THE SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND THE PLACE OF THE PARTICIPLE IN NEWS SENTENCES OF BALKAN NEWSPAPERS

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Abstract

The aim of the study is analyse the writings of online newspapers of the Western Balkans in Albanian language and the two Slavic languages, Serbian and Macedonian from the perspective of the De Beaugrande and Dresler theories (1981) about textuality standards. We analysed the structure sentence used during reporting on the Russia-Ukraine war, then we compared it with the English language. Sentence structure is what gives meaning to the message being conveyed, Galtung and Ruge 1965 defined a type of journalism, distinguished as war/peace journalism. Using this combination of coherence reasoning theories and war/peace journalism theory, through sentence structure we have proven that war/peace reporting is done with inconsistent coherence. This makes the information in these reports presented positioned towards to their subjectivity, based on the rules that emerge from the norm of the language of the people where that media operates. Through the partial engineering method and Yin's disassembly (1981), we proved that the narrative associated with the information, which makes up the news, differs in a way because in Serbian and Macedonian the reflexive adjective "se" in Serbian after the verb and in Macedonian before the verb, which in Albanian performs the function of the participle "u" and which is not used in the narration of the news, because it would change the mode of narration from active to passive and reflexive.

Keywords: Textuality, Structure, Participle, Journalism, Reflexive Adjective.

1. INTRODUCTION

Journalists are constantly committed to using language to inform about life events (Danesi, 2004). Without forgetting the contribution that Ferdinand de Saussure gave to semiotic theory and practice, it is the analysis of all modelled communication systems, both linguistic and non-linguistic (Sosyr, 1977; Harvey, 2023) that produces sentences and information. In the semiotic sense, sentences assume the function of communicating with others. In the Balkan countries, and especially in socialist countries, such as the former Yugoslavia and Albania, an effort has been made to research the structure and function of all types of journalistic texts (van Dijk, 1977; van Dijk, 1985; van Dijk, 1995; Werlich, 1983) in order to enable journalists to reflect the frameworks and purposes of specific acts related to the performance of journalistic writing. In this aspect, generations of journalists honed their skills to produce the best and most powerful articles, both linguistically and from the point of view of the politics of the socialist system. This type of research had a normative aim for the linguistic and narrative conditions of successful journalistic communication as well as for the mechanisms and structures that make journalistic texts understandable and reliable. (Waughan, 2005) To make further contributions to the theoretical framework of these approaches and to strengthen their empirical foundations, we systematically analysed a sample of 100 news articles published during the period February-October 2022, in ten Balkan online media Western. The focus of the analysis is sentence structure and the use of the participle, namely the reflexive

adjective, as one of the linguistic rules that affect the structure and semantics of the sentence. This research is done in the articles published during reporting on the Russia-Ukraine war. As understood from the previous sentence, the question was not what types of news were chosen to be presented, but how they were actually written and how words and facts were arranged. The new contribution of this paper is that it responds to the call to examine more closely the structure sentence of news reports about the war, based Galtung and Rouge, (1965) which investigate to what extent news and report genres differ. The results are comparable and also across media that differ in political leanings, to assess the generalizability of the findings. Our findings test the extent to which the concept of news and reportage is within genre-level frameworks and is a valid analytical tool for identifying and describing differences in news coverage between genres in general, and between war news and regular ones in particular. This study aims to complement a medial perspective on trial justification by investigating a linguistic construction of a research gap in war journalism reporting published in top newspapers of the Western Balkans. Therefore, in the section of the literature review, the concepts of previous researchers about war journalism, semiotics, and linguistic problems, in general, have been addressed. In the results section, some examples that are taken, present radical changes in the sentence structure of the three Balkan languages, Albanian, Serbian, and Macedonian, and have also been compared to English. In the discussion section, these changes are discussed, always based on the theoretical part. Our findings prove that there are big differences both in the structure and the meaning of the sentence when we place the participle in the same place, namely the reflexive adjective, which plays a noticeable role in the meaning of the sentence, respectively in the arrangement of words and facts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Approaches to written texts can generally be found within the philosophy of language and the study of literature, which refer to these sources (Austin, 1962; Genette, 1972; Genette, 1988; Searle, 1970; Searle, 1971). Information from spheres such as war, according to AlFarraj (2021) is seen as a component of the credibility of the source, in order to buy the audience, but also, in this case, the sign and the language used (Zulita, & Muthalib, 2020; Felicia, 2021) during the information from the wars is what increases the attractiveness and affects the reading of the electronic media as well as the clicks, always keeping in mind that the coherence remains throughout the discourse in the text (De Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981). Because, as De Beaugrande claims, the standards of textuality are what make a text, and any fall in one of the seven standards of textuality loses the quality of being a text. (De Beaugrande, 1990; De Beaugrande, 1991; De Beaugrande, 1997) And when this is added to the style of writing or the style of speaking (Gee, 1999; Genette, 1972; Genette, 1988; van Dijk, 1972; De Beaugrande, 1984) the type of narration (Wenden, 1999) then, notions and facts are easily grasped (De Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981) Considering the theories about the connection between words and sentences, then it means that coherence does not mean only the sequence of words or sentences, but also the connection between them. Then, the text really takes the right form as well as the full meaning to become readable. In fact, when there is an order of words and order of facts (Rugova, 2009) which means logical reasoning of the judgment, then the text is understandable and the information is captured. This implies the coherence of the text. Through coherence, the sentence as the smallest unit of communication acquires its own flow

