

A Pragmatic Analysis on News Reports

ABSTRACT

This study was done based on the news reports on one incident published in the Sri Lankan national newspapers. Accordingly, it was observed that the news reports are prepared by observing one incident in different perspectives in various newspapers. The aim of this study is to investigate how language has been used to present one's opinions and concepts in those news reports, on that respective incident. The Critical Discourse Analysis of Fairclough (1995) was utilized in this study. By analyzing the language used in reporting incidents by different reporters, the special features of language such as the lexicon, grammatical patterns, terms and sentence patterns were identified. Additionally, the utilization of such language features to present their opinions and concepts were observed. The study was based on the news reports on the unrest which occurred in the Aluthgama, Beruwala in the Kalutara districts on the 15th of June 2015, which appeared in the national newspapers of Sri Lanka, the Lankbima, Divaina, Dinamina, Rivira and Maubima. It is seen that these newspapers have observed the said incident in different angles. It was further revealed that the reporting has been done by different newspapers, while utilizing language in order to express the concepts and opinions in an effective manner.

Keywords: News reports, Pragmatics