

# Ideological Constructions in News Discourse Presented in Philippine Broadsheets: Input to Innovations in Language Education

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigated the discursive nature of reportage in the news presented in leading Philippine broadsheets and established how purposive linguistic choices lead to biases that shape ideology. CDA was used as the study's operational framework, while SFL guided textual analysis, specifically on the system of transitivity for analyzing process types. The evaluative language was analyzed using the Appraisal Theory. The research involved 585 news articles, mining 231,985 words to form the corpus. The analysis revealed that news reportage's discursive nature is non-conventional in terms of passive agent deletion in headlines and the strategic use of evaluative language to forward ideologies. The news discourse used the material process type often and for particular socio-political personalities. The news stories were also found to have visibility bias the most, while the use of evaluative language was a source of bias in the discourse. Together with the framework developed as the study's output, these results serve as inputs for innovations in language education, especially in courses in communication, genre-based linguistics, and media studies. These provide oppositional and/or fresh perspectives in language teaching in the new normal, where careful and appropriate use of language is key in forwarding critical information to the public.

**Keywords:** *critical discourse analysis, discourse patterns, evaluative language, ideological constructions, process types.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Thousands of people participate in a daily, large-scale, meaning-making routine that is driven by language coursed through the forms of mass media. This means that people's decisions and opinions are guided by – if not totally anchored on – the representation of this world through the purposeful use of language and discourse patterns in the various media platforms, especially in newspapers. When interest and uncertainty in social and political information are high, newspaper use is more strongly related to an interpersonal discussion of political information than television viewing or any other media form [1].

However, news organizations have been criticized for biased, exaggerated, sensationalistic, and polarized reports of events [2], [3]. This has forwarded the notion that news does not present an entirely neutral picture of social reality but rather gears towards specific ideologies and socially constructed realities [4]. Therefore, it is important to exercise caution and strike a balance in absorbing

narratives presented by mainstream media, especially in newspapers or broadsheets with a wide public readership.

While media bias is often treated as a single phenomenon, it is important to disaggregate it into three different subtypes: visibility bias, tonality bias, and agenda bias [5]. Visibility or coverage bias exists when one personality is the subject of an undue amount of coverage compared with other personalities. The second type concerns valence, that is, the tonality of news coverage. Positive or negative aspects of an object are highlighted in the media, increasing the salience of these evaluations in the public's mind. The third type concerns issue agendas and fall under selectivity or gatekeeping bias. It includes framing, agenda-setting, or priming and revolves around the journalist or news organization's external decision-making processes [6], [7]. All of these biases in news discourse are extremely powerful in shaping ideologies [8].

These ideologies – the systems in which meanings serve to sustain relations of power – are

communicated through a symbolic process whereby reality is produced, maintained, repaired, and transformed [9]. By representing the world in language, journalists construct and communicate meaning upon which the public can act. The ideological nature of media language entails specific constructions of the world and of social identities and relations [10]. This highlights the significance of analyzing a news text not simply as a conveyor of facts but also as a medium for ideological constructions.

### ***1.1. Passive Agent Deletion in Headlines***

The news headline and the lead are the most convenient signals for ideological positioning since they express the semantic macrostructure or the most important information and/or overall meaning of the news text [11]. The headline opens the discourse, but both the headline and the lead function as a summary and are the most obvious news discourse categories. From the perspective of syntax, by virtue of the declarative statement by which the information is offered, the body of news articles can disguise journalistic viewpoints and portray themselves as reporting events from a neutral perspective [12]. This enables the journalists to persuade the reader to believe in their presentations of the event.

One way of constructing ideologies in news discourse through language is passive agent deletion. Conventional journalism favors the active rather than the passive structure, especially in headlines [13], since the latter makes it possible to move the subject to the background, while passive agent deletion enables the writer to make agency unclear. The exclusion of agency is always ideologically motivated [14], since actors are assigned passive, thus less prominent, roles in the activity.

