

Nominalization in Tv News Headlines



Linguistic

KEYWORDS: The aim of this paper is to review the kinds of nominalizations to find the most widely used type in headlines.

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to analyse the process of nominalization as used in TV news headlines. The aim of this study is to review the kinds of nominalization and to find out the most widely used type in headlines. The study postulates that activity nominalization is the most frequent type in news headlines since they represent the device which conveys actions or activities happening in different places all over the world. Nominalizations allow to condense much information in just few words as such they are preferred by headline producers. This in turn motivates the audience to view and listen more to discover what the news item is about.

1.Introduction

TV news headlines represent an interesting field for study. They function as an initial summary of the article. They are written in a specialized grammar due to restriction on space and content. Nominalization is one of the choices available to headline producers to cope with constraint. It also enables them to compact more information with few words leaving out agency and presenting the news as an immediate happening or event. The study adopts Dixon 's (2005) model of nominalizations . TV news headlines under investigation were collected from two English TV channels, namely BBC World News and CNN News.

2. Nominalization

Nominalization is the process of forming a noun from other word-class as redness from red+ ness or the derivation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause, like her answering of the letter from she answered the letter (Crystal , 2003: 314).

To Tatasiewics (2010: 108) nominalization is “ translating sentences into names of situations correlated with these sentences”. The same sentence can be viewed in different ways, for instance John has arrived can be nominalized to John's arrival. In addition to the stylistic difference , there is also a semantic one. Thus in:

(1) Mary remembers John's arrival.

Mary has witnessed the arrival and has different details about it. But sentence (2)

(2) Mary remembers that John has arrived.

doesn't have the same truth value. It may be true in a situation where Mary knew about John's arrival from other people.

Nominalization, according to Quirk et al. (1985 :1288-89), refers to a noun phrase which has a systematic correspondence with a clause structure. The head of the noun phrase is usually related to a verb , an adjective or a noun.

(3) his refusal to help ~ He refuses to help.

(4) the truth of her statement ~ Her statement is true.

(5) her friendship to Mazin ~ She is a friend of Mazin.

There are active and passive nominalizations (ibid).

(6) the critics' hostile reception of the play ~ The critics received the play in a hostile manner.

(7) the play's hostile reception by the critics ~ The play was received in a hostile manner by the critics.

Nominalization enables predicates (verbs and adjectives) to be

realized syntactically as nouns (Fowler ,1991:79). It also allows the authors to delete both participants (who did what to whom) and the indication of time since there is no verb to express the tense (ibid :79-80) (see also Widdowson ,2004:124). This technique of concealment is widely manipulated especially in political cases where the agent can be avoided.

In an attempt to show the role of nominal elements in conveying what the article is about, Biber et al. (1999:231-32) compare texts with only nominals in one version with another one where the nominals are deleted. They find out that the version without nominals i.e. with verbs only, give very few clues to what the text is about. On the other hand , the version which consists of nominals only is more informative as nominal elements specify what the text is about.

In line with Biber et al.(ibid) ,Quirk et al. (1985:1289) assure that through the use of modifiers and determinatives , nominalization can be more explicit and informative.

Dixon (2005:320-22) confirms that there are different derivational processes which form a nominal from a verb as in :

(8) John resides at 10 Apple Avenue. ~ John's residence (at 10 Apple Avenue)

(9) Kennedy discovered the Hull River.~ Kennedy's discovery (of the Hull River)

(10) John laughed noisily. ~ John's noisy laugh

Nominalized element may relate to subject or object ,as in:

(11) John employs Bill.

Bill's employer (i.e. John) ~ John's employee (i.e. Bill)

For changing verbs into nouns , there are many different morphological processes. Some verbs take zero-derivation as laugh in (10) whereas some take a suffix as residence in (8). Agentive nominalizations are typically formed by (-er)as employer in (11) while an object nominalization may take (-ee) suffix like employee. The (-ing) suffix is widely added to many verbs to express a subjective or objective relationship as in (12). However , there are cases where so many irregular derivations occur such as gift in (13)(ibid).

Sometimes the construction of nominalization may be ambiguous , for example:

(12) The boss pushed the man.

boss's pushing (of the man) was inhuman. The man's pushing (by the boss) made him famous.

(13) Hani gave a mobile phone to Sara. Hani's gift (of a mobile phone) (to Sara) was very expensive. Sara's gift (of a mobile phone) (from Hani) reinforced their friendship.

3. TV News Headlines

News may be defined as information about current or recent events , happenings or changes which are of interest or concern to the audience (Montgomery, 2007:4).

