

1. INTRODUCTION

In the Systemic Functional Grammar:

“Language seems to have evolved for three major purposes. These are: 1. to talk about what is happening, what will happen and what has happened, 2. to interact and/or to express a point of view, 3) to turn the output of the previous two functions into coherent whole.”

(Butt et al, 2003: 5)

According to this statement, there are three broad and principal functions of language that are central to the way the grammar works in the language system. These three functions express experiential (ideational), interpersonal and textual meanings. In order to understand the full functionality of any utterance it is necessary to consider all of these three meanings simultaneously.

The paper compares two newspaper articles and aims at identifying the main similarities and differences of the aforementioned three systemic principal types of meanings that are examined in more detail in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this assignment.

The articles originating from two popular British newspapers: Daily Mail and Daily Express, report the same factual event of a human-interest story involving Anna Nicole Smith. Both of the papers are addressed to the same working class audience and thus are expected to represent a very similar style of a popular tabloid reporting. However, Daily Express projects unfavourable impression of the subject matter and uses more sensational style than Daily Mail, which uses tolerant and sometimes empathetic tone. Both articles are introduced in more detail in section 2.

The comparative analysis is complemented by lexicogrammatical examination and a summary of style, context and register of both texts provided in sections 6 and 7 respectively.

Final section 8 provides conclusions on how the texts are similar and how they are different in terms of their general stylistic properties and their communicative functionality based on analysis carried out in the essay.

Appendix 1 presents a table with an overall comparative analysis of the texts' meanings while appendix 2 includes the articles.

The referencing used throughout my assignment is as follows: DM: Daily Mail, DE: Daily Express, § 1: paragraph one, § 2: paragraph 2 etc. Paragraphs numbers refer to the aforementioned appendix 2.

2. TEXT OVERVIEW

2.1 Background information

Articles originate from two popular British working class daily newspapers: The Daily Mail (DM) and the Daily Express (DE) both issued on February 9, 2007. The articles report circumstances surrounding death of Anna Nicole Smith and take an opportunity to look back on her life. For Daily Mail this news makes a cover story. Both titles of the articles i.e. 'The roller-coaster life of model who wed a billionaire' (DM) and 'Anna Nicole Smith found dead in hotel' (DE) and enclosed pictures of Ms Smith, her deceased husband and son, indicate what is to follow in the texts in sense of story line: "We look at the headline and opening sentences of a newspaper article because we know that these contain a summary of the contents of the article" (Coulthard, M. et al., 2000: 10).

2.2 Personal perspective

My attitude to the subject matter is indifferent. However, for the purpose of this assignment I have researched the topic of Ms Smith's life, drawing from a multitude of different sources in order to gather some factual background on the matter and see how the information is represented or misrepresented by the media.

Since both articles originate from popular daily newspapers, I expect them to be biased and based on personal premonitions of the writers, seek controversy and often not be well researched. This might be often due to the time constraints allowing for preparation of

such articles and also to the great pressure laying upon the journalists to report 'interesting' stories that sell daily tabloids. However, exaggerated and often deriding style of journalism can make a significant injustice to the subject matter, which frequently is irreversible. In social psychology this phenomena is called 'informational social influence' (Myers, 2005: 547) and Systemic Functional Linguistics seeks to provide an account of the grammar of a language by reference to the social purposes and context of language use.

3. EXPERIENTIAL MEANING ANALYSIS

Thompson describes the experiential functions of language, to which he refers to after Halliday as an experiential metafunction (2004: 30), as:

“We use language to talk about our experience of the world, including the worlds in our own minds, to describe events and states and the entities involved in them.” (ibid: 30)

In Systemic Functional Linguistics language therefore represents external reality by happenings and states, which are referred to as Processes; entities, known as Participants and circumstances in which the happenings and states occur, which are referred to as Circumstances (White, 2000: 4).

The aforementioned three transitivity categories are inherently overlapping and indicate an evaluative stance of the writer.

Before proceeding to the analysis of participants, processes and circumstances it has to be highlighted that the following compared paragraphs are analysed in a context of the entire text they originate from:

‘Ultimately a text is a string of words and a writer has to encode the ideational meaning into, and the reader to decode that meaning from, words... word meanings are not fully fixed; rather, words derive some of their meaning from the context in which they appear.’
(Coulthard, 2005: 9)

3.1 Participants, processes and circumstances – comparative analysis

3.1.1 DM § 13 and DE § 8

‘He died just 14 months after they married and she then faced a ten-year battle for a share of his £800 million fortune.’ (DM)

... she (Participant / Actor) then (Circumstance of location in time / adverb) faced (Material Process) a ten-year battle (Participant / Range)...

