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Apply the principles of systemic linguistic analysis explored in the course to a comparison of the style and communicative functionality of two short texts or text extracts of your own choice. (Texts typically shouldn't be longer than 500 words). The texts should have a similar subject matter, be drawn from a similar institutional or discourse domain (science, economics, health care provision, tourism, politics, the arts etc) or have some other obvious point of similarity. They need, however, to differ significantly in some aspect of their style, structure, approach, tone.

You should indicate how the texts are similar and how they are different in terms of their

general stylistic properties and their communicative functionality. Your claims should be backed up by means of an analysis of the types of lexical and grammatical features explored in the course. That is to say, you should consider whether the texts are similar or different in terms of the types of textual, interpersonal and experiential (ideational) meanings explored in the materials.

An assignment for Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics

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Module 3- Functional Grammar

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Smoothly-Textured Representations of the 2008 Olympic Games
Realize Their Respective Similar and Different Contexts
through Ideologically Spun Metafunctional Modes

1.0 Introduction

Systemic Functional Linguistics is a theory of language that provides tools to perform a variety of grammar and text analysis tasks (White, 2000: i). One of the basic premises of systemic linguistics is that language use is purposeful behavior: People don't usually use language just for the sake of speaking or writing. Sometimes texts' purposes are clear and pragmatic, and sometimes they are less tangible, or even secret or unconscious to the participants of the exchange (Eggins, 2004: 5). Utilizing SFL's *metalanguage** and analysis resources, I will apply the principles of SFL to a *stylistic**, *intertextual** comparison of two short, written *texts** that exhibit purposes that are more subtle and unconscious. As the two sample texts have similar *Fields** and *Modes**, and

simultaneously similar and different *Tenors**, they will serve well to illustrate how texts are different and similar in terms of general stylistic and communicative properties. I will also examine the texts' *texture** in order to account for how texts function as pieces of language that use linguistic resources in meaningful ways within a *situational** and *cultural context** (ibid). That is, although these two texts have similar Fields and Modes, and similar Tenors, the product of *communicative functionality** in each text is quite different. With the aid of SFL and its metalanguage, I will show how 'success', or lack thereof, at the recent 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing is represented differently by contrary *ideological** media sources, and how these different ideological representations can be accounted for by the texts' difference in Tenor, and are realized manifestly in each text's *experiential**, *interpersonal**, and *textual meanings**. The overarching purpose is to provide a concise illustration of how communicative properties of the texts are understood, why they mean what they do, what the texts' relation between language and culture is, and what the texts' relation between language and ideology is; and to demonstrate how the writers of the two sample texts use *grammatical resources** to manipulate one of the most basic oppositions in language: offering or conveying information through language versus getting people to act in certain ways through language.

****(Throughout the text, the reader will notice asterisks accompanying key terms. As SFL's metalanguage employs usage of several technical terms, please see the first appendix, which is a glossary, for clarification of any ambiguous terminology.)****

2.0 Contexts of language

2.1 The texts' cultural contexts

So as to more accurately compare the two texts stylistically, with the purpose of understanding those properties that culminate in their communicative, and social functionality, it is crucial to examine not only their more palpable, *lexicogrammatical properties**, and the meanings contained therein, but first to examine the *extra-linguistic contexts** that are realized within the texts' *semantics** and *lexicogrammars**. This is crucial for several reasons, including: contexts constitute texts as meaningful exchanges (Eggins, 2004: 86), and because aspects of texts' contexts directly influence the experiential, interpersonal, and textual *metafunctions** that are conveyed within their linguistic features (White, 2000: 20). The specific contextual aspects that influence texts' meanings directly are aspects of situational context, and texts' situational contexts are situated within broader, more general cultural contexts. In this stylistic comparison of two texts' communicative functionalities, the most significant aspect of the texts' cultural contexts is the relation between the texts' mediums of publication and the systems of political, social, and economic power in which they each originated. These cultural differences result in different ideological content in each text, which accounts for the texts' subtle, even unconscious purposes as language use.

