How to improve our next REAL volumne

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT CHEMNITZ

Jessica Dheskali, M.A.

TU Chemnitz

English and American Studies

English Language and Linguistics
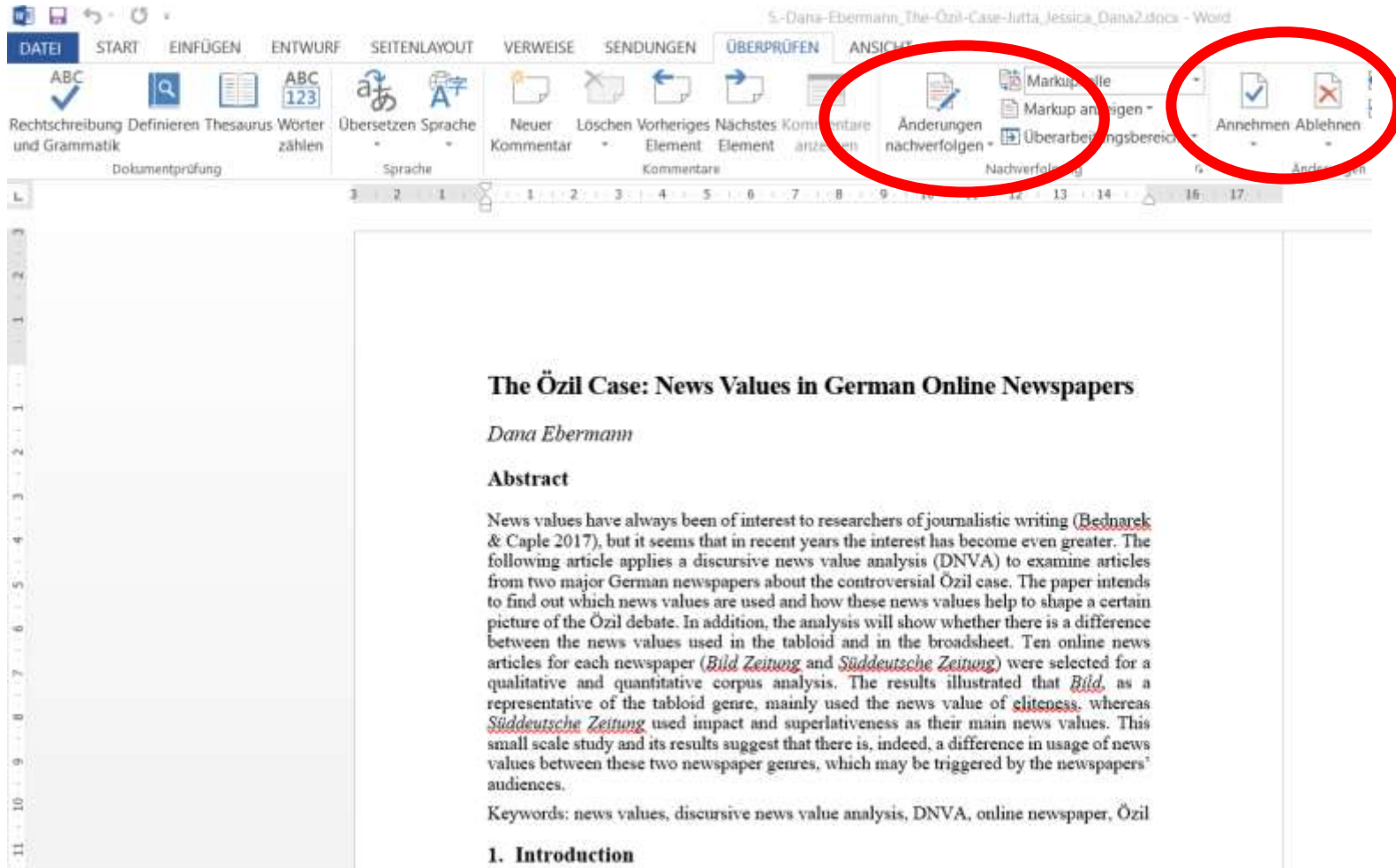
Reichenhainer Straße 39, room 218

09126 Chemnitz

email: jessica.dheskali@phil.tu-chemnitz.de

Contributions

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MS Word function "track changes"

what is academic writing and what does it encompass. Many other definitions state that academic writing starts with developing a sentence- topic sentence, supporting sentence, etc.,- and continues to writing a research paper, a scientific article and even a book. Last but not least, a very common definition of what academic writing is is *"Any writing that can either be backed up by past research to validate a certain claim or is conducted to explore a particular subject; commonly assigned by universities & colleges"*.[3]

From another point of view, being involved in the Academic writing for South-East Europe project funded by the DAAD, showed how much academic writing is present in the educational practice in this country from the earliest ages so that at the university level, the academic writing is much more elaborate, developed and aimed at research and developing a critical stance. From the point of view of the host's institution, Chemnitz University of Technology, it was quite interesting and inspiring to see what it means for students who learn and study English as a second/foreign language to have topics of academic writing incorporated into the teaching curricula early on. The experience from taking part in this project just showed how much topics covered under academic writing can differ one from another, can develop and present a never-ending field for scientific and any other kind of research.