and proper comprehensibility, and the information is understood by the reader. It is understood because the writer while arranging the words and effects, has made a narrative in the text. The narrative of the sentence is the way of telling or giving direction to the text. As such, the narrative has been addressed before and different opinions and theories have been given, (Gee, 1999; Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002). (Miles & Saldana, 2014) This paper examines the structure of the text, relying on coherence as one of the standards of textuality (De Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981) in journalism texts. The basic principles of journalism are somewhat unified globally, but can often be challenged in contexts of certain that are influenced by political, social, and economic aspects, etc. (Deuze, 2002; Hanitzsch et al., 2019; Zelizer, 2005). Therefore, even journalism practiced at any time, be it wartime or peacetime, is challenged by the political factor (Deuze, 2002), but the linguistic aspect or that of narration should not be overlooked either. Because the order of words in sentences or the order of words and facts (van Dijk, 1985; Rugova, 2009) which implies coherence, plays a special role in reporting the news. The researchers' concern is society's right to be informed in the wake of the concentration of the media and its dominance over current practices, (Villanueva, 2009) and from this aspect, it seems that journalism is still not freed from these social factors that they are also political and linguistic. The newspaper industry's ongoing struggle with declining readership has raised important questions about newspapers' potential to survive. So, in 2009, Phillip Meyer predicted a quick end to newspapers, and then seemed to backtrack on that prediction. He gave a deadline for the viability of print newspapers to 2043 or 2044, (Meyer, 2009) but recently warned that he was no longer predicting the end of print newspapers so much as observing a trend that may continue. Although among the elderly, reading printed newspapers is easier and more understandable, (Bakker, Deurloo, & Kok, 2011; Felicia, 2021) reminds us that newspaper websites are important because they are the only media that focus primarily on news. Therefore, journalists need more reporting independence. (Fowler, & Allan, 2013) In a such current world, the importance of information is very great, and information is familiarity with events and current events. Knightley (2000), makes an identification or tilt to one side or the other, applying, among other things, attractiveness, adds Wiedman, (2021). So, whether we want to admit it or not, even during information there is a bias and an attractiveness. This bias has a distraction towards reality and is done through the play of words that also affect the structure, narrative, and informativeness of the news. While Bell emphasizes a connection between language and situation (Bell, 1991) however, writing a text differs from speaking because the text will be written in the standard language. Meanwhile, van Dijk puts more emphasis on the connection of words, because a text can only be cohesive through connection, he emphasizes. (van Dijk,1985) And for Beaugrande, the text will not make sense if it had no knowledge of the presented text. (De Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981).

3. METHODS

The object of this research was the structure sentence of the news in online newspapers of the Western Balkans, comparing the wording of the sentence and the placement of the facts and the place of participle of the news. The research is based on the descriptive qualitative method and the technique of documenting data collected from online sources. The first step was to read the news from online media of the Western Balkans websites. The second step was the selection of that news for the analysis of the structure, and the placement of the facts and the place of participle

of the news. Third, by analysing the sentences, the rules of news language were interpreted. A checklist served as the main research tool. The researchers recorded the news they found in the online newspapers, using note-taking sheets. The data were then analysed based on the grammar of the languages of the written news. Using Yin's (2011) disassembly technique and piecemeal engineering method, we disassembled and then reassembled the words in the sentences piece by piece, and analysed and interpreted those words in the sentences. In the results, were written all the findings for the meaning of the structure sentence in the online media of the Western Balkans and comparing among themselves. In the discussion part, we discussed the commonalities and differences between the languages of the Western Balkans of the two Slavic people, Serbian and Macedonian, and of the Albanian people, and then we compared these languages with the English language. The last step was the conclusion, in which the researchers concluded the findings.

