News Analysis: A Case Study of the Thematic Structure of News Texts in National Iranian and American diaries

Abstract- The objective of this article is to illustrate the structures of some national and international news in the press. Using discourse analysis of the processes and structures of news reports by van Dijk (1988) as a framework, this study refers to an examination and determination of the thematic structure of news texts in Iran and United States’ press based on a case study of reporting of U.S. and Russia's deal on Syria’s chemical weapons. This study investigates whether newspapers from different countries and regions of the world and produced in different political and ideological contexts provide equally variable types of description of such a world event. We hope that the answer to this and other related questions may help us gain a better understanding of the debate over the perceived imbalance in international news sources, topics, and distribution.

Key words- Thematic structure, news texts, national and international news sources, discourse analysis

Introduction

News reports on TV or in the press constitute a particular type of discourse though this is the most obvious properties of media news which is ignored or neglected in both traditional and more recent approaches to media reporting. Media discourses and especially news reports should also be accounted for as particular types of language use or sociocultural practice. This entails that such discourses should be analyzed in relation to their structures at various levels which are not limited to the grammatical descriptions by structural or generative linguistics in their analysis of phonological, morphological, syntactic, or semantic structures of isolated words, word groups, or sentences. Discourses analysis should also encompass more complex, higher-level properties, such as overall topics, coherence relations, and schematic forms and stylistic and rhetorical dimensions.

In this way, media discourses receive an integrated account of their general organization as well as their more distinctive organization and consequently, we are able to describe the structures of headlines and leads of reports in the press, as well as the ordering, and thematic organization of media stories. In this article we are going to investigate whether national culture influences the thematic structure of news texts. The objective of this article is to find out whether certain culture and context play a role in the choice of the topics and their order. The analysis will be performed with the use of discourse analysis tools proposed by van Dijk in his study of international and national news in the press (1988).

The selected texts were the first articles to cover the subject U.S. and Russia's deal on Syria’s chemical weapons; they were published on the same day – September 15, 2013. The selection of these four dailies, Iran Daily, Tehran Times, Wall Street Journal and USA Today, was dictated by the similarity of their readership profile and the fact that these are among the three top daily newspapers in the United States reported by using their circulation in September 2013 (Myers, 2013). Iran Daily and Tehran Times are the two most important dailies in English in Iran.

Theoretical background and research methods
Apparently, our analytical approach to news discourse is not independent of insights obtained in other work on news discourse. The late 1970s have witnessed a rapidly increasing interest for the production, contents and organization of news in the media.

Some approaches to the news are restricted to the professional dimensions of news production by journalists (e.g. Tunstall, 1971; Boyd-Barret, 1980), or are concerned with the economic and ideological aspects of news production and newspapers (e.g. Curran, 1978; Gurevitch, et al., 1982). Though certainly important, they rarely show how exactly social and ideological aspects constraint work in the actual production process.

Still some other work was carried out in the level of concrete organization of news production (Roshco, 1975; Gans, 1979; Schlesinger, 1978, Golding & Elliott (1979). These studies pay attention to the everyday routines, the division of labor, the hierarchical relationships, and institutional constraints. Of a different perspective is the work by Kintsch and Greene (1978) who study the role of cultural context. They proved that the superstructure schema of a given culture facilitates the comprehension of stories. Later work was carried out by Zieba (2013) who examined the relationship between the thematic structure of news texts and the context of national culture in which they were produced.

Much work in the analysis of news discourse has been anecdotal or only quantitative (Richstad & Anderson, 1981; Atwood et al., 1982). Thorough qualitative studies of the contents and structures of news items have not yet been carried out. Yet comprehensive analyses are necessary to study not only what but also how the world press covers events in different countries. We, therefore, analyzed the international news coverage of one an event, namely, U.S. and Russia's deal on Syria’s chemical weapons.