2.1.1 Text one's cultural context

The first text, “The 2008 Olympics: Subterranean Rot”, will be referred to as T1 from this point forward. T1 was found online, but originally appeared in *The Nation*, which is a weekly periodical from the United States that is devoted to politics and culture, and more significantly, for the current purpose, the self-proclaimed “flagship of the left”. Touting this moniker, *The Nation* and its articles can be seen to often challenge the mainstream media’s ideological *presuppositions** (amazon.com).

2.1.2 Text two’s cultural context

The second text, “World Leaders Congratulate China on Success of Beijing Olympics”, which will be referred to as T2 from this point forward, was found on the online website for *The China Daily*. This is a mainstream Chinese newspaper operating out of Beijing, and is one of a few Chinese newspapers that are available in English. The Chinese government controls mainstream Chinese newspapers strictly, so the newspapers naturally exhibit reporting that reinforces the ideology advocated by the government (Qinglian, 2004:1).

2.2 The texts’ contexts of situation

Located within the more general context of culture, in which all possible meanings that occur in a particular culture are contained, is the more immediate *context of situation**.

It is within the context of situation that texts’ overall contextual variations affect differences in their experiential, interpersonal, and textual meanings, those meanings that

together constitute texts' communicative functionalities (White, 2000: 19). Texts' varying communicative functionalities are realized in their lexicogrammars, and accounted for by any variation in the following three aspects of the texts' contexts of situation (Butt, 2000: 4).

2.2.1 Field, tenor, and mode

The three aspects of texts' situational contexts that account for differences or similarities in communicative functionality are *Field**, *Tenor**, and *Mode** (Butt, 2000: 5).

According to the definition of Field, T1 and T2 at first seem to have the same Fields, as they both discuss the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and more specifically, to what extent certain aspects of the Games can be seen as successful. That the presence or lack of 'success' is a significant enough idea to comprise the Field in both texts illustrates a shared element in the cultures' ideologies: the idea that an Olympic Games can and should be seen as successful or not, and that this is of central concern, is a presupposition which asserts, without introducing the idea as *new* information to the reader, the common sense notion that all Olympic Games are either successful or not. Such *presuppositions** function *ideologically** (Fairclough, 1989: 154).

From a critical perspective, the texts' Tenors are clearly different, as the cultural contexts in which the texts occur feature 'writer/reader' relationships of different natures: T1's writer and readers provide and expect a more censorious, leftist textual product, while T2's writer and readers respectively provide and expect one that is more favorable and conservative.

The third aspect of the situational context, which accounts for similarities in communicative functionality in the texts, Mode, is the same in T1 and T2. Mode is determined by two simultaneous continua describing two types of distance in the relation between language and situation: Both texts are written and involve extremely distant *spatial/interpersonal distance** and *experiential distance** (Eggins, 2004: 91). These aspects' continua have a similar and significant effect on the sample texts' meanings, which will be described in more detail in the analysis section (3.4).

3.0 Texture as a bridge between context and text

As mentioned briefly in the introduction, *texture** is the property that distinguishes texts from non-texts, and characterizes texts with the quality of “being recognizably a text rather than a collection of unconnected words or clauses” (Thompson, 2004: 179). In this stylistic comparison of two texts, it's crucial to illustrate the process of how veritable texts are realized concurrently within an interdependent relationship consisting of contextual and lexicogrammatical elements. That is, texts' textures are composed of two basic elements: the first, which has been described above, is *coherence**, which is a mental phenomenon existing abstractly in the minds of a text's writer and readers (ibid). The second is *cohesion**, which, in contrast to coherence, is a textual phenomenon, manifestly perceivable in texts' physical and textual features. The property of texture is realized in linguistic patterns of cohesion at the immediate level of the text in ideational/experiential, interpersonal, and textual metafunctional modes of meaning, so at this point we will move from a description of how texture enables the extra-linguistic levels of cultural and situational context to interact with texts' metafunctional meanings

at the level of linguistic, lexicogrammatical features, in turn comprising and culminating in understandable, whole texts, to an analysis of those meanings and how, despite sharing similar situational contexts, the two sample texts possess such varying communicative functionalities.

