Editorializing in L2: The Case of Philippine English

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This paper examines the discourse structure of newspaper editorials in Philippine English in terms of their macrostructure and their lexico-grammatical features. Data were taken from three leading English-language newspapers in the Philippines. Toulmin's framework is used in analyzing the macrostructure of the editorials. The study posits that the discourse features of editorials manifest the interactive nature of these texts. Implications of the findings for second language teaching are also discussed.

Key Words: Philippine English, newspaper editorials, editorial discourse

Editorializing as a discursive practice has received some attention in the linguistic literature. One study that looked at newspaper editorials was Reynolds (1993), which investigated the speech acts performed in three languages, namely, American English, Egyptian Arabic, and Egyptian English. Using Searle's (1979) Speech Act Theory, the study found pragmatic features unique to each language as indicated by the frequency of use in each language of representatives, declarations, commissives, expressives, and directives. In 1997, Dayag replicated the study in his attempt to characterize Philippine English (henceforth, PE) as one of the Englishes belonging to Braj Kachru's (1985) Outer Circle, which groups varieties of English used in countries which were former colonies of Great Britain and the USA and where English is basically a second language. Among other things, findings of that study included the following:

> (1) PE places greater emphasis on representatives to cite statistics and events or report direct and indirect quotations, and less on declaratives to make claims, take a stand, or pass judgment; (2) PE uses declaratives composed of attribution of quality using single-word adjectives or phrasal description,

conclusions or generalizations, prediction, and attribution of certainty or possibility… (Dayag, 1997, p. 134).

Connor (1996), in a survey of studies conducted on newspaper editorials, cites only two studies on this discourse type, confirming the dearth of studies along this line. These are Dantas-Whitney and Grabe (1989) and Tirkkonen-Condit and Lieflander-Koistinen (1989), both cross-cultural studies. Dantas-Whitney and Grabe (1989) was a study of twenty editorials in Portuguese and English. It found cross-cultural differences between the two languages in that English used a more formal and detached style than Portuguese. On the other hand, Tirkkonen-Condit and Lieflander-Koistinen's study of Finnish, English and German editorials found that Finnish editorial texts did not always argue a point of view, but informed, and that "the German editorials placed the argument statement at the beginning of the editorial more often than the English newspaper did, whereas the Finnish editorials had no argument statement" (Connor, 1996, pp. 143-144).

In this paper, I shall describe the discourse structure of newspaper editorials in the Philippines where English is used as an L2. In particular, I attempt to answer the following questions:

(1) How can the macrostructure of PE newspaper editorials be described?
(2) How can the discourse micro-structure of PE

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newspaper editorials be characterized in terms of lexico-grammatical features or signals such as conditional and adversative clauses, rhetorical questions, modality, attitudinal adjectives and adverbs, etc.?

I shall then describe the practice of editorializing as basically arguing with the reader; finally, I shall discuss the implications of the findings for second language pedagogy.

Methodology

Corpus of Data

The corpus of data consists of thirty-five editorials from five newspapers gathered over a one-week period, i.e. from December 2 to 8, 2001. The five broadsheets are *Philippine Daily Inquirer* (abbreviated as PDI), *Philippine Star* (PS), *Manila Bulletin* (MB), *The Manila Times* (MT), and *Today* (Tod). The five newspapers are among the country's top broadsheets in terms of readership as borne out by surveys such as those conducted in 1995 by Networks Marketing Consulting Group, an independent American firm, and in 1999, by Asia Research Organization (ARO), an affiliate of Gallup International. In addition, all persons sitting on the boards of these newspapers are Filipinos; hence, they are truly Filipino, at least in terms of citizenship.

In regard to the editorials, in cases where an issue of a newspaper had two editorials for the day, in general only one of the two was taken. However, if the two were closely related, both were included in the corpus. An example of this is the December 6 issue of *Philippine Daily Inquirer* which had two editorials, the first entitled *Deadly Candor* and the second *Betrayal*.

Segmenting Editorials as Written Text

The editorials were segmented using the T-unit as the basic unit. Among all basic units for L2 discourse analysis (e.g. idea unit, c-unit, turn, tone unit/tone group, and utterance), it is the T-unit (or Minimal Terminable Unit) that is appropriate because of its application to written discourse (Kroll, 1977, cited in Crookes, 1990). The T-unit is defined as "one main clause plus whatever subordinate clauses happen to be attached or embedded within it" (Hunt, 1966, p. 735, quoted in Crookes, 1990, p. 184). Thus *Maria loves Pedro so much* is one T-unit, and *Maria loves Pedro so much and she hopes he'll marry her soon* is equivalent to two T-units.