‘She remained in the headlines after his death the following year when she began acrimonious legal battle over his \$1.6 billion estate with his family, who painted her as gold digger.’ (DE)

...when (subordinating conjunction) she (Participant / Actor) began (Material Process) acrimonious legal battle (Participant / Range)...

Although both of the analysed clause complexes are factual, they cultivate a very different impression of Ms Smith who is an actor in both cases.

The essential difference between the sentences is the choice of lexis to describe the material processes. Daily Mail uses verb ‘faced’, while Daily Express ‘began’.

Material process ‘faced’ indicates that Ms Smith was the one who was experiencing a hard time. Although she was the ‘doer’, she also was the victim of the situation, which she had to face.

Material process ‘began’ indicates that Ms Smith was the initiator of the action. She was the actor in this clause complex as she consciously provoked the situation by beginning it. Additionally, the goal and object of the clause was described as an ‘acrimonious legal battle’. This might suggest that Ms Smith was the calculated aggressor upsetting life of others. Final subordinate finite clause referring to the family of the deceased Mr Marshal, who plays here a role of a positive social actor – the legitimate family of a significantly higher social status than Ms Smith, describing her as ‘a gold digger’, only reconfirms the aforementioned covert negative evaluative stance of the DE writer.

3.1.2 DM § 14 and DE § 10

‘More recently she had her own reality television series, The Anna Nicole Show.’ (DM)

More recently (Circumstance of location in time) she (Participant / Carrier: Possessor) had (Relational Process / Attributive: Possessive) her own reality television series, The Anna Nicole Show (Participant / Attribute: Possessed).

‘Later, Smith’s hopes of glittering television carrier by emulating the success of rocker Ozzy Osbourne fell flat when critics panned her reality series.’ (DE)

Later (Circumstance of location in time) Smith’s hopes of glittering television carrier (Abstract Participant/ Nominalisation / Actor) ... fell (Material Process) flat (Circumstance of manner)...

In this comparative analysis, the same information was conveyed leaving on readers a very different impression of Ms Smith’s achievements as a host of her television reality show.

DM in its transitive single clause uses relational possessive process that restrains itself to a strictly factual statement informing the reader that Ms Smith had her own television show.

The DE uses a material process with an actor as the sole participant. ‘Smith’s hopes of glittering television carrier’ is an abstract participant, otherwise called ‘nominalisation’, to which Halliday refers to as ‘grammatical metaphors’ (White, 2000: 140). The material process ‘fell’ combined with a circumstance of manner ‘flat’ in this context are covertly ridiculing Ms Smith’s efforts to gain a television career. In order to make the statement more unbiased the same could have been expressed as ‘were unsuccessful’ or ‘did not come into realisation’. Further information included in the same sentence ‘by emulating the success of rocker Ozzy Osbourne’ also seems to have in this context a slightly derisive reference. ‘Emulating’ here means copying or imitating, which is the opposite of inventing or creating. By copying someone else one is not able to succeed thanks to his / her own merits, perhaps because he / she is not talented or intelligent enough to invent

anything independently and therefore has to emulate the success of someone else. The clause implies to the reader that Ms Smith was not even successfully capable of emulating others, not to mention creating something herself.

How do the above experiential meanings compare with other factual data?

‘In 2002, she debuted in her own reality TV series on the E! cable network, The Anna Nicole Show... The debut of the The Anna Nicole Show was the highest rated series on the network, but critics blasted it and ratings dropped with each successive week. However, it achieved a cult status among some, particularly college fraternities. The show was cancelled in February 2004 due to "creative differences," but has retained some life in returns and on DVD releases.’
(Wikipedia - the free encyclopedia, 2007)

It is therefore not entirely truthful to conclude that the show fell flat. After all, it was broadcasted on television for two years.

3.1.3 DM § 18 and DE § 13

‘Tragically her son from her first marriage, 20-year-old Daniel, died only three days later.’
(DM)

Tragically (Circumstance of manner) her son from her first marriage, 20-year-old Daniel (Participant / Behaver), died (Behavioural Process)...

