

Discourse Analysis of the Editorials of Local Newspapers in Bacolod City



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ABSTRACT: This study aimed to describe syntactically and semantically the editorials of local newspapers in Bacolod City. The corpora included nine editorials from the three local newspaper publications published from August to November 2016. The extracts of each editorial were analyzed using Swales' (1990) CARS model to find out the organizational moves used. It was found that the most prevalent move was Move 2, which was optional since obligatory and optional moves are based on the cut-off frequency of 60 percent occurrence as a measure of move stability (Muangsamai, 2018). Moreover, the most prevalent among Flowerdew's (2002) Signalling Nouns [Halliday and Hassan's (1976) General Nouns] was *change* with six occurrences. Among Halliday and Hassan's (1976) four Conjunctive Relations, the additive type prevailed with 138 occurrences; *and*, with 125. As for the Modal Verbs of Roberts and fellow authors (2010), *can* transpired the most with twenty-two counts. In terms of Flowerdew's (1993) Concordances, *people* was the most prevalent, with eight concordances on the left, namely *where*, *their*, *a*, *but if*, and *the*, as well as six concordances on the right, *look*, *care*, *cam*, *cooperate*, *Power*, and – *Negrenses*. This study adopted the protocol by Pilar (2014), which states that the independent coders are at least a master's in English or have researched Discourse Analysis and Contrastive Rhetoric to achieve a high-reliability level. The results were thoroughly analyzed, described, and discussed individually. Hence, it can be concluded that editorial writers in Bacolod City express their argument by stating the problems of the target issue since they focus on a better change for the citizens by proposing possible solutions. Therefore, students should be taught significant lexical items and the organization of arguments. The results of this study may serve as the basis for an intervention program that would develop the editorial writing skill of students.

KEYWORDS: discourse analysis, signalling noun, concordance, conjunctive relation, modal verb, newspaper editorial

I. INTRODUCTION

“Research on [newspaper] editorials cross-culturally is significant even if ESL students do not become editorial writers for, in most cases, they are readers of editorials. Good editorials are considered some of the best examples of persuasive writing in all countries; they set standards for written persuasion” Connor (1996: 144). According to Sinclair (1995), as cited in Ansary and Babaii (2005: 276), an editorial is “an article in a newspaper that gives the opinion of the editor or publisher on a topic or item of news.” Pulido (2011) adds that editorials are legitimate sources of pragmatic and discourse research since the texts were written with the writer's communicative intention of presenting to the readers a certain perspective that may have been shaped cognitively by the cultural and ethnolinguistic background of the writer. Also, Bonyadi (2012: 86) claims that “newspaper editorials make use of certain moves that are usually textually realized through certain linguistic forms.” This claim is supported by Ansary and Babaii (2005), who claim that move analysis was pioneered by Hopkins and Dudley-Evans (1998), Bhatia (1993), and Swales (1990), which was followed by many other research studies on different targets of linguistic investigation on academic genres like editorial letters done by Flowerdew and Dudley-Evans (200). Indeed, Swales' (1990) CARS Model has been the most commonly used framework for studying discourse and was also used in the present study since “Philippine editorials have a macro-structure” (Pulido, 2011: 52).

In the Philippine setting, Barrios' (2013: 11) study revealed that local Philippine editorials follow an organizational framework, and the most frequently used is “McCarthy's (1991) claim-counterclaim pattern, followed by Hoey's (1983) problem-solution framework, and the essay type described by Peñaranda (1977).” She further recommends “a more extensive investigation of the organizational framework used in editorials of Philippine local newspapers” (Barrios, 2013: 11). In some nations, the discourse (sub) genre of press editorials has rarely been analyzed in a systematically explicit way (Fartousi and Dumanig, 2012). Pulido (2011: 62) emphasizes that “editorials are argumentative in nature. The students may be given copies of editorials, and they are guided by the teachers in analyzing these texts in order for them to be familiar with the conventions of writing an editorial, and they can be used as topics for discussion since it appears that the argumentative nature of these texts begs for the reaction of their readers, and as materials for paraphrasing and summarizing”.