Notice that the definition of T-unit implies that a complex sentence is considered one T-unit since the meaning one gives to a subordinate or dependent clause largely depends upon his/her interpretation of the independent clause (Dayag, 1997; Hunt, 1966, cited in Reynolds, 1993).

Frameworks for Analysis

Types of Newspaper Editorials. In classifying the thirty-five editorials included in the corpus of the study, I adopted the classification given by Ramirez (1989), viz.: (1) Editorial of interpretation, (2) Editorial of criticism, (3) Editorial of entertainment, (4) Editorial of commendation, appreciation or tribute, and (5) Editorial of argument.

Semantic Macrostructure and Structure of an Argument. First, in analyzing the discourse structure of Philippine English editorials, it was necessary to use the seminal works of van Dijk (1977, 1981, 1985) dealing with macro-structure, or superstructure, or "global semantic structure of a discourse" (Tomlin, Forrest, Pu, & Kim, 1997, p. 90). In his model, van Dijk (1977) suggests that, in addition to examining the connection or cohesion of a discourse, "a semantic characterization of discourse structures should also be given on a level of a more global organization, that of macro-structures" (p. 130). The notion of macro-structure likewise finds significance in its implication for the coherence of texts. While coherence is partly a function of the topic of discourse, macro-structure or global structure of a discourse is no less important in that, as van Dijk (1977) puts it, "at the semantic level, the coherence of discourse is determined also by macro-structures" (p. 149). Given the inherent role of coherence in the interpretation of a discourse, van Dijk (1977) looks at discourse as a unit since the meaning of a sequence (or discourse) is "not merely the 'sum' of the propositions underlying the sequence, but at another level, we should speak of the meaning of the sequence as a whole, hierarchically ordering the respective meanings of its sentences" (p. 143).

Tomlin, et al. (1997) summarize the process by which macrostructures are arrived at, as follows:

> Macrostructure propositions are derived by macrorules, that is, by eliminating those propositions which are not relevant for the interpretation of other propositions (*deletion*) [italics added], by converting a series of specific propositions into a more general proposition (*generalization*) [italics added], and by constructing a proposition from a number of propositions in the text (*construction*) [italics added], and from *activated world*

knowledge [italics added] (p. 90).

Second, with regard to the applicable macrostructure, I have used Toulmin's pattern of argument: Claim-Data-Warrant (Toulmin, 1958, 1964, cited in Connor, 1996). In Connor (1996), Toulmin's model has been cited as one of two "new rhetorics" (the other one being Perelman's model). A claim has been defined as any "assertion, preference, view, or judgment," while data consist of "experience, facts, statistics, or occurrences" (Connor, 1996, p. 67). In this study, however, the term data has been expanded to include historical facts, geographical information, and reported speech or quotatives (direct and indirect speech) or what someone said. Warrants consist of "rules, principles, inferences," or "general, hypothetical statements, which can act as bridges, and authorize the relationship between the data and claim" (Toulmin, 1964, p. 98, quoted in Connor, 1996, p. 67). While claim, data, and warrant, are obligatory semantic units of an argument, in the present study, I have intentionally glossed over warrants since they are appealed implicitly, in contrast to data which are appealed explicitly (Toulmin, 1964, p. 100). That is to say, warrants are hardly realized linguistically or signaled by appropriate lexical or grammatical markers.

Lexico-Grammatical Features or Signals. For the analysis of conditional clauses, Leech and Svartvik (1975) have been helpful. I have adopted Halliday's (1985) characterization of attitudinal adjectives and adverbs as those expressing the speaker's/writer's attitude toward an object, event, or action. In defining rhetorical question, I have used the conventional notion, namely, that it is a question that may not require an answer. Thompson and Ye's (1991) model of the evaluative potential of reporting verbs has been useful in analyzing reported speech in the corpus data. In this study, evaluation is defined as "the conveying of the writer's view of the status of the information in her text" (Thompson & Ye, 1991, p. 367). Finally, on modality, following Nuyts (2001), I have adopted the definition of epistemic modality as "(the linguistic expression of) an evaluation of the chances [or probability] that a certain hypothetical state of affairs under consideration (or some aspect of it) will occur, is occurring, or has occurred in a possible world…" (p. 21). Deontic modality, on the other hand, is "an evaluation of the moral acceptability, desirability or necessity of a state of affairs, i.e. it crucially involves notions such as 'allowance', 'permission' and 'obligation'" (Nuyts, 2001, p. 25).