He (ibid) adds that news is like a conversation where they both are a form of reality maintenance ,but they differ from each other in that the news doesn't express realities of concrete and direct experience but realities of the world i.e. of others not the concrete relationships of the viewer / listener.

News headlines pave the way for the audience and make matters clear of the items following them . Van Dijk (1988:226) assures that headlines represent the most prominent feature of news discourse. They define the situation for the listener or viewer. He (ibid) adds that television news focuses on headlines.

Newspaper headlines differ from broadcast headlines in that newspaper headlines are followed immediately by their story and they function as an invitation for readers to go on reading the stories introduced by them. But in broadcast headlines, there are interruptions of several minutes between a headline and its news item. They provide clues and keep the audience viewing and listening(Montgomery ,2007:43).

Boduch(1999:15) defines a headline as " attention-getting , interest-inspiring and containing a collection of irresistible words". Montgomery (2007:78) maintains that broadcast headlines are "trailers" which function to keep audience viewing and listening to be informed about the details of the news' story. He (ibid: 78-80) provides the following criteria that apply to broadcast headlines:

a- The reference to persons

Headlines contain expressions that refer to persons as members of significant groups or institutions such as Conservative minister, dentists, the Royal Navy and so on . They may also include numbers such as Hundreds queue or well-known person.

b- Events or actions

One of the semantic rules that apply to the context of headlines is the description of actions performed by groups or individuals . This is referred to as "category – bound activities ". That is the activities described in headlines are not within the range of normal category and this creates a noticeable feature in the headlines , for instance dentists do not have crisis where the headline shows Dentists' crisis.

c- Circumstances

Headlines usually refer to the location of an event ,as in :

(14) The Royal Navy Leaves Hong Kong

Though broadcast headlines may broadcast news that happens in your area or around the world , it is not always easy to mention where the action happens.

4. Nominalization in Broadcast Headlines

In nominalization , processes which take place in the world as processes are not represented in sentences or clauses with verbs , they are represented as entities(Fairclough,2003:12-13). This fact shows an important part of the design of headlines to grab the listeners' or viewers' attention to find what or who causes these actions. Fairclough (ibid) assures that one of the consequences of nominalization is that agents of processes upon other people or objects are avoided.

Nominalization allows authors to take a lot of information and compact it into a compound word or phrase (Montgomery,2007:43).

(15) LUNG CANCER DEATH RATES

Fairclough (2003:143) confirms that nominalization involves the deletion of certain semantic elements of clauses like tense and modality. These deletions ,according to Montgomery (2007:80),are not only due to compression but also to the high proportion of non-finite clauses and nominalizations which are used to fill the semantic slack resulted from leaving out verbs. Let's consider the following news headline from BBC News channel on 19, 6, 2013 from the data of this study :

(16) TALKING TO THE TALIBAN

The nominalization at the beginning of the headline shows a process without any reference to an agency or specification of time as who performs the talking and whether it takes place now , in the past or in the future. Though there are other choices in the language for conveying this news, the author uses nominalization to represent the event as something abstract.

Nominalization , as in John's arrival ,refers to the concrete situation-event while John has arrived to the abstract situation-proposition (Tatasiewics, 2010:109). So real-life situations are either experienced at the time of speaking i.e. situation-event or being described by others i.e. situation-proposition. Thus news headlines manipulate nominalization to prove their immediate presence at the place of the action which in turn confirms news worthiness of their stories.

5. Characteristics of Nominalization in Headlines

i- Long strings of nouns where earlier nouns in the string modify those that follow (Swan, 2005:211).

(17) STEEL PLANT BLAZE

ii- Collocation of head and modifier which would be difficult and ambiguous, for example tree policy , bone worry in bone worry in space ,but when one reads on , he finds that astronauts' bones weaken and fail to grow properly in space (Halliday ,1985:376). (see also Montgomery , 2007:80)

iii-Headlines are always incomplete sentences. They usually show ellipsis of the verb be and the articles. Many headlines consist of noun phrases with no verbs (Swan, 2005:211).

(18) HOLIDAY HOTEL DEATH

6. Varieties of Nominalization

Nominalization, according to Dixon (2005: 322-36) ,can be divided into seven major types:

A- Nominalization denoting an activity or unit of activity

Verbs that express activities may be nominalized to refer to a unit of activity or the activity itself.

(19)

verb	joke	speak	apologize	run
Unit-nom	joke	speech	apology	run
Activity-nom	joking	speaking	apologizing	running

It can be noted that Unit-nom can have the same form of the verb or some different form while the Activity-nom typically takes an -ing form. As regards the semantic difference between Unit-nom and Activity-nom, the former refers to a single action

and thus it is countable, like one prick of a pin , but the latter refers to a period of activity and it cannot be counted, as pricking.

