean pollution and the need to fight against it.

4.2.2.2. Modality

The findings reveal that relational modality in the discourse is expressed through the use of *modal auxiliaries verbs, modal adjectives, If-Clause, quasi-modal verbs, and modal lexical verbs* (Salkie, 2013). With regard to the use of modal auxiliaries verbs, *must*, which signals strong obligation, accounts for 69.8% of the modal auxiliaries verbs and 24% of the relational modality. Besides, *should*, which denotes and connotes dynamic necessity or advisability, accounts for 30.2% of the modal auxiliaries verbs and 10.4% of the relational modality. The second

element of relational modality is the use of modal adjectives, for instance, *imperative, essential, vital, crucial, important, critical, fundamental, necessary*. These modal adjectives function as predicates over the facts, events, or state of affairs referred to by the sentence. The finding results show that they are commonly used in the discourse, occupying 22.4% of the relational modality. The third component constituting relational modality in the discourse is the use of If-clause, functioning to enable the speaker to qualify his commitment to the truth or the actuality of an event (Perkins, 1983). It is observed that If-clause is also widely used in the discourse, accounting for 20% of relational modality. Concerning quasi-modal verbs (Salkie, 2013), *need* and *have to*, which express necessity, are observed to account for 15.2% of the relational modality. The last element that constitutes relational modality in the discourse is modal lexical verbs (Jabber, 2013), such as, *urge, expect, hope, demand*, accumulating 8% of the relational modality. These lexical verbs are in combination with the first-person pronoun *I* or *We* to convey the speaker's weak suggestion or request. The use of relational modality is demonstrated in the table below.

Table 4.9. Relational modality in EENRs on environmental sustainability

Relational modality	Instance	%
Modal auxiliary verbs	43	34.4
Modal adjectives	28	22.4
If-clause	25	20
Quasi-modal verbs	19	15.2
Modal lexical verbs	10	8
Total	125	100

4.2.2.3. Pronouns

In the discourse, the pronouns *I*, *we*, and *you* are recorded with the frequency of 189 instances in total. The use of these pronouns aims at establishing the relationship between the speaker or writer and the addressee. With regard to the use of pronoun *I*, the finding results reveal that it makes up 14,8% of the pronouns. The pronoun *I* reflects the writer's or speaker's personal experiences and consolidates the writer's or speaker's viewpoint. In the data collection, pronoun *you*, which is used in mass communication, is documented to account for only 5.3% of the pronouns in the discourse. Additionally, only "inclusive *we*" is observed, accumulating up to 79.9% of the pronouns.

(7) *All the big cats are collectively under threat from habitat loss, climate change, poaching, illicit trafficking, and human-wildlife conflict. "We are the cause of their decline, so we can also be their salvation," Mr. Guterres asserted.* [27]

We in example (7) is used to establish the relationship between the UN Secretary-General and the UN Member States in his message on the World Wildlife Day.

4.2.3. The expressive value of grammar

In the discourse of EENRs on environmental sustainability, the expressive modality comprises the use of modal verbs and adverbs. First, expressive modality is expressed through the use of modal verbs which indicate possibility or different degrees of certainty in the perception of the speaker or writer. The finding results of the study uncover that the modal verbs bearing expressive modality include *can*, *could*, *will*, and *would* with the frequency of 249 instances, occupying 92.6% of the expressive modality. Second, expressive modality is also expressed through the use of modal adverbs. The finding results on modal adverbs in the discourse have been recorded with the frequency of 20 instances,

accounting for 7.4% of the expressive modality. The adverbs documented include *of course, probably, actually, certainly, surely, really, hopefully, undoubtedly, dramatically, luckily, significantly, drastically, massively, tremendously, resolutely, urgently.*

(8) “*This programme **will** protect wildlife species, conserve biodiversity, and maintain the essential ecological roles of wildlife,*” he added. [34]

In example (8), *will* is used to express strong certainty about the benefits of the seven-year Sustainable Wildlife Management programme.

The use of these modal verbs can be illustrated in the table 4.11 below.