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[1] Panzova,V., *Naukata kako zanaet*, Filozofski Fakultet- Skopje, 2003, **ISBN:** 9989934266 9789989934261

[2] http://www.parlorpress.com/pdf/irvin--what-is-academic-writing.pdf
[3] http://www.writeawriting.com/academic-writing/definition-academic-writing/

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[3] http://www.writeawriting.com/academic-writing/definition-academic-writing/

Reference list of the articles used for the analysis:

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Natalia Przybysz

Natalia Przybysz
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Zhang, W. (2015). Discourse of resistance: Articulations of national cultural identity in media discourse on the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in China. *DISCOURSE & COMMUNICA-TION.* 9(3): 355–370.

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"Discourse in context may consist of only one or two words as in stop *or* no smoking. *Alternatively, a piece of discourse can be hundreds of thousands of words in length, as some novels are. A typical piece of discourse is somewhere between these two extremes."*[7]

"Discourse is the way in which language is used socially to convey broad historical meanings. It is language identified by the social conditions of its use, by who is using it and under what conditions. Language can never be 'neutral' because it bridges our personal and social worlds."[8]

"Discourse can also be used to refer to particular contexts of language use, and in this sense it becomes similar to concepts like genre or text type. For example, we can conceptualize political discourse (the sort of language used in political contexts) or media discourse (language used in the media). In addition, some writers have conceived of discourse as related to particular topics, such as an environmental discourse or colonial discourse (which may occur in many different genres). Such labels sometimes suggest a particular attitude towards a topic (e.g. people engaging in environmental discourse would generally be expected to be concerned with protecting the environment rather than wasting resources. Related to this, Foucault (1972: 49) defines discourse more ideologically as 'practices which systematically form the objects of which they speak.'"[9]

list of long quotes without "concluding" paragraph or discussion

no numeration

Methodology

The research conducted for the sake of the needs of this paper focused on the language used in media, i.e. discourse analysis of the columns, interviews and articles in two printed daily papers, Sloboden pecat and Nova Makedonija, and one monthly publication, Fokus, chosen on the basis of the most read newspaper, and whose articles and writings are most referred to in public debates. The research has qualitative paradigm and is of descriptive design The corpus is comprised of exactly 35 columns, 23 articles and 3 interviews. The methods of analysis is being used.The focus is on Macedonian language linguistic inventiveness and on the English words used in the newspapers in Macedonian media, influenced by the ongoing process mentioned before. The main ideas was to show what this process of accession to the European Union "did" to the sentences in terms of choice of lexical items, the choice of fixed expressions, calques,

sources in footnotes, incomplete sources

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English Article Usage Patterns in Academic Writing from the Balkans: Contrasting L2 Choices with Digitalising and Born-Digital Methodologies

Matthias Hofmann and Vincenzo Dheskali

Abstract

While a large number of studies have proven that articles are a problematic aspect for non-native speakers of English (Master 1987; Ionin & Wexler 2003; Zdorenko & Paradis 2008), there have been very few studies focusing on the Balkan context (Trenkic 2000; Prendergast 2017). Since Albanian, Macedonian and Serbian have very different (suffixed) article systems from English, students are expected to make different types of mistakes while using English as a second language (L2). To analyse these three language groups, we adopt an innovative framework (similar to Schmied & Hofmann 2017) to contrast article choices in L2 through digitalising (a corpus analysis) and born-digital (an eye-tracking experiment) methodologies. We analysed 100 sentences from the joint corpus of the Balkans including 75.654 words and 37 academic writings (term papers) by male and female MA and PhD students. Additionally, we present the results of a reading eye-tracking experiment from ten respondents from the same academic levels. Our small-scale results indicate that differently from what the Fluctuation Hypothesis (FH) predicts, students made mistakes in [−definite] [−specific] and [+definite] [+specific] environments. Similar to Snape et al. (2006), this indicates that the FH cannot explain the linguistic choices of L2-English speakers satisfactorily. Furthermore, definiteness was the only significant effect on article usages.