(20) John told several jokes /* joking .

B- Nominalization denoting a state or property

Verbs that describe states form nominalization expressing the state referred to by the verb. Some of these verbs take the same form(zero-derivation) while others submit a derivation , as in:

(21) a- John dislikes clergymen ~ [John's dislike] of clergymen

b-Mary admires athletes~ [Mary's admiration] for athletes

c-The news surprised Mary ~ [Mary's surprise] at the news

Verbs that denote comparing and relating show neither an activity nor a state. They refer to a property. Here the underlying subject functions as a property of nominalization (property-nom).

(22) a- Mark differs from his twin.

[Mark's difference from his twin] is significant.

b- Jane depends on her mother.

[Jane's dependence on her mother]is worrying.

C- Nominalization denoting a result

This type of nominalization describes the result of an action. It is generally derived from a transitive verb. A result-nom is related to the original object by a preposition ,like of , to , on ,out of

(23) a- X arranged some flowers ~ arrangement of flowers

b- X declared war ~ declaration of war

c- X extended the house ~ extension of the house

d- X solved the problem ~ solution to/of the problem

The definite or indefinite article can precede these nominalizations and the possessor X's could be used before the Result-nom ,as in X's arrangement of flowers. This shows that they may function as Unit-nom or Result-nom.

D- Object Nominalization

These nominalizations function as object for the verb from which they are derived ,like dream a dream , pay a payment. These cognate objects are seldom used in the same derived form without modifiers to give additional information in the object noun phrase ,for instance I dreamed the horrible and frightening dream. These objects have either the same form of the verb or a derived one.

(24)	same form	derived form
a	fry up a big fish fry	Build the biggest building
b	suspect the usual suspects	bear a heavy burden

Object nominalization is often used with a verb different from the one from which it is derived , but with a similar meaning , for e.g. apply a spray , carry a burden, cook up a fish fry ,erect a building. Some derived forms can function as a Unit-nom or as an Object-nom as in:

(25) Robin built the skyscraper.

a- Robin's building (of the skyscraper)took a long time. Activity-nom

b- Robin built [a tremendously high building] Object- nom

E- Locus Nominalization

Dixon (2005 :332) maintains that Locus-nom refers to the place or location which is derived from the verb , like:

(26) a- The refugees settled on Pie Island

~The refugees' settlement on Pie Island

b-Mary is entering the hall ~ Mary's entrance to the hall

c- Bill is tracking the thief ~ Bill 's tracking of the thief

F- Agentive Nominalization

These nominalizations refer to the doer of an activity. They are usually denoted by the suffix -er , -or, or -ar which refers to volitional agent . An agent-nom is usually used with a modifying adjective which describe how the agent performs the action . For example :

(27)

a good tipper	a heavy/ light sleeper
a funny actor	a lucky beggar

Other Agent-nom may be formed by the suffix -ant/-ent , as in: assistant , student. In these nominalizations the -ant /-ent has a habitual volitional agentive meaning , like -er (ibid:333-35).

G-Instrumental Nominalizations

These nominalizations describe an instrument or some other material involved in an activity, like mower, shaver , mixer, opener, heater, freezer, locker, swimmers (bathing costume) , runners (shoes).Many of these Inst-nom's are ambiguous since they may have an Agent-nom sense(ibid :336-37). 7. The Analysis

7.1 Activity-nom and Unit-nom

7.1.1 Activity-nom

(1) IRAQ CAR BOMBING	BBC 16/6/2013
(2) CHINA CARBON TRADING	BBC 16/6/2013
(3) TALKING TO THE TALIBAN	BBC 19/6/2013
(4) HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT	BBC 19/6/2013
(5) SOLVING OF THE COUNTRY'S IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS	CNN 4/7/2013
(6) UK GOVERNMENT CONDEMNED OUSTING OF MORSY AS DANGEROUS THING	BBC 4/7/2013
(7) SHARE PRICES IN EGYPT HAVE LEAPT HIGHER AFTER OUSTING OF MORSY AS THE COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT	BBC 4/7/2013
(8) ZIMBABWE ELECTION COURT RULING	BBC 4/7/2013
(9) GOING GREEN IN HAITI	CNN 4/7/2013