Results

This section presents the data and their analysis. It begins with the global features such as editorial types and topics as well as the discourse macrostructure, and then moves on to the lexico-grammatical features of the editorials.

Editorial Types and Topics

A close look at Table 1 reveals that of the thirty-five editorials making up the corpus of the study, less than one-third of them criticized government policies or certain personalities in government such as Sen. Sergio Osmeña III on his expose regarding the payment of ransom in exchange for the freedom of the hostages held by the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, and Ms. Haydee Yorac, Chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), on her opposition to the deal regarding the controversial coconut levy fund. Editorials of commendation, appreciation or tribute which accounted for one-fourth of the corpus data, dealt with subjects such as Education Week, Human Rights Week, legacy of the legendary rock band *Beatles* (because of the death of George Harrison), etc. Interestingly, all seven editorials from *Manila Bulletin* belonged to this type, which confirms the perception that MB is innocuous and harmless. Another fourth of the editorials were of the argument type, and they dealt with topics such as AIDS, the cement cartel, etc. Interpretative editorials, on the other hand, accounted for less than one-fifth (or 17.14%) of the total number in the corpus. The editorial that analyzed the benefits of globalization for the Philippines fell under this category.

Number of T-Units

Table 2 shows data on the number of T-units constituting the editorials. It shows that the longest editorials were those in *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, followed by *Today*, *Manila*

Table 1. *Types of Editorials*

Editorial Type	F (%)
Criticism	11 (31.43%)
Commendation, Appreciation or Tribute	9 (25.71%)
Argument	9 (25.71%)
Interpretation	6 (17.14%)
Entertainment	0
Total	35 (100%)

Table 2. *Number of T-units in Editorials*

Newspaper	Total No. of T-units	Average
MB	104	14.86
MT	193	27.57
PDI	234	33.43
PS	134	19.14
Tod	194	27.71
Total	859	24.54

Note. MB: Manila Bulletin. MT: The Manila Times. PDI: Philippine Daily Inquirer. PS: Philippine Star. Tod: Today

Times, *Philippine Star*, and *Manila Bulletin*.

Macro-Structure of Newspaper Editorials: Claim and Data

It can be gleaned from Table 3 that more than half of the total number of propositions in the editorials included in the corpus make a claim or an assertion, pass judgment, express a view or opinion, or take a stand. Looking at each of the newspapers, we can see some interesting tendencies such as in *Philippine Star* where 87 T-units (or 64.93% of the total for that newspaper) were subsumed under the macro-proposition data, which means that these propositions consisted of facts, personal experience, reports of what someone had said, with hardly any comment or opinion or judgment on the proposition, nor any expression of the writer's attitude towards the proposition under consideration. A similar trend can be seen in *Manila Bulletin*, where 66 T-units (or 63.46% of the total for that broadsheet) accounted for data. The opposite was true for the other newspapers – *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *Manila Times*, and *Today*–where propositions classified as Claims outnumbered those that were counted as Data, with the Claim propositions in *Today* accounting for less than 90% of the total number of T-units for that

newspaper. This difference in approach to editorializing may be reflective of a newspaper's editorial policy or perhaps, a difference in ideology, which is further reflected in the newspaper's treatment of a current issue. A casual look at the headlines of *Manila Bulletin*, for instance, will make one realize that they hardly suggest, much less convey, any attitude or stance towards a current issue.

