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Interpersonal Metafunction Analysis of Deception in British News

Sanaa Hamed¹, Riyadh Tariq Kadhim²

Abstract

This paper investigates how the interpersonal metafunction in linguistic choice associated with the strategies of deception in British news. This study attempts to answer these questions: what are the elements of interpersonal metafunction? how do the strategies of deception correlate with the interpersonal metafunction in British news? It aims to analyse how the interpersonal metafunction is used deception in British news, to identify the strategies of deception correlate with interpersonal metafunction in British news. Its hypotheses: deceptive news will show a higher frequency in specific linguistic characters concerns with interpersonal metafunction and deceptive news associates with occurrence of prominent strategy of deceptive such as equivocation. To achieve the aims of the study and prove or reject the hypothesis, drawing on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) systemic functional linguistic as a theoretical background linking with the strategies of deception are used to analyse the selected data. Furthermore, a statistical tool embodied by the percentage calculation is utilized to evaluate the results. The essential finding is appeared by this study is that British news usually serves the strategies of deception like equivocation, falsification, concealment, distortion, ostensible promise, and depersonalization. For interpersonal metafunction, deceptive statements fulfill through the elements of mood and elements of residue.

Keywords: *Interpersonal Metafunction, Mood, Residue, Deception.*

Introduction

Halliday (1985:129) states that language is a semiotic system, "not in the sense of a system of signs but a systemic resource for meaning". Hallidayan systemic functional linguistic theory explains how a user of language builds meanings for specific discourse. This is called 'metafunction' involving three functional constituents: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. According to Halliday (2004:106), systemic functional linguistics introduces the concept of interpersonal metafunction which explores how language can establish social and personal relationships. By analysing the linguistic choices made by deception news, such as mood and modality, and the development of evaluative language, researchers have the ability to reveal how news discourse interacts with its audience. Deception is a widespread phenomenon in news and media. Carson (2010: 47) defines deception as "intentionally causing someone to have a false belief that the deceiver believes to be false". Based on this definition deception is the act of misinforming someone to believe something that is not true. This paper is attempts to find answers to the following questions:

- 1- What are the elements of interpersonal metafunction used in deceptive news?
- 2- How do the strategies of deception correlate with the interpersonal metafunction in British news?

The aims of this study are to show how the interpersonal metafunction patterns use to express deception in British news and to identify the strategies of deception correlate with interpersonal metafunction in British news. Its hypotheses that deceptive news shows a higher frequency in specific linguistic characters concerned with interpersonal metafunction and deceptive news associates with the occurrence of the strategy of deception known as equivocation. Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) systemic functional linguistic is used as a model to analyse the selected data of British news.

¹Department of English, College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon. Email: sanaa.jasem@student.uobabylon.edu.iq.

² Department of English, College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon. Email: hum.riyadh.tareq@uobabylon.edu.iq.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

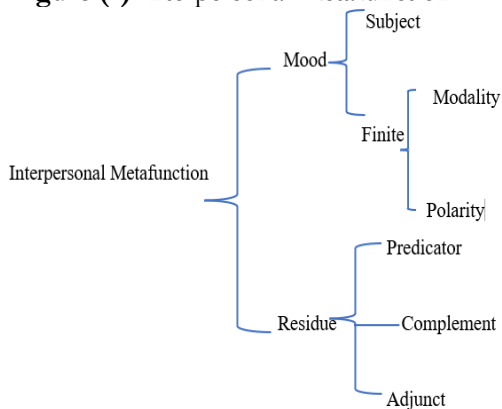
The ways in which human beings use language are classified in SFL into three broad categories known as 'metafunctions'. Language is used to organize, understand and express our perceptions of the world and of our own consciousness. This is known as the ideational metafunction. The ideational metafunction is classified into two modes or subfunctions: the experiential and the logical. The experiential is largely concerned with content or ideas. The logical is concerned with the relationship between ideas. Language is used to enable us to participate in communicative acts with other people, to take on roles and to express and understand feelings, attitude and judgements. This metafunction is known as the interpersonal metafunction. Language is used to relate what is said (or written) to the rest of the text and to other linguistic events. This involves the use of language to organize the text itself. This is known as the textual metafunction. (Bloor and Bloor, 2004:10-1).