7.1.2 Unit-nom

- (10) SUICIDE ATTACK ON POPULAR MP BBC 18/6/2013
- (11) PROTESTS IN TURKEY CNN 18/6/2013
- (12) OBAMA'S FIRST VISIT AS US PRESIDENT TO BERLIN BBC 19/6/2013
- (13) US STOCK MARKETS SLIDE CNN 20/6/2013
- (14) PALESTINIAN PM RESIGNATION OFFER CNN 20/6/2013
- (15) US SPY CHARGES BBC 22/6/2013
- (16) OBAMA'S CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN CNN 28/6/2013
- (17) AT LEAST FOUR DEAD IN EGYPT CLASHES CNN 3/7/2013
- (18) URGENT W. H. HUDDLE OVER EGYPT CNN 3/7/2013
- (19) MANDELA FAMILY FEUD CNN 3/7/2013

- (20) MILITARY MOVE CELEBRATED BY PROTESTORS
CNN 3/7/2013
- (21) CHANGE IN EGYPT BBC 4/7/2013
- (22) COALITION OF ISLAMISTS CALL "FRI
DAY OF REJECTION" AGAINST COUP BBC 4/7/2013
- (23) MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD : MORSY UNDER HOUSE
REST CNN 4/7/2013
- (24) MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ARRESTS CNN 4/7/2013
- (25) OVERTHROW OF MORSY IS A MA
JOR BLOW TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CNN 4/7/2013
- (26) FRANCE SPYING CLAIMS CNN 4/7/2013
- (27) FRANCE APOLOGIZES TO BOLIVIA AFTER PLANE
ROW BBC 4/7/2013
- (28) US REACTION TO TAKEOVER IN EGYPT
CNN 4/7/2013

7.2 State-nom

- (29) POLLUTION AUTISM LINK BBC 18/6/2013
- (30) NILSON MANDELA'S CONDITION STILL
CRITICAL BUT STABLE CNN 28/6/2013
- (31) NEW UNREST IN EGYPT CNN 28/6/2013
- (32) HOPES, EXPECTATIONS OF EGYPT'S BUSINESS COM-
MUNITY CNN 4/7/2013

7.3 Result -nom

- (33) OUTRAGE OVER BOLIVIA INCIDENT BBC 4/7/2013

7.4 Object-nom

- (34) EFFECT OF MOHAMED MORSY'S OVERTHROW ON
EGYPTIAN ECONOMY CNN 4/7/2013

7.5 Locus-nom

- (35) JAPAN TOXIC GROUNDWATER CNN 19/6/2013
- (36) AL-JAZEERA'S EGYPTIAN TV CHANNEL RAIDED
CNN 3/7/2013

7.6 Agent-nom

- (37) EGYPT PRESIDENT MORSY IS OUT CNN 3/7/2013
- (38) NORTH KOREA'S AMERICAN PRISONER CNN 3/7/2013
- (39) US INTELLIGENCE LEAK
ER IN LIMBO IN RUSSIA AIRPORT CNN 3/7/2013
- (40) NEW INTERIM PRESIDENT CNN 4/7/2013
- (41) MORSY'S SUPPORTERS CALLING FOR
"FRIDAY OF REJECTION" CNN 4/7/2013

8. Results and Discussion

The following table sums up the types of nominalization found in the data of analysis:

Table (1) Frequency of Occurrence of Nom's Types

Type of Nom.	Frequency Occurrence	Percentage
Unit of activity-nom and activity-nom	28	68,3%
State-nom	4	9,7%
Result-nom	1	2,4%
Object-nom	1	2,4%
Locus-nom	2	4,8%
Agent-nom	5	12,2%
Inst-nom		
Total	41	100%

It is clear from the table above that Activity-nom and Unit-nom have the most frequent occurrence in TV news headlines and this reflects the headlines producers' purpose to inform their audience about actions and activities happening around the world. Agent-nominalizations which convey news about persons or doers of action come second. This is one of the criteria that apply to TV news headlines as it uncovers details about important people or agents whom audience want to learn about. State nominalizations represent the third degree of occurrence in TV news headlines. The other types of nominalization represent very few occurrences in the data of this study.

9. Conclusion

It has been shown through the analysis that Activity nominalization occupies the highest degree of occurrence and this goes in line with the criteria of news headlines. Through nominalization, headline authors can condense more information in few words in order to cope with compression of space. Activities or actions occurring in different countries can be conveyed in compacted forms by virtue of nominalization.

Nominalization enables headline writers to conceal agency and this can be proved by the wide use of Activity-nom and Unit-nom types. With the help of nominalization, headlines can achieve their function to surprise the audience and persuade them to keep on viewing or listening to find out who and what causes certain actions.

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