

A Critical Discourse Analysis of British, Italian and Albanian Online Articles on the Refugee Crisis in Europe, mainly Balkan

Vincenzo Dheskali

4th Semester PhD Student

Chemnitz University of Technology

vincenzo.dheskali@s2015.tu-chemnitz.de



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT
CHEMNITZ

Outline

- Deconstruction of Italian, Albanian and British News Articles
- (Parts of) Fairclough's (1995) *Model of Critical Discourse Analysis*
- A Short Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis
- A Comparative Study with the Concordance Program AntConc (2014)
- 26 Articles on the Refugee Crisis in Europe, mainly in Balkan

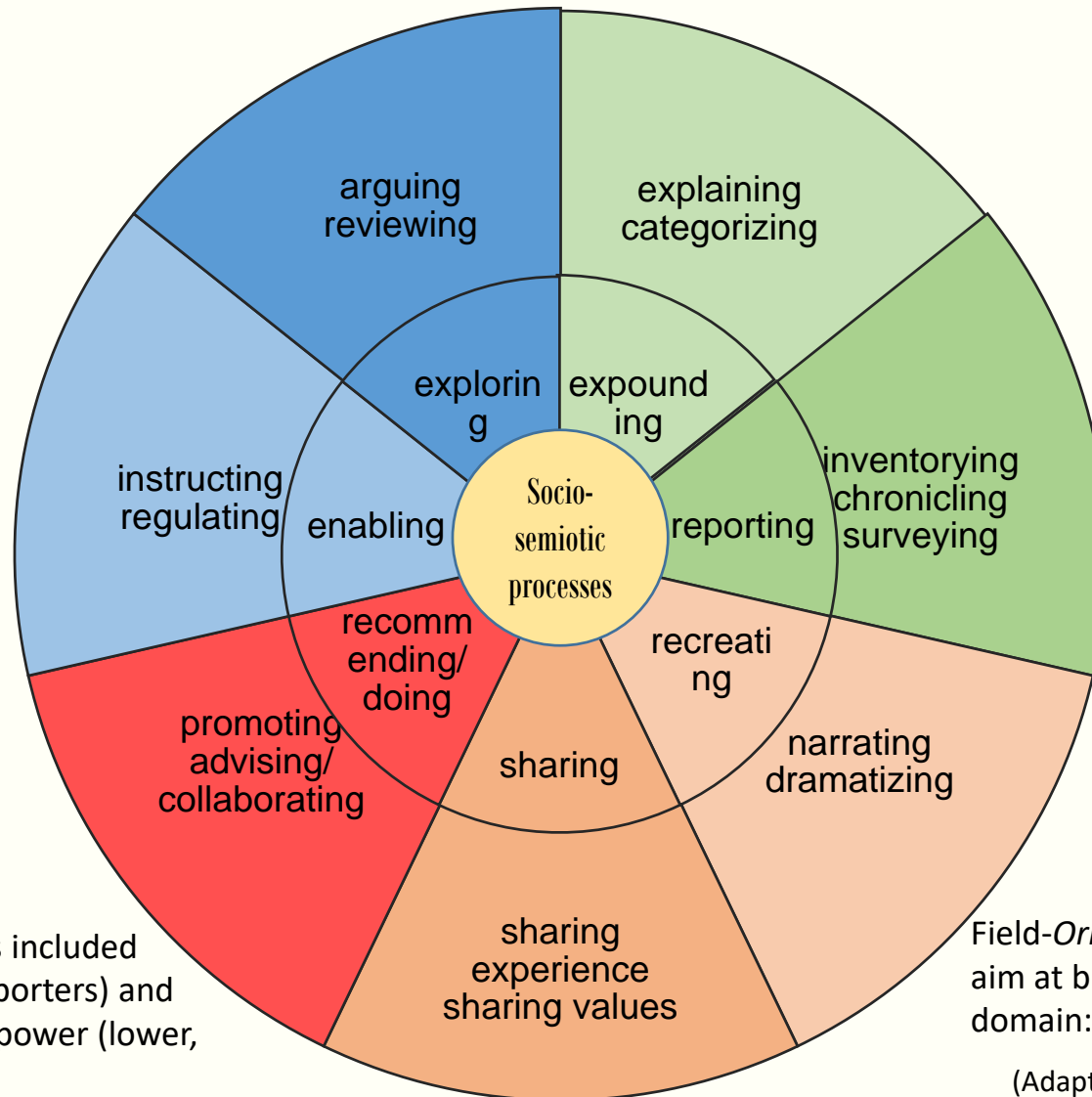
Methodology: My Corpora

Italian Corpus		British Corpus	
7 Articles (2015-2016): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - News Reporting - Editorials (opinion pieces) - Commentary 		11 Articles (2015-2016): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - News Reporting - Editorials 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sources: La Repubblica 3 - Il Messaggero 2 - Balkanicausio 2 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sources: The Guardian 4 - The Independent 3 - BBC News 2 - Reuters 2 	
Total No. of Word Tokens: 7053		Total No. of Word Tokens: 6928	
Albanian Corpus			
10 Articles (2015-2016): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - News Reporting - Editorials - Criticism 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sources: Telegrafi.com 2 - Bota.al 2 - Express 3 - Oranews 3 			
Total No. of Word Tokens: 6609			

Table 1: Details of my Small Corpora of Italian, Albanian and British Articles on the Refugee Crisis

Socio-Semiotic Processes

Field and Tenor-Oriented
Field-Oriented (News Articles)



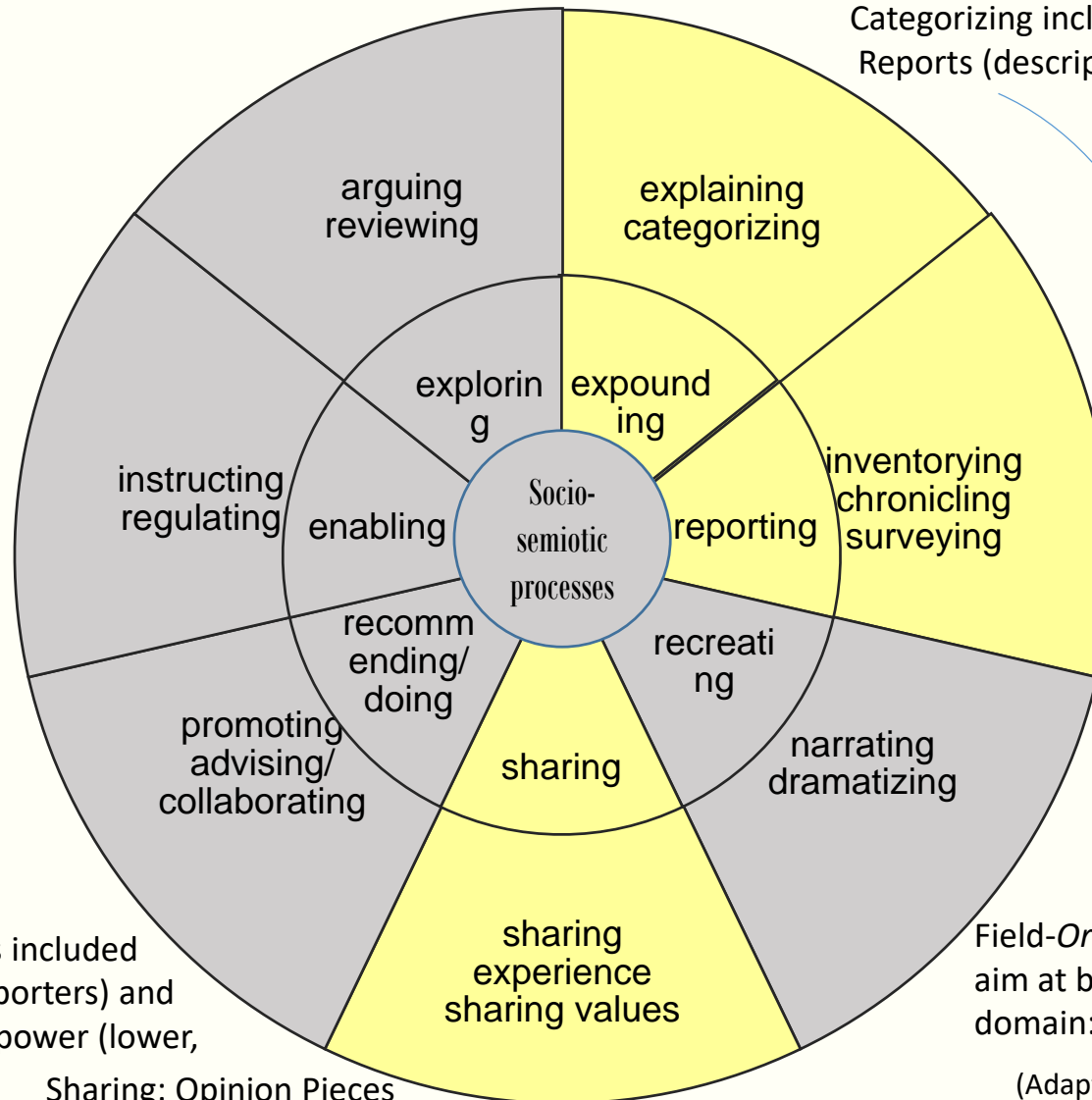
Tenor-Oriented processes included are institutional roles (reporters) and vertical distance roles of power (lower, higher status)