Interpersonal Metafunction

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:134) state that one aspect of the meaning of the clause is an exchange of interpersonal meaning as exchange. Eggins (2004:144) points out that interpersonal meaning can create social relationships with other language users. When people communicate in language, they establish a relationship by speaking and assuming different roles. This is done by taking turns speaking and assuming different speech roles throughout the exchange. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:107) mention that two fundamental speech roles form the basis for all other types of roles. These two roles are (i) giving and (ii) demanding. However, there is another equally fundamental distinction that cuts across this basic dichotomy, which is associated with the nature of the commodity being exchanged. Such commodity can be either (a) goods- and services or (b) information. In addition, when analyzing language, the interpersonal metafunction involves breaking down a clause into two components: mood and residue. Thompson (2014:50) classifies the structure of mood into two elements: subject and finite. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004:117) define the subject as "something by reference to which the proposition can be affirmed or denied.". To identify subject, Eggins (2004:151) points out that subject can be realized by the pronoun or the nominal group. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:144) state that finiteness is expressed by means of a verbal operator which is either temporal or modal. Polarity is an essential feature associated with finiteness that means the choice between positive and negative. The finite elements express primary tense or modality realized as either positive or negative polarity.

Halliday (1994:78) classifies residue, the rest part of clause as exchange, into three functional elements: predicator, complement, and adjunct. Residue may be only one predicator, one or two complements, and an indefinite number of adjuncts. Predicator has four functions: (i) it specifies time reference of the speech event, (ii) it indicates different other aspects and forms such as: trying, hoping, and seeming, (iii) it refers to the voice, active or passive, (iv) it specifies the process which is predicated of the subject. A complement is reorganized by nominal group. An adjunct is realized by an adverbial group or prepositional phrase.

Figure (1) Interpersonal Metafunction.



Interpersonal Metafunction and Tenor

According to Li et al. (2020:11-12), understanding the social factors that influence the use of language is essential. These factors lie beyond the language domain, which comprises the meaning, wordings, and sound of the text. The social factors group of field, tenor, and mode affect the language used in text and create its extralinguistic features. The tenor of discourse concerns 'who is taking part' and is determined by the roles and status of the people involved, indicating their institutional roles, social status, relative power, social distance, and their attitudes and perspectives towards each other. This is known as the discourse's tenor, and it reflects the persona and stances of the participants in social activity. For Webster (2019:48), tenor is concerned with interpersonal choices influenced by the system of mood and modality, impacting cohesion, thematic, and information structure.

Deception

Mitchell (1986:3) mentions that deception is "a false communication that tends to benefit the communicator". Walters (2000:6) defines deception by referring to the following words: prevaricate, mislead, fabricate, deceive, fib, mispresent, invent, equivocate, hedge, falsify, or lie. Isabel (2013:15) argues that deception is the act of deceiving people. It refers to the act of causing beliefs in things that are untrue or are not the whole truth as in half-truths or omissions. It may entail fabrication, concealment, camouflage, or dissimulation. Knapp et al. (2016:11) observe that the definition of deception is "the way people perceive certain features of communicative acts in context." It means what constitutes deception in everyday interactions varies according to the set of circumstances that surround a particular situation or event, and is built on communicators' perceptions of different factors (e.g., intent, consequences). According to Korn (1997: 4), deception is "to cause to accept as true that which is false". The definition of the researcher is that purposeful interaction which occurs when a sender delivers information to audience(s) with intention of gaining receivers' belief.

Motives of Deception

Buller and Burgoon (1994:196) argue that most researchers investigating deception have utilized the motives for deception to show that the motives behind any message designed to influence another person's beliefs are very similar. Clark and Delia (1979), O'Keefe and Delia (1982), and Clark (1984) recognize three classes of motives for strategically selecting influenced messages: Instrumental objectives, Interpersonal objectives, and Identity objectives.

According to Carr et al. (2019: 273-4), an instrumental objective is a goal that is directly related to the task at hand. A relational objective, on the other hand, is a goal associated with the relationship between the participant and interviewer. Finally, an identity objective is a goal that is concerned with how the task reflects the participant's self-image.