3.0 Analysis of linguistic features reveals situational contexts

It is a key claim of the systemic framework:

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 (ideational, interpersonal, and textual)...the specific field of the text will be most directly reflected in the experiential meanings... the specific tenor of the text will be most directly reflected in the interpersonal meanings... and the specific mode of the text be most directly reflected in the textual meanings which occur (White, 2000: 21).

Although Field, Tenor, and Mode are most directly reflected within the experiential, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions, respectively, “the clause’s experiential meaning is realized simultaneously with its interpersonal meaning,” systemicists assert (Eggins, 2004: 206). In fact, according to the functional approach to grammar, most constituents in clauses play more than one functional role at a time. It will also be demonstrated that textual meanings are often realized concurrently to experiential and interpersonal meanings. This causes analysis to be complicated and extensive, and necessarily, because of limited space, only the most pertinent examples of communicative functionality will be discussed in order of significance in creating a textured bridge

between the situational context and the metafunctional modes. Also because realized meanings naturally over-lap, different metafunctions will be discussed simultaneously within sections of analysis.

3.1.0 Similarities and differences of metafunctional implications in the headlines

As explained briefly previously, the main source of differences in communicative functionality in T1 and T2 can be accounted for by the different Tenors in the two texts' situational contexts, which is realized in interpersonal meanings. This is immediately reflected in both texts' headlines:

The 2008 Olympics: Subterranean Rot T1

World leaders congratulate China on success of Beijing Olympics T2

Although interpersonal meanings are usually gauged in terms of *mood block**, in the form of *subject**, *finite**, and *polarity** (White, 2000: 89), T1's headline has no experiential transitivity, or verbal process, so it lacks mood in the literal sense. But, with the aid of a colon, a *relational process** is implied. The colon represents the relational verb, 'to be': 'The 2008 Olympics *are* subterranean rot'. Understood in this light, experientially T1's headline contains a relational process that represents a reality that the *Carrier** (ibid: 138), the 2008 Olympics, is attributed with the quality of being 'rot' or worthless. Interpersonally, from a non-transitive viewpoint, there is a complete lack of finiteness

reinforced by positive polarity. Experiential and interpersonal meanings are simultaneously realized to represent the happening, the Olympics, with an attribute, and interpersonally the writer's attitude toward the Olympics, which, stemming from positive polarity and a lack of finite and modality, is an attitude conveying a factual and authoritative assessment of the Olympics' intrinsic value. This reflects the Tenor of T1's situational context, which is one in which a writer can write critically about an event that is generally represented by the mainstream media as positive, and regarded by the people as something that advocates and demonstrates goodwill and camaraderie.

On the other hand, the headline of T2 conveys its writer's dissonant representation of the Olympics. The same lexicogrammatical items combine to convey opposing interpersonal and experiential meanings. There is positive polarity and a marked absence of interpersonal modality conveyed in the clauses' finite components, which combine to express the writer's attitude toward the Olympics as one that is positive and supportive. Instead of a relational process, though, the writer uses a *material*/verbal** process in an experientially metaphorical way. Transitivity, the headline has a material/verbal process, with the *actors** or *sayers**, 'world leaders', congratulating a personified goal, 'China,' (in itself an experiential metaphor) and in the same moment, by means of the prepositional phrase, 'on the success of Beijing

Olympics’, attributing the Olympics, and China with success. In T2’s headline, a process that is represented literally as a material/verbal process functions metaphorically as an *attributive relational process**. The carrier China is attributed with success formally at the same time the actor, ‘world leaders’ congratulate the goal, China. A relational verb should be responsible for this attribution, so as the prepositional phrase, ‘on the success of the Olympics’ does so, the clause exhibits *grammatical metaphor** (Thompson, 2004:221) in various modes simultaneously.