Field-Oriented processes (reports) aim at building field (experiential domain: subject matter, topic)

(Adapted from Matthiessen 2010: 8)

Socio-Semiotic Processes: My Main Focus

Field and Tenor-Oriented
Field-Oriented (News Articles)



Categorizing incl.
Reports (descriptive, taxonomic)

Chronicling incl.
Recounts: News Reports

**used in my study*

**not used in my study*

Field-Oriented processes (reports)
aim at building field (experiential
domain: subject matter, topic)

(Adapted from Matthiessen 2010: 8)

Sharing: Opinion Pieces

Tenor-Oriented processes included
are institutional roles (reporters) and
vertical distance roles of power (lower,
higher status)

The axis of choice

- Presupposition
- Modalization vs. Categorical Assertions
- Thematization, Afterthought
- Transitive: Passive Constructions
- The Choice and Meaning of Words
- Main vs. Subordinate Constructions
- Reporting Clauses (+Quotes)

(cf. Fairclough 1995; Richardson 2006)

Presupposition

- **Presupposition:** “If something is presupposed, it is in a sense present in the text, but as part of its implicit meaning”(Fairclough 1995: 106). When the author is presupposing, he or she is attributing to the reader various common-sense assumptions. (cf. Fairclough 1995: 107)

*“Regjimi **terrorist** në Riad dëshiron të ndërtojë 200 xhami vetëm për ”refugjatët” sirian në Gjermani. Kjo nuk është **vetëm** paturpësi, ne po flasim për një abuzim, ndëshkim, sulm krejt **të ri**”.* (‘Express’ Journal, 2016)

*The **terrorist** regime in Riyadh wants to build 200 mosques only for the Syrian refugees in Germany. This is **not only** a shame, we are talking about an abuse, punishment, a completely **new** attack.* (my translation)

Modalization (Hedges and Boosters) vs. Categorical Assertions

- Hedges and boosters are part of **modality**. Modality (**modalization**) builds an area of uncertainty. It is an intermediate point between positive polarity *it is true* and negative polarity *it is not* not which has various degrees of indeterminacy like probability and usuality (Halliday & Matthiessen 2014: 144-176). The positive *it is* and negative *it is not* are stronger than modality and constitute **categorical assertions** which may be based on common knowledge.
- **Hedges** like *possibly*, *probably* and *I think* represent “devices which withhold complete commitment to a proposition, allowing information to be presented as an opinion rather than fact” (Hyland, 1998; Hyland 2011: 199) They are divided into ‘**approximators**’ (proposition-related) and ‘**shields**’ (author-related). (cf. Prince et al 1982: 4; Lafuente 2008: 72)
- **Boosters** like *surely*, *certainly* and *undoubtedly* are “expressions used to intensify the degree of certainty of an utterance and to increase its illocutionary force” (Bondi 2008: 31).
- In Journalistic Writing, Hedges and Boosters represent modal choices that convey the judgements, attitudes, or political beliefs of the speakers/writers. (cf. Richardson 2006: 62)