Her 20-year-old son, Daniel, died mysteriously in his mother's hospital room in the Bahamas in September, three days after she gave birth to a daughter.’ (DE)

Her 20-year-old son, Daniel (Participant / Behaver), died (Behavioural Process) mysteriously (Circumstance of manner) in his mother's hospital room in the Bahamas (Circumstance of location in space)...

Both of the compared clauses refer to the same behavioural process i.e. the death of Ms Smith's son, Daniel.

The circumstance of manner describing the behavioural process in the DM intransitive single clause is an adverb ‘tragically’. It empathises with the Daniel mother's feelings.

The circumstance of manner describing the same behavioural process in the DE's clause is an adverb 'mysteriously'. Word 'mysteriously' has in this case negative connotations. It introduces uncertainty about the causes of the behavioural process and therefore makes the reader suspicious about the circumstances surrounding Daniel's death. The following circumstance of location in space 'in his mother's hospital room in the Bahamas' reinforces the suspicion and associates it with Ms Smith. This way of presenting information indirectly makes Ms Smith guilty of association with the event – once again is her name connected with a questionable and suspicious matter. The question that perhaps is worth asking here is whether the information that Daniel died 'mysteriously' actually matters to the headline story. Because, if it does not, the writer's reason for adding it has to be analysed. After all, there was an official investigation regarding Daniel's death and there were no charges pressed against anyone.

In both of the above analysed cases, the evaluative stance of DM and DE writers had been comprised in the provided background information about the processes i.e. the Mail presents positive and empathetic attitude towards Ms Smith while the Express cultivates negative and hostile feelings towards the socialite.

3.1.4 DM § 4 and DE § 7

'Miss Smith made her name when she married oil billionaire J. Howard Marshall, 63 years her senior, in 1994.'

(DM)

Miss Smith (Participant / Actor) made (Material process) her name (Participant / Goal) ...

'She has been dogged by controversy ever since her marriage in 1994 to oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall.'

(DE)

She (Participant / Goal) has been dogged (Material process) by controversy (Participant / Agent)...

Both of the compared statements cultivate a different impression of Ms Smith, who became famous after her marriage to Mr Marshall in 1994.

Both clauses use a material processes to express their experiential meaning but in the DM report, Ms Smith is an actor while in the DE she is a goal of that process. DM presents a tolerant statement while DE information implies somewhat disapproving impression of the diseased socialite.

The material process used in the DM 'made' gains essential experiential meaning from its own distinctive participant - goal 'her name'. Similar situation is in the DE report where the material process 'has been dogged' gains essential experiential meaning from the agent 'by controversy'. Usually, passive construction allows for the possibility of omitting an agent in order to draw readers' attention away from it. In this case the agent 'controversy' could have been replaced by i.e. 'media coverage' or 'newspaper's headlines' changing the experiential meaning to more favourable one for Ms Smith than the one of being 'dogged by controversy'. In the context of the article, it might indirectly suggest that she might have been causing this controversy and thus she was getting what she had deserved.

4. INTERPERSONAL MEANING ANALYSIS

Thomson explains the interpersonal metafunction as:

"We use language to interact with other people, to establish and maintain relations with them, to influence their behaviour, to express our own viewpoint on things in the world, and to elicit or change theirs." (2004: 30)

Butt et al (2003: 86) complements the aforementioned statement by proposing:

'One of the most basic interactive distinctions [in using language] concerns the kind of commodity being exchanged; that is, the difference between using language to exchange information and using it to exchange goods and services. A second distinction concerns the type of interaction taking place; that is, the difference between demanding and giving. In other words, we can demand information or we can give it and we can demand goods and services or give them. These interpersonal meanings from the semantic level of language are realised in the wordings of the lexicogrammatical level.'

The analysed daily newspaper articles report information that has occurred in a real world situation using only declarative sentences. Therefore, the interpersonal relationship

between the writer and the recipient ‘involves a choice by the speaker to impart or to offer some information and thereby positions the listener to be the recipient of that information...’ (White, 2000: 7).

However, there are several ways to offer information and these are aimed to be investigated by the following analysis.

Both of the texts mainly use uncomplicated Finite declaratives where the Mood Block consisting of Subject and Finite is followed by Residue often made up by Predicator, Complement and sometimes Adjunct. Most of the declaratives are Finite and indicate that the events happened in the past. There are occasions where the tense changes to present tense. There are three of such occasions in the DM and five in DE texts.

DM § 1, ‘Anna Nicole Smith died last night ...’