Keywords: eye-tracking, corpus linguistics, academic writing, article usage, Fluctuation Hypothesis, the Balkans

1. Introduction

A well-known fact in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) is that the acquisition of the English article system is problematic for non-native speakers of English (L2-English), especially in cases where their first language does not have a grammaticalized system. These problems emerge even in the language of advanced learners of English. (cf. Kharma 1981; Master 1987; Miller 2005: 80; White 2009: 14) Traditionally, empirical studies investigating the acquisition of the English article system relied on production data, collected from either grammaticality judgement tests, multiple-choice questions in questionnaires, forced elicitation tasks or corpora. Schmied and Hofmann (2018) were the first to combine production and perception data in the investigation of English article

2. A Comparative Analysis of Headlines from the Local and the State Media in the Serbian Press

2.1. Pilot Study

The main focus of the analysis of headlines will be based on one perspective: Who is behind the headlines? However, other perspectives, such as the source of the headlines, discursive strategies used and the achieved pragmatic effect will be explained as well. The analysis will include the headlines which are related to example (1) minister Mihajlović and example (2) president Vučić.

The first analysed headlines present the view of minister Mihajlović on the topic of "gifting the Niš airport" [headlines 1–6]:

1. *Mihajlović: Niš nema novca za aerodrom.* / 'Mihajlović: Niš doesn't have money for the airport' – (*Danas Online*, 31.3.2018)².
2. *Mihajlović građanima: Aerodrom ostaje u Nišu, sve ostaje isto, samo država sada više ulagati u razvoj.* / 'Mihajlović to the citizens: The airport stays in Niš, everything is the same, but the state will invest more in the development' – (Anđelković 2018 in *Blic Online*, 3.4.2018).
3. *Mihajlović: Nastavićemo da ulažemo u niški aerodrom* / 'Mihajlović: We will continue to invest in the Niš airport' – (Tanjug 2018a in *RTS Online*, 28.2.2018).
4. *Mihajlovićeva: Niko neće staviti aerodrom pod mišku i odneti ga iz Niša.* / 'Mihajlović: No one will take the Niš airport under their arm and go away with it' – (Milićević 2018 in *Niške vesti*, 2.4. 2018).
5. *Ministarka Mihajlović: Niški aerodrom je bio i ostaće državni.* / 'Minister Mihajlović: The Niš airport has been and will remain state-owned' – (Zirojević 2018 in *Južne vesti*, 12.4.2018).
6. *MIHAJLOVIĆ: DRŽAVA ĆE RAZVIJATI NIŠKI AERODROM!* / 'MIHAJLOVIĆ: THE STATE WILL DEVELOP THE NIŠ AIRPORT!' – (Simic 2018 in *Zona plus*, 3.4.2018).

The headlines are quotes that were originally spoken by the minister: From the pragmatic point of view, direct speech used in headlines has the effect of persuading someone (examples 3–5). The sender is the authority. Graphically, for headlines they use bold letters – this strategy for creating headlines is the most frequent strategy in the entire corpus compiled for the purpose of this research. Quotations and bold font in headlines convince and attract readers. Moreover, is makes the readers believe in the truthfulness of the minister's words (examples 1–6). The topoi used in all selected headlines is authority: She is the minister.

With respect to language, the headlines are based on structural negation (examples 1, 4) which is used explicitly, or on semantic negation, achieved implicitly (Niš airport is state-owned, not city-owned, example 5). In the majority of the analyzed headlines, the emphasis is on the lack of money – Niš doesn't have the money and the government just want to help (examples 1–3). Pragmatically, the negation is used to exert the main semantic effect: The government will "save" the airport and the citizens of Nis must believe this

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² All translations into English were done by the author.

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Example 3

Date of publication: 3 February 2018
News: The construction of the Belgrade Metro – underground railway net
Topoi: authority, number

Мали: Прва линија метроа биће завршена 2022. године

И деја изградње метроа у Београду траје деценијама, али никада нисмо били ближи реализацији, изјавио је градоначелник Београда Синиша Мали гостујући на телевизији „Хепи".

Picture 5: Third *politika.rs* Article.

Translation:

> Mali: The first metro line will be completed in 2022.
>
> The idea of building the metro in Belgrade has existed for decades, but we have never been closer to realizing it, the Mayor of Belgrade Siniša Mali said during his appearance on "Happy" TV.

Mali: Za dve godine počinje gradnja metroa u Beogradu

Gradonačelnik Beograda Siniša Mali izjavio je da će za dve godine početi izgradnja metroa u glavnom gradu i da će do 2022. ili 2023. godine završiti prva linija, čija bi početna stanica bila na Makiškom polju.