T2’s headline also functions to introduce a presupposition that suggests the presence of ideological content. That China is successful because of the Olympics is not asserted, but presupposed. As Fairclough notes, “There is quite a range of grammatical devices available for referring in a reduced form to material previously introduced into a text, rather than repeating it whole” (Fairclough, 1989: 132). This is often accomplished with pronouns (it, she, he, this, that, etc.) or articles (the, an, a), but in the case of T2’s headline, an introduction of information presented as *given** is accomplished through the presence of an implied article, rather than the actual article, ‘the’, before ‘success’. Instead of introducing the idea as *new** information, or asserting that China’s Olympics were successful, the *ellipsis** of the definite article, ‘the’, functions the same as if it were included, thus acting as a *reference**, which is a cohesive resource (Thompson, 2004:

180) that refers to something earlier in the text. But, as it is the headline, and the first sentence in the text, there is nothing, literally, earlier that it could be referring to. So it would appear to be that this ellipsis, and reference to given information, is referring to T2's situational context, itself, creating coherence and cohesion at the same time textually. Specifically, it refers to the aspect of its situational context, the Tenor, in which the writer's relationship with the reader is one in which, without arguing, asserting, or introducing it, the presupposed idea that the Olympics are successful can be presented to the reader without protest. This illustrates the differing ideologies present in the different contexts of T1 and T2.

3.2 Headlines' implications of register and genre

The headlines function to illustrate a significant point about the texts' respective registers and genre, as well. As Caldas-Coulthard notes:

Headlines are the most powerful persuasive and auto-promotional tool used to attract magazine readers. Just as in the newspapers they have the purpose of selling the magazine and attracting readers. In fact, many readers choose to read a story only if the headline attracts their attention (Caldas-Coulthard, 1999; cited in Caldas-Coulthard et. al., 1996: 257).

By reading the headline, the reader can begin to infer what the text will be about. This allows the reader to subconsciously categorize a text in terms of genre and *register** (Butt, D. et al., 2001: 8-9). The texts can simultaneously be seen to belong to the same register, and different registers. As they have similar Fields and Modes, they can both be seen to belong to the register of news-reporting, but as they have different Tenors, and thus different interpersonal evaluations of the 2008 Olympics, they can be categorized as different *text types** in separate registers of ‘critical news reporting’ and ‘affirmative news reporting’. The two texts can be seen to simultaneously belong to different and similar *genres** (ibid: 9). Because both T1 and T2 demonstrate the structural elements of *general statement**, consisting of identification and classification of participants, and *description** (ibid: 12), they can be seen have the same general cultural purpose of conveying factual information about an important event in the international community and thus belong to the same genre of ‘information reporting’. But they can simultaneously be seen to have different general cultural purposes according to each text’s varying Tenor and the ideology contained therein, and this difference is what allows the texts to be simultaneously categorized in different and same registers.

The significance of this register and genre information, in combination with Caldas-Couthard’s insight into the purpose of headlines, and common sense, reveal

something about the most obvious cultural purpose of each text: The writers of both texts have jobs. They need money similarly to their readers. If the readers can easily categorize the texts subconsciously into different or similar genres and registers, they will simply choose the article that appeals to what they want to read. Thus, the writer is doing his or her job, the reader is happy, and the qualities and elements that make up the respective cultures and their contexts are reinforced. And on the most basic level, genre and register assignment enable humans to use language to glean understanding. As Bakhtin acknowledges:

If speech genres did not exist and we had not mastered them, if we had to originate them during the speech process and construct each utterance at will for the first time, speech communication would be almost impossible (Bakhtin, 1994; cited in Eggins, 2004: 57).

If it were not for genre, then, interpersonal communication would be impossible on the simplest level, and on a higher level, within each culture, the *dominant bloc** (Fairclough, 1989: 32) would not possess the means to maintain *hegemonic** (Fairclough, 1989: 33, 1995: 76) control over the common people. As the reader can determine the register, genre, and thus the ideology advocated by the writer, from the texts' headlines alone, the analysis transitions to describe the way textual meanings enable cohesion to be maintained at the lexicogrammatical level in similar ways in T1 and T2.

3.3 Similarities and differences related to textual meanings

As experiential and interpersonal meanings are simultaneously realized in texts, textual meanings are what enable the happenings and relationships contained within them to be connected cohesively (White, 2000:10). So, without textual meanings, texture would not be attainable in texts, and thus no understanding could be gained. Although she does so without using SFL's metalanguage, Caldas-Coulthard implies something crucial about textual meanings' functionality in headlines:

The problem is only suggested in the headline and raises expectations. The explanation will be given inside the magazine ...This is a powerful strategy to make readers continue reading...the action is suspended to be continued later on (Caldas-Coulthard, 1999; cited in Caldas-Coulthard et. al., 1996: 257).

