Arabic Newspapers Discourse: Rhetorical Features, Discourse Markers, Strategies and Organization

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Abstract

The aim of this investigation is to explore the main rhetorical features of an Arabic newspaper discourse. To this end, extracts form two popular Jordanian newspapers were analyzed. The results of this study indicate that one of the features of this type of discourse is redundancy, i.e. repetition of the same lexical item. Another feature is the explicit use of evaluative statements to support the writer's point of view. Moreover, the results of this study revealed that Arabic newspaper discourse clearly marks clause relations especially subordinating clauses, and that discourse markers are mainly used to mark the relationships of contrast between or among propositions in this type of discourse.

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Introduction:

The language of newspaper discourse is quite interesting, since the writer is trying to convince anonymous readers who may share the writer's point of view or who may not, and the latter stance is more likely. However, sometimes, there is common background knowledge between newspapers writers' and their readers, i.e. they may share the same background information about certain events or situations. In fact, news writers "attempt to give their readers… an accurate, interesting, thorough accounts of events…the writer's purpose is to persuade the reader."(Mencher, 1989:2). Moreover, Hough (1998:1) advocates that "News is what people need or want to know, whatever interest them, whatever adds to their knowledge and understanding of the world around them". The primary objective of a daily newspaper is "to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion" (ibid:205). Another point of view was advocated by Shrivastava (1991:10) who says that "News is one of the best known commodities in today's world. Everybody who understands a language and has access to mass media recognizes it". In addition, Wolfsfeld (1997:34) suggests that: "People attempt to deal with new information based on what they have already come to believe about the political world. Existing schemas serve as organizing tools that allow individuals to recognize, sort, compare, and store new information." Therefore, news writers' try to unearth the hidden aspect of the news for their readers. They try to highlight information, which they believe can support their opinions.

Interacting with newspapers discourse is a daily activity in the majority of people's lives. People search for information and knowledge. They are after the truth, which they believe, can get from newspaper. Thus, newspapers, sometimes, may formulate or shape people's opinions about something. For example, Altschull (1984:233) concludes that: "history demonstrates that the press…has always been used, and that individuals

and groups in power have always sought to manipulate the press into serving their particular causes." Indeed, newspapers writers᾽ seek to influence public opinion. For instance, Hulteng and Nelson (1983:74) claim, "newspapers…play a significant role in the dissemination of detailed information about what goes on in the community, the nation, and the world". Consequently, this investigation is designed to explore the intricacies of an Arabic daily newspaper discourse: its rhetorical features and discourse markers, the main strategies news writers employ in highlighting their point of view, and how Arabic newspapers discourse is organised. There is no doubt that messages in newspapers are writers᾽ rhetoric, i.e. writers᾽ points of view. Newspaper discourse places high value on the producer, since it does not go, in most cases, through the extensive process of revision; the writer is conducting his business on daily basis. Therefore the primary objective of newspaper discourse is to present information of different types in an interesting and convincing manner by all possible stylistic means.

The Study

The study is composed of several extracts taken from two Jordanian popular Newspaper (Al-Raa᾽i and Al-Dastour). By popular I mean they have a wide spectrum of readers. The idea behind selecting two popular newspapers is not to limit the data for two or three points of view but to have as many points of view as possible.

Since the study of any type of discourse has become a large area of investigation especially in the last ten years, my discussion in this study will be limited to those aspects of discourse analysis that seem most relevant for the study of mass media discourse. This investigation will be specifically concerned with those rhetorical features that contribute to the development of text; similar to those features of some conventional form of social action or what Searle (1969) called "Speech acts". This investigation is carried out in the hope that it will contribute to our understanding of Arabic newspaper discourse.

The Method

Extracts from two Jordanian newspapers were collected over a three-month period (April-June 2005). These extracts were taken from the front pages, i.e. mainly the editorial articles, and the articles of newspapers back pages, which were written by different authors in most cases. These two types of newspaper discourse were selected, since both types of discourse have persuasive intent; they aim at influencing the readers' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviour. The idea behind this is to have a variety of styles of news writing and reporting. The data will be analysed in order to explore first, ways of organizing Arabic newspaper discourse, i.e. those rhetorical features which can contribute to the organization as well as to the development of newspaper discourse, second discourse strategies used, third various discourse markers used by news writers, and fourth the use of vocabulary in the development of newspaper discourse. Discourse markers are defined in this study as those, which indicate a shift in the flow of discourse, i.e. from presentation to proof, or from one point of view to another, from one premise to verification, argument to conclusion; it is a shift to a new focus. They signal switches in the progress of the text from introduction to argument, for example. The analytical framework adopted here is rather eclectic, i.e. it is a combination of linguistic manifestations as well as rhetorical ones of newspaper discourse. In fact, I have tried to let the data speak for itself.