Another interesting finding is that there seems to be no definite sequence of macro-propositions in the editorials, resulting in the interspersion of the claim with the data and vice-versa. The following is an example:

> Ms. Haydee Yorac, the chair of the PCGG, is either dense or heartless – or both.
> The only settlement of the coconut levy fund that she will accept is one that is "just and legal and not contrary to morals and public policy."
> After 16 years, the fairly simple question of who owns the money has still to be answered. How many more years will it take for the PCGG and the courts to decide questions of justice, legality, morality, and conformity to public policy?
> It does not look like the PCGG wants to settle this matter at all. In the meantime, the coconut farmers are high and dry, barely able to eke out a living from their farms…
> What were agreed?
> First, not all the P130 billion will be covered by the compromise, only the shares of stock in San Miguel Corporation worth P50 billion.
> Second, these shares will be sold…
> It is really difficult to understand how Ms. Yorac can accuse Mr. Dante Ang of forcing these ideas on the farmers…. ("Out Of Davao", 2001, p. A10)

In the above extract, we can read the first proposition as a claim since it passes judgment on the person of Ms. Yorac. The second proposition, apparently a quotation attributed to Ms. Yorac and therefore an instance of a reported speech, can be read as data, given the expanded definition of Data (see pp.

Table 3. *Number of T-units Per Macro-Proposition*

Macro-Proposition	MB	MT	PDI	PS	Tod	Total
Claim	38	106	130	47	171	492 (57.28%)
Data	66	87	104	87	23	367 (42.72%)
Total	104	193	234	134	194	859 100%

Note. MB: Manila Bulletin. MT: The Manila Times. PDI: Philippine Daily Inquirer. PS: Philippine Star. Tod: Today

101-102). The reported speech is followed by a series of assertions, leading to an enumeration of data via the substance of the agreement entered into by Mr. Ang and company and the coconut farmers.

Lexico-Grammatical Features Ascribed to Claim and Data

There are a number of lexico-grammatical features ascribed to claim and data units in the newspaper editorials. They include attitudinal adjectives and adverbs, reporting verbs and other expressions, modal auxiliaries, rhetorical questions, and conditional and adversative clauses.

Attitudinal Adjectives and Adverbs. Data reveal that attitudinal adjectives and adverb occur at least once in 25 (or 71.43% of the total) editorials. In the following excerpt, the use of adjective decisive reflects the editorial writer's agreement with the state of affairs, namely, the decision of the Supreme Court to relieve Francis Garchitorena as head of the anti-graft court.

> The Supreme Court's order relieving Francis Garchitorena as presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan, effective yesterday, is *decisive* [italics added] action of a sort not usually associated with the judiciary.
> Because much of its work is reactive – it can act only when a case is before it – the judiciary has often been called the weakest branch of government. Of course, this kind of thinking has always been erroneous, but last Wednesday's decision shows that this mentality is not only a mistake; it may be the exact opposite of the truth… ("The Weakest", 2001, p. A8)

Here is another example of an adjective that expresses the editorial's view on Sen. Sergio Osmeña III's expose on the alleged involvement of top civilian and military officials in ransom payment made to the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in exchange for the freedom of the hostages:

> …To be fair to Sen. Serge Osmeña III...his conclusion is inescapable. Ransom was paid; otherwise, why was a flabby businessman and his female companion able to walk out of their captivity?
> What is *irresponsible* [italics added] is Osmeña's accusation. Unless he is willing to say that he personally saw the ransom payment made by specific officials or he produces someone who did to testify to that effect… ("Proof Please", 2001, p. A10)

In the extract below, the use of a discourse marker in the form of a sentence adverb expresses the writer's disagreement, thus:

> …With the 50-percent tariff and the P10 margin, the price of imported cement is P175 per bag, much higher than prevailing prices in the local market.
> *Unfortunately* [italics added], the Department of Trade and Industry has also granted the wish of the manufacturers, under the Safeguard Measure Act, because they claim continuing losses.
> This is not true. In fact, with the additional tariff they will reap windfall profits….("The Cement Cartel", 2001, A10)

It is interesting to note that all attitudinal adjectives and adverbs in the data showed up in the sequence of propositions that were counted as Claim. This seems to highlight the fact that a speaker/writer evaluation of or attitude towards a proposition is realizable to some extent via the use of attitudinal adjectives and adverbs.

