

Introduction

As a student of English I was told time and again that reading English Newspapers is an indispensable part of training. Although I used to dip into some selected columns of English Newspapers I came to grips with the task rather late. Once I took it seriously I discovered there is a good deal that has to be done for making sense of the newspaper reports. As it happened I was attracted to journalism in which I took a short formal course.

On the whole I have been attracted to linguistics and language studies which eventually led to my taking up an M.Phil. course. This entails the writing of a short dissertation for which I thought of selecting a topic in this area. I soon found that newspapers represent a wide variety of text types and language styles and as such they are a good basis for language study. They are also helpful in sharing attitudes and to understand cultural values. What is more the great variety of information in them makes them interesting to work with.

The most fascinating aspect of newspaper language appeared to be the headlines. They are sometimes so obvious and easy to understand and sometimes so terse and difficult to crack. And sometimes so misleading that a study of newspaper headlines seemed a very attractive topic.

The only initiation I had into this task was a small section in Quirk et al (1972) which we did at our M.A. Part I and R.A. Close's' exercises on elaborating newspaper headlines. But I was lucky in getting all the important literature on headlines, thanks to the Bombay University Library, Prof. Leech and Michael Short themselves from whom I was able to secure their published and unpublished materials.

This dissertation is divided into two main chapters. The first chapter is a review of literature on the theoretical aspect of newspaper headlines. The second chapter presents the analysis of Indian English Newspaper headlines. The corpus of materials used is drawn from the standard corpus of Indian English. The analysis is done mainly following Leech's model but with a few additional aspects

built into it. The main conclusions of the investigation are reported in a small chapter III. A classified list of all the headlines analysed, some representative samples of analysis in tabular form and the full texts of reports analysed for speech reporting are all appended to the dissertation.

All references in the body of the report are given following MLA style:surname of the author followed by the year of publication of the work in brackets. A consolidated bibliography of all the works referred to together with the others consulted is given at the end.