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STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF BREAKING NEWS TEXTS IN CONTEMPORARY FRENCH MEDIA DISCOURSE

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Mass communication texts, or mass media texts, are one of the most widespread forms of communication today. They take a prominent part in the perception of terrorist acts, protests, assassinations, violence, robberies, kidnappings, the number of cases from COVID-19 or natural disasters, and how effectively this information will affect the reader. For this purpose, the authors of the articles apply various linguistic means and stylistic devices.

According to L. Grishaeva, media texts are being created to attract the reader's attention to relevant topics, the offered information, using various means of affecting on the recipient's perception of the presented information, maintaining the recipient's attention to the publication [1, c.39].

Considering the peculiarities of the structural organization of the news text, it should be noted that there are two aspects: external and internal.

The external elements of text organization perform the function of attracting the reader's attention to the content of the article. The usage of graphic means in the article are intended to highlight the text of the report about the event among all the materials of the newspaper issue. The headline, as a rule, should be highlighted: first of all, they should be printed in large typeface, sometimes you can highlight in italics and bold, and it is possible to take a completely different typeface, not the same as the main text and, of course, it is necessary to highlight the headline in a different color . Smaller print is used for subheadings. Such visual tools such as photos are used as in the case of a large volume of articles (10-25 lines). However, a photograph with a small text is placed on the first page of the newspaper (à la Une).

The internal organization of articles includes text composition and functional-verbal forms.

Examining the news texts, we have concluded that news texts are divided into two main categories in terms of structure, texts that occurred once, so they are placed in one or two pages that provide detailed information about what, where and when occurred, the number of victims suffering or victims (if available), the possible consequences, so messages of this type are completed.

☰ **Le Parisien**   🔒 | **S'ABONNER**

Faits divers

Inondations dans le Nord : un septuagénaire meurt noyé près de Maubeuge

Les pluies ininterrompues de ces derniers jours dans le Nord, département toujours en vigilance orange ce lundi, ont fait une victime dimanche soir.

Les départements du Nord et du Pas-de-Calais restent classés lundi en vigilance orange pour risque de crue, comme le quart sud-ouest de la France. LP

Par **Le Parisien** avec AFP
Le 1 février 2021 à 07h43

Les départements du Nord et du Pas-de-Calais restent classés lundi en vigilance orange pour risque de crue, comme le quart sud-ouest de la France.

Les départements du Nord et du Pas-de-Calais restent classés lundi en vigilance orange pour risque de crue, comme le quart sud-ouest de la France.

« Le front pluvieux arrivé dimanche apporte des précipitations continues sur un grand quart sud-ouest jusqu'à lundi début de soirée. Les sols étant humides voire saturés sur la plupart des régions, et certains cours d'eau connaissant déjà des niveaux élevés, les nouvelles précipitations alimenteront les crues en cours sur les cours d'eau placés en vigilance », avertit Météo France.

The other category are news with a link. They are characterized by the fact that they are a continuation of the disclosure of a topic that has already been previously mentioned in other publications. Messages of this type are large in length and contain hyperlinks about the event that has already been previously investigated.

Most often there are messages of this type in unsolved cases, such as the categories "Disappearance", "Pedophilia" or recurring situations, such as new information or statistics about diseases on COVID-19. However, during 2018 and now, vaccination-related news stories have appeared, under the "Manifestations" category.

We suggest to analyze the news from the French newspaper "Le Parisien", where we can trace the structure according to which the news texts are created.

Brief content (this category is represented by the headline, which is located at the beginning of the article and contains the most important information about the place of the incident *(Nord de la France),* indicates the people who are involved *(Département et un victime)* the main events and the reason why the situation took place *(Inondations).*

"Les pluies ininterrompues de ces derniers jours dans le Nord, département toujours en vigilance orange ce lundi, ont fait une victime dimanche soir."

The headline has also an attraction function, that is, it attracts the reader to read further information. For this purpose, various syntactic structures are used in the articles. These can be - nominal sentences, represented by names, denote the place and time of action, the usage of compound sentences.

"Un septuagénaire meurt noyé près de Maubege".

The introduction part additionally repeats this information, but with the addition of certain details:

- The date the news was written and the exact time, indicating the edition and the rubric in which the information is located, as well as the number of comments on the message in question. *(Faits divers | Le Parisien | Le 1 février 2021 à 07h43)*

- The subtext, which specifies the location of the incident (*Les pluies ininterrompues de ces derniers jours dans le Nord, département toujours en vigilance orange ce lundi, ont fait une victime dimanche soir.*)

- The number of victims and possible consequences. *(Inondations meurtrières. Un homme de 70 ans est mort noyé dimanche soir dans le Nord, pris dans les eaux de la rivière Sambre, alors que le département est classé en vigilance orange pour des crues, ont annoncé lundi les pompiers.)*

Having analyzed the information presented in the title and the introductory part of the article, about the participants, place, time, cause and results, we can conclude that the category "Summary" presents as much as possible all the items that are usually the main content of the category "Main part". Thus, we can conclude that the main purpose of these two categories is implemented with the help of the table of contents and the introductory part, i.e. Information is not duplicated, but complements each other, which will help to attract the reader to read the "Body" of the article.