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The claims presented previously prove a need to conduct research studies on editorials to in order to strengthen editorial and argumentative writing. Ansary and Babaii (2005) cited in Elyazale (2014: 21) claim that “print and print journalism opinion discourse has been and still is considered by many a neglected genre, especially if it is compared with the abundant existing work on other newspaper text types.” Hence, this study, which aimed to describe syntactically and semantically the editorials of local newspapers in Bacolod City was conducted. Specifically, this study aimed to find out the organizational moves, signalling nouns, concordances, conjunctive relations, and modal verbs that occurred in the editorials of local newspapers in Bacolod City.

II. METHOD

The data was analyzed using five frameworks. First, Swales’ (1990) CARS Model, which attempts to describe and explain the patten of organization of writing the introduction to scholarly research studies, includes three organizational moves: 1. Establishing a Territory, 2. Establishing a Niche, and 3. Occupying a Niche. The second was Flowerdew’s (2002) 80 Signalling Nouns [Halliday and Hasan’s (1976) General Nouns], which are pointed out as a class of unspecific lexical signalling items, the meaning of which is only made clear by their linguistic (or non-linguistic) context. These signaling nouns from his study *Discourse in English Language Education* include *example, case, result, way, problem, theory, idea, point, thing, question, reason, effect, method, process, factor, fact, principle, issue, approach, procedure, condition, right, solution, function, change, value, argument, possibility, ability, difference, concept, analysis, conclusion, situation, policy, view, response, relationship, strategy, consequence, assumption, step, period, stage, purpose, discussion, failure, attempt, feature, potential, technique, topic, instance, evidence, role, objective, decision, behaviour, intention, prediction, hypothesis, implication, advantage, definition, observation, notion, characteristic, phenomenon, target, difficulty, indication, suggestion, opinion, belief, effort, need, chance, response, emphasis, and innovation* Third, Flowerdew’s (1993) Concordances, which is composed of twenty nouns from COBUILD corpus, namely *time, people, way, man, years, work, world, thing, day, children, life, men, fact, house, kind, year, place, home, sort, and end* was utilized for Problem Number 3. Fourth, Halliday and Hasan’s (1976) Conjunctive Relations, which are classified into four (4) categories according to the relationship they express: additive, adversative, causal, and temporal, was used. To answer objective 5, Roberts and fellow researchers’ (2010) Modality Analysis, which classified modal verbs into three major types: permission, ability, and possibility (*can, could, may, and might*); obligation and necessity (*must and should*); and volition and prediction (*will, would, and shall*) was used.

Eighteen editorials published from August to November 2016 were selected from each of the three local newspaper publications in Bacolod City. They underwent a face validity considering the length by five validators who were English teachers and researchers in the field of linguistics. The editorials were chosen since they were some of the most recent and most accessible editorials available in town before the pandemic. Hence, a total of nine editorials were utilized as the corpora of the study. However, the theme was not considered since it was not the focus of the analyses. Each editorial was divided into verbatim extracts, which were thoroughly analyzed, described, and discussed individually. Each signal was juxtaposed and compared to the Steps of the Move of the CARS Model to determine the organization move used. As for the syntax analysis, frequency count using the Ctrl+F feature of Microsoft Word was used to determine the prevalence of lexical items. After the data analyses, the results were presented to four inter-coders with a master’s degree in the field of English or linguistics or who had researched the same field. Each of them was tutored about the frameworks utilized and was then given three samples of the corpora to analyze. Most of the organizational moves that prevailed among the analyses of the inter-coders and the researcher were considered. Disagreements in analyses were resolved among the inter-coders through a discussion.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Utilizing the five frameworks in analyzing the data, the study thoroughly analyzed, gave signals, and described and discussed each extract comprehensively to better understand the semantics and syntax.