Anna Nicole Smith	died	last night ...
Subject	Finite (past) / Predicator	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood Block		Residue

DM § 7, ‘They performed emergency resuscitation...’

They	performed	emergency resuscitation...
Subject	Finite (past) / Predicator	Complement
Mood Block		Residue

DE § 8, ‘She remained in the headlines...’

She	remained	in the headlines ...
Subject	Finite (past) / Predicator	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood Block		Residue

DM § 4, ‘Paramedics performed hart massage on Smith ...’

Paramedics	performed	hart massage on Smith
Subject	Finite (past) / Predicator	Complement
Mood Block		Residue

Based on the assessment of the Mood Blocks, which from the interpersonal perspective are central to the arguability of the clause, the above types of declaratives are direct offers

of information that are considered by the writers as not likely to be challenged by its readership.

4.1 Functional grammar of opinions and attitudes

Comparative analysis of writers' opinions and attitudes indicated in the texts revealed that DM uses Mood Adjuncts on two occasions (§ 11 and § 18).

'This	is	unbelievable	tragedy.'
Subject	Finite (present) / Predicator	Comment Adjunct	Complement
Mood Block		Residue	

Tragically	her son ...	died	only three days later.
Comment Adjunct	Subject	Finite (past) / Predicator	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood Block			Residue

Mood Adjuncts allow the DM author to express personalised and subjective assessment of events. All of the assessments sympathise with the deceased Ms Smith. They express a high degree of sadness because of her death and reflect upon the difficulties she had to face in her personal life before she passed away.

In the DE text (§ 12) the writer assesses from a personal perspective Ms Smith's ability. The modal finite 'could not stay' changes the arguability of the clause. The negotiation of meaning is no longer in terms of whether Ms Smith stayed in the limelight but about her ability to do so.

But still	Smith	could not	stay	out of the limelight
Conjunctive adjunct	Subject	Modal Finite (past) negative	Predicator	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood Block			Residue	

Apart of the aforementioned examples, both articles avoid using modality, which could have helped in expressing the way of negotiating meanings in the reader and writer

relationship. It could have also helped in constructing the authors as more or less authoritative.

The interpersonal analysis of both articles revealed that both texts do not seem to aim at complicating their position of offering information. There are no considerable differences in interpersonal meaning relating to issues of certainty, probability and acceptability of the information and the degree to which the writers are willing to negotiate the reliability of the given message with their readers.

In both articles, there are no Modal Adjuncts, which could have indicated the writer's attitudes towards the central proposition.

The articles show no examples where the writers pass judgement as to how seldom or frequently preposition applies.

Using the cline gradient of personalisation and impersonalisation (White, 2000: 109) to analyse the subtle differences of the interpersonal meanings of both texts it can be concluded that the writers of both articles want to project objectivity of the presented information. However, the DM article seem to be more tolerant and even empathetic with regard to Ms Smith's personal ordeal after her son's death while the DE article tries to present Ms Smith as an attention seeker who 'could not stay out of the limelight'.

5. TEXTUAL MEANING ANALYSIS

The third textual metafunction is described by Thomson as:

"In using language, we organize our message in ways that indicate how they fit in the other messages around them and with the wider context in which we are talking or writing." (2004: 30)

In order to analyse the textual domain of meaning of both articles, this assignment will start from an examination of the functional category of Theme and then will proceed to demonstrate how patterns of Theme development and constituents of Rhyme contributed to the textual coherence and cohesion of the aforementioned texts.

5.1 Topic sentence

The Theme i.e. the angle or choice of point of departure of the clause contributes to the method of development of text and is in both cases associated with the same text type, which is a popular newspaper reporting.

In order to indicate the writer's point of departure of the examined articles the assignment will commence with analysis of the opening sentence, which frames the rest of the texts:

DM § 1:

Anna Nicole Smith	died last night after collapsing in a Florida hotel room.
Simple Unmarked Theme	Rheme

DE § 1:

Glamour model Anna Nicole Smith, who shocked the world when she married a billionaire 63 years older than her,	died yesterday.
Multiply Unmarked Theme	Rheme

Both of the article's opening sentences adopt a different angle on presenting their messages.

In the first case Theme and Subject are 'conflated' (Thompson, 2004: 144) and therefore Ms Smith is both the Theme and the Subject of the first sentence. In the second case the subject is a nominal group complex where two co-ordinated nominal groups function together as subject and the whole group complex is a single clause constituent and thus functions as Theme (ibid: 144).