### ***1.2. Process Types and Evaluative language***

In the analysis of discourse patterns in news narratives, it is also critical to look into specific words' use and function [15]. This analysis could be guided by Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which emphasizes language meaning-making capacity [16]. Particular configurations of text, structured and negotiated in reference to certain contexts, simultaneously show experiential, interpersonal, and textual meaning. These simultaneous strands of meanings are grammaticalized in texts through the system of transitivity, mood, and theme. The study focused on the system of transitivity and its four process types – material, mental, verbal, and relational – through the use of verbs in the discourse.

The material process describes the process of doing, usually concrete, tangible actions. On the other hand, the mental process describes the process of thinking or feeling. People find that they are not asking about actions or doings in a tangible, physical

sense, but about mental reactions: about thoughts, feelings, or perceptions. The verbal process accounts for "verbal actions". Saying and all its many synonyms, including symbolic exchanges of meaning, are the verbs that signal the verbal process. The final process type is relational, which encodes meanings about states of being and shows how expressed in the utterance [17]. With these linguistic elements at play, the journalists have the freedom to choose which process types to use in order to advance specific ideologies.

However, evaluative language is as potent as the purposive use of verbs to forward ideologies. The choice of descriptors in news reporting is rather deliberate and is viewed as a successful instrument of the media to tell a story in a favorable manner without getting too much into detail. These descriptors concern the system of appraisal, which is concerned with evaluative language, or the attitudes that are negotiated in a text and the strength of the feelings involved. [16]. The Appraisal Theory, which is an extension and development of SFL, shows how a text constructs evaluative language via ideological contacts with its potential readers [18], [19].

The system that examines how writers use language to evaluate text is called the System of Attitude [20]. It determines how writers express emotional points of view, pass judgment on people and/or aesthetic quality of a process, phenomenon, or text. Attitude is divided into three sub-systems: Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation. Each is concerned with how writers attach an inter-subjective value or the assessment to participants or processes [21].

Affect is the semantic resource for construing emotion concerned with emotional response and disposition. This is typically realized through mental processes of reaction or attributive relational effect, such as happiness or unhappiness, security or insecurity, and satisfaction or dissatisfaction. Judgment examines how writers evaluate human behavior based on predetermined cultural and ideological norms. It assesses behavior as normal or abnormal, capable or incapable, moral or immoral, and legal or illegal. Appreciation is the sub-system where evaluations are made of products, processes, or people. It describes the emotional impact of the lexicogrammatical target under evaluation and evaluates whether it is important or significant, or in the context of this study, whether it is newsworthy.

Therefore, in the field of journalism and media studies, it is especially relevant to study how journalists choose their words and compose their discourse, making decisions that concern the how and why of newswriting. Much more than mere stylistic choices, these decisions shed light on the work of the journalists that, consciously or not, write their text under the constraints of different and often divergent

economic, ethical, professional, and social implications [22].

Such decisions often form specific patterns of discourse, which is important since the real message of news stories is given through the discourse patterns and not always in words per se [23]. These patterns can be formed by looking not at words in isolation but at the entirety of the discourse, focused on how and how often these words are used. This level of analysis involves not just frequency counting but requires a deeper and more in-depth study of word use.

As an educator in language and discourse analysis, the researcher pursued this study to highlight the power of language in shaping ideology, especially through the mass media consumed by the public on a daily basis. This study on the ideological constructions in news discourse serves as an avenue to stimulate curiosity and critical thinking on news discourse and shed light on the importance of language analysis in understanding social realities. Its relevance and utility value rests on language pedagogy so that educators go beyond superficial and prescriptive teaching of language. Rather, the study offers an oppositional view and a fresh perspective in language use, especially in the new normal, where linguistic choices are key in avoiding misrepresentation of important information.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This research focused on ideological constructions in news discourse presented in leading Philippine broadsheets. It aimed to describe the discursive nature of reportage in the published news, specifically looking into language features such as passive agent deletion and use of evaluative language and process types. It also aimed to identify existing discourse patterns in the news narratives based on the data mined within the period of critical analysis. Further, the study aimed to analyze how language features and discourse patterns create bias in the selected news items.