Table 1. Organizational Moves Found in Editorials of Local Newspapers in Bacolod City

Organizational Moves	<i>f</i>		Total	%	
	Pub 1	Pub 2		Pub 2	Pub 3
Move 1 Establishing a Territory	24	9	17	50	35.21%
Step 1 Claiming Centrality	2	1	2	5	10.00%
Step 2 Making Topic	15	6	9	30	60.00%
Generalizations					
Step 3 Reviewing Items of	7	2	6	15	50.00%
Previous Research					
Move 2 Establishing a Niche	21	13	20	54	38.03%
Step 1a Counter-Claiming	15	5	10	30	55.56%

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Step 1b Indicating a Gap	1	0	3	4	7.40%
Step 1c Question-Raising	1	0	1	2	3.70%
Step 1d Continuing a Tradition	4	8	6	18	33.33%
Move 3 Occupying the Niche	17	13	8	38	26.76%
Step 1a Outlining Purposes	3	4	4	11	28.95%
Step 1b Announcing Present Research	7	6	4	17	44.74%
Step 2 Announcing Main Findings	7	3	0	10	26.32%
Step 3 Indicating the Main Structure of the Paper	0	0	0	0	0
Total					100.00%

The quantitative analysis of the data presented above shows the frequency count of the organizational moves, which determined whether they were obligatory or not. The results show that none of the organizational moves were obligatory since none reached 50%, which means that newspaper editorial writers in Bacolod City did not follow a certain convention in organizing their ideas; they were free to organize and write the article. To illustrate further, the most prevalent step in Move 1 was Step 2 Making Topic Generalizations, with 30 occurrences; in Move 2 was Step 1a Counter-Claiming, also with 30 occurrences; Move 3, Step 1b Announcing Present Research, with 17 occurrences. Among all the organizational moves, Move 2 Establishing a Niche transpired the most with 54 occurrences. The results show that the editorial writers in Bacolod City focus more on expressing the target issue or problem in the city but are less likely to suggest solutions. However, they also provide a general view of the topic and alternative strategies to be done or accomplished by persons responsible. According to van Dijk (1992), as cited in Al Khatib and fellow authors (2016: 1), “editorials do not only aim to persuade readers of some opinion, but they often also propagate particular ideologies or recommend certain attitudes to the community.

Below are Flowerdew’s (2002) 80 Signalling Nouns [Halliday and Hasan’s (1976) General Nouns], many of which did not transpire in the data and were marked 0.

Table 2. The Frequency of the Signalling Nouns in the Editorials of Local Newspapers in Bacolod City

Signalling Nouns	Pub 1		Pub 2		Pub 3		Total	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Example	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Case	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Result	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Way	1	5.26%	0	0	3	16%	4	7.02%
Idea	1	0	0	0	1	5%	2	3.51%
Thing	1	5.26%	0	0	2	11%	3	5.26%
Question	0	0	0	0	1	5%	1	1.82%
Reason	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Effect	0	0	2	11.76%	0	0	2	3.51%
Method	0	0	0	0	1	5%	1	1.82%
Process	2	10.53%	0	0	1	5%	3	5.26%
Factor	0	0	3	17.65%	0	0	3	5.26%
Fact	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Issue	0	0	0	0	1	5%	1	1.82%
Approach	0	0	0	0	1	5%	1	1.82%
Procedure	0	0	1	5.88%	0	0	1	1.82%
Condition	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Right	0	0	0	0	1	5%	1	1.82%
Function	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Change	1	5.26%	4	23.53%	1	5%	6	10.91%
Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argument	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Possibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ability	0	0	1	5.88%	0	0	1	1.82%
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Concept	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Situation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy	0	0	1	5.88%	1	5%	2	3.64%
View	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Response	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Relationship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strategy	0	0	1	5.88%	1	5%	2	3.64%
Consequence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assumption	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Step	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purpose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discussion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempt	1	5.26%	0	0	1	5%	2	3.64%
Feature	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Potential	0	0	1	5.88%	0	0	1	1.82%
Technique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Topic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Instance	2	10.53%	0	0	1	5%	3	5.45%
Evidence	0	0	0	0	1	5%	1	1.82%
Role	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decision	0	0	0	0	1	5%	1	1.82%
Behaviour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intention	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Prediction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hypothesis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Implication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advantage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Observation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Characteristic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phenomenon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Target	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difficulty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suggestion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opinion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belief	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Effort	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Need	0	0	1	5.88%	0	0	1	1.82%
Chance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Response	1	5.26%	0	0	0	0	1	1.82%
Emphasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Innovation	0	0	2	11.76%	0	0	2	3.64%
Total	19	100%	17	100%	19	100%	55	100%

Among the signalling nouns, *change* was the most prevalent with six occurrences, followed by *way* with 4. This result implies that the people in Bacolod City felt the need for change, whether in the government, law, or ordinances, considering the editorials under study were inclined toward politics. In general, a change for the better is what most people want from the government, and

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in this study, such a phenomenon was proven to be evident. The result is supported by Mousavi and Moini (2014) whose study indicated that *change* is the shell noun that is the most frequent in their corpus. In the study by Jiang and Hyland (2015), *way* is an example of stance nouns in the noun complement construction classified under the Entity of Manner (described as circumstances of actions and state of affairs). Below are sample extracts from the data.

