# The Investigation of Metadiscourse Markers in Newspaper Reports:

# The Case of Ukrainian Plane Crash.

[1]Mazin Jasim Al-Hilu, [2]Ruaa Hadallah Khudiar

***Abstract***

*Metadiscourse is an all-inclusive piece of our ordinary language, and most important feature of how we communicate in a variety of different genres and settings. In brief, metadiscourse is known as an essential means of promoting communication, emphasizing a writer's point and, constructing a relationship with the audience. This paper investigates the utilization of metadiscourse markers in the newspaper reports about the Ukrainian plane crash. The aim of this study is to discover how the utilization of metadiscourse markers plays a role in building and attaining persuasion and how these Ukrainian, Iranian and American newspapers and politicians stylistically biased. From Ukraine, the Kyiv Post newspaper, Tehran Times from Iran, and New York Times from the United State of America have been chosen, both for their rank and due to the political and rhetorical impact they employ in their own national cultures. The model adopted for this study is Hyland (2005) taxonomy since it is known for being recent, clear and comprehensive.*

*Results revealed that the two kinds of metadiscourse markers are presented in the three sets of data but with some differences in the frequency of occurrences. However, findings exposed that interactive markers are widely used in the newspapers. In term of interactional markers, hedges and boosters are the most common types. This denotes that writers as well as politicians use metadiscourse to gain affective influences among readers.*

*   **Keywords:** *metadiscourse, newspaper*

## I. Theoretical Framework

Hyland (2005, p. 6) elucidated that "The examination of talk is the investigation of language being used, the manners in which semantic structures are utilized for social purposes-what language is utilized for". However, at the point when researchers started to look farther than the linguistic developments perceiving how individuals utilized language in their day by day lives, they started to take on a constrained methodology on what these aims might have been, illustration a wide difference among interactional usages of language and transactional: the purpose which language attends to definite

---

[1] College of Arts / Translation Dept., Wasit University
[2] MA Candidate, College of Education for Humanities

'content' and the purpose used to convey personal relations and perception (Brown and Yule, 1983). Though there is an assumption about how something is being said is more essential than what is being said or conversely, it is accepted that the substance (what you state) and how to say/write it are similarly important in communication. With all this, we not only share the propositional quality of what we express in spoken or written correspondence but we also use words to bundle our notions to help our audience understand things. This role is generally identified in language studies as metadiscourse.

Zellig Harris (1959) was the first linguist who coined the term metadiscourse to suggest a way of interpreting language in use, signifying writers' or speakers' efforts to direct the perception of the readers or the listeners to a text.

Hyland (2005, p. 37) characterized metadiscourse as "the spread term for abstract intelligent articulations used to arrange intuitive implications in the content, and helps the writer (or speaker) express a sentiment and collaborate with perusers as individuals from a specific social correspondence". Basically, this definition sees metadiscourse as a method of meanings realization by an open-finished group of language items. These components can likewise assume non-field jobs and along these lines are just unsurprising in real instances of recognition. The idea of metadiscourse is upheld by a practically arranged acknowledgment, which the writers see as collaborating with their perusers, with three fundamental belief systems of the metadiscourse. This is "the metadiscourse varies from the initial parts of the talk, and that the metadiscourse alludes to the parts of the content that exemplify the essayist peruser collaborations; this talk alludes just to the inside relations of the talk" (Hyland, 2005, p. 38).

Williams'(1981, p. 226) It is expressed that the metadiscourse is "every one of that doesn't demonstrate the subject secured." Likewise, Crismore (1983, p. 2) noticed that "the writer's obstruction in the talk, either unequivocally or not expressly, for bearing as opposed to media, discloses to perusers how to comprehend what is being said and importance in the essential talk and how to" take "the writer." Metadiscourse is a term generally utilized in the investigation of standard talk and language educating, with respect to a fairly novel and novel methodology, for characterizing the connections "between text makers and their content and between text makers and clients" (Hyland 2005, p.1). In spite of the expanding number of studies on this term, be that as it may, it is deciphered contrastingly from multiple points of view. For instance, Adel (2006, p. 2) referenced that

Metadiscourse is a talk on the developing talk, or the creator's straight to the point remark on her continuous content. It incorporates standing etymological components that allude to the content itself as text or as a language. From a more extensive perspective, it alludes to phonetic components that uncover the nearness of the author and peruser (or speaker and speaker) in the content, either by demonstrating the association of the content or by remarking on the content in different manners

He was characterized by Vandy Koppel (1985, p. 83) as "talk about talk." However, these writers concurred that as far as possible the author's push to coordinate the peruser's consciousness of the content, and in this manner, the metadiscourse gives the premise to perceiving correspondence as open investment. He investigates a few parts of how to present ourselves in our compositions by alluding to our way to deal with both content and text delegates. Good country (2005, p. 4) expressed that "with the savvy expansion of metadiscourse, the author is capable not exclusively to change over what might be dry or troublesome content into intelligent and simple to understand exposition, yet in addition to interface it to a specific kind of setting and pass on his character, validity, affectability of the crowd and his relationship to the message".

