The Analysis of Forms and Distribution of Discourse Markers in English and Chinese Newspapers

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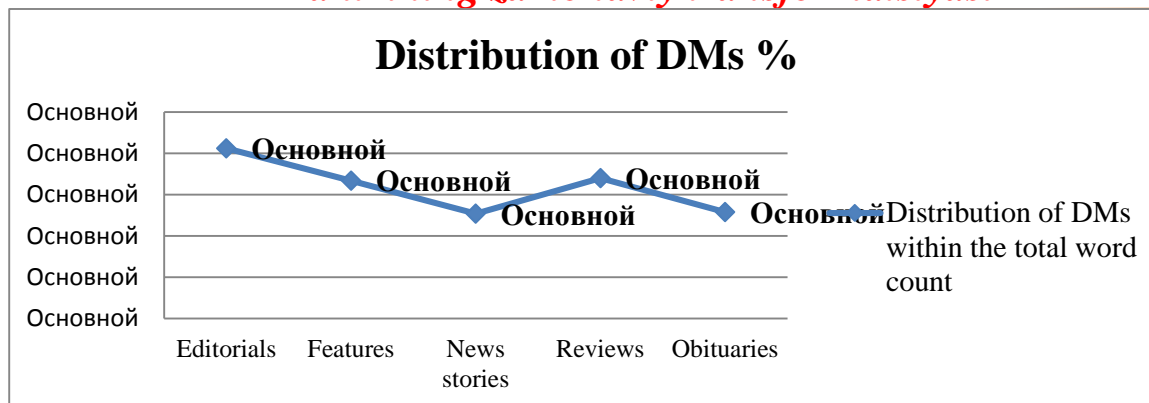
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In today's environment, one may acquire knowledge from a great variety of different places and mediums. Newspapers are generally acknowledged to be the most reading form among them all. This is as a result of the fact that the information that is provided in the newspapers is impartial and objective. According to R. Fowler (1991:13), the news in this source is not just delivered but classified according to numerous criteria of news quality. One of these criteria is that the information should not simply be a description of the story but should have some sort of significance to it. Since the development of several English writing styles, the publication of newspapers was the very last of all of them to be acknowledged as a distinct form of writing that stands apart from other forms.

In the course of the investigation, the language material was collected from the websites of British and American Quality newspapers – "The Guardian" and "The New York Times". There have been analyzed two articles from each newspaper text type that is overall 10 articles including editorials, feature articles, news stories, reviews and obituaries released within the recent years. Besides, examples taken from different newspapers have been used while discussing about the features of newspaper articles throughout the work.
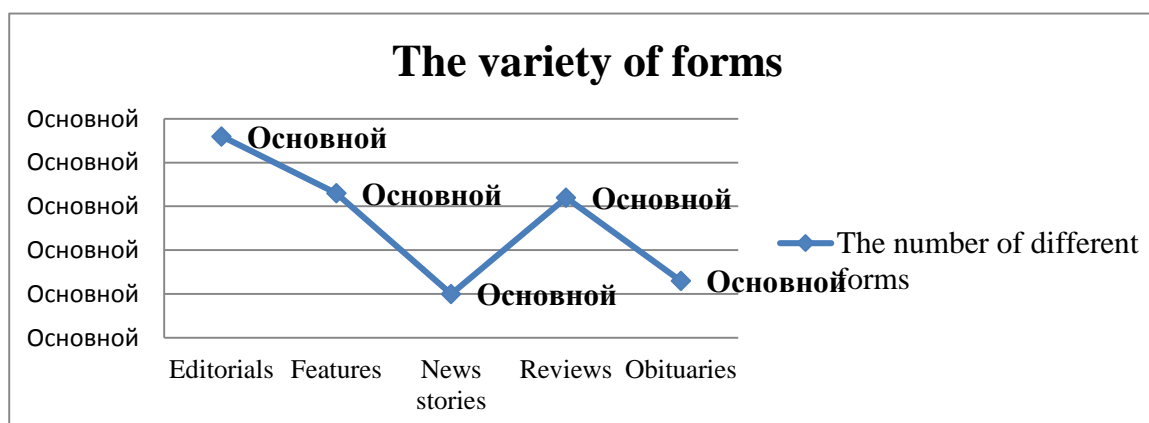
We gathered and analyzed four a total of 318 DMs; 96 of them were discovered in the editorials, 67 in the feature pieces, 26 in the news stories, 57 in the reviews, and 72 in the obituaries. According to the research, the general distribution of DMs in five distinct newspaper genres is quite different from one another, despite the fact that DMs are applied in all various forms of content. (See Graph 1)

