THE HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF NEWSPAPER DISCOURSE IN WORLD AND UZBEK LINGUISTICS, ITS METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The history of the journalistic genre in newspapers, its discursive analysis, and methodological foundations have long been subjects of scholarly interest in both world and Uzbek linguistics. Newspapers constitute one of the earliest forms of mass communication and have historically served as a leading medium within the public sphere, expressing the socio-political perspectives of humanity across various historical periods. Often regarded as the "mirror of the era," newspapers consistently reflect transformations in social life. Furthermore, the popularity of newspaper discourse, coupled with its alignment with the evolving needs of society and the times, distinguishes it from other mass media forms. This study explores the historical development of the newspaper as a journalistic genre, examines its discursive features, and outlines the methodological frameworks employed in its analysis, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of its role in shaping public discourse.

KEYWORDS: Newspaper discourse, journalistic genre, mass communication, socio-political reflection, methodological foundations, Uzbek linguistics, world linguistics, media studies.

INTRODUCTION

The newspaper represents the earliest form of mass media and has long functioned as a leading instrument within the public sphere, conveying the socio-political perspectives of humanity throughout successive historical periods. It is often acknowledged as a "mirror of the era," as every transformation in social life invariably finds reflection within its pages. Moreover, the widespread nature of newspaper discourse, along with its alignment with the needs of both the period and society, distinguishes it from other forms of mass communication. In the seventeenth century, the periodical titled Relation, published in Europe, is recognized in history as the first regularly issued newspaper. During the same period, several other European countries also began producing regular compilations of news, and the newspaper gradually became a response to societal demand. Thus, newspapers initially emerged in European states, and the term gazette, derived from the Italian word for a small coin, was subsequently adopted as an international designation. From the very inception of newspapers, the need for their scholarly investigation emerged. Initially, newspapers were regarded merely as mediums for conveying information; however, over time, they became objects of study for scholars from multiple disciplines. Sociologists examined newspapers in terms of their role in political stability, while cultural studies scholars defined them as "mirrors of culture" and investigated the cultural worldviews they reflected. Linguists, in turn, began to approach newspapers as a subject of research, analyzing their linguistic features. They characterized newspaper language

not merely as a vehicle for information dissemination, but as a factor reflecting the linguistic development of society.

Following the introduction of the term "discourse" in academic research in Z. Harris's 1952 article Discourse Analysis, attention shifted toward examining newspaper texts not only from a linguistic perspective but also in terms of their extralinguistic dimensions, attracting broader scholarly interest.

Indeed, newspaper texts not only lend themselves to lexical, grammatical, stylistic, syntactic, and pragmatic analysis but also perform social, political, ideological, and cultural functions. These aspects, of course, must be examined alongside linguistic factors. Scholars in English, Russian, and Uzbek linguistics have explored various dimensions of newspaper discourse. Among them are Z. Harris, R. Jacobson, R. Fowler, B. Hodge, G. Kress, Teun A. van Dijk, N. Fairclough, B. Allan, T. van Leeuwen, M. Canboy, S. Bednarak, H. Keipel in international linguistics; V. G. Kostomarov, L. R. Duskaeva, I. A. Neflyasheva, A. V. Podchasov, G. Y. Solganik, I. P. Lisakova, A. A. Leyontiev in Russian linguistics; and T. Qurbonov, A. Muhammadjonov, M. Abdusaidov, A. Boboyeva, A. Abdusaidov, B. Mirzayev, B. Yuldashev in Uzbek linguistics, all of whom have contributed significantly to the development of this field. Initially, it is useful to consider the definitions of the newspaper proposed by various linguists. A newspaper is typically a publication issued daily or weekly in print format, encompassing news reports, articles on various topics, entertainment programs, and advertisements. From this definition, it is evident that English speakers perceive the newspaper as a popular, informative, and entertaining periodical.

In Russian linguistics, C. I. Ojegov and N. Y. Shvedova define the newspaper in the Bol'shoy Tolkovy Slovar as follows: "A newspaper is a periodical publication consisting of large sheets, covering the latest events related to political or social life."

In the Uzbek explanatory dictionary, a newspaper is described as a periodical publication that reports events from various spheres of life and publishes political, social, and scientific-popular articles.

A Comparative Analysis of the Definition of the Term 'Newspaper' in Languages of Different Systems