On the other hand, metadiscourse is also considered by some linguists As a down to earth idea. Good country (1998, p. 437) examined metadiscourse as "parts of a book that unequivocally sorts out discourse, draws in crowds, and shows the author's position. His utilization by scholars to manage perusers and present a reasonable expert figure is a significant part of enticing composition". Little is known about how metadiscourse markers used by editors for persuasion. Williams (as cited in Vande Kopple, 1985, p. 83) defined metadiscourse as " Expounding on composing, whatever may not allude to the current subject " . This means that during writing there are two important levels: the first level, namely 'prepositional level' we offer data about the topic From our content. At the subsequent level, the metadiscourse level, we help our perusers to make, compose, comprehend, assess and react to these materials.

## II. A classification of Metadiscourse

The classification summarized is based upon a useful methodology that concerns metadiscourse where toolbars allude to text and peruser. Thompson (2001, p. 61) noticed that the metadiscourse, both intuitive and intelligent, are basically two of a kind". This is due to the notion that an explicit intervention to provoke a reaction can also indicate "where the text is going next, and so function interactively as well… Intuitive assets, for example, benevolence make auxiliary bonds that guide seeing, yet additionally serve significant intelligent capacities by envisioning, and conceivably misshaping, potential peruser complaints or counter cases" (Hyland ,2005, p.44). The interactional subsequently indicates the author's explicit presentation in the content while the intuitive further unnoticeably symbolizes it.

**Model of Metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005, p. 49)**

| Category | Function | Examples |
|---|---|---|
| **Interactive** | **Help to guide the reader through the text** | **Resources** |
| **Transitions** | express relations between main clauses | in addition; but; thus |
| **Frame markers** | refer to discourse acts, sequences or stages | finally; to conclude |
| **Endophoric** | refer to information in other parts of the text | noted above; see fig |
| **Evidentials** | refer to information from other texts | according to X |
| **Code glosses** | elaborate prepositional meanings | e.g; such as; namely |
| **Interactional** | **Involve the reader in the text** | **Resources** |
| **Hedges** | withhold commitment and open dialogue | might; perhaps |

| **Boosters** | emphasize certainty or close dialogue | in fact; it is clear |
| **Attitude markers** | express writer's attitude to proposition | I agree; lovely |
| **Self-mention** | explicit reference to author | I; we; my; me |
| **Engagement markers** | explicitly build relationship with reader | note; see that |

## III. Earlier Studies about Metadiscourse in Newspapers

There are plentiful studies on metadiscourse in newspapers. For instance, Kuhi and Majood (2014) examined metadiscourse genre. Based on the model of Hyland (2005), their study was  contrastive research observed 60 paper written in English and Persian picked from 10 selected papers in Iran and America. Results found that

there were some differences between two corpora of editorials which were credited to cultural backgrounds. Khopitak (2016) made a comparative metadiscoursive study

Among the English-communicating in Thai and American papers. Thirty articles are written by 30 American writers from two American newspapers, and 30 articles written by Thai writers from two newspapers, were collected to do the study. The results indicated that the metadiscursive markers of both corpora were generally similar rather than specifically different. Yazdani,  Sharifi and Elyasi (2017) compared the occurrence of the two types of metadiscourse in the U.S. and Iran newspapers about the September 11 event. The findings exposed that metadiscourse markers were current in both groups with some resemblances and differences concerning their distribution and frequency.

## IV. Methodology

The motivation behind this examination is to pinpoint which metadiscourse types rule in the paper talk. Additionally, this examination has tried to acknowledge how metadiscourse capacities as a convincing instrument in works and how such convincing is metadiscursively communicated. To do the near investigation, this examination utilized a blended strategy way to deal with think about the consistency of each kind and the sub-type in the three arrangements of information.

Ary, Jacobs and Sorensen (2010, p. 559) stated that The quest for "blended techniques" consolidates quantitative and subjective examination strategies in various manners, with each approach adding something to understanding the wonder. In the event that mixing strategies give a superior comprehension of the exploration issue than structuring one strategy, it merits contemplating". The aim of using a quantitative approach was to compare the frequency of occurring of metadiscourse markers in the selected newspapers. Statistical analysis was accomplished to scrutinize if there were noteworthy contrasts in the recurrence of the metadiscourse between the newspapers. Moreover, using a qualitative approach was to discover how these newspapers use metadiscourse for persuasion.