Thus the DM § 1 is about Anna, the person who died. The Theme therefore has relatively impartial tone.

While the DE § 1 is about Anna the world shocking glamour model who died. The sentence draws more attention to the controversial life of Ms Smith than to the fact that she died. It is worth to mention here that the clause: 'who shocked the world when she

married a billionaire 63 years older than her' presents a very subjective point of view of the author. It could be said that perhaps a few people were shocked, but predominantly people were amused or indifferent to the story. In my native country Poland, not many people have ever heard of Ms Smith. Therefore, it can be concluded that the information is over exaggerated and somehow leaves a negative first impression of Ms Smith. This negativity continues throughout the DE text confirming the statement made by Coulthard, M. et al. already mentioned in section 2.1 of this assignment.

5.2 Topical Themes

As already mentioned in the previous paragraph the opening sentences introduce the main direction of what is to follow in the texts. This is reflected in the message carried by topical themes presented in the table below.

	Daily Mail	Daily Express
Anna Nicole Smith	§ 1, Anna Nicole Smith	§ The former Playboy pin-up, 39
	§ 2, The 39-year-old former Playboy Playmate of the Year	§ 6, Smith
	§ 4, Miss Smith	§ 22, Smith
	§ 12, Born Vickie Lynn Hogan	§ 24, Smith
	§ 16, But she (who slimmed down)	
	§ 17, She (who settled down)	
	§ 18, Tragically her son	
	§ 24, Her first husband	
The Controversial Model		§ 1, GLAMOUR model Anna Nicole Smith, who shocked the world when she married a billionaire 63 years older than her
		§ 7, She (dogged by controversy)
		§ 8, She (in the headlines)
		§ 10, Later, Smith's hopes
		§ 12, But still Smith (notorious attention seeker)
		§ 15, Smith's latest boyfriend
		§ 16, But Smith's ex-boyfriend
		§ 21, Then in a lawsuit
		§ 25, After a whirlwind romance

Table 1. Topical Themes

Both texts favour simple theme selection that takes 58% of themes in the DM article and 56% in the DE text. The simple themes occur with very low frequency of interpersonal theme element, giving both texts an impersonalised tone.

5.3 Textual development and thematic progression

The term cohesion ‘embraces the means by which texts are linguistically connected.’ (Carter, 1998: 80). This statement is complemented by Eggins (1994: 94):

‘The cohesive resource of reference refers to how the writer/speaker introduces participants and then keeps track of them once they are in the text.’

Based on the statements above the right choice of Themes produces a coherent and cohesive text. In the analysed articles, texts are connected by repeating the Theme of thematic pattern over several clauses and by incorporating the Rheme from one clause into the Theme of the following one. Both texts use also textual Themes, especially ‘but’ and ‘when’ to connect their clauses.

6. LEXICOGRAMMATICAL REPRESENTATION

The two examined articles can also be compared at strictly lexicogrammatical level in order to highlight several interesting differences.

6.1 DE § 10 and DE § 11

The ridiculing character of DE § 10 has already been analysed in section 3.1.2. However, confirming argument that ‘language is sensitive to its context of situation’ (Montgomery, 2006: 105) the sentence following the clause complex in the text only reinforced its unfavourable tone:

“The New York Times said the show ‘appealed to the car-wreck mentality that draws viewers to watch other people’s lives in a shambles.’ (DE)

The DE § 11 does not contribute to the main Theme of the article and therefore the author added it due to his personal stance which is clearly unenthusiastic towards Ms Smith and aims at ridiculing her.

6.2 DM § 20 and DE § 16

‘If that was not enough drama, former photographer Larry Birkhead came forward claiming he rather than Stern was Danieleen’s father.’ (DM)

‘But Smith’s ex-boyfriend Larry Birkhead, 32, claims he is the father and was suing to demand a paternity test.’ (DE)

Both of the clause complexes above provide the same information but in a very different lexicogrammatical manner that influences the underlying meaning of both messages. By adding ‘If that was not enough drama...’ the author of the DM clause empathises with the recent ‘drama’ in Ms Smith personal life while the DE clause only represents factual information.

6.3 DM § 3 and DE § 15

‘Her third husband, lawyer Howard K Stern...’ (DM)

‘Smith’s latest boyfriend, lawyer Howard K. Stern...’ (DE)

DM article introduces Mr Stern in more favourable light – as Ms Smith’s husband. While DE refers to him as her latest boyfriend, yet another one since she had so many... Ms Smith and Mr Stern exchanged vows and rings in an informal ‘commitment ceremony’. Although some media reports refer to the event as wedding, the ceremony was in fact not legally binding and thus Mr Stern was not married to Ms Smith and officially should not be referred to as her husband. The DM article clarifies the matter in § 22 and §23.