One intention of the study, as its main contribution to the field, is to develop a framework that would help language educators and students escape the traditional manner of teaching and learning language. This is a significant input to the contextualization of the teaching of language and discourse vis-a-vis the sphere of social practice. This is true especially at this day and age when the purposive use of language is key in forwarding specific ideologies.

## 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study used both qualitative and quantitative methods for interpretive analysis. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was adopted to find relationships

between and among the news texts, the news production processes, and socio-cultural practices [24]. The quantitative part focused on frequency counts and percentages of pertinent language features in the discourse.

### 3.1. Materials Analyzed

The main sources of data were news items presented in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Philippine Star, and Manila Bulletin from March 1 to 31, 2019, which was the period of critical observation. News that was published both in print and online platforms within the period covered in this study served as the texts for analysis. Overall, the study analyzed 585 news stories, with 231,985 words constituting the corpus and 6,958 clauses analyzed for process types. As code identifiers, "PDI" was used for the Inquirer, "PS" for Philippine Star, and "MB" for Manila Bulletin. For example, the code "MB-1" means that the text is the first news article analyzed from Manila Bulletin, "PS-2" means the text is the second article analyzed from the Philippine Star, and so on.

### 3.2. Research Procedure

The analysis was anchored on the three-dimensional framework for CDA in mapping separate forms of analysis onto one another [24]: the analysis of language texts, discourse practice, and the discursive events as instances of political practice or socio-cultural contexts. The textual analysis was done first before focusing the discussion on socio-political issues in order to address criticism of prioritizing context over text [25]. Narrative analysis [26] was also conducted in order to determine the emerging patterns and nature of reportage in the news items.

The analysis was done in three levels:

*Level 1* – Micro-level (Text analysis/Description). This level considered various aspects of linguistic and textual analysis, especially in passive agent deletion and the use of evaluative language. After transcribing discursive linguistic units, the researcher used the MAXQDA v.12 software for coding and categorization. Transitivity analysis was also used; the transitivity process in the news discourse was identified by analyzing semantic processes expressed by the main, independent clause in each statement, while passive agent deletion was analyzed in the news headlines.

*Level 2* – Meso-level (Processing analysis/Interpretation). This involved studying issues of production and consumption. This was supported by Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with professionals in the field: a seasoned editor of a national weekly publication and the Department Chairperson of a Communication program considered a Center of

Development by the Commission on Higher Education.

*Level 3* – Macro-level (Social analysis/explanation). This involved intertextual and interdiscursive elements and took into account the broad, societal currents affecting the texts being studied. This included various socio-cultural and political realities that surrounded news production and presentation during the period of critical analysis.

Features such as the occurrence of passive agent deletion and the use of evaluative language were quantified, but the analysis focused on instances where the use of the features in question is somehow significant, that is, ideologically motivated. In addition, the stages of textual analysis, process analysis, and social analysis did not follow a linear fashion since these are often simultaneous – even recursive and iterative – processes.

**3.3. Coding Reliability**

To ensure inter-coding and inter-rater reliability in the analysis, the researcher sought two inter-coders' assistance: one has a Ph.D. in English degree, and the other is a doctorate degree holder of English Language Studies. The researcher gave each inter-coder 25 percent of the data, while the researcher coded all news items under study. In the instances when discrepancies were observed, the inter-coders discussed such differences by looking back at the data and agreeing on the most appropriate way of labeling the item in question. There were less than ten instances where discrepancies occurred, which is relatively minimal [27], thus rendering the inter-coding process reliable.

**4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The study yielded significant findings on the purposive use of language to forward ideologies in the news discourse.

**4.1 Passive Agent Deletion**

Table 1 shows the number of headlines with active and passive structures. These do not include headlines with a non-conventional structure, such as headlines using purely direct quotes or those without verbs, which would not allow analysis for this section. This is why the total number of headlines analyzed is not equivalent to the total number of news articles analyzed in the entire study.