Picture 6: Third *n1info.com* Article.

Translation:

> Mali: In two years, the building of the metro in Belgrade will start.
>
> The Mayor of Belgrade Siniša Mali said that in two years, the building of the metro in the capital will start and that by 2022 or 2023 the first line will be finished with the first station at Makiško polje.

Another frequent promise made by the government refers to the Belgrade Metro – an underground railway net, or rather an idea for the same that has been planned for about half a century. So far, no actual construction or building has been realised. In the context of the Belgrade mayor election in February 2018, the Belgrade Metro became a hot topic once again.

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4. Data Analysis and Discussion

4.1. Qualitative Analysis

The article that was chosen for the qualitative analysis appeared on *Bild Zeitung*'s website on 28 June 2018 soon after the German national soccer team lost the game against South Korea and had to leave the World Cup. Figure 1 displays the entire text as published on the tabloid's webpage (my English translation of the article can be found at the end of this paper).

TRAURIGE WM-BILANZ
2 x Ärger – sonst nix von Özil!
UNSER TEAM BEI DER WM 2018 IN RUSSLAND!
MICHAEL MAKUS, CHRISTIAN FALK, TOBIAS ALTSCHÄFFL, TIMM DETERING, KAI FELDHAUS, CHRISTIAN KITSCH, CHRISTIAN KYNAST, HEIKO NIEDERER, TORSTEN RUMPF, MARC SCHMIDT, CHRISTIAN SPREITZ, JÖRG WEILER, SVEN WESTERSCHULZE

Das deutsche WM-Desaster hat auch mit einem Londoner Hotel zu tun. Hier lachten Mesut Özil (29) und Ilkay Gündogan (27) Mitte Mai mit dem türkischen Despoten Erdogan in die Kameras.

Ein Skandal! Gündogan erklärte sich immerhin. Özil schwieg trotzig – und sorgte für angespannte Stimmung im Team. Sponsoren und Funktionäre sollen sogar einen Rauswurf befürwortet haben.

Nach BILD-Informationen waren viele Teamkollegen genervt. Sie hätten sich gewünscht, Özil hätte die Situation einmal öffentlich erklärt, damit sie nicht immer damit konfrontiert werden. Genau wie nach Fehlern auf dem Platz gilt im Team die Devise: Fehler dürfen passieren, aber man sollte dazu stehen.

Der Konflikt befeuerte die Grüppchenbildung. Auf der einen Seite die Bling-Bling-Fraktion um Özil, Khedira, Boateng und Draxler (benannt nach ihrem Lifestyle). Auf der anderen Seite der Bayern-Block um Neuer, Hummels, Müller und Kroos.

Es gab eine Team-Runde im Trainingslager in Südtirol. Am Ende führten aber eher Löw, Bierhoff und Gündogan das Wort – Özil blieb einsilbig. Auch beim Steinmeier-Besuch war Gündogan die treibende Kraft, Özil musste fast genötigt werden.

Özil schweigt weiter. Nur auf seinen Social-Media-Accounts gibt es immer wieder belanglose Botschaften – auf Russisch, Englisch und Deutsch. Hilft ja der Vermarktung.

Emotionen zeigte Özil bei der WM nur einmal: Als er nach dem Aus vorm Spielertunnel von einem „Fan" beleidigt wurde, musste er von Torwart-Trainer Andy Köpke zurückgehalten werden.

Köpke zu BILD: „Der Fan hat ihn beschimpft. Ich habe Mesut zurückgezogen und zu dem Fan gesagt, er soll den Schnabel halten." Nach BILD-Info sollen ausländerfeindliche Beleidigungen gefallen sein.

Es begann mit Zoff und endete mit Zoff. Und dazwischen war sportlich leider nix los.

Wird Özil hinwerfen? Nicht ausgeschlossen. Oder es wird ihm von DFB-Seite sogar nahegelegt, um ihm die Schmach zu ersparen, nicht mehr eingeladen zu werden.

Text 1: Online article about the outcome of the soccer world cup for Germany. Reprinted from Altschäffl et al. (2018b, June 28). Traurige WM-Bilanz: 2x Ärger – sonst nix von Özil! Bild Zeitung.

According to Bednarek and Caple's (2017) news values definitions in DNVA (cf. Table 1), the *Bild* text illustrates most of the news values. The most important values are: impact, negativity, superlativeness and personalization. One value that is not that obvious but rather implied is eliteness. This respective news value is indirectly found in the heading, which states *Traurige WM-Bilanz: 2x Ärger –*