After analysing the texts it could be assessed that more objective and suitable description of Mr Stern’s role in Ms Smith life in both examined articles would have been a noun ‘partner’.

6.4 DM § 16 and DE § 21

‘But she slimmed down to her former curves and became a spokesman for weigh loss product she credited with her transformation.’ (DM)

‘...Smith was sued for making false claims over the marketing of a weight-loss pill.’ (DE)

Both statements are factual but DE clause complex adds to the controversial side of the article’s story and reinforces the unfavourable stance in portraying Ms Smith. Once again, the information does not contribute to the main Theme of the article and therefore the author added it due to his personal preferences.

6.5 DE § 24

‘She met Marshall, the multi-millionaire of her dreams...’ (DE)

The above is a very subjective statement of the DE writer, which again is indirectly negatively referencing to Ms Smith’s character. Unless the author knew Ms Smith prior to her marriage then he could not know what she was dreaming about. If she was dreaming about marrying a millionaire then perhaps she might have wished him to be a bit younger. Her actions might have also been driven by her desperation for stability and financial security since stripping was a dead end job with a limited lifespan. In order to present the same information in more open-minded manner the author could have simply avoided the aforementioned statement.

6.6 DM § 11 and DE § 3

“Her lawyer Ron Rail said: ‘Anna has passed away. This is unbelievable tragedy.’” (DM)

‘But her lawyer said that she could not be revived.’ (DE)

The DM example has already been mentioned in the section 4.1 of the assignment. Both of the clause complexes above provide the same information but in a very different lexicogrammatical manner which influences the underlying meaning of both messages. DM’s indirect speech gives the utterance a personal character and shows a great deal of

empathy caused by Ms Smith's death. DE reserves itself to a short and factual statement. By using a passive voice, the author wants to distance himself from the message and therefore presents it in an impersonal manner.

7. STYLISTIC VARIATIONS AND CONTEXT

'A key claim of the systemic framework is that there is a close association between the three different aspects of social context (Field, Tenor and Mode) and the three different modes of meaning (experiential, interpersonal and textual)' (White, 2000: 21).

Referring to the above Butt et al, 2003: 182 adds that 'The relation between context and meanings is dynamic and reversible.'

The following is a complement of analysis already provided in sections: 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this assignment.

7.1 Register analysis: Field, Tenor and Mode

Register is 'the configuration of semantic resources that the member of a culture typically associates with a situation type' (Halliday, 1978: 111). The story originates from America and it is reported by British press to the British audience. However, the cultural and the social understanding of the account of events is in this case the same.

Register		Daily Mail Text	Daily Express Text
Field	The field of discourse is realised by the representational function of the experiential meanings of language that allows us to convey picture of our reality and encode meanings of experience (Butt et al, 2003: 39).	Popular news reporting for British working class daily tabloid newspaper. The reports concern the same factual event of a human-interest story of Anna Nicole Smith.	
Tenor	The tenor of discourse is realised by the interpersonal function of language, which is used to encode meanings of attitudes, interactions and relationships (Butt et al, 2003: 39).	The reports are addressed to an uninformed audience i.e. uneducated generalist and use informal, everyday vocabulary. Their interpersonal relation distances the reader although the writers do not take an authoritative stance only aim at informing	

		the aforementioned readers. They use lexicogrammatical features to influence or construct view the readers have / will have about the subject matter.	
		Information is provided in a relatively objective and sometimes empathetic towards the subject matter manner.	Adds elements of controversy to the story. Cultivates unfavourable opinions and hostile feelings towards the subject matter.
Mode	The mode of discourse is realised by the textual function of language, which organises our experiential and interpersonal meanings into a linear and coherent whole (Butt et al, 2003: 39).	Both reports are written texts that use only declaratives to provide information. The language used does not unfold any social process. Lexicogrammatical choices do not encourage a response from the reader. Coherence achieved by a consistent linking of elements of field and tenor.	
		The tone is mainly neutral and tolerant and sometimes empathetic.	The tone projects hostile attitude.

Table 2. Comparative analysis of the functional variety of language.