**Table 1. Passive Agent Deletion in News Headlines**

<b>Broadsheet</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>PAD</b>	<b>% of PAD</b>
PDI	99	36	26.67
PS	109	98	47.34
MB	83	48	36.64

While it is clear from the table that the three broadsheets still favor active structures over passivized statements in headlines, it is worth noting that the percentages, especially in the Philippine Star, are relatively high considering the traditional preference to active statements over passive ones.

Here are some examples of passivized headlines:

*8 Chinese nabbed for online gambling (PS-96)*

*6 nabbed for kidnap of Chinese over debts (PS-97)*

The headlines hide the actors of the verb *nabbed*, which, in this case, refer to officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP). The exclusion of agency, or not mentioning the actors for a job well done (i.e. arresting criminals), is not followed when non-members of the PNP are involved, as in the following headlines:

*BI arrests 4 fugitives (PS-99)*

*BI nabs Chinese wanted for tax scam (PS-100)*

BI refers to the Bureau of Immigration, and the headlines use the active structure. This suggests that when police officers catch criminals, PH Star obscures the subject by using PAD in the structure. However, when non-PNP members are involved, they highlight the subject using the active structure in the last two examples. This is a recurring theme across the broadsheets, as manifested in the following headlines:

*OMB confiscates P56-M pirated CDs, DVDs in Ilgan City (MB-80)*

*5 poachers arrested; hot logs seized (MB-54)*

The Manila Bulletin's first headline highlights the Optical Media Board (OMB) by using the active structure. However, the actors of the verbs *arrested* and *seized* (the police, as per the news story) are unclear in the second headline since PAD is used. This obviously shows the ideological construction of how broadsheets place other agencies in the limelight in their duties' positive performance while putting police efforts in the background, forwarded through language in the form of passive agent deletion.

This analysis proves how journalists use different linguistic structures to construct ideological representations in the world [28]. In this case, the police are on the losing end, with their achievements obscured and relegated to the background through passive agent deletion. Relative to language education, the results are a significant input to the process of activation or passivation of sentences.

Since active and passive sentences are taught in schools, the focus should not simply be on how it is done but also on why it is done. It must be clear that the exclusion of agency in passive statements is always ideologically motivated [14], since actors are relegated to the background and hence rendered

unimportant. Therefore, students must be taught to be more judicious in using active or passive structures and must be more critical in reading these structures.

**4.2 Use of Evaluative Language**

An analysis of evaluative language used in news discourse was conducted to determine how the language of evaluation, attitude, and emotion was used. This was done in order to ascertain how the broadsheets express, negotiate, and naturalize certain inter-subjective and ideological positions [21]. Table 2 presents the data on the news discourse's evaluative language.

**Table 2. Evaluative Language in News Discourse**

Sub-system	Frequency	%
Appreciation	291	60.37
Affect	159	32.99
Judgment	32	6.64

With only 482 words detected as falling under evaluative language, these may be considered quantitative outliers relative to the 231,985 words that form the corpus. However, the analysis focuses not on the frequency alone but on the specific instances where the use of evaluative language is ideologically motivated, as in the following texts:

*The Philippine National Police's **tough** "one-strike policy" has resulted in the relief of the top-ranking officials of the Eastern Police District (EPD) and Pasay City police. (PDI-20)*

*President Duterte has ordered the Philippine National Police to solve the **gruesome** murder of a 16-year-old girl in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu province, on Sunday. (PDI-43)*

*Dago later died from severe spinal injuries, while Obiasada was in **critical** condition. (MB-66)*

In the first headline, the word *tough* is used to evaluate the PNP's policy against 'kotong' or extortion by the police. The succeeding phrase supports this, that the policy is so "tough" that even "top-ranking officials" were relieved from their posts once found guilty of extortion. This increases the possibility of evoking a constructive response from the reader through a positive appraisal of the Appreciation sub-system's evaluative language [18]. This is the sub-system most used by the broadsheets, constituting 60.37 percent of the entirety of evaluative language detected in the discourse.