Three newspapers are chosen to cover the crash of the Ukrainian plane by Iran and all the articles were written and published approximately in the same period of time. The selection of newspapers is undertaken from three countries, Iran (Tehran Times), Ukraine

(Kyiv Post) and America (The New York Times). To guarantee that diachronic changes have no affection on the selected articles, only distributed in the first week after the attack were comprised in the analysis.

The principles for choosing newspapers for the three corpora were concerned primarily with the popularity of the newspaper. In Iran, the Tehran Times is an English language daily newspaper initiated in 1979 as a different -language voice of the country.

In the United States, a lot of newspapers are daily available; nevertheless, New York Times was chosen mainly because it has been internationally classified in the first fifteen newspapers in the world that has the uppermost number of web-visitors, according to Ebizmba (2012),. The selection of Ukrainian newspapers was made because it is the only newspaper printed daily in English in Ukraine.

## V. Data Analysis

The quantitative analysis indicated that the two sorts of metadiscourse markers have occurred in the selected data, however, there were some similarities and differences among the three groups concerning their distribution and frequency.

| Type | Kyiv Post | Frequency | **Tehran Times** | Frequency | New York Times | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Interactive metadiscourse | | | | | | |
| Transition | 30 | 38.9% | 42 | 52 % | 95 | 65% |
| Frame markers | 6 | 7.7% | 6 | 7.5% | 11 | 7.5% |
| Endophoric markers | 8 | 10% | 2 | 2.5% | 5 | 3.4% |
| Evidentials | 25 | 32% | 19 | 23% | 28 | 19% |
| Code glosses | 8 | 10% | 11 | 13.7% | 7 | 4.7% |
| **Total** | 77 | | 80 | | 146 | |

| Interactional metadiscourse | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hedges | 11 | 24% | 9 | 28% | 40 | 35.7% |
| Boosters | 15 | 33% | 3 | 9% | 25 | 22 % |
| Attitude markers | 7 | 15.5% | 12 | 37% | 20 | 17.8% |
| Self-mention | 6 | 13% | 5 | 15.6% | 17 | 15% |
| Engagement markers | 6 | 13% | 3 | 9% | 10 | 8.9% |
| **Total** | **45** | | **32** | | **112** | |

**Note:** the frequency of occurrence is obtained by multiplying the number of each source of markers in 100 and then divided it with the total number of the markers.

Overall, interactive markers were occupied the most in newspaper articles, compared with interactional markers, in line with AntConc test results. As for the subcategories of intelligent metadiscourse, 'Changes and Evidentials' were the most ordinary markers in the three papers. As respects the subtypes of interactional markers, 'Fences, Boosters and Attitude markers' were measurably viewed as the most happened in all arrangements of information. Moreover, (Evidentials, Hedges, Boosters and Attitude markers) were utilized in the three gatherings of news stories to show the shrouded belief system for accomplishing power.

As indicated by Williams ( as refered to in Crismore, Markkanen and Steffensen 1993), utilizing an enormous number of interactional markers would boss a progressively powerful book, the distinction of utilization in the three corpora may be attributable to the writers' decision to compose the articles grounded on their crowd and culture.

There are five sources of interactive metadiscourse which are occurred in the three sets of data. This type has to do with the writer's consciousness of the crowd and how he searches for adjusting its knowledge, interests, and rhetorical prospects. The author's objective here is to frame and control writing to react to the requirements of explicit perusers. For instance, changes assist perusers with understanding down to earth relations between steps in a contention. They should accomplish a job inside to the content rather than the outside world, helping the perusers to find joins between thoughts. This type is the most common one in the three selected newspapers.

"***However***, the embassy ***subsequently*** deleted this ***and*** released a new statement that did not offer any information about the cause of the crash"  (Ukrainian plane crashes, 2020, p. 1)

"The underlying proclamations from Iran and Ukraine were conflicting and reason

The accident stays hazy. The purported secret elements of the plane, yet Iranian can help  Authorities may not hand them over to Boeing".    (Fortin, 2020, p.1)

Evidentials, being presented a lot in the data, are metalinguistic representations including quotation or Attribution to a confided in source. In scholarly composition, he examines network messages and offers crucial help for contentions.

"22 ambulances and two ambulances for transports were dispatched to the site," Mojtaba the top of the crisis clinical administrations association, Al-Khalidi, said".

(147 Iranian, 32 foreigners killed 2020 p. 2)

 "The Islamic Republic of Iran profoundly laments this disastrous blunder.