In the present study, instead of methods used in CDA, we merely focus on the analysis of the thematic structure of the news items. The structure is defined as “the hierarchical organization of themes or topics of a text, theoretically accounted for in terms of semantic macrostructures” (van Dijk 1988, p. 72). The analytical procedure of this study is based on van Dijk’s analysis of international and national news in the press (1988).

van Dijk was among the first scholars who regards news as a special kind of discourse and has rigorously studied the structures and processes of news discourses (1984, 1984, 1986, 1987a, 1987b). He was the first scholar who proposed an analytical framework for the structures of news discourse in the press. He was mainly dealing only with news structures beyond the sentence level, such as thematic and schematic structures, and ignored syntactic, semantic, stylistic or rhetorical features of sentences.

Based on van Dijk’s analysis, we start our analysis with a list of the most important topics in each news item to be able to “determine the themes in each news discourse and to establish their conditional (linear) and hierarchical relationships and their semantic specification in the text” (van Dijk 1988, p. 73). As the next step, we discuss the headlines of the studied texts, identify topics mentioned in the texts and associate them with hypothetical semantic functions (van Dijk 1988, p. 76). Then, we organize the topics into hierarchical thematic structures presented in a form of a tree diagram and compare them.

**Analysis of the thematic structure of news texts**
The most important themes in the story of U.S. - Russia agreement on plan on Syrian chemical weapons are:

1. U.S. and Russia in talks spanning three days reached agreement on Saturday.
2. Kerry and Sergei Lavrov announced this agreement at a joint press conference.
3. This agreement is on the elimination of Syria’s chemical weapons by the middle of next year.
4. This agreement gave Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad a week to hand over the details and location of his government’s stockpile.
5. Russia strongly opposed to the use of military threats
6. The U.N. inspectors must be on the ground no later than November.
7. Assad regime should live up to the agreement and there is no room for avoidance of anything less than full compliance by the Assad regime.
8. If Syria did not comply with the agreement, it would face consequences under Chapter 7 of the U.N.

Like the texts analyzed by van Dijk (1988), the articles are focused not only on the main events, but also on the context or the background of the events. Prior to a detailed thematic analysis of the articles, we focus our attention on the headlines.

In Iran Daily, there is just one capitalized headline Russia, US Agree On Syria Weapons Plan. Likewise, in Tehran Times, the headline runs as U.S., Russia reach deal on Syria’s chemical weapons, not capitalized. However, in Wall Street Journal, apart from the main headline U.S., Russia Agree on Plan on Syrian Chemical Weapons, capitalized, there is one subheading placed below the headline: Target Is for Damascus to Destroy Stockpiles by Early 2014. Similarly, in USA Today, below the headline U.S., Russia cut deal on Syria's chemical weapons, not capitalized, there is a subheading Secretary of State John Kerry said any violations will result in "measures" from the U.N. Security Council.

In the case of two important subjects being covered by a news item, a single headline only express the most recent or the most important one. However, secondary headlines or subheadings above or below the main headline usually express important causes or consequences.

From the thematic structure, the headline expresses only one topic. Yet, other important topics are mentioned in the lead. In all the news items discussed, the leads as graphically distinguished but not bold typed are as follows:

Iran Daily: The United States and Russia on Saturday agreed on an ambitious plan to eliminate Syria’s chemical weapons by the middle of next year.

Tehran Times: The United States and Russia reached agreement Saturday on a framework to secure Syria's chemical weapons after days of intense negotiations in Geneva.

Wall Street Journal : GENEVA—The U.S. and Russia agreed Saturday on a broad framework for destroying Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons by the first half of next year.

USA Today: The U.S. and Russia announced an agreement Saturday aimed at setting a timetable for destruction of Syria's chemical weapons and averting a proposed U.S. military strike against the war-torn Middle Eastern nation.

Let us try to examine themes (or topics) in the news items, and their hierarchical organization in the news discourse. The realization of a thematic structure of a text depends on certain semantic categories such as main events, circumstances, time, place, results and consequences, participants, causes, context of the story, history and other details (van Dijk, 1988).
Following the research method described by van Dijk (1988) and Zieba (2013), taking each paragraph as a thematic unit and starting with the second paragraph, the following themes are identified as the lower level topics of each news items. The lists of topics in the Tables are not representing the thematic structures of the texts. However, they are a significant source of information on the order of occurrence of individual topics.