The Aim of This Study

This investigation aims at exploring the rhetorical features of Arabic newspaper discourse as well as discourse markers used to signal the organization of discourse. The central concern in this study is to trace explanatory connections between ways in which texts are put together and interpreted, i.e. the nature of the social practice in terms of its relations to social structures. This investigation will focus here on textual structures of news and largely ignore the various contextual conditions and constraints on such textual structures. In addition, the degrees of neutrality or bias, which are inscribed in the choice of words, which

reporters make, will be explored.

Review of Related Literature

Newspaper discourse has attracted the attention of researchers from various fields especially sociolinguistics, since it has direct effects on public opinions, i.e. its function is to persuade or dissuade people's point of view on a given topic. It is that type of discourse that "contributes to the construction of systems of knowledge and belief" (Fairclough,1992:64). Any given type of discourse practice "is generated out of combinations of others, and is defined by its relationship to others"(ibid:40). Discourse analysis according to Fairclough (ibid) is

> concerned not with specifying what sentences are possible or 'grammatical', but with specifying socio-historically variable discursive formations…systems of rules which make it possible for certain statements but not others to occur at particular times, places and institutional locations.

Discourse analysis is important for the systematic analysis of news because it

> can make more explicit the classical approaches to content analysis. It can also stimulate a research paradigm within mass communication that sees factual analysis not only as a method of research…but also as autonomous endeavor towards the construction of a sound theory of media discourse (van Dijk, 1983:20).

Halliday (1978) highlights the textual function of discourse in general and by this he means how bits of information are fore grounded or back grounded, taken as given or presented as new, picked out as 'topic' or

'theme', and how a part of a text is linked to preceding and following parts of the text, and to the social situation 'outside' the text. Here, it should be pointed out that discourse analysis should cater for language variation, i.e. how language varies according to the situation and social contexts. Sociolinguistics have argued that variation in language use is systematic and amenable to scientific study. For example, Downes (1984) argues that language varies according to the nature of the relationship between participants in an interaction, and so forth.

Newspaper discourse is an important variety of media discourse. This type of discourse, in fact, covers a wide variety of heterogeneous mode of written communication. Therefore, in a newspaper, for instance, a reader may encounter "news, comment, analysis, advertising, entertainment"(Reah, 1998:2). One of the reasons why newspaper language is important is that: "The opinions of minority group members…may not be widely circulated unless journalists take definite steps to discover and communicate them"(Ryan and Tankard,1977:12). They also add that: "The press must seek out certain points of view that might not surface otherwise"(ibid:13). Another point of view was advocated by Mencher (1989:88) who says that: "the news writer must adhere to a set of guidelines. These…are: accuracy, attribution of statements, background, balance, brevity, clarity, human interest, identification of those named in the story, focus on the news point, objectivity and verification of information". The news reporter, as Ryan and Tankard (1977:13) suggest, "is like a witness of news events who does not participate in a news event or take a stand on an issue". They also add that "A newspaper [is]…a crusader for justice and an exposer of wrongdoing"(ibid:29). Moreover, Turk (1986:6) observes that "The most important factor in a daily newspaper to accept or reject a news release…is whether the information conforms to journalistic newsworthiness norm of oddity/conflict, prominence, significance and timeliness."

Diversity in newspaper discourse is probably an expected phenomenon. For instance, Altschull (1984:202) commenting on the vital role of press in public life says: "the press is the real instrument of

public opinion, a weapon and a tool in the hands of those who know how to use it and have to use it." He also highlighted the significant role a daily newspaper can play in the public life when he suggests that: "news agencies are instruments of information, not economic expansion. They seek to ferret out the facts and to present those facts to readers"(ibid:224). The principal function of newspaper discourse is to give "people a great deal of information they can use in their daily lives" (Ryan and Tankard, 1977:13). Moreover, the primary objective of a daily newspaper, as Harris et al. (1977:174) advocate, is to promote "social, economic and political philosophies…It is powerful and influential, and colors and infuses the character, ideals and institutions of the individual, the family and the community". Some writers place great emphasis on the objectivity of news. For example, Mencher (1989:39) claims "Objectivity in news stories allows the reader to have the facts without

the interference of the reporter's opinions, feelings, conclusions and

guess work." Additionally, Agee et al. (1983:56) argue that: "News stories should be…fair in their presentation of information…they never should serve as special pleadings for any group or individual." They also suggest that: "Writers should strive to keep their personal opinions out of a news story. Ideally, perspective reader should be unable to detect the reporter's political beliefs and religious or social attitude."(ibid:58) In addition, Fowler (1991:1) points out that: "The journalist…collects facts, reports them objectively, and the newspaper presents them fairly and without bias". On the other hand, Rayan and Tanker (1977:209) advocate that: "Many people are inclined to select information that support their side of a story or that damages the side with which they disagree". Moreover, Mencher (1989:36) claims that: "Reporters learn early that sources sometimes shade the truth, can be misleading, and that now and then they intentionally lie. In the best of worlds, everyone would be forthright, honest, above-board."