**Hassan Rouhani stated**, while Iran turned around its cases that the mechanical disappointment was fault". (Fassihi, 2020, p. 1)

 On the other hand,  Interactional type is a component of unequivocally contentious and enticing markers (Hyland, 2005), thus, this type makes a larger share of metadiscourse resources in newspapers. In the same way, Dafouz (2003, p. 33) emphasizing the obvious persuasive nature of interactional metadiscourse, stated That the intuitive metadiscourse " Fabricates a book character that looks appealing, convincing and dependable to the peruser". Therefore, the findings expose that the American, Iranian and Ukrainian authors select interactional metadiscourse to achieve approval and solidarity with their readers to convince them.

The term 'hedge' It was first utilized by Lakoff (1972) to mean the coherent trait of certain words and states and their capacity to "make things progressively dark or less dark".  Hyland (as cited in Macintyre, 2017, p. 58) defined Fences are "gadgets that show an essayist's choice to retain full consistence with a proposition, permitting data to be introduced as a sentiment instead of an endorsed certainty."

Mr Trudeau said in a. "We understand this may have been a misstep."

Question and answer session in Ottawa. "   (Fassihi, 2020, p. 3)

"Iranian state television initially reported that the crash *might have been* caused by

 technical issues, but other news reports *suggested* Iranian forces mistakenly shot the

 plane down".  (Ukrainian plane crashes, 2020, p.1)

Concerning boosters, the analysis showed that American and Ukrainian writers used those markers more than Iranian. It is noted that those The book will in general openly uncover their sentiments than Iranian editors to convince their perusers. As per Dafouz-Milne (2008, p. 108), the utilization of fortifications "makes a feeling of solidarity with perusers when examining issues that really cause dissension."

"An individual who saw the issue affirmed that NTSB consented to partake."

(Iran argues all parties ,2020 p. 2)

Attitude metadiscourse Labels are convincing techniques planned for demonstrating compelling authors 'sentiments about substance. They are utilized in different manners to perform different capacities, for example, "shock articulations," imagining that something significant, or a waiver, difference, understanding, etc" (Crismore, Markkanen, & Steffensen 1993, p. 53).

"They were being ***completely irresponsible***," Sosnovsky said.

(Hnatyuk & Rudenko, 2020, p. 3)

"They should deliver their cruel retribution against America, not the individuals"

(Fassihi, 2020, p.1)

To sum up, metadiscourse is acknowledged here as critical to the universally useful of papers' language. It is a particular type of talk passing on the open and referential implications without which perusers may be unequipped for investigating a book and editors incapable to pick up endorsement for their work. Accordingly, metadiscourse is certifiably not a specific inquiry of style, however a path by which essayists uncover a disciplinary cognizance of how best to mean the mselves.

## VI. Conclusion

This paper has offered a quantitative and subjective investigation on the event and influential capacity of metadiscourse in the Ukrainian, Iranian and American papers.

Results indicated that authors of the three arrangements of information utilized metadiscourse in their articles. This discovering shows that journalists were really mindful of the significant job of metadiscourse markers in powerful compositions. Authors utilized metadiscourse to obviously flag article association, and convince their perusers.

In the six articles, intelligent metadiscourse was utilized more as often as possible than interactional markers. Results displayed that the region of change markers, among sub-class of intelligent assets, was the most over and over utilized markers in three arrangements of papers. The second basic intuitive asset was evidential. This sort was for the most part used to cite from the government officials' discourses and in this way prompting more influence.

As to most regular subclass of interactional metadiscourse, results uncovered that fence, supporters and demeanor markers were the most incessant methodologies in the information. As expressed by Hyland (2005), mentality markers offer an open door for writers to sign a thought of basic perspectives and responses to the material. Thusly, these gadgets help essayists in accomplishing their principle points in powerful works.

Concerning the subjective examination, results uncovered that authors will in general convince their perusers through utilizing various wellsprings of metadiscourse markers. For instance, evidentials, which manage the peruser's understanding and make an authorial order of the subject, have been utilized generally to guarantee a solid hotspots for the data introduced in the articles. Then again, utilizing sponsors, which backing and contention by focusing on the requirement

for the perusers to arrive at resolution and close down plausible other option, have affective influences upon the readers. Writers tend to use this strategy to denote the faithfulness of the story.

### References

1. Ädel, A. (2006). Metadiscourse in L1 and L2 English. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2. Ary, D., Jacobs, L.,& Sorensen, C.(2010) Introduction to research in education.
   Wadsworth, Cengage Learning USA.