The second headline shows an example of evaluative language under the Affect sub-system. The word *gruesome* is used, which exemplifies the writer's evaluation of the murder of Christine Silwan, the girl being described in the article. This purposive use of such a word expresses extreme dissatisfaction

with the act. In fact, the use of the word *gruesome* may not have been necessary since the word *murder* in itself already has a highly negative lexical connotation (Is there a murder that is not *gruesome*?). However, to express tremendous distaste to the deed and further enrage the readers, the journalist added such evaluative language as a semantic resource construing emotions. Once used, the Affect sub-system often leads to bias since it does not point to factual evidence but rather a certain position adopted by the writer to elicit an intended response from the readers.

In the next example, the word *critical* is used to describe the condition of a victim of a vehicular accident. Since there are no supporting statements in the article to prove that the subject is indeed in a life-threatening condition, and with the absence of quotation marks to imply that the description came from a medical expert, the use of *critical* is highly evaluative, under the Judgment sub-system, to highlight an abnormal state. The emotional value is even heightened with the description of the other person involved in the same accident, who "died of spinal injuries", which may have led to the notion that since the companion died and they were in the same accident, the condition of the survivor is indeed, *critical*.

These excerpts in the news discourse specify an actor or participant or a subject with a carrier position. In general, since ideology does not only determine the textual organization of an event but rather extends its influences to syntactic items, the choice of descriptors to subjects with carrier position can signify the attitudes and hence the ideologies of the source [15]. Using these results as input to language pedagogy, the teaching of descriptors, adjectives, or modifiers should not simply be structural but rather functional and relevant. Language educators should highlight the significance of the use of descriptors that can fall under evaluative language, which can lead to an understanding and appreciation of the proper use of words to express a position or forward an argument.

**4.3 Process Types**

Simultaneous strands of meanings in texts can be grammaticalized through the system of transitivity [16]. In studying the ideological constructions in news discourse through transitivity analysis, the study focused on four process types: material, mental, verbal, and relational. The data are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3. Process Types used in News Discourse**

Process Types	PS	PDI	MB
Material	1,241	921	784

Verbal	785	846	518
Relational	727	293	320
Mental	314	99	110

It is evident that all broadsheets used the material process type most often. Since journalism derives its performative power from journalists' forms and style [1], the massive use of the material process type legitimatizes and concretizes the representations of people or phenomena in the social world through purposive word choices. This is realized in the following examples:

*Recently, President Duterte **ended** the peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and CPP. (PDI-46)*

*Former presidential aide and senatorial candidate Christopher "Bong" Go **visited** the fire victims, who took refuge at an evacuation center, and **distributed** relief goods and financial assistance. (PS-82)*

The material process describes the process of doing, usually concrete, tangible actions. The first excerpt ably projects dynamic activity by the President, with the use of the word *ended*. This word holds so much power especially coming from the country's chief executive, particularly in relation to the administration's inclination to halt negotiations with the communist rebels. The verb's lexical features of negativity and discontinuity further reinforce the President's tangible act, consequently cementing his inherent power in society.

The second excerpt's discourse foregrounds the actor, Bong Go, and realizes the material process through the use of the words *visited* and *distributed*. Both verbs have positive lexical features, and these physical acts put the actor in a positive light, which is strategic since Bong Go was a senatorial candidate at the time the news was published. Therefore, the realization of the material process in that statement may have a socio-political slant. This is an example of visibility bias. While the journalist may simply focus on the fire incident, coverage was given to Bong Go, and the inclusion of "senatorial candidate" in the statement reinforces this bias.