Strategies of Deception

Falsification

The falsification of information is a sort of covert violation of quality. These violations could be categorized as stereotypical deceptive messages in which information is purposefully distorted or fabricated (Adha,2020: 17).

Distortions

Galasiński (2000:43) states that distortions are not absolutely lies but rather exaggeration, overstatements, or understatement made by speaker.

Depersonalization/Disassociation

Deceivers distance themselves from a lie by disassociating themselves from it. Instead of using personal information, they prefer to provide impersonal information by referring to a third party's experience.

Deceivers also increasingly use impersonal pronouns such as "one" and "we" in order to avoid taking responsibility for their statements and to reduce their personal liability by sharing the information. As a result, deceptive statements contain fewer first-person singular pronouns than truthful statements (Isabel, 2013:32).

Equivocation

Equivocation includes some level of intent to diverge from or mask facts and feeling by using ambiguous language, indirect, or establishing messages which "allow for multiple interpretations on the part of receivers" (Eisenberg, 1984:230). Galasiński (2000:43) states that equivocation has two perspectives, semantic, meaning ambiguous, and conversational, meaning indirect or irrelevant.

Concealment

Buller and Burgoon (1996: 271) remark that a critical distinction between concealment and lying, then, may be that of not telling the "whole truth" versus telling an "untruth". Buller et al. (1994:369) define concealment as "strategy of deception involves withholding information. " .

Ostensible Promise

Isaacs and Clark (1990:508) define ostensible speech as a sort of nonserious language use- a kind of mutually realizes deception - that also involves play acting, irony, sarcasm, facetiousness, and teasing.

Methodology

This paper involves the identification of the interpersonal metafunction analyzed links to strategies of deception qualitatively and quantitatively.

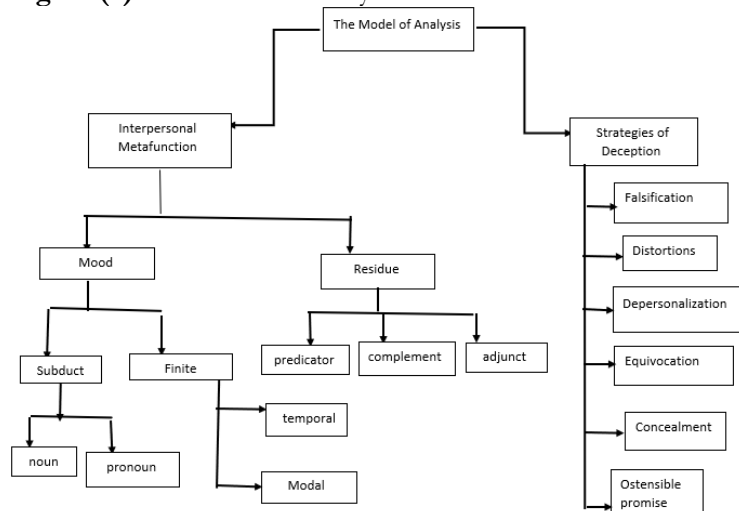
Data Description

The data of analysis are compiled from two famous British news: BBC news and the Guardian news. The selected data are chosen from 2021 to 2022 about the Iraqi cause. The length of data are of the one page which give a chance to analyse interpersonal metafunction accompanying the strategies of deception. The two data are about the Iraqi political situation.

Model of Analysis

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) establish the model as based on the interpersonal metafunction. As for the strategies of deception, the strategies of deception are collected from Galasiński (2000).

Figure (2) The Model of Analysis.



Analysis

Deception Analysis

Text (1)

Iraq accuses Turkey of attack that killed nine in Kurdistan (21 July 2022)

By George Wright

A diplomatic row has erupted between Iraq and Turkey after nine civilians were killed when artillery shells hit a park in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Most of the victims were Iraqi tourists and children were among the dead. At least 23 people were wounded.

Local officials blamed Turkish forces and Iraq is recalling its charge d'affaires from Ankara .

Turkey is suggesting that forces belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) carried out the strike.

The "fierce artillery bombing" hit a park in Zakho, a city on the border between Iraq's Kurdistan region and Turkey, Iraq state TV said.

Children, including a one-year-old baby, were among the victims, the Kurdish health minister said.