3. Brown, G. and Yule, G. (1983) Discourse Analysis. Cambridge: CUP

4. Crismore, A. (1983) Metadiscourse: What is it and How is it Used in School and Non -school Social Science Texts. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois

5. Crismore, A., Markkanen, R., & Steffensen, M. (1993). Metadiscourse in persuasive writing: A study of texts written by American and Finnish university students. Written Communication. 10, 39-71

6. Dafouz- Milne E. (2003). Metadiscourse Revisited: a contrastive study of persuasive writing in professional discourse. Estudios Ingleses de la Universidad Complutense.

7. Dafouz-Milne, E. (2008) The pragmatic role of textual and interpersonal metadiscourse markers in the construction and attainment of persuasion: A cross-linguistic study of newspaper discourse. Journal of Pragmatics 40(1), 95-113

8. Ebizmba (2012) Top 15 Most Popular News Websites. Retrieved: Apr 22, 2012, from http://www.ebizmba.com/articles/news-websites

9. Fassihi, F. (10Jan. 2020) Iran says it unintentionally shot down Ukrainian airliner. The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/10/world/middleeast/missile-iran-        plane-crash.html

10. Fortin, J. (8 Jan. 2020) The Ukrainian plane crash in Iran: Black boxes and other questions. The New York Times https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/08/world/middleeast/boeing-plane-crash.html

11. Harris, Z. S. (1959). The transformational model of language structure. Anthropological Linguistics, 27-29. Retrieved from https://www.jstor.org/stable/30022172?seq=1#fndtnpage_scan_tab_contents

12. Hnatyuk, V.& Rudenko, O.(11Jan. 2020) Ukraine international airlines: PS 752 crew did everthing right, Tehran airport didn't warn of danger. Kyiv Post.

13. https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/ukraine-international-airlines-ps752-crew-  did-everything-right-tehran-airport-didnt-warn-of-danger.html

14. Hyland, K. (1998) Persuasion and context. The pragmatics of academic discourse.
    Journal of Pragmatics. 30(4) 437–455

15. Hyland, K.(2005) Metadiscourse: Exploring interaction in writing. London: British

16. Library

17. Iran urgues all parties involved to contribute to Ukrainian plane crash probe.(10 Jan.
    2020) Tehran Times. http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/443972/Iran-urges-all-parties-involved-to-contribute-to-Ukrainian-plane

18. 147 Iranian, 32 foreigners killed as Ukrainian plane crashes near Tehran. (8 Jan. 2020)

Tehran Times. http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/443922/147-Iranians-32-foreigners-killed-as-Ukrainian-plane-crashes

19. Khopitak, A. (2015)  Metadiscourse in newspaper opinion articles: a comparative study between american and thai english-language newspapers. (unpublished master thesis) Thammasat university.

20. Kuhi, D., & Mojood, M. (2014) Metadiscourse in Newspaper Genre: a Cross-linguistic Study of English and Persian Editorials. Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences 1046 – 1055. doi: 10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.03.515

21. Lakoff, G. (1972). Hedges: a study in meaning criteria and the logic of fuzzy concepts. The 8th Regional Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society: 183-228

22. Lautamatti, L. (1978) Observations on the development of the topic in simplified discourse. In  Kohonen, V. and Enkvist , N.,E.(eds), Text Linguistics, Cognitive Learning, and Language Teaching. Turku: University of Turku Publications, 71-104

23. MacIntyre, R (2017) Should I boost or should I hedge: the use of hedges and boosters in the writing of argumentative essays  by Japanese university student. In Hatipoglu, C., Akbas , E. & Yasemin Bayyurt, Y. (eds) Metadiscourse in written genres: Uncovering textual and  interactional aspects of texts. (pp. 57-83) CPI books GmbH, Leck

24. Meyer, B. (1975) The organization of prose and its effect on memory. Amsterdam: North-Holland

25. Thompson, G. (2001). Interaction in academic writing: Learning to argue with the reader. Applied Linguistics. 22(1), 58-78

26. Ukrainian plane crashes in Iran, killing 176 people, including 11 Ukrainians.(8 Jan. 2020). Kyiv Post. https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/ukraine-airlines-plane-crash-iran.html

27. Vande Kopple, W. J. (1985). Some exploratory discourse on metadiscourse. College Composition and Communication. 36. 82-93

28. Williams, J. (1981) Style: ten lessons in clarity and grace. Boston: Scott Foresman

29. Yazdani, s. , Sharifi, S. &Elyasi, M. (2017) A Comparative Study of Metadiscourse Markers in English and Persian News Reports about the September 11 Event. Journal of Linguistics & Khorasan Dialects Biannual. 8( 2)  7-10