Table 1. Topics and topic categories in the thematic structure of the article published in Iran Daily (September 15, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Topic category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>In their three days’ talks, the two parties gave a week for Syria to hand over the details and location of the government’s stockpile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a</td>
<td>Mr. Kerry said Syrian government must provide immediate access to the inspectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Kerry told reporters the details of the agreed steps regarding the presence of the inspectors till November and the establishment of the by next year. He emphasized on the full compliance by the Assad regime and encapsulating the steps in a UN Security Council resolution drawn up under Chapter Seven, which provides for enforcement through sanctions and military actions. He also echoed a warning from President Obama that military action by the US and its allies remained an option if diplomacy fails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td>Having acknowledged Russia’s opposition to the use of military action, Kerry suggested no obvious decisions in the event of non-compliance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5a</td>
<td>Lavrov indicated that Security Council would act in the case of non-compliance signaling that Moscow would agree with some form of sanction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a</td>
<td>Kerry also acknowledged that Syria’s civil war resulting in more than 110,000 deaths could only be ended through negotiations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7a</td>
<td>Kerry said there is no military solution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a</td>
<td>Lavrov hailed this agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9a</td>
<td>Lavrov said that the aim of controlling Syria’s chemical weapons was set in a conversation between the presidents on September 5 on the sidelines of the G20.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10a</td>
<td>Russia’s surprise suggestion prompted Obama to put on hold military strikes by the United States and France in response to chemical attack which Washington claims carried out by Syrian government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11a</td>
<td>France on Saturday welcomed the Geneva deal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12a</td>
<td>The United States has estimated Syria chemical agents as being around 1,000 metric tons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13a</td>
<td>Although The Russian estimations were much lower, Kerry said the two countries had reconciled their assessments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14a Kerry said it is possible to locate the weapons in spite of the unrest in Syria.

15a Kerry and Lavrov will meet again in New York to set a date for the peace conference.

16a Kerry will fly to Israel to brief Benjamin Netanyahu.

17a He will then travel to Paris to meet French Foreign Minister and British Foreign Secretary and the Saudi Foreign Minister.

1b The two sides' agreement on the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons prevented the possibility of U.S. military action.

2b Kerry and Lavrov announced the agreement after three days of talks in Geneva.

3b Kerry said that Syria must submit the list of its chemical weapons stockpiles within one week.

4b He told in the conference that U.N. inspectors must be on the ground no later than November to complete destruction of Syria's chemical weapons by the middle of 2014.

5b Kerry said that in the case of non-compliance, Syria would face consequences under Chapter 7 which allows sanctions and military action.

6b Kerry said that there was no agreement on the measures in the event of non-compliance but President Obama reserves the right to use military force.

7b Lavrov said that there was nothing said about the use of force.

8b Selim Idris said that although the rebels do not agree with the deal, they would cooperate with international inspectors.

9b But another military council official said that they reject the deal and would not protect the inspectors.

10b The US-Russia deal could lead to ending the civil war in Syria in which more than 100,000 people have been killed, and millions have fled to other countries.
The agreed steps will be codified in a U.N. Security Council resolution that does not include any threat of military action. Although the U.S., France and Western allies had favored using force for noncompliance, Moscow’s opposition forced Obama to avoid U.S. military action.

The first U.N. resolution consists of inspection and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. The second resolution in case of non-compliance allows for the use of force under a U.N. rules.

Russia's opposition to force will prevent any military penalties, while U.S. and its allies sill have the right for military strikes.

President Obama welcomed this agreement but he also insisted that if Syria did not comply, the U.S. could respond militarily.

Mr. Obama said this agreement could end the threat of weapons to the Syrian people and the region and the world, but if diplomacy fails, the U.S is ready to act.

Mr. Obama's critics criticized the deal as a weakness.

The agreement calls for inspectors to have access to Syrian chemical-weapons sites, number as many as 45 and complete the inspections by November.

The U.N. secretary-general said that he received Syria's instrument of accession to the convention and Syria will be bound by it in 30 days.

Russian and American diplomats said they hoped to completely dismantling Syria's chemical weapons will last till the first half of 2014 and the destruction of chemicals would take place both inside Syria, and in third countries, over that time.