4. RESULTS

The writings of the online media in the Albanian language in Kosovo, bring different news about the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. On February 24, 2022, Telegraf.com newspaper publishes the article entitled:

"Dje çlirimtarë, sot pushtues ("Yesterday liberators, today invaders") in one of the sentences, among other things, it is said:

Albanian: "Në Samitin e 3 e 4 prillit, në Bukuresht, ai kundërshtoi vendimin e NATO-s".

Object + complement (time) + Object + Pronoun + Verb + Object: In numbers it would be like this:1=Object; 2=complement (time); 3= Pronoun; 4=Verb;

According to the order in Albanian, the structure of the sentence looks like this: 1 + 2 + 1 + 3 + 4 + 1

Serbian: "On se na Samitu 3. i 4 aprila u Bukureštu usprotivio odluci NATO-a".

As seen in Serbian, in addition to those parts that are in Albanian, there is also a reflexive adjective. We will abbreviate this reflexive adjective MR. The structure of the sentence in Serbian looks like this: Pronoun + Reflective Adjective + Object + Complement + Object + verb...

If we put this order in Serbian with numbers, then it goes like this: 3 + MR + 1 + 2+ 1 + 4;

While in Macedonian it does like this:

Macedonian: "Na Samitot na 3 i 4 april vo Bukurešt toj se sprotivstavi na odlukata na NATO".

1 + 2 +1 + 3 + 4 +1;

English: "At the Summit of April 3 and 4, in Bucharest, he opposed NATO's decision."

1 + 2 + 1 + 3 + 4+1;

As can be seen from this example, the sentence in the three languages has a different structure, while it has the same meaning. Thus, in Albanian, Macedonian, and English sentences, the sentence begins with an object, while in the Serbian sentence, it begins with the subject (On). But, unlike the Albanian and English languages, in the

Macedonian and Serbian languages, there is a reflexive adjective. The reflexive adjective "se" in Macedonian, as always, is placed before the verb "sprotivstavi-kundërshtoi", in Serbian, while in Serbian, this adjective does not stand after the verb, but has changed function and appears as a determiner after the pronoun "On". As can be seen in the marked sentence, it is placed immediately after the subject-pronoun "On" or "On se" while the verb "sprotivio" has received a "u" in front and has given the correct meaning (usprotivio) to the sentence, so it does not "usportivio se" as it should do, but it does not have the reflexive adjective, because, in this case, it has the function of the determiner. In the Serbian language, this happens because the sentence has the pronoun "On-Ai-He" which means when written: Noun or pronoun, then the reflexive adjective loses the functionality of being a reflexive adjective and takes the function of the determiner.

Meanwhile, when there is an adverb of time before the verb, this reflexive adjective, both in Serbian and Macedonian, is placed after the adverb, but before the verb. This example can be seen in the news titled:

"Ukraine needs more help" in the sentence:

Albanian: "NATO-ja, pas hapave të mefshtë të fillimit, sipas Jens Stoltenberg, Sekretar i Përgjithshëm i kësaj Aleance, në fjalën e djeshme në Bruksel, tani duket një realitet i ri i sigurisë dhe mbështetja e saj të trupëzohet në më tepër furnizime luftarake, mbrojtje kibernetike, meqë nuk mund të dërgohen trupa"

In Serbian: Nakon sporih koraka NATO-a početka, prema rečima Jensa Stoltenberga, generalnog sekretara ove alijanse, u jučerašnjem govoru u Briselu, <u>sada se</u> pojavljuje kao nova bezbednosna realnost i njegova podrška je oličena u više vojnih zaliha, odbrambenom sajberu, pošto nikakve trupe ne mogu slati.

In Macedonian: "Po bavnite čekori na početokot, spored Jens Stoltenberg, generalen sekretar na ovaa Alijansa, vo včerašniot govor vo Brisel, <u>sega se</u> pojavuva nova bezbednosna realnost i negovata poddrška e otelotvorena vo poveke voeni zalihi, odbranben sajber, bidejḱi nitu edna vojska ne može bidat isprateni".