Modal Auxiliaries and Adverbs. Another lexico-grammatical feature ascribed is modality, here confined to modal auxiliaries and adverbs that count as deistic and epistemic modality, in Nuyts' (2001) terms. Data indicate that modal auxiliaries appeared at least once in the Claim section of twenty-nine editorials (or 82.86% of the total) and in the Data section of nine editorials (or 25.71% of the total number), as exemplified by the following:

> The issue, as every concerned character in the story has asserted and acknowledged, is not ransom. The military brass simply admits that paying ransom is commonly resorted to by kidnap victims in this country, and it was *certainly* [italics added] within the realm of the probable that businessman Rhegis Romero II's "escape" from the clutches of the Abu Sayyaf six months ago wasn't as cinematic as it was made out to be. The businessman *may* [italics added] have simply paid his way out of the horror. "That's not an impossible thing," said the Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva….("Sez who?", 2001, p. A10)

In the above example, the use of "certainly" as an epistemic modal adverb indicates the writer's evaluation of the probability that the ransom payment by Rhegis Romero II occurred in the real world, although the degree of certainty is mitigated by the phrase "within the realm of the probable" in the same line. This is, however, sustained by the use of the modal auxiliary "may" (expressing possibility) in the penultimate sentence of the extract.

Deontic modality - that expresses necessity or obligation

- is illustrated by an excerpt from the editorial on the Nida Blanca murder, to wit:

> …With Medel marginalized, the NBI will have to find new witnesses to build on. It is hoping it could extract useful information from a former Army sergeant who claimed he was offered P100,000 to kill Nida Blanca as early as August. And as the week closed, the NBI announced it was going to invite Nida Blanca's daughter to shed some light on her relationship with Strunk. Both leads are a long shot, but the NBI *must* [italics added] start somewhere.
>
> What is important is that the bureau *must* [italics added] at all cost avoid the blunders the police committed and proceed cautiously and efficiently.   It *should* [italics added] not give in to pressure to produce results… ("Slipshod Handling", 2001, p. A10)

Not only do the modal auxiliaries "must" and "should" express necessity or obligation, but a sense of urgency as well. This is because of Medel's retraction of his confession about his alleged participation in the murder of Blanca.   Hence, we see here an instance of a writer expressing his/her attitude toward the state of affairs.

Rhetorical Questions.   The use of rhetorical questions is another feature of newspaper editorials, although they showed up in the Claim section of only fourteen editorials, i.e. 40% of the total number of editorials making up the corpus of the study. As an example, the December 3 editorial of the *Philippine Star* that dwelt on the Abu Sayyaf menace, read in part, to wit:

> ... How much longer will we have to wait before we see positive developments in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf? Last week the first batch of military aircraft, weapons and ammunition promised by the Americans to President Arroyo during her visit to Washington arrived.   Will the AFP wait for the rest of the promised equipment to arrive before moving against the Abu Sayyaf? Or will it wait for the situation to deteriorate further so it can ask for even more military assistance? If it's waiting for Congress to pass tougher laws against terrorism and insurgency, there will be a new world order before Congress moves…. ("A Bigger Headache", 2001, p. A7)

In the above excerpt the series of rhetorical questions appears to be a rhetorical strategy that serves the purpose of tacitly declaring the writer's stand on the problem.   Looking closely at the extract, we can see an air of disillusionment, if not, complaint, over the government's failure to wipe out the bandits. The last sentence – a conditional clause – seems to address the questions, albeit, indirectly.

In addition, it appears that the series of rhetorical questions in the above extract fulfills the purpose of not only putting for the reader the text in proper context, but of getting the reader to engage in an active interaction with the writer, i.e. the reader is asked to answer the questions him/herself. If the writer did not intend for the reader to venture possible answers, then the last sentence of the excerpt would have been a declarative sentence, which would have been an imposition on the reader, a case of Face Threatening Act (FTA).   The mere fact that it is a conditional clause marked by tentativeness seems to have been used a politeness strategy, and at the same time, it suggests an intention to stimulate active reader involvement.

Conditional and Adversative Clauses.   Conditional clauses (the *if-then* type of clause) appeared in the Claim section of only nine editorials (or only 25.71% of the total number).   Although this points to a limited use of this clause, its importance in helping to put forward a claim cannot be taken lightly.   The following extract from a PDI editorial is a case in point:

> If Sen. Sergio Osmeña thinks he is doing the nation a favor by spilling the beans on the Reghis Romero abduction last summer, he is dead wrong.   If he thinks he is scoring points against the administration by exposing what has been common knowledge all along – that the government's no-ransom policy on terrorism and kidnapping is honored more in the breach than in the observance – then he should check the political score board. If he is winning points, it is points that merely increase doubts about his political sanity, if not personal morality…. ("Deadly Candor", 2001, p. A8)