Commenting on the style and technique of news writing and reporting, Schudson (1986:106) observes that: "Features stories are often written subjunctively. In features, a part often stands for a whole, an incident is meant to illuminate a larger meaning." Wolfsfeld (1997:51) claims that "One of the first lessons in journalism is to construct news stories as a

pyramid by leading off with the most important part before spreading out to give background and details."

It is important to point out that most of the researches on newspaper discourse have concentrated mainly on sociolinguistic aspect of newspaper discourse. They have been concerned with the broad social, cultural and political issues involved in the communication of information. Therefore, interest in such studies has been primarily non-linguistic, i.e. to know about the social aspect of news production, to describe the environment of newsgathering and selection, to examine constraints on the manufacture of news, and to learn something about the newspapers themselves. However, there are a number of researches, which investigated newspaper discourse from a linguistic point of view or from a rhetorical perspective. One of the seminal approaches in this respect is the study by Fowler et al. (1979). The study highlights the use of certain linguistic features such as passives, nominalization, and other syntactic changes in the sentences of news texts. The use of these features, as Fowler et al. suggest, may express or conceal agents of certain acts in news discourse. There is no doubt that nominalization in English, especially of verbs such as "examination of", "evaluation of", and so on, tends to make the style less personal. Another study by Kress and Hodge (1979) was geared in the same direction, i.e. media discourse. Fairclough (1995) is a recent example of linguistic analysis of media discourse such as news and documentary. Togeby's (1982) study highlights the difference between the general structure of the narrative and the news story. He also advocates that: "events in the news story are neither succession nor temporally or causally related, but one central event is paraphrased and made more specific again and again" (ibid:238). In a related study, Jucker (1986) describes several linguistic aspects of news interviews broadcasted by B.B.C. Radio 4 as part of their daily news programmes. Jucker also examines the use of discourse markers such as *well* and *so* in news interviews.

More specific examples of daily newspaper language are the study of Jucker (1992), which examines the structure and use of noun phrases in British newspapers and demonstrates how their complexity can be used

as an indicator of style. Ghadessy (1988) investigates sports articles in daily newspapers and discusses involved and uninvolved language in sports commentary. Moreover, Sanders and Redeker (1993) explores the question of (limitations of) perspective in news texts as well as tense-shifts, which may shift responsibility for reported information from the writer to a participant. The study by Geis (1987) explores a number of aspects of journalistic language such as the linguistic devices the press employs in reporting on the context.

Undoubtedly, the structure of the news in the press has received some attention mainly from van Dijk (1985a, 1988a and 1988b). Van Dijk (1985a) presents an analytical framework that concentrates on the global organization of the news whereas van Dijk (1988a) provides a theoretical framework for the study of news as a distinct type of discourse. He draws attention to the importance of structural analysis of news reports at various levels of description. He also highlights the notions of news schema and topic. Van Dijk (1988b) is an application of the theoretical framework (1988a) to an analysis of the structures of international news, which was based on several case studies.

Discussion and Result

Even though a newspaper discourse can be classified as non-literary language, it however,may include literary or fictional type of discourse in which the writer describes phenomena involving emotions or feelings such as short stories. This is the main reason why newspaper discourse displays several kinds of language and is stylistically eclectic. For instance, the language of sports combines both description and commentary. Ghadessy (1988) points out that in written sports commentary, one may encounter special kind of vocabulary such as "free kick" as well as adjectives, adverbs, and modal expressions. There is no doubt that newspapers have ideologies that influence their choice of news items, of main events, and of the amount of relevant details. It is very important to point out that degrees of objectivity or subjectivity in this type of discourse can be detected from the choice of lexical items. One rhetorical   features of this type of discourse in this study is the incorporation of evaluative statements. The following are examples:

almaliku … najaah ʾaakhar

(1) zamaan … kaan al?arabu yathhabuuna ʾilaa daafus dhuyufan wa aHyaanan ghayru arghubin bihim. bilkaad mushaarikiin, bilkaad faa?iliin wa bilkaad maHsubiin ?alaa ruHi al?aSar wa Hisaabat almustaqabal

   ?alaa madaa alayyaami aTHTHalaaTHati almaadhiyati ra'iynaa kam yumkinu taghyiiri aSSurati ?indamaa tatawafaru qiiyadaatun waa?iiyatun tudriku anna kula taghyiirin yabdu' biru'yatin wa biqaraarin lil?amali   wa   i'ilaa awqaatin 'istiTHnaa'iyah wa ashkhaaS mutamayiziin

   wa la'in 'istaTaa?a alurduna 'iHyaa'a albaHar almayiti 'athnaa'a almuntadaa fa'inna aljuhuda alkabiir allathii bathalahu almaliku ?alaa madari alayyaami aTHTHalaTHati almaadhiyati kaana lahu al'aTHaru alkabiiru fii 'iHyaa'i alqadhiyatayani al'asasiyatiyni ?alaa assaHati al?arabiiyah: falaSTiin wal?iraaqa.

   wa bikul Thiqatin jadada almaliku arru'yata al'urduniyata lilwadh?I fil?iraaqi.   laqad 'istaTa?a tamayuzu almaliki bishababihi   waHayawiyyatihi   wafahmihi   liwaaqi?i almutaghayyiiraati addawaliiyati an yurasikha lilurdun dawrihi almutamiyizi filmanTiqati.