The Choice/Meaning of Words, Passive Constructions, Reporting Clauses

They have	We have	They launch	We launch
A war machine	Army, Navy and Air force	Sneak attacks	First strikes
Censorship	Reporting restrictions	Without provocation	Pre-emptively
Propaganda	Press briefings	Their men are	Our men are
They	We	Troops	Boys
Destroy	Suppress	Hordes	Lads
Kill	Eliminate	Saddam Hussein is	George Bush [Snr] is
Kill	Neutralise	Demented	At peace with himself
		Defiant	Resolute

Image 1: The Journalists' Choice of Words to Explain the USA-Iraq War in 1991 (Guardian Weekly; Allan 2004)

- **Transitive: Passive Constructions** avoid responsibility of acts and foreground the passivity of someone or something in a certain situation (cf. Fairclough 1995: 110; Richardson 2006: 57)
- **Reporting clauses** like *Demir said* (verbal) and *Marku believes* (mental) are used in Journalistic Writing, to e.g. introduce direct quotes. They convey an ideational meaning (*he said, investigated* etc), or interpersonal meaning (*she suggests, believes, proves, demonstrates* etc.) (cf. Richardson 2006; Halliday 2014)

She claims

She says

She proves

Combination and Sequencing of Clauses

- **Thematization:** “The element at the beginning of a clause is called its theme” (Fairclough 1995: 120).

“*Ndoshta* nesër Evropa nuk do të jetë më evropiane [...]” (‘Express’ Journal, 2016).

Perhaps tomorrow Europe will not be European anymore. (my translation)

- **Afterthought:** When a word is placed in the final position of a clause its called ‘afterthought’ or ‘information focus position’.(cf. Halliday & Matthiessen 2014)
- The journalist might place a word (e.g. a name, adverb etc) as a ‘theme’ or ‘afterthought’ because it represents information that he or she wants to foreground.

“Nëse ky emigracion shumë i rrezikshëm nuk do të ndalohej, Evropa mund të bëhet një Afrikë e re, *paralajmëron ai*” (‘Express’ Journal, 2016).

If this very dangerous migration will not be stopped, Europe might turn into a new Africa, he (former Libyan leader, Muamar Gadafi) warns. (my translation)

Combination and Sequencing of Clauses

- **Main and Subordinate clauses:** Local coherence relations are also related to foregrounding. Main clauses usually foreground the given information (especially when they are placed initially in the clause complex), while subordinate clauses tend to background it. (cf. Fairclough 1995: 119)

“Nëse ky emigracion shumë i rrezikshëm nuk do të ndalohet, Evropa mund të bëhet një Afrikë e re, paralajmëron ai” (‘Express’ Journal, 2016).

If this very dangerous migration will not be stopped, Europe might turn into a new Africa, he (former Libyan leader, Muamar Gadafi) *warns.* (my translation)

*indicates a main clause

*indicates a subordinate clause

Hedges and Boosters in the Online Albanian Articles

Hedges	Freq.	Boosters	Freq.
ndoshta (probably)	3	shumë (very, a lot)	18
mendo*; beso* (think)	2	duhet (must)	22
mund (can, could, may, might)	22	do të (will, will-temporal)	45
mbase (maybe)	0	sigurisht (surely)	0
hamëndës* (guess)	0	patjetër (of course)	0
thua jse (almost)	1	treg (show*, merchant)	3
rreth (circa, around, a circle)	3	dukshëm (significantly)	0
ndonjëherë (sometimes)		qart* (clear-ly)	3
mundësi* (possibility, chance)	6	fakt* (fact, factors)	2
ka mundësi (it is possible)	0	Është e qartë (it is clear)	1
Total #	37	Total #	94