The verbal process accounts for "verbal actions". *Saying* and all its many synonyms such as noting, addressing, commenting and the like, including symbolic exchanges of meaning, are the verbs that signal the verbal process. This is realized in the following excerpts from the news discourse:

*In an earlier motion, Andaya **argued** that his cases should be dismissed since the prosecution was unable to show how he participated in the scheme. (PDI-70)*

*Miranda **noted** the importance of gun-collection campaign in mitigating crimes in the province. (MB-72)*

The first excerpt taken from the Inquirer makes use of a relatively powerful verb, *argued*, which entails contention and reasoning. This makes the subject appear to have said quite commanding statements in support of his argument. In fact, the subject is a member of Congress, hence assigning power to him through the use of a relatively strong verb.

In the second example extracted from the Manila Bulletin, the subject is foregrounded but given a much lighter act, that of noting or simply stating a piece of information. This can be ideologically motivated considering the context of the statement, which is about the importance of having custody over loose firearms. The use of *note* rather than a stronger reporting verb (e.g. *emphasized*, *stressed*) would have made the act more significant. Hence, the material process's realization may forward a particular ideology to make the subject's statement sound insignificant.

The mental process type was used least in the discourse. This focuses on mental reactions rather than tangible actions and is realized in the following excerpts:

*The two law enforcement agencies fighting the war on drugs **do not disagree** with President Rodrigo Duterte's assessment that the drug situation has worsened. (from I-36)*

*The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) **believes** the lifters contained 1.6 tons of shabu worth P11 billion. (from S-130)*

As exemplified in the first excerpt, the use of double negatives is not encouraged in traditional grammar. However, this may be used when forwarding a particular ideology. In the case of the first example, the two agencies are the PNP and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA). While the mental process of disagreeing is negated by the word *not*, while they are not totally opposing the President's statement as regards the worsening war on drugs, this does not necessarily mean that they agree with the chief executive.

This is the double negative power coupled with the mental process; it puts the subject in the middle ground if placed in an uncertain situation. The two agencies could not negate their boss, but they also could not totally agree with his statements, and the writer perfectly summed up this dilemma through the mental process type.

In the second excerpt, the word *believes* is used to refer to PDEA in relation to the discovery of 1.6 tons of shabu worth P11 Billion. The use of the mental process type suggests inactivity, subtly claiming that PDEA should have done more than just “believe,” since the agency is responsible for doing something concrete as regards the situation.

The analysis of the process types through the system of transitivity revealed how the purposive use of words could forward specific ideologies and present biases in the discourse, especially visibility bias, which can be positive or negative coverage. The examples given show how certain personalities can be framed through the use of specific verbs, underscoring how this concept should be taught in language classes. The traditional teaching of verbs and sentence patterns can be made more innovative by integrating how these verbs' distinct features can have the meaning-making capacity.

**4.4 Patterns in the Discourse**

The quantitative data presented in Tables 1-3 show distinct patterns in the way the broadsheets structured their news discourse through purposive use of language. The use of evaluative language, while relatively minimal, played a key role in constructing ideologies in the contexts by which these were used. Specifically, the instances where these descriptors appeared in the discourse were mostly those that attempt to elicit an intended, emotional response from the readers. These often direct to certain personalities and organizations, thus suggesting visibility bias.

The same is true with passive agent deletion, where specific actors – in this case, police officers – were deliberately backgrounded and their positive acts obscured. This is in contrast with other agencies that were foregrounded through the use of the active structure. While there were more headlines in the active rather than in the passive form, a certain pattern emanated from the passivized ones, that is, the activities of the police officers were often given less significance.

A more apparent pattern in the discourse was revealed with the analysis of process types. The administration politicians were given affirmative coverage through the use of positive, strong verbs, suggesting visibility bias. On the other hand, the mental process type was used least, and in the instances where this was used, it forwarded the notion of inaction and passivity.