Table 4.11. Modal verbs in EENRs on environmental sustainability

Modal verb	Instance	%
Will	135	54.2
Can	79	31.7
Would	18	7.2
Could	17	6.9
Total	249	100

4.2.4. Cohesion in EENRs discourse

The finding results reveal that formal connections between sentences in the discourse include reference, connectors, repetition and substitution. Reference is used the most prominently, accumulating 52.4% of the cohesive devices in the discourse. Connectors rank second, accounting for 20.1% with the use of temporal connectors including *first, second, third, meanwhile, in concluding, all in all* and a large proportion of logical connectors such as *and, but, yet, moreover, however, therefore, for instance, furthermore, in addition, as a result, what’s more, additionally, consequently, also,* ect. Repetition and substitution are the

two other cohesive devices in the discourse, making up of 14% and 13.5% individually.

4.3. TEXTUAL STRUCTURE ANALYSIS

Fairclough states that “*the whole of a text may be made up of predictable elements in a predictable order*” (Fairclough, 2001: 114). According to Fairclough (2001), the main elements are included in a news reports and “*the headline and first paragraph in particular giving what are regarded as the most important parts, and the gist, of the story*” (Fairclough, 2001: 115). The study results reveal that all the news reports headlines in the discourse highlight the description of the events or what was done to address the issues of environmental degradation and the benefits of environmental sustainability.

Additionally, Fairclough (2001) also maintains that interpretation of text structure “*involves matching the text with one of a repertoire of schemata, or representations of characteristic patterns of organization associated with different types of discourse*” and “*the ‘point’ of a text is a summary interpretation of the text as a whole*” and “*the experiential aspect of the point of a text is its overall topic*” (Fairclough, 2001: 120).

With regards to headline news reports analysis in light of CDA, based on the different categories of headlines and their descriptions documented by Ulum (2016), the researcher classified the news reports headlines and described them in terms of the two following aspects: surface structure classification and linguistic features of news reports headlines in presenting ideologies featuring topicalization and information. The figures on Surface Structure Categorization indicate that the most common headline type employed is *plain headline*, and *speech as headline* ranks second. *Headline with pointer* is the least frequently used.

(11) *New UN agency guidelines aim to sustain forest benefits for future generations.* [3]

(12) *Caring for the planet starts with 'the ground we walk on;'* UN says on World Soil Day [65]

(13) *Climate change focus: The fruits of sustainability and decent work.* [69]

Examples (11), (12), (13) show that EENRs on environmental sustainability employed a plain language in their headlines to enlighten their targeted readers about the issues of environmental protection. However, some hidden ideologies can be highlighted through the use of speech as headline and headline with pointer, which convey vividly the desire, wish or warning of the UNO about the issues concerning environmental protection and the clarification by a pointer respectively.

As for linguistic features of news reports headlines in presenting ideologies featuring topicalization and information, in this study, the news reports headlines cover the issues of environmental sustainability and the vocabulary is used to serve this purpose with the eight subtopics as follows: *Climate moderation, Ocean pollution and air pollution mitigation, Biological diversity conservation, Water scarcity management, Renewable energy sources, Forest protection, Soil and land preservation and Ozone layer protection.*

Turning into the use of leads in EENRs on environmental sustainability, 65 instances of straight lead and 4 instances of scene-setting lead are observed, which informs the reader of the most crucial aspects of the news reports.

Ideologically, the mass media is the most prominent source of knowledge, attitude and opinion. Journalists possess the power to implicitly insert ideological stances in their news reports in order to influence their readers' opinions and attitudes. The presence of implicit strategies to express an ideological position, e.g. the use of euphemisms, metaphors, modality, pronouns, the active and the passive voice,

transitivity, modes of sentences, connectors or quotes, ect has been studied in a limited corpus of EENRs concerning environmental issues. All these characteristics of the discourse convey the UN's message that environmental sources are finite, and in the age of industrialisation and modernisation, we are facing more and more extreme weather changes, global warming and environmental degradation. Humanity therefore must learn to live within the limitations of the biophysical environment and form a habit of living in harmony with nature for the sake of long-term environmental quality.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, EENRs on environmental sustainability have been analyzed in light of CDA at three stages: Description, Interpretation, and Explanation. The description of linguistic features of the news reports discourse brings us the knowledge of the connection between the news reports' ideology and power and the use of language of the journalists. This procedure has been carried out in terms of vocabulary and grammar in forming the three values: experiential, relational and expressive. Besides, the analysis also sheds light on textual structure of EENRs on environmental sustainability.