The U.S. believes that Syria has about 1,000 tons of mustard gas and sarin and VX nerve agents.

After three days of negotiations with Lavrov, Kerry said Saturday this framework could save lives in the region and lay the groundwork for more cooperation” between Moscow and Washington.

Mr. Kerry said that there is no military solution to the Syrian unrest.

Mr. Lavrov said at the conference that the agreement was reached by consensus.

Mr. Lavrov said these are Russian and American proposals to the OPCW.

The agreement doesn't regard Syrian regime accountable for allegedly carrying out the Aug. 21 attacks.

Table 4. Topics and topic categories in the thematic structure of the article published in USA Today (September 15, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Topic category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1d</td>
<td>The OPCW and the UN will be responsible for dismantling Syria's chemical weapons after three days of talks in Geneva.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Participant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d President Assad must provide an accounting of the weapons within a week.</td>
<td>Kerry said that Syria needs to fully comply and live up to commitments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d Kerry said that Syria needs to fully comply and live up to commitments.</td>
<td>President Obama welcomed the deal a step to control Syria's chemical weapons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4d President Obama welcomed the deal a step to control Syria's chemical weapons.</td>
<td>President Obama said that this framework could end the threat to the Syrian people, the region and the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5d President Obama said that this framework could end the threat to the Syrian people, the region and the world.</td>
<td>China’s Foreign Minister also hailed the agreement stating that the deal can ease the current tense situation and create peaceful, new prospects for resolving the chemical weapon issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6d China’s Foreign Minister also hailed the agreement stating that the deal can ease the current tense situation and create peaceful, new prospects for resolving the chemical weapon issue.</td>
<td>He spoke at the beginning of a meeting with his French counterpart with the aim of ending the 2 1/2-year civil war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7d He spoke at the beginning of a meeting with his French counterpart with the aim of ending the 2 1/2-year civil war.</td>
<td>An official of the OPCW said that no details have been worked out but the agency welcomes the agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8d An official of the OPCW said that no details have been worked out but the agency welcomes the agreement.</td>
<td>American inspectors would probably not be part of the inspection team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9d American inspectors would probably not be part of the inspection team.</td>
<td>The OPCW official said that the former inspectors did not include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council due to Syrian sensibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10d The OPCW official said that the former inspectors did not include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council due to Syrian sensibilities.</td>
<td>Protecting the inspectors, regarding Syrian civil war is a challenge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11d Protecting the inspectors, regarding Syrian civil war is a challenge.</td>
<td>U.N. will provide the security and U.S. did not change its forces in the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12d U.N. will provide the security and U.S. did not change its forces in the region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is necessary to bear in mind that in some cases it was difficult to associate just one topic category to each topic, some topics were associated with more than one semantic function. Figure 1, 2, 3 and 4 represent the hierarchical structure of the topics listed in Table 1, 2, 3 and 4 and as such demonstrate the thematic structures of the studied texts.

The figures reveal that the overall construction of the thematic structure of the studied texts is similar. In all the cases, the news episode is the U.S. and Russia’s deal on Syria’s chemical weapons. The schemes of all the texts include elaborate categories of main events and to some extent consequences and conditions/cause of the event.

Moreover, the structure of the main events including the setting and happenings is similar in all the cases. The dailies mention the events, their participants and results, as well as consequences. They give the time and place of the event and name the circumstances.

However, apart from all the similarities, the structures are far from identical. The main differences in the occurrence of the semantic categories can be observed in the class of condition/cause and consequences and some minor difference in the class of place and participants. Time, circumstances, the main event and results are the same in all the cases.
Figure 1. The thematic structure of an article published in *Iran Daily (September 15, 2013)*
2. The thematic structure of an article published in *Tehran Times (September 15, 2013)*
Figure 3. The thematic structure of an article published in Wall Street Journal (September 15, 2013)
Figure 4. The thematic structure of an article published in *USA Today (September 15, 2013)*
However, the only case that does not refer to place is Wall Street Journal. Participants are also somewhat the same in all the four articles; though there is no mention of Obama and Asad in Tehran Times and no mention of Lavrov in USA Today. Wall Street Journal refers to Russian and American diplomats as well. Although we regard the results of the event as being the same in all the text, the detail of their meeting and the resulting agreement was treated differently in the texts.