7.2 Context and style

Both texts inform about the same story and are written in a very simple style associated with their texts genre described in a table above. Neither of the texts unfolds any deep or meaningful social process. Some readers can perhaps see the content of the story as a reflection of the mentality of nowadays society i.e. the way publicity and financial rewards motivate human behaviour and attached to it string of civil litigations. I see the articles, especially the one in the Express, as an example of how language used by media constructs perception of people and their lives. However, these are my personal observations and not what the articles' authors are referring to.

8. CONCLUSIONS

This assignment compared two reports from tabloid newspapers: Daily Mail and Daily Express that referred to the same factual human-interest story of Anna Nicole Smith and were addressed to the same type of readership. Thus, they represent the same style of popular news reporting and have the same written mode.

As mentioned in the introduction, in the systemic functional approach to language study:

‘Each sentence encodes not just one but three meanings simultaneously, and these meanings are related to the three different and very basic functions of language.’

(Butt et al, 2003: 6)

Analysis of the lexicogrammatical differences between the two articles revealed the greatest difference in their interpersonal meaning and some differences in their experiential and textual meanings.

Both texts are comprised of a simple theme selection with a very low interpersonal theme element giving the articles an impersonalised tone. The reports use only declaratives to provide information. However, Daily Mail information is provided in a relatively objective and sometimes empathetic towards the subject matter manner and thus the tone of the article is more impartial and tolerant while Daily Express approach is different. It seeks controversy and cultivates unfavourable opinion about the subject matter, hence its tone projects hostile attitude. This is achieved by different modality used, choice of lexis, different angle of point of departure followed by thematic differences and intertextual references.

My opinion with regard to the style and communicative functionality of tabloid articles has been substantiated in case of the Express report but less so with regard to the Daily Mail text. This is confirmed by results of comparative analysis enclosed in the appendix 1.

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Appendix 1

	Daily Mail	Daily Express
	§ 1	§ 2
	§ 2	§ 3
	§ 3	§ 6
	§ 4	§ 9
	§ 5	§ 14
	§ 6	§ 16
	§ 7	§ 18
	§ 10	§ 22
Neutral	§ 12	§ 23
	§ 13	
	§ 14	
	§ 15	
	§ 16	
	§ 17	
	§ 19	
	§ 21	
	§ 22	
	§ 23	
	§ 24	
		§ 1
		§ 4
		§ 7
		§ 8
		§ 10
		§ 11
Negative		§ 12
		§ 13
		§ 15
		§ 20
		§ 21
		§ 24
		§ 25
	§ 11	
Empathetic	§ 18	
	§ 20	

Table 3. Comparative analysis of the overall meaning of every Daily Mail and Daily Express' paragraph set in the context of the entire article.

Appendix 2

As the texts to be chosen should be no longer than 500 words, I have decided not to analyse certain paragraphs that I have considered as less important to the overall meaning of both articles and I have marked them by using a pale gray font colour. Namely the excluded paragraphs are for DM: §8 and for DE: §5, §17 and §19.

Article	Daily Mail, 9 th February 2007 By Lucy Ballinger	Daily Express, 9 th February 2007 By Allister Hagger
Title	The roller-coaster life of model who wed a billionaire	Anna Nicole Smith found dead in hotel
1	Anna Nicole Smith died last night after collapsing in a Florida hotel room.	GLAMOUR model Anna Nicole Smith, who shocked the world when she married a billionaire 63 years older than her, died yesterday.
2	The 39-year-old former Playboy Playmate of the Year is thought to have had a massive heart attack.	The former Playboy pin-up, 39, was rushed to hospital after collapsing at a Florida hotel.
3	Her third husband, lawyer Howard K Stern, was said to have been at her side.	But her lawyer said that she could not be revived.
4	Miss Smith made her name when she married oil billionaire J. Howard Marshall, 63 years her senior, in 1994.	Paramedics performed heart massage on Smith, who has fought drink and drug problems, and inserted a breathing tube into her throat after they were called to her Hard Rock Hotel room.
5	When he died 14 months later she battled for a share of his £800 million fortune and went on to start in her own reality TV show.	Streets were sealed off as she was rushed to hospital three miles away.
6	Paramedics were reportedly called to Miss Smith's room at the Hard Rock Seminole Hotel and Casino in Florida yesterday after she was found	Smith was admitted to hospital for a week last November with pneumonia. But she appeared to make a good recovery and was photographed at a