Readers can begin to determine texts' genres, and general experiential and interpersonal content from headlines, alone, and if it seems to involve something appealing to the readers, they will continue reading. So, it appears that not only can textual meanings enable the reader to refer to a later part of the text, they can manipulate the reader into do so by creating a certain attitude in the headline that the readers must confirm for themselves by continuing to read. In T1, the tone of the headline, which realizes experiential and interpersonal meanings, is negative and critical of the Olympics. In T2,

the tone is the opposite. The readers who choose to continue to the end will find the rest of each article coheres to and continues this tone throughout. This functions textually, experientially, and interpersonally at the same time. While interpersonally, in T1, the negative and critical tone can be observed in the mood block of several clausal groups, textually, the same communicative functionality is realized in the *thematic progression** of several consecutive clauses:

3.4 Thematic Progression

(Initial clause group):

Boswell and the press	made a choice the moment they stepped on China's soil.(P4, T1)
Theme (<i>Topical</i>)	Rheme

(Thematically associated clause groups):

They	chose not to seek out the near two million people...(P5, T1)
They	chose not to report on the Chinese citizens...(P6, T1)
They	chose not to report on the Tibetan citizens...(P7, T1)
They	chose not to ask what \$42 billion...(P8, T1)
They	chose to not point out the bizarre hypocrisy...(P9, T1)
Theme (All topical)	Rheme

Textually, the idea that the mainstream media made several choices upon arrival in China is introduced in the initial clause group. According to Butt, "While the first clause or clause complex in a text will probably contain all new meanings, the thematic choices for

the following clauses should not be unexpected” Butt, 2000: 142). In this instance, the thematic choices (all *topical**) that follow the initial clause group are not only unexpected, but so obviously conveyed that an *anaphoric** pattern (anaphora being a common *endophoric** reference device that functions as a cohesive resource in textual meanings) (Thompson, 2004:181) cannot be missed by the reader. The ‘they’, which refers to the mainstream media who covered the Beijing Olympics, refers back to the initial *theme* ‘the media’ in the introductory clause group. The thematic progression in this instance, as well as the *rhemes** of each clause, allow interpersonal and experiential meanings to be conveyed. In the introductory clause, the press’s *material*/verbal** process ‘chose’ is represented positively. ‘Boswell and the press made a choice....’ So, it would appear the following information will be positive about the press, but instead the writer uses a thematic progression device and anaphora to evoke a deliberate sense of the press’s misconduct in reporting. Not only are the sentence types negative in P1 through P13, the arbitrary material process verb ‘choose’ conveys a sense of deliberateness about the press’s action of not reporting several issues that, in the context of T1, are truly significant. This functions to represent the press more negatively than if they were presented as, “They didn’t choose.” As it is the rheme, rather than the polarity in the mood block of each clause, that is negative, the language portrays the mainstream press

more negatively.

Another element of express import is conveyed in this group of clauses. The communicative functionality conveyed in the headline and the first paragraphs of the article function to attribute the Olympics with being unsuccessful. But the latent purpose of the article appears to be an attack on the mainstream press, and not the Beijing Olympics, themselves. This functions to realize the Tenor more logically than the initial representation in the headline. As the writer writes for an independent magazine that is the ‘voice of the left’ and known to attack the mainstream media, the text fits into its genre and register more logically because he attacks the mainstream press and not the Olympics, although inadvertently, the Olympics are also attacked.