Regarding the history, Iran Daily refers to 110000 deaths in Syria’s civil war and Tehran Times to 100000 deaths and millions fleeing from Syria (a difference in the number of deaths). Both Iran Daily and Wall Street Journal refer to the chemical attack in Syria in August 21. In USA Today, the only case that refers to history is the former inspection by U.N. in Syria.

Regarding the context, in all the cases there is a reference to Syria’s chemical weapons and both Iran Daily and Wall Street Journal state the estimation of the weapons and sites as well. USA today explicitly mentions the threat of these weapons to Syrian people. In all the diaries, there is also a reference to unrest and civil war in Syria. The possibility of military action by U.S. is mentioned in Iran Daily and Tehran Times, and Wall Street Journal mentions using force by U.S., France and Western allies. The opposition of Russia is also mentioned in the case of Iran Daily and Wall Street Journal. Iran Daily also states that there is no military solution for Syria’s unrest and Syria’s war can be ended through negotiation.

Yet more differences can be found within the category of acts. Although all diaries published information about the avoidance of military actions by U.S. as the consequence of the deal, Wall Street Journal and USA Today refer to the fact that this agreement can ease the situation and will end the threat to Syrian people. Wall Street Journal refers also to Obama’s threat of military action in the case of noncompliance. All diaries except for Wall Street Journal mention Kerry and Lavrov’s talk in their joint conference as a consequence of their meeting in Geneva. Iran Daily also refers to their future meeting in New York. It also mentions Kerry’s upcoming flight to Israel and Paris. Wall Street Journal and USA Today quote Obama’s talk and likewise USA Today cites China’s minister and OPCW official’s talk with respect to this agreement. Furthermore, USA Today expresses the responsibility of U.N. and OPCW for dismantling Syria’s chemical weapons. It states that U.N. will provide the security and U.S. did not change its forces in the region. In Wall Street Journal, it is stated that U.S security general received Syria's instrument of accession.

Speech act also treated differently; Iran Daily refers to the fact that Lavrov and also France welcomed the agreement. USA Today also mentions that Obama, China’s minister and the agency welcomed the deal. Wall Street Journal also states that Obama welcomed the deal but critics criticized it. Tehran Times states that Kerry and Levrov announced the agreement, Idris said rebels do not agree and another official said they would not agree.

As important as the topics and the semantic categories is the order in which they are presented in the texts. The order in which individual categories appear in the text is partly consistent with van Dijk’s assumptions as he states that first (in the headline) there usually comes the main event, to be followed by causes, history, context, results and consequences. And indeed, the main event comes up in the headline of all four articles. However, event and results are also located at the top of each list of topics. History is located in the middle of the list in Iran Daily and Tehran Times and at the end of the list in Wall Street Journal and USA Today. The context of the event and the acts are located at the top and the end of the list in all the texts. Speech acts are mainly located at the top and in the
middle of the list. Time which appears in the lead of the articles is located at the end of the list in Tehran Times. Except for Wall Street Journal, in all the cases circumstance comes at the top of the list. For showing the similarities, we refer to the first 10 topics of each diary as follows.

The first ten topics in Iran Daily are:
1. A week for Syria to hand over the details
2. Immediate access to the inspectors by Syria
3. The details of the agreed steps
4. Russia’s opposition and no obvious decisions in the event of non-compliance
6. 110,000 deaths
7. no military solution
8. Lavrov hailed this agreement
10. Put on hold military strikes by the United States and France

The first ten topics in Tehran Times are:
1. Elimination of Syria's chemical weapons
2. Kerry and Lavrov announced the agreement
3. Submitting the list of its chemical weapons by Syrai (The details of the agreed steps)
4. inspectors must be on the ground (The details of the agreed steps)
5. Non-compliance by Syria and consequences under Chapter 7
6. No agreement on the measures in the event of non-compliance
7. Nothing said about the use of force
8. Selim Idris said rebels do not agree with the deal.
9. Another military council official said that they reject the deal.
10. The deal could lead to ending the civil war with more than 100,000 deaths.