English: "NATO, after the secret steps of the beginning, according to Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of this Alliance, in yesterday's speech in Brussels, now appears a new security reality, and its support is embodied in more combat supplies, cyber defence since no troops can be sent in"

Macedonian newspapers also informed their public about the newest events happening in the world, and among them was the article with the title:

"Се огласи Путин, прва изјава по нападот на Украина: Она што се случи е присилна мерка" that when translated into Albanian is:

"Putin u shfaq, deklarata e parë e tij pas sulmit mbi Ukrainën: Ajo që ndodhi ishte e imponueshme"

While in Serbian is:

"Oglasio se Putin, përva njegova izjava posle napada u Ukraini: Ono sto se dogodilo, bilo je neizbezno"

In English is:

"Putin appeared, his first statement after the attack on Ukraine: What happened was imposing"

But the arrangement of words and facts differs radically from Albanian, English, and Serbian.

"Се огласи Путин, прва изјава по нападот на Украина: Она што се случи е присилна мерка" This sentence in the Macedonian language has a conjunction "se" before the verb - the action, and that in the Serbian language this "se" is placed after the verb "oglasio se" and in the Albanian language if we were to place this conjunction, it would be "u" and that is placed before the verb in the passive, "u deklarua" and that in Albanian wouldn't make sense. In Albanian it should be written "Deklaroi" which would be in the active voice, not in the passive as it is formulated in the Macedonian language, while in English it would be "declared" and not as in Macedonian "it was declared" because this way of wording would not be correctly pronounced nor written in English. Therefore, seeing this small difference, it can be said that Macedonian and Serbian have the conjunction "se" which in Macedonian is placed before the verb, while in Serbian after the verb, and in Albanian in this case "u" is not placed because it appears in the past tense nor in English, but the narrative and informativeness remains clear.

In an article published by Blic.rs of Belgrade in the Serbian language on February 24, 2022, with the title: "Ako milošević nije stao zbog sankcija, što bi Putin?" (If Milosevic hadn't stopped because of sanctions, why would Putin?)

Among others, there is this informative sentence, which in journalism is informative, because it contains the main information:

In Serbian: "Totalni napad Rusije na Ukrajinu je očekivan"

In Albanian: "Sulmi masiv i Rusisë në Ukrainë i pritur"

In Macedonian: "Totalen napad na Rusija vrz Ukraina e očekuvan"

In English: "Russia's massive attack on Ukraine expected"

The sentence in Serbian is written correctly, which differs from the Albanian language because in the Albanian language, the noun is firstly placed, then the determiner. In Serbian and English, it is the opposite. The determiner is set first, then the name. The sentence has the same narrative but does not have the same structure. Otherwise, in the Serbian language, this sentence could also be formulated like this:

"Očekivan je totalni napad Rusije na Ukrainu"

Macedonian: "Totalen napad na Rusija vrz Ukraina očekuvan" which is the same structure as in Serbian but instead of "je", in Macedonian is "e" and "na" which is not applicable in Serbian, in Macedonian has the role of determiner.

And in Albanian: "Pritet sulmi masiv i Rusisë ndaj Ukrainës" lacks "është-be" that Serbian and Macedonian have as: "je-be" specifically "e-be" in the third person, since when translated, it has the meaning of the auxiliary verb "be" ("jam") in the third person.

English: "Russia's massive attack on Ukraine is expected"

This sentence with these words arranged in this way has a structure that suits the Serbian language, but not the Albanian and English languages. Because, in the Serbian language, the verb group can also be placed before the noun group. The narrative of this news, including the title of the news, as can be seen, is warmongering.

5. DISCUSSION

Kosovo, Serbia, and Macedonia are three countries of the Western Balkans that were once in a state called: Yugoslavia. While Kosovo was a province, Serbia and Macedonia were republics in that state that no longer exists. Although they were part of one country, their peoples and languages differ from each other. Albanians are considered descendants of Illyrians and have the Albanian language, Serbs and Macedonians are Slavic peoples and have the Serbian and Macedonian languages. Until the depravity of Yugoslavia came because of the impatience of the people who lived there. The last to declare its independence was Kosovo, where 95% of the population is Albanian. As a written language, the Albanian language is among the newest and its Latin alphabet dates back to 1908, while the standardization was done in November 1972 in a Language Spelling Congress that was held in Tirana. While the Serbian and Macedonian languages were official languages in the former Yugoslavia, the Albanian language was used only in the municipalities where Albanians lived. In this aspect, the possibility of developing languages was not the same. The differences are great both in pronunciation and in writing. This difference can be observed in the storytelling (Werlich, 1983) in semiotics, in the structure (Sosyr, 1977), and in the arrangement of words (De Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981) and facts in sentences (van Dijk, 1985; Rugova, 2009). Based on the studies of various linguists who have dealt with narrative and structure, (Sosyr, 1977; De Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981; van Dijk, 1972; Waugan, 2005) the intention of the narrative should be in coordination with the conditions and with the linguistic norm and not to overcome the normative rules that have been adapted to the linguistic conditions.