Another success for the King

In the past, the Arabs went to Davos, sometimes as unwelcome guests. As participants, they were of the marginal type, and so was their impact. They didn't count for much when planning ahead or the spirit of the age

was the yardstick.

Over the last three days, we have seen how the picture can be changed when a visionary leader foresees that a very change starts with a clear concepts and needs a decision for action, excellent timing, and exceptional people.

If Jordan managed to give "life" to the Dead Sea during the forum, the great effort exerted by His Majesty throughout the three-day period was instrumental in reviving the two main cases in the Arab arena: Palestine and Iraq.

With unwavering determination, His Majesty reaffirmed Jordan's outlook on the situation in Iraq.

Ever so youthful, the King, drawing on his immense vitality and clear understanding of a changing world, has been able to carve for Jordan a major role in the region.

ziyratun najiHih liturkiyaa

(2) ista'tharat ziyaaratu jalaaltu almaliki Abdullah aTHTHaanii
   ilaa turkiyaa ihtimaam almas'uuliin alatraak.

waqad kaan fii i'stigbaal jalaaltihi bilmaTaar kibaar almasuuliina
   alatraak wa ?alaa r'asihim r'iis al wuzaraa' atturkiyi.

waqad agaam ra'iisu aljamhuuriiyati ma'dubata ?ashaa'in
   takriiman ljalaaltihi walwafada almuraafiga.

waqad ashada ra'isu alwizara'i atturkiyi biljuhudi almuTHmirah
   allati bathalahaa jalalatuhu fii daf?i   ?amaliyati assalaami
   filmanTiqati.

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A Successful Visit to Turkey

The King's visit to Turkey was given special importance by the Turkish leaders. On his arrival at the airport, His Majesty King Abdullah II was met by Turkey's senior officials headed by the prime minister.

The President held a state banquet in honour of His Majesty and the accompanying delegation.

The prime minister paid tribute to the King's efforts to advance the peace process in the region.

His Majesty was seen off by the Turkish prime minister and a number of senior officials.

hakathaa taHadaTHa almalik

(3) "'ithaa fashilat amriikaa fil?iraaqi fa'inna alfawdhaa sawfa tatabi?u wa siinaaryuu 'aswa'a aliHtimaalaati huwa alHarbu ala'hliiyati"

yaquul almalik 'inna alwaqi?a assiyaasi li?amaliyaati ta?thiibi ala'sraa sayaduum Tawiilan … wa anna watirata al?unfi sawfa tashtadu.

wa'akkada almaliku al?ulaqata almutabaadalah bayna qadhiyatayi falastiina wal?iraaqa, falwaHidatu tughaththi aththaaniyah.

Kaana almaliku wara'a afdhali annati'ji munTaliqan min alwaqi?i al?amali arraahin ?alaa ?ilatihi walam yakun wara'a

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tasjiili almawaqifi.

almaliku Abdullah SaHib shi?aar "alurdun awalan" walakinna mafhumahu lishshi?aari laysa dhayyiiqan.

This is How the King Talked

If America failed in Iraq, then chaos would follow and the worst expectation is a civil war.

The King said that captives' torture will last long and violence in Iraq will become worse as the time of turning authority to Iraqi citizens approaches.

The King asserted the correlation between the two issues of Palestine and Iraq. One feeds another.

The King was the invisible dynamo behind the best results based on the current situation, and he was not looking for publicity.

King Abdullah II first initiated the slogan "Jordan First", but his conception of the slogan is not in its narrow sense.

Evaluative statement, in fact, is: "a statement (either direct or implied) of approval or disapproval of a person or institution, issue or event in the news" (Ryan and Tankard, 1977:165). This strategy is essential for the readers of newspaper discourse, since it satisfies their inquisitive behaviour. This is confirmed by the situation in which the discourse takes place: "The significance of discourse derives only from an interaction between language structure and the context in which it is used: so the discourse analyst must always be prepared to document the circumstances in which communication takes place (Fowler, ibid:90)". This highlighted an important point that the writer is less shaped by the educational and normative process which literacy and conventions of the written form entails, i.e. there is greater scope of diversity within this type of discourse, where judgment tends to be based more on communicative success rather than correctness and compliance with a standard. For

Hunston (1993:57-8), evaluative statement may be defined as: "anything which indicates the writer's attitude to the value of an entity in the text." She also adds that "the evaluation tends to be implicit and to depend upon a system of shared values." Such evaluative statements can be described as centrality claims which often express the importance of the topic at hand.   The local importance of such statements is implied by the employment of cognate lexical items in the context such as 'najaaH',