Distribution of DMs %

Основной
Основной
Основной
Основной
Основной
Основной

Основной
Основной **Основной**
Основной
Основной Distribution of DMs within the total word count

Editorials Features News stories Reviews Obituaries

Graph 1**.** The general distribution of DMs in the five newspaper texts.

According to the information provided by the line graph that can be seen up above, the distribution of DMs is largest in editorials, which are the longest type of content. Both feature articles and reviews include very comparable proportions of the items listed in the following position. It's interesting to note that they indicate relatively comparable proportions of textual and interpersonal roles of DMs as well. In spite of their enormous word length, obituaries only cover a small number of direct messages (DMs) since there are so few occurrences of direct messages between people. Because of their limited length and word count, news stories are considered to be at the lowest possible place.

The genres that were looked at had a wide variety of different kinds of DMs, and this was reflected in the fact that different kinds of DMs were found. Except for obituaries, the diversity of forms varied according to the following principle: the more occurrences of DMs, the more diversified their forms. Although there are a significant number of DMs (72) in the obituaries, there are not a significant number of their forms (13) since there is a significant amount of duplication of textual markers that are quite similar. (see Graph2)

The variety of forms

Основной
Основной
Основной
Основной
Основной
Основной

Основной
Основной **Основной**
Основной **Основной** The number of different forms

Editorials Features News stories Reviews Obituaries

Graph 2 the variety of forms of DMs

This study also selected 150 English-language external propaganda news articles published on the official platforms of China's four major official media outlets—People's Daily Online, China Daily, XINHUANET, and Peking News—from May 2022 to August 2023. The news articles covered five major themes: political interactions, economic development, space exploration, sports events, and the fight against COVID-19.

Category	Quantity /time	Frequency (times/ thousand words)	Proportion%	Number of part of speech
attitude markers	228	3.43	21.03	17
ambiguous markers	208	3.13	19.19	34
emphasis markers	197	2.96	18.17	29
self-mention markers	451	6.79	41.61	6
stand markers	1084	16.31	100	314

Table: DMs usage statistics in the Chinese newspapers

Among the 150 news articles collected, stance markers appeared a total of 1,084 times, involving 214 different words, with a standardized frequency of 16.31 per thousand words. Among these, self-mention markers appeared most frequently, with a frequency of 6.79 per thousand words; attitude markers followed with a frequency of 3.43 per thousand words; the frequencies of hedging markers and emphasis markers were similar, at 3.13 and 2.96 per thousand words, respectively. In terms of percentage, self-mention markers accounted for 41.61% of the total, significantly higher than attitude markers, hedging markers, and emphasis markers, which had roughly equal percentages. In terms of the number of word classes

involved in stance markers, hedging markers and emphasis markers had the most diverse vocabulary, with 34 and 29 different words, respectively, while self-mention markers used only 6 different words.

In conciliation, the investigation of the newspaper genre as a different form of public discourse is the key aspect to the examination of the newspaper genre as a distinct form of public discourse. The relevance of discourse markers (DMs) in newspaper articles is significant since they consist of useful interactions between the writers and the readers of the article.

The list of used literature:

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4. Muller S. Discourse Markers in Native and Non-native English Discourse. - Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2005;