
CHAPTER-III

Summary of Conclusions



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From the analysis of headlines presented in chapter II the following conclusions have emerged.

- 1) It was discovered that out of the 334 headlines 71.3% accounted for group structures and 28.7% for clause structures. Again within group structure 47% accounted for single NPs and 53% for connected groups and within the clause structures 71.3% for conventional clauses (Block language convention) and 28.7% for full clauses.

Although isolated and/or connected group structures may be grammatically simple, they are functionally complex and it would appear that they are on the whole difficult to interpret.

- 2) In identifying the discourse connections between elements within the headlines on the one hand and between the headline and the running text of the news several problems were confronted. The problem turned out to be more complex, again in the case of

group structures. Especially in the case of single NPs it was found that no definite grammatical functional label could be assigned. This made the identification of discourse connection all the more complex. In short at the level of discourse again group structures turned out to be more complex.

- 3) The degree of clarity of headlines was measured with the help of categories such as opaque and transparent. Obviously these are relative to various other variables such as background knowledge context of situation which in themselves are not precisely identifiable. However, in the case of group structures it was discovered that the meaning was more often opaque than in the case of clause structures.
- 4) It was discovered that group structures predominated in B and C categories, that is, editorials and letters to editor and reviews, and clause structures predominated in the A category, that is, reportage. So it would appear that the headlines of reportage are linguistically simpler. Within the reportage the

headlines for spotnews are mostly clause structures whereas those for other reports are often group structures. Thus spotnews headlines are linguistically simpler. However, in the case of B category, the subsection letters to the editor was exclusively found to use imperatives, linguistically again simple.

In that order spotnews headlines turned out to be the simplest, followed by headlines of letters to the editor. Comparatively headlines of other reportage editorials and reviews are more complex.

- 5) No attempt was made to correlate the nature of point of view of the reporter with ^{the} kind of newspaper.
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- 6) In the case of speech reporting it was discovered that very few headlines that is, only 15 contained speech reporting. Obviously the sample is too meagre to draw any useful conclusions. However, it was discovered within the limited sample that four types of speech reporting occurred. They were DS, IS, SS, NRSA. In most cases the veracity of speech reporting turned out to be unquestionable. Only in one case analysed veracity

was found lacking. Again almost all the reporting verbs used in speech reporting were discovered to be highly loaded whereas the actual report did not warrant those. In some cases they were overstated and in others understated. If the reporting verb is any indication of the veracity of speech reporting then it would appear that it is lacking in almost all the cases.