In respect of vocabulary, words and expressions related to the topic of environmental sustainability, formal words, content words and metaphors are typical lexical features of the discourse. In terms of grammatical features, transitivity, passive and active voice, modes of sentence, relational modality, pronouns, expressive modality and cohesion are recorded. On investigating textual structure of EENRs on environmental sustainability, the analysis discussed organizational properties of news reports which include the implicit ideological work of

news reports discourse. It is showed that the structure of EENRs on environmental sustainability comprises the headline and lead, the two most important components of news reports. All the news reports focus on the eight realms of topicalization, including *climate moderation, ocean pollution and air pollution mitigation, biological diversity conservation, water scarcity management, renewable energy sources, forest protection, soil and land preservation, and ozone layer protection.*

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

Finding out the typical characteristics of discourse features of EENRs on environmental sustainability in light of CDA in terms of vocabulary analysis, grammar analysis and textual structure analysis does much contribution in teaching and learning English news reports.

5.2.1. For Learning of English

For learning of English, to achieve communication goals, learners may comprehend journalists' combination of presenting facts with expressing ideas and attitude effectively through the choice of words as follows.

First, the ideology is highlighted by the use key words representing the experiential value, synonyms, antonyms and hypernyms, which all help to focus the readers on the subject of environmental sustainability effectively. Moreover, when writing EENRs, the journalist should make a choice of euphemism, words conforming to formality and informality to express relational values of words on the topic. It is also crucial that to constitute the expressive value of words, content words bearing evaluation of their meaning should be in use. The use of metaphors is also recommended in EENRs on environmental sustainability.

In addition, to gain the discourse's values of grammar, the journalist should employ some principles of using grammatical structures. The types of process used to express the experiential value of grammar

are verbal, material, relational, existential and mental processes with verbal process used dominantly in the discourse. In expressing experiential value of grammar, it is also necessary to include the active and passive voice with the majority of active voice in use, aiming to emphasize the agent performing the action or the description of the events. Concerning relational value of grammar, declarative sentences should be used mostly to provide readers with information on the topic and imperative sentences are included to vividly convey the message of the speakers. Besides, relational modality is of great importance in the way that the authority of one participant in relation to others is established. The third element to constitute relational value in grammatical features is pronouns, helping to establish the relationship between the speaker or writer and the addressee. In forming expressive value of grammar, expressive modality involving the use of modal verbs and modal adverbs should be used to indicate possibility or different degrees of certainty in the perception of the speaker or writer. As for the formal connections between sentences in the text, cohesive devices such as reference, connectors, repetition, substitution should also be used.

Finally, in writing news reports, the journalist should follow the textual structure in which the headline and the first paragraph are considered as the gist of the news report.

5.2.2. For Teaching of English

First, since EENRs on environmental sustainability are authentic text sources, teachers can use them in the classroom for both developing students' critical language awareness and illustrating persuasive use of language by drawing students' attention to linguistic elements which are ideologically significant.

Besides, for the implication on textual structure analysis of English news reports discourse, in reading classes, in order to activate their

background knowledge, students may be asked about the headline of the reading text as a pre-reading activity. Asking such a question may be a very beneficial warm-up activity for the students since students may be directed to get the gist of the text, or even to get the hidden messages given in the text through headlines.

5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Due to the limit of time, knowledge of the subject and reference materials along with the constraints encountered by the researcher, the thesis bears certain restrictions. The first limitation of the study is its small-scale database. A larger corpus would certainly shed more light on the linguistic features of this type of discourse in CDA perspective. Secondly, the study focuses mainly on the textual analysis at micro level. Other aspects of analysis like the news reports texts production and consumption and the orders of discourse have not been carried out in the thesis yet.

5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Despite being a new discipline in linguistic research, CDA proved to be a useful tool in recognizing a discourse's hidden ideologies and power. Therefore, the researcher would recommend that this approach should be introduced to all language learners and researchers. In addition, future research can be done with a larger database collected from other sources of news websites other than the UN News. This research can also be extended to other kinds of media like television or radio broadcast. Analyses of other aspects like quotation patterns, news reports headlines patterns, modality in the discourse are also suggested.