- The "Main Part" and " Outcome" categories provide the most detailed description of an event that is taking place. Quite often it is possible to learn the names of the characters and subsequently more detailed information about the object, subject, place and time of the event that entailed, consequences, number of victims and possible further steps in solving the case. *« Un homme de 70 ans s'est fait prendre par les eaux en bordure de la Sambre en crue »*, *dans la commune de Berlaimont, près de Maubeuge, selon un communiqué du Service départemental d'incendie et de secours (Sdis) du Nord. Malgré les tentatives de réanimation, il a été déclaré décédé.*

- Comments (the last point is comments from readers who express their emotions about what they have read).

ampaillezbisiaux   Le 1 février 2021 à 08h36

Très triste ….

By analyzing the corpus of news reports we can trace a clear scheme of information presentation, from a single sentence, which contains expressive vocabulary, urges the reader to consult the article, to extensive information containing details about the event, consequences and ending with the emotional reactions of readers.

Event texts use two types of narrative structures - closed and open. Closed structure texts contain all the circumstances of the event: place, time of action, the main participants, the reasons and the result of the event investigation and punishment of guilty persons. In open structures there is a certain amount of the obscurity or incompleteness of the investigations. Most often, the identity of the perpetrator or victim of the events, their location, the motives of the crime remain undisclosed, thereby resulting in a lack of investigation and, accordingly, punishment of the perpetrators.

The small event texts, regardless of their narrative structure, whether closed or open, follow certain narrative schemes that guide the unfolding of the story. There are two schemes:

A straight narrative scheme: the article begins with a story without a preliminary plot, all the events stand in chronological order from the past to the present. The author gives all the information he knows about the events, without summarizing them.

«Un canot de sauvetage du plus gros paquebot du monde, Harmony of the Seas, s'est décroché mardi 13 septembre dans le port de Marseille avec plusieurs personnes à son bord, faisant un mort et quatre blessés graves, ont annoncé plusieurs sources concordantes, confirmant une information de La Provence» [2, 23.11.2020].

«Selon le journal régional, l'embarcation s'est détachée du cinquième pont avec cinq personnes à son bord, dont on ignore pour l'instant la raison de leur présence» [2, 13.10.2020].

«Comme annoncé, la neige est tombée ce dimanche sur l'ouest de la France et la région parisienne, compliquant les déplacements dans certaines zones. Notamment en Normandie. Une nouvelle salve pluvio-neigeuse » devrait traverser le pays au cours de la journée, des Hauts-de-France au Grand-Est, dans la soirée, indique l'organisme des prévisions. Des flocons sont par ailleurs tombés en Ile-de-France, où le manteau blanc devrait toutefois rester fin» [2, 24.01.2021].

This text represents an open narrative structure: events are lined up in chronological order, but there is not enough information because there are no conclusions about what is happening.

2. A circular narrative scheme: the beginning reflects the state of affairs at the time, while the main part of the story moves from the past to the present, i.e., in a circle.

«Saint-Contest, Authie, Soliers... Il s'était attaqué à 27 véhicules autour de Caen (Calvados) pour dérober du carburant. Il a été interpellé le 13 août 2015 » [2, 20.08.2019].

«À l'aide d'une perceuse sans fil, il trouait des réservoirs et récupérait le carburant avec un bac de vidange, afin de le revendre. Âgé de 34 ans, ce Caennais en proie à des difficultés financières, aurait reconnu les faits, devant les enquêteurs de la Brigade de répression des vols et roulages, du commissariat central de Caen..» [1, 27.05.2019].

«La tempête de neige qui frappe l'Espagne depuis 36 heures a fait trois morts samedi, et continue de paralyser une partie du pays, en particulier la capitale Madrid, avec peu d'espoir d'amélioration dans l'immédiat. Selon le dernier bulletin des services métrologiques, cette vague de froid va durer jusqu'à jeudi» [2, 09.01.2021].

The text represents an open-ended structure, since most of the events are unknown. The narrative begins with the moment of the robbery, followed by the story of the arrest of the thief. The ending of the article about the arrest shows us that a circular narrative scheme is used here.

Articles, as we have seen, however large or small, use circular narrative schemes. When most of the circumstances of the events remain unknown and the investigation itself is still very far from completion, a circular narrative scheme allows the journalist to draw tentative conclusions and set the reader up for a positive course of investigation. Such articles usually begin by telling the reader that law enforcement agencies are investigating the case, giving the reader a sense of absolute safety and security. Consequently, the quality of the linguistic content of the news texts significantly affects the human subconscious, the efficiency of information perception. Therefore, in our opinion, the linguistic features of media texts, especially the lexical aspect, require the close attention of scientists.

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