'naajeh', 'naajeHah', 'najaaHahu', 'najaHa'. Other centrality statements may include other lexical items which express significance or importance such as 'ahamu', 'muhimun', 'ahamiyyata', 'ahamma', 'haamun'.   It is noticed that writers use the past tense in evaluative statements, since it:

"gives the reader the sense that anything he or she reads is history − it can be documented, it can be confirmed or proved false.   It is not speculation"(Schudson,1986:106).   In addition, Hunston (op cit:61) advocates that: "A description of a past event … carries a higher degree of certainty than an inference drawn from the data." There is no doubt that evaluative statement is a personal judgement of the writer who attempts, in fact, to persuade the reader to place a high value on his or her information or knowledge claims.   The newspaper writer's job is not simply to report but to persuade. Hatim and Mason (1990:56) point out that: "Evaluativeness predominates in argumentative texts realised by cohesive devices of emphasis such as recurrence or parallelism." They also add that: "the dominant function of the text is to manage or steer the situation in a manner favourable to the text producer's goals" (ibid:55).

   Another important rhetorical feature in this type of discourse is redundancy, i.e. repetition of the same lexical item or the same phrase in the text.   It is clear that this strategy is overtly employed, and is motivated, sometimes, for the sake of emphasis. Otherwise, the writer has at his disposal other synonymous words or phrases that he can choose from, but choosing the same lexical item or phrase indicates emphasis. The following is an example:

ʼamriikaa ʼith taraa nafsihaa fii "ʼabu ighriib"

(4) malghariibu Haqqan fii qiSSati "*ʼabu ighriib*"? ʼahuwa *Haqiiqata*
ʼan kashfa alfadhiiHata ʼistaghraqa kula hathaa alwaqata?

"*ʼabu ighriib*" baata yumaTHTHliu ghurbata *ʼamriikaa* ?an
nafsihaa ….laqad taHawalat Harbu *ʼamriikaa* fil?iraaqi ʼilaa
Sira?in siikubaThii daakhilii kashafa lil?aalam walinafsihaa anna
hunaaka Hududan liltafawwaqa alʼamriikii.

ʼinna *ʼamriikaa* laa tuHaaribu al?iraaqiyyiin faHasib,
waʼinnamaa tuSaari? *nafsihaa* …fahiiya ʼin kaanat tuqadimu
nafsihaa … wahiyaa ʼin kaanat tuHaasibu *nafsihaa*.

laqad ʼiltaqat *ʼamriikaa binafsihaa* fii zanaaziina "*ʼabu
ighriib*".

ʼinna Harba *ʼamriikaa* fil?iraaqi tushakilu akbara
mughamaratin…lakinnahaa tajidu *nafsihaa* alyuuma taghraqu….

laqad ra'at *ʼamriikaa nafsihaa* ?alaa *Haqiiqatihaa* fil?iraaqi,
walaa ʼaDHunu anna maaraaʼathu qad raaqa lahaa.

America as it sees itself in Abu Ghreib Prison

What is strange in the story of **Abu Ghreib**?

Is it true that uncovering the scandal took so much time?

Abu Ghreib symbolizes **America**ʼ**s** alienation from *itself* . **America**ʼ**s**

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war in **Iraq** turned into internal psychopathy that reveals to **America** and the whole world that there are certain limitations to the superiority of **America**.

   America does not fight **Iraqis** only, but it struggles with *itself* in **Iraq.** **America** represents *itself* in **Iraq**, and therefore punishes *itself*.

   America finds *itself* in the cells of **Abu Ghreib** prison.

   America's war in **Iraq** represents a great ideological adventure in the whole history of **America**.   **America** finds *itself* drowning today. **America** has seen its **real** face in **Iraq**, and it is not happy of such **real** vision.

   It is clear from the above example that repetition is employed for the sake of emphasis. For example, the repetition of the nouns: **'*America*'**, **'*abu ighriib*', '*Iraq*',** could be avoided by the use of the pronoun 'it', but the writer kept repeating the same lexical item. The repetition of the reflexive pronoun '**itself**' in every other sentence in the same text is also used for the sake of emphasis. It is more likely that repetition is motivated by the discourse itself. In this regard, Hatim and Mason (1990:195) advocate that:"the recurrence [repetition] of [the word] *credit* is not unmotivated. Part of the text producer's intention in this case is to channel 'credit' in a particular direction and the repetition corresponds to a counterargumentative strategy." They also add that in translation, for example, the repetition needs to be relayed, i.e. "replacing the second mention of *credit* by a synonym would compromise the overall effect of the text." News writer tries to use simple and direct language which is unambiguous to readers. In this respect, Shrivastava (1991:23) points out that: "The language of news … should be simple and familiar to be understood by the average reader. Simple and direct sentences are more effective than long, involved ones". Moreover, "News writers typically use short declarative sentences which are easily understood" (Ryan and Tanker, 1977: 82). They also add that: "News writers often can create feelings of immediacy and drama through the effective use of short sentences and paragraphs" (ibid: 84).