It seems that because the above conditional clauses form part of the introduction to the text, they serve the purpose of providing background information to pave the way for the main claim of the editorial.   It is likewise worth noting that the editorial in the second paragraph refers to the propositions in the three preceding conditional clauses as "the doubts" (definite nominal expression).   But looking closely at the internal structure of each of the above conditional clauses, we can see a juxtaposition of claim (represented by the *if*-clause) and counter-claim (signaled by the *then*-clause) in a single sentence.   This claim-counterclaim pattern may be analogous to the Hypothetical-Real pattern in that the first element (the *if*-clause) is rejected or contradicted by the second element

(the *then*-clause). The claim-counterclaim may be an attempt on the part of the writer to get the reader to be actively involved in the process of argumentation because although in the above excerpt, it is Sen. Osmeña being referred to, it is possible that the reader shares Osmeña's mental state or actuation.

Although their use was far from widespread, adversative clauses – those that are introduced by *but*, *however*, *yet*, etc. – appear to advance a counter-claim vis-à-vis the major claim made, as in the following extract from an editorial that had to do with the suicide of Maria Teresa Carlson:

> He [Fariñas, Carlson's husband] has a point. Privacy is a fundamental right, a function of freedom that allows the full flowering of "the dignity of every human person," in the words of the Constitution.
> But the Constitution also guarantees the viability of the family. Article II, Section 12 phrases this responsibility with great precision. "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution."
> When two constitutional principles clash, how do we choose one over the other? No hard and fast rules exist, but the chief criterion for choosing must be the welfare of the many…. ("Violence Unveiled", 2001, p. A8)

In the foregoing extract, the claim attributed to Fariñas on a person's right to privacy is contradicted by the next paragraph that underlines the primacy of the family as guaranteed by the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

Verbs Used in Reporting Speech. In terms of verbs and other expressions used in reporting what someone has said, these were found in the Data section of twenty-one editorials (or 60% of the total number). The most frequently used reporting verbs were *say* (or the past form *said*), *point out*, *explain*. Using Thompson and Ye's (1991) taxonomy of reporting verbs, we can say these verbs hardly evaluate the status of the information or proposition reported. *Say* is a non-interpretation type of reporting verb, while *point out* is

an Author act verb, meaning it conveys the author's attitude towards the validity of the reported information or opinion (Thompson & Ye, 1991, p. 372). In the taxonomy, *point out* is classified as a positive verb. *Explain* is a denotative verb that theorizes (Thompson & Ye, 1991, p. 370). Here is an extract with a reporting verb:

> Example: …PCGG chief Haydee Yorac recently *said* [italics added] she is willing to negotiate with Cojuangco provided the initiative will come from him…. ("A Fund For", 2001, p. A10)

Summary of Findings

This study has delved into editorializing in Philippine English. Overall, it reveals certain characteristics of Philippine English editorials, namely, (1) its macro-structure described in terms of claim and data and the interspersion of these macro-propositions in the editorial texts, and (2) the lexico-grammatical features ascribed to the macro-propositions include attitudinal adjectives and adverbs, conditional clauses, etc. One way of looking at the macro-structure and the lexico-grammatical features is to map function onto form. Table 4 does just that.

Discussion

This section aims to discuss editorializing as a discursive practice meant to argue with a reader. It also presents some implications of the findings for teaching second language writing and reading.

Editorializing as Writer Arguing with Reader

One way of looking at editorializing as a discursive practice is to treat it as a cooperative discourse, very much like a conversation, where a writer actively interacts with a reader. Although there have been attempts to find ways of addressing an assumed or imagined reader of a written text, the proposals leave much to be desired in terms of how to

Table 4. *Mapping of Function onto Form*

Macro-Structure	Function	Lexico-Grammatical Signals
Claim	Making an assertion, Expressing an opinion or view, Passing judgment, Taking a stand on an Issue	Attitudinal Adjectives and Adverbs, Conditional and Adversative Clauses, Rhetorical Questions, Modal Auxiliaries and Adverbs
Data	Citing facts, statistics, personal experience, reported speech to support claim	Reporting Verbs and other Expressions

harness linguistic resources to bring in the reader's voice to the surface of the text. In this section of the paper, I hope to address the issue of reader-writer interaction in light of the findings of the present study.