The first ten topics in Wall Street Journal are:
1. Providing a list of chemical-weapons stockpiles by Syria (The details of the agreed steps)
2. The details of the agreed steps
3. The details of the agreed steps
4. Russia's opposition to force will prevent any military actions
5. President Obama welcomed this agreement
6. Mr. Obama said this agreement could end the threat of weapons
7. Mr. Obama's critics criticized the deal
8. Access of inspectors to Syrian chemical-weapons sites, number as many as 45
9. Syria's instrument of accession to the convention received by the U.N. secretary-general
10. Hope of diplomats to dismantling Syria's chemical weapons

The first ten topics in Wall Street Journal are:
1. Dismantling Syria's chemical weapons by the OPCW and the UN
2. Providing an accounting of the weapons by Asad
3. Syria needs to fully comply.
4. President Obama welcomed the deal.
5. President Obama said that the deal could end the threat.
6. China’s Foreign Minister also hailed the agreement.
7. He spoke at the beginning of a meeting.
8. OPCW welcomes the agreement.
9. American inspectors not part of the inspection team.
10. The former inspectors did not include the five members of the U.N.

Comparing the topics listed above one can observe that all the four articles place the details of the meeting and the resulting agreement at the top of the story and then inform about the agreed steps of the deal. The location of the topics relating to the results, consequences and acts is also similar in all the texts.

Conclusions
In this paper we mainly focused on the differences between the texts produced in the two cultures (Iran and the United States) in question. Yet this is not to state that the Iranian and the
American news texts are radically different. On the contrary, they both concern the same event, provide similar information and their thematic structures resemble each other.

However there are some trivial differences between the texts of these two cultures which seem to be congruent with the cultural dimensions of these countries. For example, Both Wall Street Journal and USA Today refer to the to the fact that this agreement can ease the situation and will end the threat to Syrian people but Iran Daily and Tehran Times only refer to the avoidance of military actions by U.S. as the consequence of the deal. Furthermore, Wall Street Journal and USA Today quote Obama’s talk after the agreement but Iran Daily and Tehran Times do not. Moreover, Iran Daily and Tehran Times mention the possibility of military action by U.S. as the context, but Wall Street Journal mentions using force by U.S., France and Western allies.

As the study by Zeaba (2013) suggests, these differences in the thematic structures of the studied texts may correspond to the cultural differences existing between two cultures. As the two cultures differ mostly in the dimensions of uncertainty avoidance and individualism vs. collectivism, the values characteristic of those dimensions can be accounted for the disparities between the studied structures. Nevertheless, some differences could be also observed between Zeaba’s thematic structures of the earthquake story and the thematic structures in this study. The differences most likely caused by the fact that Zeaba’s study refers to the event of an earthquake while this study focuses on the event of the U.S. and Russia’ deal on Syria’s chemical weapons. In the case of this study, the causes for the event, i.e. the history and context and the results and consequences of the event are crucial to the story; yet, in the case of Zeaba’s study, the cause is quite obvious, as it is the force of nature.

However, not all the differences can be explained with respect to cultural dissimilarity of the dailies. Undoubtedly other factors, such as individual features of the editorial teams, accessibility of the information, and political and financial aspects could prove to be just as significant.

The objective of this article was to find out if there are major differences between the two important newspapers of the two cultures and if it is the case, whether this difference can be attributed to the possible causes of this difference with regard to cultural values, political issues and financial aspects as the factors shaping the form and content of news texts. Although some few differences were found between the texts of the two cultures, the similarities exceed the differences. In analyzing the texts, no major differences were evident that might then be attributed to their possible causes.

The analysis could obviously be extended to embrace more news articles of the culture in questions. Also the topic categories of actor, time, circumstance and place could be studied in greater detail. However, given the limited space of the article, the analysis had to be brief. Hopefully, it will be enough to encourage further discussions on the relationship of cultural, political, financial, social and other aspects and the form and content of news texts in comparison with each other or with respect to their cultures and contexts.

References