While the narrative of successful journalistic communication, as well as the mechanisms and structures that make journalism texts, should be clear and understandable, and reliable for the public. Therefore, relying on these theories, the sentences in this news generally adhere to the required criteria, except in special cases, when they are not applied or are applied incorrectly and not in the right place. As for the subjectivity and objectivity of the narrative, there is a marked objectivity in the narrative of these examples. (Kovach, 2007) by reading the news of these newspapers we see the forms of narration and their informativeness. That all narrations have an informative and objective character (Werlich, 1983; Kovach, 2007) This implies that the languages of these peoples, although neighboring Slavs and Albanians, still have great differences. But, even in the languages of the two Slavic people: Serbian and Macedonian, there is a difference in both structure and narrative. As for informativeness, there is a difference. While in the Albanian and in the English language, the subject is placed first and then the action, (the subject then the predicate or the noun group then the verb group) in the Serbian and Macedonian languages this informativeness is earlier, as far as the action is concerned, because the verb group can be placed before the noun group.

Macedonian structure is: Reflexive adjective + verb (<u>Se</u> + podgotvuva)

Serbian: Verb + reflexive adjective (Sprema + <u>se)</u>

Albanian: Verb – without reflexive adjective (Përgatitet)

English: Verb – reflexive adjective (Is <u>prepared</u>)

In Serbian, and Macedonian if we remove "se" the verb loses its meaning whereas in English it changes its meaning. In Serbian, if we use only "sprema" without "se", it implies the third person "prepares lunch". Who? He/She. And when it is said "sprema se" or "podgotvuva se" we say "it is being prepared... let's say a plan..." or a plan is being prepared".

6. CONCLUSION

The authors come to the conclusion that the news in the newspapers of the Western Balkans, namely the Slavic and Albanian languages, have differences both in speaking and in writing which implies, they differ in the structure of the sentence, narrative, and informativeness. Despite the fact that these people have been living in the neighbourhood for centuries, they have created their own language norms and rules. Since newspapers are part of a community ethnicity, they also have a culture of telling different stories. In fact, based on the research of linguists who have studied the structure of narratives and informativeness, (Sosyr, 1977; De Beaugrande and Dressler 1981; Kovach, 2007), etc., in online newspapers in the Albanian language, the sentences are presented with other characteristics from Slavic languages, which are characteristics derived from the norm of the Albanian language. The use of the noun group before the verb group makes the first difference between these three languages. The other difference is in the placement of the conjunction "se" in Serbian and Macedonian, which in Albanian is "u". This "u" performs the function of the participle that is placed before passive and reflexive verbs to build the forms of the past simple tense, the optative mode, and gerundive the infinitive. But, as "se" in Slavic languages (in Serbian it is considered as a reflexive adjective and is placed after the verb, and in Macedonian before the verb and reinforces the action of the verb) in the Albanian language this participle is not used, because it would change the way: from active to the passive. These are the shades of difference in the language used by these people in their newspapers. Thus, the use of expressions, words, and facts in the Albanian language is based on its norm and the rules that emerge from that norm. The same happens with the writing of the Serbian and Macedonian languages. But, while in Albanian it is a rule that the noun group is placed before the verb group, and if the participle "u" was used, it would change the way, in English is also the same but in the other two languages, the sentence can also start with the verb group and that would not be considered a break of grammatical rules, nor a violation of the linguistic norm, and the reflexive adjective "se" is also used because the sentence does not lose its meaning and the informativeness is complete. We recommend that other researchers conduct more studies about the structure, narrative, informativeness, and semiotic signs that use the online media of these people of the Western Balkans, especially those related to the aspects of further understanding of their relationship and identity and diversity of these Balkan languages.

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