   Nevertheless, most cases of repetition are not motivated. For instance, the word 'bilkaad' in text 1 is repeated three times in the same sentence.

Also, the repetition of cognate words: 'maHsubiin' and 'Hissabat' in another sentence in the same text (1). The following are examples:

laa tuSadiquuhum

(4) laqad tanafakha **hau'laa'i** "**almutaDhaaminuuna**" wallathiina 'aSbaHa **attaDhaamunu** bilnisbati 'iilayhim **mihnah** ka'ayyi **mihnah** yuzaawilunahaa   samkari aw suruujii wa **taDhaamanu** ma?a aThThawrati alfalasTiiniiyati wa?indama waqa?at al waaqii?ata wa'aTbaqat aljuyuushu al'isra'iliiyati ?alaa bayruuta farra hau'laa'i miThla azzaraaziiri almath?urati …

   Walaqad baqiya **hau'laa'i** "**almutaDhaaminuuna**" yashuduuna arriHaala 'ilaa baghdaada **wa'asma?u** Saddama Husayna bi'anaahum ra'uu Suratahuu ?alaa SaTHi alqamari wawa?aduuhu bilnaSari almu'azari …

   Wa kanaa **hau'laa'i** "**almutaDhaaminuuna**" yajtaaHuna Taraablis algharba **liyusmi?uu** aljamaahiiriyyati al?uDHmaa alkalaama aljamiila waliiyuratiluua?Dha mazamiiri "alkitaabi alakhaDhara" waliyastamTiruu adda?ma aththawrii….

Don't Believe Them !!

   "Those supporters" bombasted loudly as usual.   Their **support** became a **profession** as any **profession** such as plumbing and saddle making. They **supported** the Palestinian revolution. However, when the Israeli forces besieged Beirut, they fled frantically like frightened birds.

   "**Those supporters**" continued to go to Baghdad to tell Saddam Hussain that they saw his image on the moon and assured him of eminent victory….

   "**Those supporters**" swept Tripoli in the Great Republic of Libya to praise the Republic and to chant the verses of "The Green Book" to elicit the revolutionary **support**…

al'ihtimaamu al?aalamii bimanTiqatanaa

(5) munthu ?uquuda Tawiilatin wal'ihtimaamu al?aalamii yatarakazu ?alaa hathihi

almanTiqah wayumkinu alqawlu bi'anna assanawaati al'aKhiirati shahidat tazayuda al'ihtimaama al?aalamii bimanTiqatanaa wa qad 'aSbaHat alqadhiiyatu alfalasTiiniiyata walqadhiiyatu al?iraaqiiyatu 'abraza qadhiiyatayni ?alaa assaHati addawliiyati walaysa ghariiban 'an ta'Khutha qadhaayaa almanTiqati kula hatha al'ihtimaama al?aalamii …

wa'iththa kaana al'ihtimaama al?aalami binna 'imtiyaazan wa'i?tiraafan bimakanati hathihi almanTiqati min al?aalam fa'inna thalika yafridhu ?alaa duwali almanTiqati wa shu?ubuhaa 'antakuuna bimustawa hathihi al'ahamiiyati wattamauz.

The World Interest in our Region

For decades, **the world interes**t has concentrated on this **region**. It can be said that in the last few years the region has witnessed an increase of **the world interest** in our **region**. The Palestinian and the Iraqi issues became the most prominent in **the world** arena, and it is not strange that the issues of **this region** takes all **the world's interest**.

If **the world's interest** is a privilege and acknowledgement for the importance of **this region** in **the world**, then, in fact, this will impose on the countries and the people of **this region** to live up to the level of this importance and distinction**.**

ʾamriikaa bayna almabadi'i walmumaarasaat

(6) **ʾamriikaa** hiya alquTbu al'a?DHamu almunfaridu **fil?aalami** alyawma , walahaa wujuudun faa?ilun Hawla **al?aalam** lidarajati i?tibaarihaa dawlatan mujaawiiratan lijamii?i duwali **al?aalam**

wabittaali fa'innahaa tamliku **quwatan** mu'athiratan, laysa faqaT **quwatan** khashnah mumathalatan biquwwatihaa almusalaHati, bal **quwatan** naa?imatun 'aydhan tatamathalu binfuthihaa alkabiiri waqudratihaa ?alaa taHadiidi majraa al'aHdaTHi.

Sayakuunu maksaban lijamii?i shu?ubi **al?aalami** waddiimuqraaTiyati walHurriyati law wadha?at **'amriikaa quwwaatihaa** fii khidmati hathihi al'ahdaaf, kamma qala arra'isu bush, wa kamma yaguulu alkunqris **al'amriikii**. lakinna thaalika yataTalabu Sidqiiyatan ?aaliyatan fii naDHari shu?ubi al?alam …

mushkilatu 'assiyaasati **al'amriikiiyati** annahaa laa tatamata?u **biSSidqiiyati**, al?aybu laa yakmunu filmabadi'i allati tunaadi bihaa **'amriikaa** bal fii mumaarasaati **'amriikaa** linaqiidhiihaa waqabla 'an tataSadaa **'amriikaa** linashri tilka almabadi'I **fil?aalam** ?alayyhaa an taltazima bihaa.

