

Rozprawa doktorska

Viewpoint(s) and voice(s) in Journalistic English: A Study of News Reports in Quality Press

Kategorie punktu widzenia i głosu w relacjach z wydarzeń na materiale anglojęzycznej prasy opiniotwórczej (quality press)

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Summary

This dissertation is concerned with the categories of viewpoint and voice, as well as their occurrences in journalistic discourse. Its main goal is to identify and define the major types of viewpoint and of voice, as well as relationships between them, that appear in English quality news journalism (news reports and journalistic narratives in quality press). In the course of the analysis, the model of the Viewpoint Configuration has been developed, encapsulating three major notions: categories of viewpoint, variations of voice, and the linguistic means to express them in discourse.

The solutions proposed in the dissertation are grounded in a theoretical survey of the two key notions (viewpoint and voice) proposed in Chapter 1, where the major linguistic markers of those notions are also exemplified. Chapter 2 focuses on the semi-autonomous status of voice with respect to viewpoint, within the overall Viewpoint Configuration. A continuum of relationships between voices is also discussed, from single voices (with abrupt or gradual voice shifts), through hybrid multiple voices (polyphonic or blended), to post-hybrid fused voices. Chapter 3 begins with the admittedly artificial separation of viewpoint from the framework of the Viewpoint Configuration, so as to survey and illustrate the intertwining of different viewpoint types in journalist discourse. Then, in the same chapter, viewpoint and voice are brought together in analyses of news reports where three major correlations between them are highlighted: (i) both viewpoint and voice are identified simultaneously and parallelly; (ii) voice is identified through the occurrence of the viewpoint expressed; (iii) a particular voice signals the presence of a certain viewpoint. The last section of the chapter redefines and illustrates the notion of experiential viewpoint. The last chapter, Chapter 4, contains fourteen micro-analyses that compare reports of the same events published by different newspapers – in most cases, they were published on the same day. Occurrences and interactions between viewpoints and voices are observed and investigated. The number of reports in each set varies from 2 to 5.

The study contained in the dissertation suggests that correlations and interactions between viewpoints and voices are omnipresent in the discourse of news reports and journalistic narratives (in English). This approach to the analysis of non-fictional discourse, with the model of the Viewpoint Configuration, opens the window to numerous paths of inquiry and theoretical solutions in the sphere of non-literary text analysis.

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