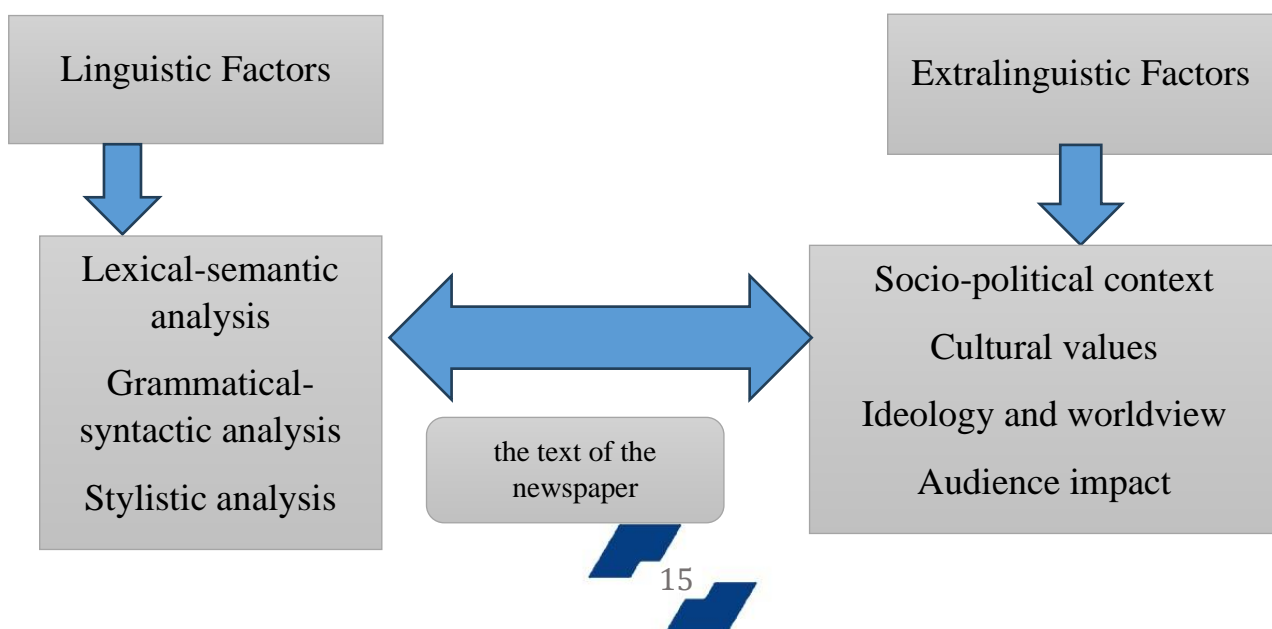|	Newspaper Features	In English	In Russian	In Uzbek
1	Newspaper Format	Print	Print	Print
2	Newspaper Content	News, articles, entertainment programs	News, events related to political and social life	News, political-social and popular-scientific articles
3	Newspaper Style	Informative, entertaining, popular	Informative, social and political	Popular-scientific, informative
4	Newspaper Function	Referential, emotive, and poetic	Referential and conative	Referential, metalinguistic, and phatic

From the above table, it is evident that the definitions of the term "newspaper" in languages of different systems exhibit both similarities and differences. Among the shared characteristics, newspapers in all three languages are recognized as printed publications, with an informative style and a predominantly referential function. The differences are primarily observed in content, style, and function. Specifically, English-language newspapers emphasize not only news but also entertainment programs and advertisements, whereas the Russian definition highlights the coverage of socio-political events. In the Uzbek explanatory dictionary, newspapers are noted to include popular-scientific articles as well.

Stylistically, English newspapers are characterized by a combination of informative, entertaining, and popular styles; in Russian, the social-political style is also prominent; while in Uzbek, the popular-scientific style alongside the informative mode is particularly emphasized. The functionality of newspapers has been examined through a comparative analysis based on the work of the English linguist R. Jakobson, Linguistics and Poetics. According to Jakobson, newspapers constitute a medium of social communication and perform six primary functions: 1) referential, 2) emotive, 3) conative, 4) phatic, 5) metalinguistic, and 6) poetic.

The principal function of the newspaper is referential, that is, the transmission of information, which predominantly occurs in news texts and is considered the leading function across all languages of different systems. In English newspapers, the emotive function, which aims to influence the reader, is manifested in advertisements, whereas the poetic function is evident in entertainment sections. In Russian newspapers, the conative function emerges through the reporting of socio-political events, whereby newspaper texts exert ideological and persuasive influence on the reader's consciousness. In the case of Uzbek newspapers, the inclusion of popular-scientific articles necessitates the metalinguistic function, as these articles often contain specialized terms, expressions, and their explanations pertaining to specific domains of knowledge.

The study of extralinguistic features in newspaper texts within English linguistics dates back to the 1960s and 1970s. Scholars of the English Critical Linguistics School—R. Fowler, B. Hodge, G. Kress, and T. Trew—analyzed the texts of reports on the Notting Hill Carnival in London in the chapter "Newspapers and Societies" of their 1979 work Language and Control. They concluded that the structure, type, and function of sentences in newspaper texts can significantly influence the transmission of information.