We can look at the issue relative to interaction in writing on two levels, global and local. On a global level, the interaction of writer with reader can be realized through the notions of coherence and intertextuality (Myers, 1999). Myers (1999) points out that coherence – semantic links between clauses – is "not just a property of a text, but is a social relation between writer and reader based on shared knowledge" (p. 53). Herein comes the role of semantic macrostructure of texts. In the case of an editorial whose communicative purpose is to argue for or against a proposal or a point or persuade the audience, the latter is addressed through the giving of evidence, as defined in this study, in support of the claim.

Intertextuality – the links between texts – can be another source of interaction between reader and writer on a global level (Myers, 1999). In the editorials we have looked at, this is realizable in terms of referencing to current events, which usually involves reported speech, on the basis of which assertions are made. The importance of this lies in the need for the writer to provide a background to the text and to activate the schema of an imagined reader with a view to positioning the reader in the context of the text.

Thompson (2001), however, believes that on a local level, it is possible for the reader to overtly interact with the writer. In their study in 1995, Thompson and Thetela (cited in Thompson, 2001) differentiated between two types of interaction in written texts, namely, interactive and interactional. The interactive aspects are "related to awareness of the audience's likely reactions and needs…and primarily involve the management of the flow of information and thus serve to guide readers through the content of the text" (p. 59). Perhaps this is the kind of interaction that is underscored in composition writing classes where an assumed or imagined audience is identified to allow for adjustments in terms of concepts and ideas the writer includes in his/her essay.

The interactional type, on the other hand, calls for more overt and active participation in that it involves "readers in the argument or ethos of the text" (Thompson, 2001, p. 59). Towards this end, "the resources…drawn are those which allow writers to conduct more or less overt interaction with their audience, by appearing in the text to comment on and evaluate the content through the use of modality and evaluation…and by assigning speech roles to themselves and the readers…" (Thompson, 2001, p. 59). The latter brings to mind Erving Goffman's (1981) frame analysis since the roles assigned to both reader and writer can be seen as analogous to participant role (or footing) so that the reader is no longer just an uninterested passive audience but an active participant in the negotiation of meaning of the text in question (cited in Schiffrin, 1994). The former – comment and evaluation of content – is realized linguistically. In the editorials included in the corpus of the present study, such lexico-grammatical markers as modal auxiliaries and adverbs, rhetorical questions, and conditional clauses, are strategies of bringing to the surface of the text the voice of what Thompson (2001) calls the reader-in-text.

Pedagogical Implications

Findings of the present study have implications for second language teaching. First, as Connor (1996) puts it, although L2 speakers seldom write newspaper editorials, there is a need to study editorials because they reflect national norms of persuasion. Besides, while they seldom write editorials, students especially in the tertiary level need to analyze and examine these texts since "they set standards for written persuasion" and "students do read them" (Connor, 1996, pp. 143-144).

Second, in current approaches to second language teaching, a persistent call is for the use of authentic instructional materials. Editorials seem to fit the bill. That is to say that as a written genre, editorials are real texts that are at the disposal of the L2 learner. As media texts, they are intended for public consumption and are therefore not intended for language teaching. This may translate to a more context-dependent and meaningful teaching of the L2. In addition, the use of editorials may be a good strategy in developing analytic and critical thinking in the language classroom since editorials are usually commentaries on real events in the life of a nation or community, thus raising the consciousness of the L2 learner, at the very least. This awareness of current events as articulated in editorials may then lead to an informed position on issues confronting a nation.

Third, as an advocate of text-oriented, genre-based approaches to L2 teaching, I would like to argue for the teaching of text structure, especially that of argumentative texts like editorials, which is essentially an aspect of the broad definition of analytic and critical thinking, the development of which is the primary concern of reading and writing classes.

Fourth, in relation to the third implication, it may be good to teach the macrostructure of editorial texts to show students how they are structured. The quality of the claim or

thesis statement should also be assessed along with the quality and quantity of supporting evidence. All this should be done to discourage our students from submitting argumentative papers that are "hot air" or just empty rhetoric.

Finally, lexico-grammatical signals to show both speaker's and writer's attitude to a proposition or information should be taught in class. These include evaluative reporting verbs, conditional clauses, concessive clauses, Hypothetical-Real clauses, which normally appear in argumentative texts. This is aimed at helping our students to write essays that are not only interactive but more importantly, interactional. In addition, teaching these lexico-grammatical points will have the advantage of addressing the need to teach grammar in context rather than in isolation, thus underscoring their function alongside other utterances in texts under consideration.

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Notes

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