The writer of T2 uses thematic progression similarly to achieve a respective purpose, although ironically, the effected tone is positive toward the Olympics:

(Initial clause group):

More world leaders and parliament speakers	have warmly congratulated China on the complete success of the Beijing Olympic Games.
Theme (topical)	Rheme

(Thematically associated clause groups):

Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda (topical)	said the huge success...(P4, T2)
He (topical)	expressed hope of consolidating and enhancing...(P5, T2)
...Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the president of the Maldives (<i>marked</i>)	said the Games showcased the recent rapid development...(P6, T2)
The king of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, (topical)	said China achieved unprecedented success...(P7, T2)
Theme	Rheme

The presupposed idea conveying the experiential meaning that the Olympics are successful (see section 2.2.1), and were recognized as such by important members of the international community is introduced thematically in the initial clause group. The following several clauses, in fact the basic overall thematic structure of the article, serve to reinforce this idea with primarily topical themes constituted by important leaders conveying information in rhemes that attribute the Olympics with an overall sense of resounding success. (Thematic progression is further explored in a later section (3.6.1) in terms of transitivity, as the same themes function metafunctionally to convey significant experiential meanings in the form of verbal processes.)

Along with several other textual, experiential, and interpersonal resources, the progression of anaphoric theme structures in T1 and T2 are realized by, and help to

realize the overall communicative functionality of the similar Mode in each of the text's situational contexts. As mentioned before in section 2.2.1, both texts have Modes that are comprised of extremely distant spatial/interpersonal and experiential distance. The effect of this is a context in which the readers have only the information conveyed by the writers of T1 and T2 to gain a sense of understanding of the events described in each text. This gives much power to the authors, which a minimal amount of modality in the finites of most clauses' mood blocks reinforces interpersonally:

3.5 Analysis of mood blocks

3.5.1 Similarities in mood block

T2: Table of Mood Blocks

The reality	is (P14)	+Polarity/High probability
Instead it	was (P16)	+Polarity/ High probability
More world leaders	have (P1)	+Polarity/ High probability
The successful hosting of the Games	served (P3)	+ Polarity/ High probability
Subject	Finite (Paragraph #)	Polarity/Degree of Probability

Similar to most clauses from T2, including those that were analyzed in terms of thematic progression a moment ago, these clauses' characteristic mood block pattern consists of positive polarity and a high degree of probability in the modal finite. T1 has a similar pattern of high modality of probability, which is described in more detail in the section discussing transitivity (3.6.1), as interpersonal meanings are realized simultaneously with experiential meanings. The high degree of modal probability renders the proposition in each clause as *non-arguable**. This, in combination with the previously mentioned textual functionality (3.3-3.4), causes the authors' representations of events to seem like objective fact, effecting further authority for the writers, and reinforcing the relationship of unbalanced power between the readers and writers. As Fairclough states, a significant lack or presence of modality is a matter of ideological interest (Fairclough, 1989: 127), so another latent affect of this phenomenon is that the possibility of denying or opposing each text's respective ideology is avoided through use of an authoritative and objective tone.

3.5.2 Differences in mood block

Upon first examination, it seems ironic that, despite having different Tenors, the

way in which each text's mood blocks function to create different interpersonal meanings is accomplished in similar ways within the mood blocks' lexicogrammar. Only after further investigation does it become apparent that more so than the aspects of subject and modality in the finite, it is the texts' respective patterns of positive and negative polarity in the mood block that are the primary locus of opposing interpersonal meanings, and thus different Tenors:

Comparison of Positive and Negative Polarity

	T1	T2
Total number of sentences with positive polarity:	15	21
Total number of sentences with negative polarity:	17	0

Although T1 has an almost equal number of sentences with positive and negative polarity, most of its positive sentences ironically assume a sarcastic tone, which reinforces the high level of negative polarity in several of its sentences. The number of sentences with negative polarity in T1 gains significance in comparison with the absolute absence of sentences in T2 that have negative polarity. In this light, it becomes clear that this difference in negative polarity in the two texts is the primary means by which

interpersonal meanings account for, realize, and are realized by the two texts' different Tenors. As this completes a description of the significant difference of communicative functionality in the two texts, the analysis will now transition to the way in which similarities are realized within the other metafunctional modes.

3.6 Analysis of similarities realized in experiential-related meanings

*Experiential meaning** is expressed through the system of *Transitivity** (Eggins, 2004: 206), and allows the writer to construct for the reader a textured representation of some external reality consisting of happening and states, referred to as 'processes' and represented as verbs, entities, referred to as 'participants' and represented as nouns, and circumstances, usually represented as adverbs and prepositions (White, 2000: 5, 13). An examination of certain aspects of transitivity reveals uncanny tendencies in both texts.