The study of the newspaper as a discourse can be illustrated through the following schema:

Linguistic Factors		Extralinguistic Factors
Lexical-semantic analysis Grammatical-syntactic analysis Stylistic analysis	↔ the text of the newspaper	Socio-political context Cultural values Ideology and worldview Audience impact

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Indeed, not only newspapers but all mass media texts demonstrate that the use of declarative, imperative, interrogative, and desiderative sentences, the arrangement of sentence elements, or the omission of certain components, as well as the employment of emotionally marked words, can influence the reader's consciousness, worldview, and ideology.
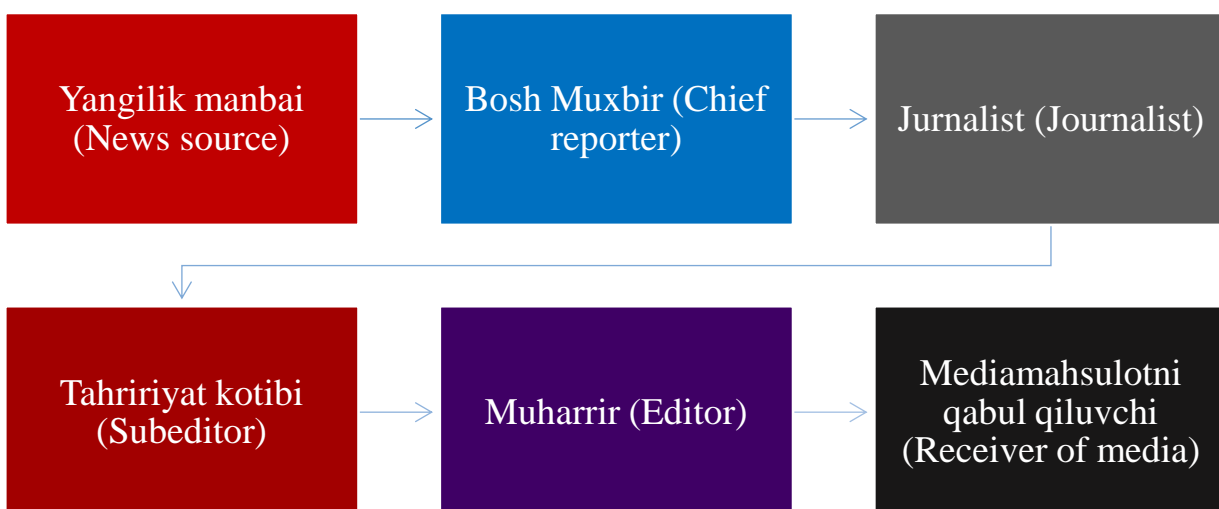
By the 1980s, the study of media texts expanded beyond individual linguistic units to consider texts as integrated, holistic structures. In his work News as Discourse, Teun A. van Dijk developed a model of the structural organization of media texts, particularly news reports. He further characterizes newspaper discourse as a complex communicative phenomenon, emphasizing that it embodies temporally situated interactions between the addresser (author) and the addressee (reader).

In contemporary linguistics, another English scholar, N. Fairclough, who laid the foundations of the field known as critical discourse analysis, focuses on the socio-political factor—considered one of the extralinguistic components constituting newspaper discourse—as the object of study. In his work Language and Power, he analyzes the implicit expression of ideas and ideologies in media language. According to Fairclough, ideological perspectives are present in every mass media text and are often encoded within the internal structure of the text, that is, presuppositionally. For instance, newspaper texts frequently employ collective forms of address, such as "we": let us unite in the pursuit of knowledge, let us fight drug addiction together, the future is in our hands, and so on. Through such constructions, the intention is to influence the readers' consciousness by reflecting existing social conditions or political viewpoints.

Conclusion

A. Bell, in contrast, approached not the language of the newspaper itself but the process of its production as the object of study. In his book The Language of News Media, he examines the creation of media language, the factors influencing it, the editorial craft, and the criteria for selecting information. The scholar represents the process of news text production as the following sequential stages:

The Production Diagram of Media Language

Yangilik manbai (News source) → Bosh Muxbir (Chief reporter) → Jurnalist (Journalist)

↓

Tahririyat kotibi (Subeditor) → Muharrir (Editor) → Mediamahsulotni qabul qiluvchi (Receiver of media)

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As can be seen from the above diagram, the production of news texts is a multi-stage process involving the participation of several individuals. A. Bell, who worked for many years as a journalist and editor, emphasizes that in order to render media language ready for consumption, the news source is first selected, after which a reporter or journalist produces the text and submits it to the editorial secretary. The editorial secretary revises the text and forwards it to the chief editor, who carefully examines every word, phrase, and sentence, correcting them from grammatical, punctuation, semantic, stylistic, and formal perspectives, before delivering the final version to the media recipient, i.e., the reader.

Indeed, the transformation of a news item from a simple text into a complex, structured, and comprehensible story that captures public attention is, in itself, an art. This process, we argue, warrants systematic scholarly investigation.

Another English linguists who studied the grammatical structure of press language, G. Kress and R. Hodge, in their book Language as Ideology, analyze linguistic phenomena in newspaper texts such as lexical choices, sentence structures, and nominalization. They employ a critical linguistic methodology to uncover the ideology and worldview embedded in media language, studying language not merely as a communicative tool but also as an ideological construct. They emphasize that linguistic devices used in media texts constitute the principal units through which reality is represented.

Furthermore, the book highlights several distinctive features of newspaper texts. These include the frequent use of nominalization, whereby verbs are converted into nouns to intensify ideological influence; the prevalence of passive constructions, which serve to obscure the agents of events; and the perception of newspapers by the public as impartial conveyors of information, while in reality, subtle ideological influence is exerted through such linguistic strategies.

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