Table 2: Raw frequency of hedges and boosters in the Albanian Articles

***non-hedging meanings excluded from findings**

Hedges and Boosters in the Online English Articles

Hedges	Freq.	Boosters	Freq.
probably, maybe	0	very	11
think	6	must	11
would	19	will, will-temporal	31
could	6	sure-ly, certain-ly	1
may	0	of course	1
might	4	show*	6
suggest*	2	prove*, demonstrate*	0
circa, around, almost	0	significant-ly	3
sometimes	1	clear-ly	3
possibility	1	fact	2
it is possible	0	it is clear	1
Total #	39	Total #	70

Table 3: Raw frequency of hedges and boosters in the English Articles

Hedges and Boosters in the Online Italian Articles

Hedges	Freq.	Boosters	Freq.
forse, magari (probably)	0	molto (very, a lot)	10
cred*; pensa/o*(believe, think)	8	dev* (must)	11
potrebbe (could, may, might)	6	*ò,*à(will, will-temporal)	28
può, posso* (can, be able to)	9	sicuramente (surely)	1
immagina* (guess)	1	naturalmente, certo, (of course)	0
quasi, appena (almost)	2	mostr* (show)	1
circa, attorno, intorno (circa, around)	16	sensibilmente (significantly)	0
a/certe volte (sometimes)	1	chiar-amente (clearly)	4
possibilità (possibility)	6	fatto (fact, factors)	7
è possibile (it is possible)	2	è chiaro (it is clear)	0
Total #	51	Total #	62

Table 4: Raw frequency of hedges and boosters in the Italian Articles

False Information and Terminology?



Image 2: The Headline of a BBC News Article (2016) on the Refugee Crisis

“The vast majority arrived by sea but some migrants have made their way over land, principally via Turkey and Albania.” (BBC 2016)

“A note on terminology: The BBC uses the term migrant to refer to all people on the move who have yet to complete the legal process of claiming asylum. This group includes people fleeing war-torn countries such as Syria, who are likely to be granted refugee status, as well as people who are seeking jobs and better lives, who governments are likely to rule are economic migrants” (BBC 2016).

refugee

noun [C] • **UK**  /ˌref.juˈdʒiː/ **US**  /ˌref.jəˈdʒiː/

★ **B2** a person who has escaped from their own country for political, religious, or economic reasons or because of a war:

Thousands of refugees fled across the border.

— More examples

He had to show that he had a well-founded fear of persecution on religious or political grounds to qualify as a refugee.

We have been tasked with setting up camps for refugees.

The refugees were packed shoulder to shoulder on the boat.

Many refugees have arrived at the border without passports.

We have only a small amount of food and clothing to deal out to each refugee.

— Thesaurus: synonyms and related words


Runaways and refugees

abscond boat people defect deserter displaced person escapee escapism
evacuee fugitive political asylum refugee camp runaway
transit camp

refugee

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

Related topics: [Citizenship](#)

ref·u·gee /ˌrefjuˈdʒiː/   **noun** [countable]  

someone who has been forced to leave their country, especially during a war, or for political or religious reasons

 Refugees were streaming across the border.

 refugee camps

Examples from the Corpus

refugee

• a refugee camp

• But it is hard to remain morally comfortable when turning back refugees.

• So far, the most desperate of measures has not been taken, perhaps because would-be refugees have nowhere to run.

Images 3 and 4: The Word *Refugee* in the Cambridge and Longman Dictionaries

migrant

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

Related topics: [Animals](#), [Birds](#)

mi·grant /'maɪɡrənt/ ●○○ **AWL** noun [countable] 🔊 🔊

1 someone who goes to live in another area or country, especially in order to find work → **emigrant**,

immigrant

migrant worker/labourer

🔊 A lot of factory work is done by migrant workers.

economic migrant (=someone who goes to live in another country because they are likely to find a better job there)

2 a bird or animal that travels regularly from one part of the world to another

Meaning of “migrant” in the English Dictionary

British

Business

"migrant" in British English

▶ See all translations

migrant

noun [C] • **UK** 🔊 /'maɪ.ɡrənt/ • **US** 🔊 /'maɪ.ɡrənt/

★ a person that travels to a different country or place, often in order to find work:

The cities are full of migrants looking for work.