	unconscious.	boxing match last month.
7	They performed emergency resuscitation at the scene and tried desperately to revive her on the way to hospital.	She has been dogged by controversy ever since her marriage in 1994 to oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall.
8	A witness said: 'It was absolute madness. Anna suddenly collapsed, and everyone started to freak out. The paramedics got to the hotel in minutes and had to put a tube down her throat and perform CPR.'	She remained in the headlines after his death the following year when she began acrimonious legal battle over his \$1.6 billion estate with his family, who painted her as gold digger.
9	Police cleared roads surrounding the hotel to get Miss Smith to the hospital as quickly as possible.	Marshall's son, E. Pierce Marshall, bitterly contested her right to claim a chunk of his father's estate.
10	Sources there, however, suggest it was 'not looking good' from when she arrived.	Later, Smith's hopes of glittering television career by emulating the success of rocker Ozzy Osbourne fell flat when critics panned her reality series.
11	Her lawyer Ron Rail said: 'Anna has passed away. This is unbelievable tragedy.'	The New York Times said the show "appealed to the car-wreck mentality that draws viewers to watch other people's lives in a shambles."
12	Born Vickie Lynn Hogan, she met octogenarian Mr Marshall while working as a topless dancer in a club in Houston, Texas.	But still Smith could not stay out of the limelight.
13	He died just 14 months after they married and she then faced a ten-year battle for a share of his £800 million fortune. Her initial award was reduced to nothing after appeals from his son. Last May the U.S. Supreme Court gave her permission to continue pursuing her claim. The dispute was never concluded.	Her 20-year-old son, Daniel, died mysteriously in his mother's hospital room in the Bahamas in September, three days after she gave birth to a daughter.
14	More recently she had her own reality television series, The Anna Nicole Show.	A private pathologist concluded that he had died from lethal combination of methadone and two antidepressants.
15	At the same time her battle with her	Smith's latest boyfriend, lawyer

	increasing weight became the focus of tabloid headlines.	Howard K. Stern, 38, says he is the father of the baby, later named Dannielynn Hope Marshall Stern.
16	But she slimmed down to her former curves and became a spokesman for weigh loss product she credited with her transformation.	But Smith's ex-boyfriend Larry Birkhead, 32, claims he is the father and was suing to demand a paternity test.
17	She also settled down with her lawyer, Howard K. Stern. Their daughter was born in September last year.	Last month a judge temporarily blocked an order forcing her daughter to undergo such a test.
18	Tragically her son from her first marriage, 20-year-old Daniel, died only three days later. He was found only hours after visiting his new sister for the first time at a hospital in the Bahamas.	Ronald A. Rale, a lawyer for Smith, questioned the legality of the test, saying that Bahamian authorities needed to grant work permits before an American doctor could conduct it.
19	He collapsed in room of the hospital. An autopsy said he had taken a cocktail of methadone and antidepressants. Miss Smith named her daughter Dannielynn in tribute to her son.	The judge granted an adjournment pending a hearing which was supposed to take place this week.
20	If that was not enough drama, former photographer Larry Birkhead came forward claiming he rather than Stern was Dannielynn's father.	Birkhead's lawyer, Debra Opri, called Rale's request "a delay tactic."
21	Birkhead started legal proceedings against the couple for fraud and conspiracy after they listed Mr Stern as the father on the baby's birth certificate.	Then in a lawsuit filed last Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court, Smith was sued for making false claims over the marketing of a weight-loss pill.
22	In September Miss Smith exchanged vows and rings with Stern in an informal 'commitment ceremony' on a 41 ft catamaran off the Bahamas.	Smith was born Vickie Lynn Hogan in Houston, Texas, on November 28, 1967. As a teenager, she worked at a fried chicken restaurant and married Billy Smith, 17, in 1985.
23	Although the service was conducted by a Baptist minister, the ceremony was not thought to be legally binding.	The same year she gave birth to Daniel but then divorced Billy and became a single mother in 1987.
24	Her first husband was Billy Wayne Smith, a cook at a fried chicken	Smith then worked at a string of minimum wage dead-end jobs before

	restaurant and her son's father.	tuning to stripping which was to change her life forever. She met Marshall, the multi-millionaire of her dreams, in 1991 in Houston at a nightclub where he was a frequent customer and she was working as an exotic dancer.
25		After a whirlwind romance, Smith married Marshall on June 27, 1994. She was 26, he was 89.
Words	Total: 522 Selection: 486	Total: 537 Selection: 492