Editorial 7

*The administration of President Rodrigo Duterte is seemingly bent on getting two **things** done: winning the drug war at all costs and a federal system of government, meaning charter **change**, with no compromises.*

Editorial 2

*For **instance**, teachers are the frontline guardians who should monitor **changes** in the behavior of students forced by their parents and other elders to participate in cybersex and online human trafficking.*

Editorial 4

*Let us hope that next year's Global Competitiveness Report shows us the positive **effects** of those promised **changes**.*

Table 3 shows the word *people*, which got the most number of concordances. The number represents the frequency of occurrences of each word on the left and the right.

Table 3. The Frequency of Concordance of the Word 'People' in the Editorials of Local Newspapers in Bacolod City

Frequency of Concordance of 'people' sorted by the first word on the left		Frequency of Concordance of 'people' sorted by the first word on the right	
where	2	look	1
their	1	care	1
a	1	can	1
but	1	cooperate	1
if	1	Power	1
the	2	- Negrenses	s1

It was revealed that *people* had the most occurrences with eight concordances on the left and six on the right. Also, *where* and *the* occurred twice on the left concordance of *people*, in which *where people* was a part of an adverbial phrase that indicated time. The frequent mention of *people* in the editorials implies that the editorial writers were indeed pro-people referring to themselves as citizens and their target audience, whose welfare should be the government's utmost priority. This Adjei (2015) states that adverbial clauses commonly begin with subordinators like *where*, and many others. Below are sample extracts from the data.

Editorial 1

*Terrorism, however, cannot work in a community where **people** look out for each other.
It cannot grow in a community that is united and determined to protect their **people**.*

Editorial 9

*Beyond excuses, however, this administration's unwillingness to consult the **people** –
Negrenses themselves – on the establishment of the region betrays its supposed pro-people
and inclusive governance approach.*

However, the words *day*, *kind*, and *sort* in Flowerdew's (1993) Concordances, as previously mentioned in the Framework, did not occur in the nine editorials under study. Table 4 shows the conjunctive relations found in the data.

Table 4. The Frequency of Conjunctive Relations in the Editorials of Local Newspapers in Bacolod City

Conjunctive Relation	Pub 1		Pub 2		Pub 3		Total	%
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%		
Additive								82.86%
and	3	42.40%	44	35.20%	28	22.40%	75	86.21%
or	1	18.28%	1	27.27%	6	54.54%	8	9.19%
for instance	2	100.00%	0		0		2	2.30%
thus	1	100.00%	0		0		1	1.15%
moreover	0		1	100.00%	0		1	1.15%

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Total	7		46		34		87	100.00%
Adversative								12.38%
but	5	50.00%	2	20.00%	3	30.00%	10	76.92%
however	2	100.00%	0		0		2	15.38%
though	0		0		1	100.00%	1	7.69%
Total	7		2		4		13	100.00%
Causal								4.76%
because	1	50.00%	0		1	50.50%	2	40.00%
then	1	50.50%	0		1	50.00%	2	40.00%
for this reason	1	100.00%	0		0		1	20.00%
Total	3		0		2		5	100.00%
Temporal	0		0		0		0	
Grand Total	20		96		40		105	100.00%

Among the four types of conjunctive relations presented by Halliday and Hassan (1976), the most prevalent was Additive, which had 87 occurrences. It was followed by Adversative with 13 occurrences, and Causal with 5. However, no temporal conjunctive relations occurred in the corpora of this study. This result is supported by Goldman and Murray (1992), and Ozono and Ito (2003), who explain that most of their participants found it easier and performed much better with the additive conjunctive relation in their reading comprehension.