America between Principles and Practices

America is the greatest and the only pole in today's **world**. It is so effective that it is considered a neighbouring country to all countries in **the world**. **America**'s **power** is very efficient not only in its **powerful** armed forces but also in its great dominance and capability in orienting and controlling **world** events.

It would be a great advantage to **the world** nations, democracy and freedom if **America** had employed its power for the service of these goals, as president Bush and the **American** congress stated. However, to **the world** countries, this role requires credibility on **America**'s part. The problem with the **American** policy is that it does enjoy credibility. Such a defect does not stem from the **principles** which **America** calls for,

rather in its practices. Hence, before **America** decides to disseminate these **principles**, it has to be committed to them.

It is clear from the above texts (4, 5, and 6) that repetition is not motivated. In text (4) the lexical items: "**Those supporters"** and "**profession**" were repeated. This creates unnecessary redundancy. In text (5), the lexical items: "**The world interest**", "**this region**", and "**the world"** were repeated several times in a very short text. In text (6) as well, the lexical items "**America**", "**the world**", and **"principles**" were repeated several times. There is no doubt that unnecessary redundancy frustrates reader's expectation. These findings are corroborated by similar findings from other studies: Williams (1983) explores the function of theme-rheme progression in the cohesion of Arabic and English newspaper discourse, and points out that: "Arabic tends to favour lexical repetition while English prefers ellipsis"(P.125). Williams advocates that:" Arabic texts contain exact co reference of the theme in sentence after sentence as well as repetition of lexical items either for cohesive or aesthetic purposes"(ibid:127). Al-Jubouri (1983) examines the functional role of repetition in Arabic newspaper discourse. He defines lexical repetition in Arabic as word strings. According to him word strings have explicit rhetorical function and they are not used as mere ornamental devices. He claims that "When [word strings are] reiterated through argument, they tend to create an immediate emotional impact. This is largely achieved through forceful concentration of ideas"(ibid:106). Moreover, Koch (1983b) investigates the role of repetition in Arabic political discourse, and points out that: "Arabic argumentation is essentially paratactic, abductive and analogical. It persuades by repeating [claims], paraphrasing them, and clothing them in recurring structural cadences"(ibid:47). Moreover, D'Angelo (1974:390) identifies one type of repetition which he calls 'grammatical subordination' that includes "the use of a pronoun in one sentence to refer to a noun in the previous sentence … the repetition of a word … in a subsequent sentence to link it to a similar word in the previous sentence."

However, Hoey (1991b:100) highlights the vital role of repetition in a text when he suggests that: "lexical cohesion and other forms of

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repetition in matrix form allowed us to identify sentences that were bonded, that is, connected by an above − average level of repetition."

Sometimes it is not redundancy or repetition per se, but it is wordiness which is a disguised form of repetition, i.e. using more words than necessary. For example the use of quasi-synonymous terms such as 'tuHaaribu', 'tuHaasibu', 'tuSaari?u',   'ihtmaam', "ahamyih, 'muhim', "ahamiyaatan' is a disguised form of repetition. This phenomenon was described by Fowler (1991:85) as over lexicalization, i.e. "the existence of an excess of quasi − synonymous terms for entities and ideas that are a particular preoccupation or problem in the culture's discourse ."

Another strategy of Arabic newspaper discourse is the use of discourse markers. Discourse markers are used here to explicitly mark the relationships between propositions in the text as well as to explicitly indicate the organisation of the discourse. Discourse markers, like other types of cohesion, can be seen as devices which the language puts at the writer's disposal to overtly indicate the relationships holding between various propositions in the text. In the absence of these devices, the reader might still be able to perceive the link between these elements, but the task of reading will become more difficult. Brown and Yule (1984:196) have suggested that

> With a set of sentences, which do not display explicit marking of relationships, a normal reader will naturally assume that these sequences of sentences constitute a text. He/she will assume that there are semantic relations between the sentences, even in the absence of any explicit assertion that there is such a relationship.