Hassan Tahsin Ali, a man injured in the attack, called the attacks "indiscriminate ."

"Our young people are dead, our children are dead, who should we turn to? We have only God," he told the AFP news agency from in front of a hospital.

Iraq has summoned the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad to demand an apology, as well as pulling its charge d'affaires from the Turkish capital .

"The Turkish forces committed blatant violation of the sovereignty of Iraq," Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi tweeted. The Turkish flag was burned by protesters outside a Turkish visa centre in the Iraqi city of Karbala, while demonstrations also took place in Baghdad and Nassiriyah.

The United States condemned the shelling. "The killing of civilians is unacceptable, and all states must respect their obligations under international law, including the protection of civilians," State Department spokesman Ned Price said. Who are the Nordic 'terrorists' wanted by Turkey?

Turkey has been mounting one of its periodic offensives against Kurdish fighters, who have bases in the region. Its latest offensive in northern Iraq started around three months ago and is aimed at targeting the PKK.

But Turkey's foreign ministry said Wednesday's attacks were committed by "terrorist organisations". It said that the Iraqi government should not be influenced by "terrorist propaganda", in reference to the PKK.

The PKK calls for greater Kurdish self-governance and is involved in an armed struggle with the Turkish state. It is considered a terror group by the EU, US and UK .

Kurds make up 15-20% of Turkey's population but have faced persecution there for generations. The government in Ankara is trying to ban the pro-Kurdish HDP party, the third biggest in parliament.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-62246911> 21 July 2022

In the text above, the strategy of falsification is used. The news aims to deceive others by declaring that "most of the victims were Iraqi tourist", "at least 23 people wounded", "Turkey is suggesting that forces belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) carried out the strike", "It said that the Iraqi government should not be influenced by "terrorist propaganda", in reference to the PKK". Using the word "most" is untruthful information since all the victims are Iraqi. Inserting "at least" indicates that there is misleading information. The deceitful words "Turkey is suggesting that forces belonging to the Kurdistan" and "that the Iraqi government should not be influenced by "terrorist propaganda" are utilized to falsify the audience. The concealment strategy is used in: "Its latest offensive in northern Iraq started around three months ago and is aimed at targeting the PKK", "But Turkey's foreign ministry said Wednesday's attacks were committed by "terrorist organisations".

Text (2)

Biden and Kadhimí seal agreement to end US combat mission in Iraq.

President and PM meet at Oval Office and announce timetable.

Joe Biden and the Iraqi prime minister, Mustafa al-Kadhimi, have sealed an agreement formally ending the US combat mission in Iraq by the end of 2021, more than 18 years after troops were sent to the country.

Coupled with Biden's withdrawal of the last American forces in Afghanistan by the end of August, the Democratic president is completing US combat missions in the two wars that George W Bush began under his watch. Biden and Kadhimí met in the Oval Office on Monday for their first face-to-face talks as part of a strategic dialogue between the United States and Iraq.

"Our role in Iraq will be ... to be available, to continue to train, to assist, to help and to deal with Isis as it arises, but we're not going to be, by the end of the year, in a combat mission," Biden told reporters as he and Kadhimí met.

There are currently 2,500 US troops in Iraq focusing on countering the remnants of Islamic State. The US role in Iraq will shift entirely to training and advising the Iraqi military to defend itself. The shift is not expected to have a major impact since the United States has already moved toward focusing on training Iraqi forces.

A US-led coalition invaded Iraq in March 2003 based on charges that Saddam Hussein's government possessed weapons of mass destruction. Saddam was ousted from power, but such weapons were never found. In recent years the US mission was dominated by helping defeat Isis militants in Iraq and Syria.

"Nobody is going to declare mission accomplished. The goal is the enduring defeat of Isis," a senior administration official told reporters ahead of Kadhimí's visit. The reference was reminiscent of the large "Mission Accomplished" banner on the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier above where Bush gave a speech declaring major combat operations over in Iraq on 1 May 2003.