The key informants supported all these interpretations during separate interviews conducted to substantiate the quantitative data. The interviewed experts were an editor-in-chief of a national daily and a department chairperson of a communication program designated as a National Center of Development in the country. They discussed specific

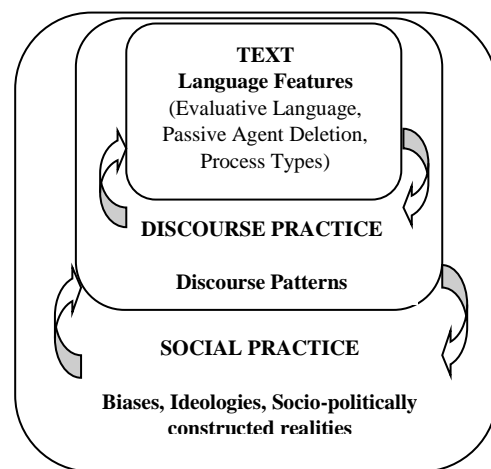
practices in the process of framing news discourse in the Philippine context. They explained that while conventional journalism prefers active structures and avoids evaluative language, certain circumstances and news stories are inevitable, sometimes even expected. They posited political and economic pressures in the process of news production, which are usually the reason for deviations from conventions.

The key informants also underscored the importance of informed readership in news consumption. They stressed the significance of the school in this regard since traditional language teaching has focused almost exclusively on the rules of the language. Therefore, it is imperative for language educators to innovate and make language teaching more relevant, which can be done by looking at language lessons not in isolation but as part of a large sphere of the meaning-making process.

**Framework for Innovations in Language Education**

Aside from the generation of relevant information through textual and narrative analysis, the study also offers a new framework for improving critical reading of news as text and innovating the way language is taught. This would create an awareness of the constructive and functional nature of language features within news discourse, which would develop sustainable practices in teaching the English language.

Patterned after Fairclough’s [24] three-dimensional framework on CDA, the study’s output shows features of text intertwined with discourse and social practices in the production of news discourse anchored on the results of the analysis in this study. These represent the micro, meso, and macro-levels of analysis, which may be a basis for innovations in language education.



**Figure. 1. Framework for Innovations in Language Education**

In analyzing the language features of news as text, readers must question, for example, why a particular headline is passivized and identify which actors are foregrounded or backgrounded. Readers must also detect reasons why a specific adjective or modifier is used to describe an event or person and determine whether this specific lexical choice heightens the news's emotional effect.

This means that in teaching these lessons (word classes, sentence patterns, active and passive structures), teachers should consider the use of these topics in the greater scheme of discourse and social practices. Examples given in class may be statements carefully extracted from news narratives, and language educators must highlight how the purposive use of passivized structure, for example, can have an effect on the overall meaning of a statement. The same is true for the use of modifiers and verbs for transitivity. As used in this study, news articles may serve as authentic materials and points of reference to make language teaching and learning more relevant.

Based on the analysis, bias through textual choices has the most significant effect to news production. Part of what is implied in approaching texts as elements of social events is that text should not be concerned in itself but also with the interactive processes of meaning-making in relation to socially-constructed realities. This should be highlighted in the teaching of language lessons. Rather than giving random, isolated statements as examples, language educators have to be more methodical in their approach relative to the text features' connection with general discourse and social practices.

It is thus imperative that these are considered in the process of innovating language education to make lasting, sustainable, and pragmatic changes to teaching and learning practices in a language classroom. This is true, especially in an ever-changing environment where the language is the most potent tool in communicating accurate and objective information.

## **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The study proved that purposive linguistic choices in news discourse forward specific ideologies. The deviations from traditional journalism highlight the non-conventional nature of reportage in leading Philippine broadsheets through passive agent deletion and use of certain process types and evaluative language, all of which could lead to biased discourse. The study further concludes that the use of language is critical in constructing and advancing ideologies. Hence, language education should be innovative and by finding ways to integrate language features in discourse and social practices.

The study recommends that academic institutions that offer courses or subjects in media studies, linguistics, communication, and journalism use this study as a reference in adopting analytical and sustainable methods in teaching language, that is, continuously relevant vis-a-vis socio-political realities. Linguistic knowledge should be applied in the critical analysis of discourse, and the framework developed may be utilized for that purpose.

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