They even go further to claim that the "underlying semantic relations" are more important than the explicit cohesive markers or devices used to indicate relationship in the text. The following table represents the prominent discourse markers used:

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Table (1)

Discourse Markers

No.	Marker	Number of occurrences
1	ghayra anna (however)	16
2	ma?thalika (nevertheless)	14
3	wa min naaHiiyatin 'ukhraa (another point of view)	14
4	wa min aljadeer biththikri (it is worth mentioning)	12
5	wa mima yajduru thikruhu (it is worthwhile)	10

   The majority of discourse markers used here are of the adversative type. Two of them: ghayra anna (however) and ma?thalika (nevertheless) seem to have the adversative relationship plus the extra denial of expectation. They appear to function at the discourse level and seem to bear significance on the flow of discourse. The evidence for this is that the writer's argument progressed to a sort of peak in this part of the discourse where his personal opinion was expressed and a new move in the discourse seems to begin. Also this new move does not go in an entirely new direction but rather seems to be closely related to the parts of discourse which have preceded. Moreover, by having ghayra anna (however) or ma?thalika (nevertheless) at the onset of the paragraph for example, the writer seems to indicate to the reader that the issue under examination was not quite settled in the previous paragraph, more aspects of the issue have yet to be dealt with and more theories of the advocates of the old have yet to be refuted. In fact, discourse markers such as ghayra anna (however) or ma?thalika (nevertheless) serves as a link between the major moves in the text and appears to be preparing the reader for a new build up in the discourse towards a new peak. They provide transition between the propositions they conjoin; they have cohesive roles since they connect members in the discourse. The semantic relationship and the cohesive role they serve are to link larger parts of discourse. Beeston (1973) observes that the domain of some Arabic connectives is the text as a whole and not the sentence itself despite the fact that most of them occur within sentences. He says that: "The speech unit within which the coordinate structure operate is the total literary work, which is thus organized in one continuous logical stream" (ibid:171). It should be pointed out that the Arabic additive connective

wa (and), in most instances, is used with most connectives in Arabic. However, it is function is superseded by other connectives especially the adversative ones.

Sometimes, the choice of vocabulary is influenced by cultural or religious domains. For example, freedom fighters (stone throwers) in the Palestinian uprising (intifaadhah) are brandished in this type of discourse as martyrs. This has religious connotation. Also it may have cultural motivations, i.e. they are regarded as sacred people. Even though their actions sometimes can be described literally as suicidal, the newspaper may opt for metaphorical expression, since it is rather more acceptable in this mode of communication. In this respect, Fowler (1991:79) points out that: "Nominalization and the use of nouns for actions are endemic, especially in official, bureaucratic and formal mode of discourse, once one has learned to spot the processes."

Another insignificant strategy in this type of discourse is the use of spoken or colloquial lexical items. The use of words such as "raaqa", "bilkaad", tanafakha, etc. is to establish a kind of bond with readers, or to build a relation of intimacy with readers. In this respect, Agee et al. (1983:234) point out that: "Good faith with the reader is the foundation of good journalism." There is no doubt that the use of the oral mode in the written one does not mean that the oral mode is easier to apply; on the contrary, as Halliday (1989) suggests 'intricacy' is a distinctive feature of the spoken form. Moreover, Robin Lakoff (1982) points to the use of 'oral' strategies in some writing, and Wallace Chafe (1982) suggests that some oral literature may be more like writing than speech, i.e. the reciter is detached and the degree of skill in the repetition means that the utterances are highly 'polished'. Furthermore, Ryan and Tanker (1977:88) argue that: "A journalist who cannot communicate…in everyday language will not reach many readers". Certainly the mode should reflect the influence of the way discourse is produced and perceived by language users. The mode is a factor affecting and limiting the type of language produced. A writer, in this type of discourse, deliberately seek spoken mode in the written channel in order to have a

direct influence on the readers' opinions.

Conclusion

It is worth mentioning that this investigation is a step in the right direction, since it has highlighted an important area, which is largely ignored, i.e. the rhetorical structure of Arabic newspaper discourse. It is evident in this study that the organization of Arabic newspaper discourse, in most cases, is clearly marked especially in clauses expressing cause and effect. This investigation reveals that there is explicit presentation of ideas and explicit indication of text organization. Redundancy is one of the main rhetorical features of this type of discourse, and it is used, sometimes, for the sake of emphasis. Another feature of this type of discourse is explicit and varied marking of clause relations especially subordinating clauses indicating reason (liaʾn, bisababi). This study also revealed that Arabic newspaper discourse overtly used discourse markers especially to indicate the relationship of contrast between propositions. There is no doubt that discourse markers are used here as an explicit indication of the point of view of the writer. Moreover, evaluative statements are embedded in this type of discourse, and they are clearly used to support the writer's point of view because they are central to the development of the text. In fact, they can form the major thrust of an argument, and they may have an overall effect on the organization of the text.

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Transliteration Notes

The following system has been followed in the transcription of Arabic words:

1. **Consonants:**

أ		ض	dh
ب	b	ط	T
ت	t	ظ	DH
ث	TH	ع	?
ج	j	غ	gh
ح	H	ف	f
خ	Kh	ق	q
د	d	ك	k
ذ	th	ل	l
ر	r	م	m
ز	z	ن	n
س	s	ش	sh
هـ	h	و	w
ص	S	ي	y

2. **Vowels:**

A. Long Vowels   **B. Short Vowels**

ا   **aa**   __   **a**

و   **uu**   ُ____   **u**

ي   **ii**   ____   **i**