★ **biology** an animal that moves from one place to another at different times of the year:

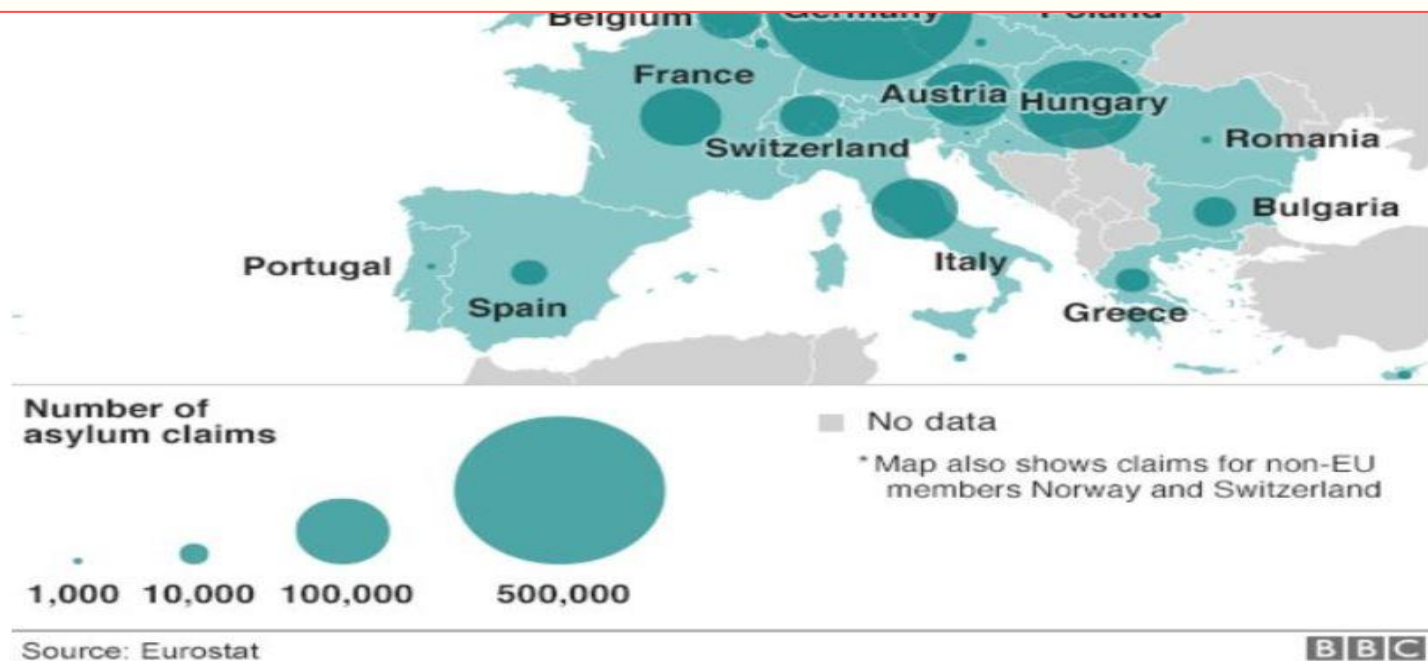
These birds are winter migrants from Scandinavia.

— Thesaurus: synonyms and related words

Changing homes & moving

asylum seeker diaspora diaspora economic migrant emigrate immigration
move on move out **mover** moving pull up stakes *idiom* remover

Images 5 and 6: The Word *Migrant* in the Cambridge and Longman Dictionaries



3. How do migrants get to Europe?

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 1,011,700 migrants arrived by sea in 2015, and almost 34,900 by land.

This compares with 280,000 arrivals by land and sea for the whole of 2014. The figures do not include those who got in undetected.

The EU's external border force, Frontex, monitors the different routes migrants use and numbers arriving at Europe's borders and put the figure crossing into Europe in 2015 at more than 1,800,000.

Most of those heading for Greece take the relatively short voyage from Turkey to the islands of Kos, Chios, Lesbos and Samos - often in flimsy rubber dinghies or small wooden boats.

Image 7: Excerpt from the BBC News Article Showing Hedges and Boosters

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