It also appeared that of all the conjunctive relations in the corpora, *and* was the most prevalent with 75 occurrences, followed by *but* with 10, and *or* with 8. According to Leech & Svartvik (1994:264), Greenbaum & Quirk (1993:263) cited in Leung (2005: 4), “generally speaking, conjunctions are the most common way of coordination and the most frequently used and central conjunctions are *and*, *or* and *but*.” Below are the highlighted conjunctive relations in the sample extracts.

Editorial 1

*Even the safest city cannot stop a determined bomber, **but** people can if they keep an eye out for each **and** everyone.*

Editorial 2

*Teachers know that communication facilitates the learning process taking place in **and** outside the classroom.*

Editorial 3

*AMONG the takeaways from yesterday’s sudden burial of Ferdinand Marcos Sr. is that his widow **and** heirs have the patience **and** resources for the long game.*

Editorial 4

*These are institutions, infrastructure, goods market efficiency, labor market efficiency, technological readiness, business sophistication **and** innovation.*

Editorial 5

*Ambisyon Natin 2040 is the report of the National Economic **and** Development Authority on the aspirations of Filipinos within the next two decades on the improvement of the standard of living, finances, security **and** ease of transacting with the government.*

Editorial 6

*A study published in the Lancet Medical journal says health interventions costing as little as \$1.72 per person can prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths from breast **and** cervical cancer in developing countries.*

Editorial 7

*The administration of President Rodrigo Duterte is seemingly bent on getting two things done: winning the drug war at all costs **and** a federal system of government, meaning charter change, with no compromises.*

Editorial 8

*In many ways, the term she had used to refer to a fellow legislator could be used to define her legacy in the sacred temple of the Catholic **and** conservative elite that is Philippine politics.*

Editorial 9

*Infamous for name dropping **and** passing off raw information about alleged plans to destabilize the Duterte administration, he cannot seem to find fault in the man who*

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leads his party in light of controversies surrounding the abolishment of the Negros Island Region (NIR).

We've witnessed the courage, **even if** sometimes misplaced or misguided, but, as Negrenses, the compassion does not seem to be evident.

In addition, this study has found other conjunctive relations in the corpus, namely *once again, whether...or, than, then, where, that, if, when, not only...but also, since, as, so...that, as though, while, inasmuch as, and even if*.

Editorial 1

Once again, the appeal for vigilance.

Terrorists will always be out there, waiting for the time to inflict pain among the greatest number possible, **whether** it be physical or mental pain.

Then there are the joiners, those with ill intention who will be inclined to join the fray, in the twisted attempt to appear bigger **than** they really are.

Terrorism, however, cannot work in a community **where** people look out for each other.

It cannot thrive in a community that is willing to stand their ground and show the world **that** they cannot be cowed as a people.

Editorial 2

When students and teachers use the same lingo, students will **not only** be receptive to the messages of teachers **but** will **also** express their ideas and relate with their classmates and teachers; thus, ensuring **that** there is dialogue and interaction.

Since the Internet and new media are indelible features of the media landscape, teachers should not shirk from the challenge of understanding these in order to serve as guides to help youths negotiate in the network society.

Editorial 3

It was also, **as** yesterday's event showed, a declaration of the Marcos family's plans.

Editorial 4

The world is **so** competitive **that** even small changes make a big difference in ranking," said National Competitiveness Council private sector co-chairman in a statement.

If the President and his men follow through on their promises with regards to those areas of concern, our country's competitiveness should improve as well.

Editorial 7

The latter has led his most rabid supporters to hang on to his every pronouncement, or those of his closest allies, **as though** it were infallible and not subject to criticism or even questioning.

Editorial 8

While her political record is a mixed bag, one thing is certain: Miriam will go down in Philippine political history as among the most colorful, intelligent, and hardworking of senators.

We mourn her passing **inasmuch as** we celebrate her life.