"If you look to where we were, where we had Apache helicopters in combat, when we had US special forces doing regular operations, it's a significant evolution. So by the end of the year we think we'll be in a good place to really formally move into an advisory and capacity-building role," the official said. US diplomats and troops in Iraq and Syria were targeted in three rocket and drone attacks earlier this month. Analysts believed the attacks were part of a campaign by Iranian-backed militias. The senior administration official would not say how many US troops

would remain on the ground in Iraq for advising and training. Kadhim is seen as friendly to the United States and has tried to check the power of Iran-aligned militias. But his government condemned a US air raid against Iran-aligned fighters along its border with Syria in late June, calling it a violation of Iraqi sovereignty. The US-Iraqi statement is expected to detail a number of non-military agreements related to health, energy and other matters. The United States plans to provide Iraq with 500,000 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine under the global Covax vaccine-sharing program. Biden said the doses should arrive in a couple of weeks. The United States will also provide \$5.2m to help fund a UN mission to monitor October elections in Iraq. "We're looking forward to seeing an election in October," said Biden.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/26/joe-biden-iraq-mustafa-al-kadhimi-us-military-combat-mission> 26 Jul 2021

In the above text, Biden makes use of the deceptive strategy of equivocation when he hesitates and utilizes "will be....". There is something Biden does not want to announce about the role of American in Iraq and he evades Iraqi government that American will leave Iraq as military forces to become an advisory by using "we think we'll be in a good place" Then he applies the strategy of ostensible promise by indicating that the role of US will move to train and advise the Iraqi Military "The US role in Iraq will shift entirely to training and advising the Iraqi military to defend itself." and "we'll be in a good place to really formally move into an advisory". He also makes the use of depersonalization strategy to deceitful intention by using "nobody is going to declare...." Distortion strategy is used in "The senior administration official would not say how many US troops would remain on the ground in Iraq for advising and training" since the number of US troops do not specify by the senior. Concealment strategy is used in "The United States plans to provide Iraq with 500,000 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine under the global Covax vaccine-sharing program "

Table (1) Rate of Deceptive Strategies.

No.	Strategies of Deception		
		Fr.	%
1-	Falsification	4	23
2-	Distortion	2	12
3-	Depersonalization	1	6
4-	Equivocation	5	29
5-	Concealment	3	18
6-	Ostensible promise	2	12
	Total	17	100

Table (1) illustrates the major deceptive strategies that are used in the two texts. Equivocation is the most frequently strategy used, it grades ((29%). This indicates the deceiver utilizes ambiguous statement to fulfill his goal. Falsification comes in the second level, it scores (23%). Concealment occupies the third rank, it grades (18%). ostensible promise, distortion, and depersonalization score sequentially (12%), (12%), and (6%) respectively.

Interpersonal Analysis

Table (2) Rate of Interpersonal Analysis.

Interpersonal Metafunction								
	Mood					Residue		
	Subject		Finite					
	Fr.	%		Fr.	%		Fr.	%
Noun	12	71	temporal	11	65	Predicator	14	29
pronoun	5	29	Modality	6	35	Complement	22	46
						Adjunct	12	25
Total	17	100		17	100		48	100

Table (2) shows the percentages of the interpersonal metafunction elements to express deception. The deception is either mood or residue. Mood is classified into subject and finite. Subject is subdivided into noun group and pronoun. Noun group scores (71%) and pronoun amounts (29%). Finite is divided into temporal and modality; temporal occupies higher than modality. They rate (65%) versus (35%). Residue is the second element of interpersonal and it can be divided into three subdivision elements: predicator, complement, and adjunct. Complement scores the highest percentage, it amounts (46%). Predicator grades (29%). Adjunct rates (25%). This means the deceptive clauses tend to give less detailed information in order to conceal some information.

Conclusions

In accordance with the analysis's findings above, the study arrives at the following conclusions: the interpersonal metafunction analysis shows that deceptive statements can be realized through mood and residue. Subject and finite are used to achieve mood. The study shows that the deceptive statements are carried out through noun group that scores (71%). The deceiver uses noun group to make his speech more authentic. Temporal is used to fulfill deception and it rates (65%). As for deception in British news, complement is the most element of residue which is utilized in deceptive news. It scores (46%). For deceptive strategies, the analysis shows that equivocation is the most strategy that is used to achieve the deceptive news. It amounts (29%). This means that vague language, indirect, or forming messages which may serve various interpretations on the part of receivers. According to these results, the hypotheses are verified.

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