Table 5. The Frequency of the Modal Verbs in the Editorials of Local Newspapers in Bacolod City

Modal Verb	Pub 1		Pub 2		Pub 3		Total	%
	f	%	f	%	f	%		
Can	16	48.48%	5	33.33%	1	10.00%	22	37.93%
Should	7	21.21%	5	33.33%	1	10.00%	13	22.41%
Will	6	66.66%	1	6.66%	2	20.00%	9	15.52%
Would	3	18.18%	1	6.66%	4	50.00%	8	13.79%
Could	0		2	13.13%	2	20.00%	4	6.90%
Might	1	3.03%	0		0		1	1.72%
have to	0		1	66.66%	0		1	1.72%
Total	33		15		10		58	100.00%

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Table 5 revealed that among all the modal verbs, *can* occurred twenty-two (22) times in the corpora, followed by *should*, with thirteen occurrences. “Since editorials are necessarily views and opinions of the news agencies or the columnist involved, it is often the case that all possible measures of persuasion are employed lest the text sounded convincing or persuading,” Bal (2014: 22). This implies that through the editorials, the people believe that the ability of the government to create a better change and the possibility of such are not far from reality. Moreover, the prevalence of certain modals generally indicates that such ability and possibility of change for the better, which may not be seen at present, may still be materialized in the future as evidenced by the modal will and could.

Aside from the modal verbs pointed out by Roberts and fellow researchers (2010), *will*, *would*, *could*, *might*, and *have to* were also in the corpora with nine, eight, four, one, and one occurrences respectively. However, the other modals verbs *must*, *may*, *shall*, *need to*, *needn't*, *dare to*, *dare not*, *need we?*, *used to*, *ought to*, *(had) better to*, *(have) got to*, *be supposed to*, and *be going to* did not occur in the corpora of the study. Leech (2003), as cited in Hinkel (2001: 672), claims that there is a decline in the use of *must* where there is a shift in the use of *need to* and *should*, which is “possibly associated with a tendency to suppress or avoid overt claims to power and authority by the speaker or writer.” This result is a breakthrough discovery in modal verbs, which may provide a reference for grammar and syntax topics. The extracts from the data are presented below.

Editorial 1

*Terrorists **will** always be out there, waiting for the time to inflict pain among the greatest number possible, whether it be physical or mental pain.*

*We **can** only say, this **might** just work and is thus worth pursuing.*

Editorial 2

*In the wired world, schools and homes **should** maintain and even strengthen their collaboration to educate youths and inculcate ethical behavior and self-regulation as stakeholders of media.*

Editorial 5

*This income level was arrived at considering the amortizations that would **have to be** made on a car, a house and lot, taxes, and allowances for needs and exigencies.*

Editorial 6

*A study published in the Lancet Medical journal says health interventions costing as little as \$1.72 per person **can** prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths from breast and cervical cancer in developing countries.*

*“But nothing **could** be further from the truth.*

Editorial 7

*By proposing the abolition a recently reformed body that **would** represent the youth in governance and Kagawads who, in many instances, represent puroks and sitios in the Barangay Council, Alvarez wishes to consolidate power in the local executives – the Mayor and Barangay Captain – and does away with the power of the legislature to provide a check and balance.*

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the semantic analysis of the study, it can be concluded that editorial writers in Bacolod City express their argument by stating the problems of the target issue as seen in the prevalence of Move 2 Establishing a Niche. This result implies that editorial writers in Bacolod City express more on counter-claiming or the problem of the target issue than stating a background of the issue nor providing solution to the problem cited. Also, it can be accepted that they establish the territory in their article by stating generalizations relevant to the topic, as well as providing alternative strategies (aside from the ones that merged previously), and therefore note what has to be done or accomplished by a particular person or group of people (e.g., the government, officials).

With the results presented in Table 2, it can be posed that the writers also desire change for the better for the people (their audience), which is reflected in the signaling noun *change*. This idea supports the result in Tables 1 and 2, which posits that they like to suggest and propose good ideas being the voice of people who express discontentment in the current situation of the city or the country. The prevalence of *can* and *should*, on the other hand, express that whatever suggestions, proposals, and alternatives the writers have for the betterment of the people and their welfare, there is not only a possibility but also goodness and rightness.

With the culture of writing presented in the editorials, it is therefore recommended that organizing an editorial be taught to target students, as well as how to write an argument since they reflect what kind of writers there are in the city. Considering they are known writers, they can be a model worthy of emulation by future and emerging writers like those in student publications. Lexical items may also be taught to members of the school publication and shared to other students in English and linguistics classes.

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