3.6.1 Transitivity and related modes of meaning

The authors of both T1 and T2 use verbal processes to realize happenings in ways that determine particular communicative functionality:

- As the Washington Post's...Thomas Boswell wrote... "..."(T1, P3)
- As Sophie Richardson of Human Rights Watch said... "..."(T1, P14)
- The king of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, said...(T2, P7)
- Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said...(T2, P4)

Transitively, each of these excerpts contains a verbal process that represents a happening in the same, deliberate way. Formally, they are all represented as direct quotes in the form of reported speech, (although T2's style of quoting lacks quotation marks throughout, which itself could be intentional on the part of its author). Each quotation contains a proposition of information, in contrast to "proposals of offerings" (Eggins, 2004: 236), by participants with substantial power or credibility; a writer for a major newspaper and a representative of a major organization in T1, and the heads of state of two nations in T2.

As Caldous-Coulthard maintains:

Direct and indirect reporting of words in the news have the function of legitimizing what is reported. The representation of speech is thus one of the rhetorical strategies used by the media discourse to implicate reliability" (Caldous-Coulthard, 1994: 303).

Furthermore, writers reporting speech in the form of factual reports gain power by being able to reproduce the most convenient information, in terms of their aims and ideologies (ibid), so it is no surprise that the author of each text uses direct quoting to elicit a sense of factuality and authority in the texts' communicative functionalities. Thus, the similar Fields, including participants who are powerful and credible, and verbal processes that represent the participants' words in a factual verbatim manner, are realized in each text's

experiential meanings.

3.6.2 Realization of simultaneous interpersonal meanings

As experiential meanings are conveyed transitively, significant interpersonal meanings are simultaneously realized. As experiential meanings manifestly convey what certain members of media or heads of state said in a factual, verbatim manner, the nature of the relationship between the reader and writer is reflected interpersonally, yet more subtly than tangible experiential meanings. In each of the four excerpts the mood block, that crucial interpersonal clause element which “is central to its [the clause’s] arguability” (White, 2000:89), is the same:

Table of Mood Blocks

The King of Saudi Arabia	said	+Polarity/ High probability	T2
Thomas Boswell	wrote	+Polarity/ High probability	T1
Sophie Richardson	said	+Polarity/ High probability	T1
Japanese Prime Minister	said	+Polarity/ High probability	T2
Subject	Finite	Polarity/Degree of Probability	Text Number

In the finite of each clause there is an absence of subjective modality, or presence of high modal probability, that limits the arguability of the clauses, which is reinforced by

positive polarity. The combined effect is one that represents the subjects' (participants) conveyance of verbal finites (verbal processes) as factual, objective, and authoritative.

3.6.3 Effect of simultaneous realization in metafunctional modes

It is apparent in both texts, as discussed in sections 3.4 and 3.5.1 in terms of textual and interpersonal meanings, that textual, interpersonal, and experiential meanings function simultaneously to produce a subtle effect upon the reader that involves the recognition of significant subject matter, the Olympics, being discussed by important members of the international community (the Fields), marked by extreme spatial/interpersonal and experiential distance (Modal aspects), culminating in unequal relationships between the readers and the writers of each text (the Tenors), effected most acutely by the difference in positive and negative polarity in the texts' clauses.

4.0 Conclusion

In describing the extra-linguistic contexts and the aspects of texture that enable lexicogrammatical features of the two sample texts to realize the experiential,

interpersonal, and textual meanings in textured (coherent and cohesive) ways, I hope to have conveyed that the reason for doing so is that without such a description, a coherent, stylistic comparison of the differences and similarities in the communicative functionality of the two sample texts would not be possible. It is only within a coherent understanding of the texts' contexts that subtle differences and similarities in the texts' linguistic features and metafunctional modes can be exposed and described.

In combination with the import of the description of what composes the texts' contexts and textures, I hope to have coherently and cohesively conveyed, through a systemic functional analysis of the texts' linguistic features, the differences and similarities in experiential, interpersonal, and textual meanings that combine simultaneously to realize the texts' contexts in meaningful ways:

In summary, the differences can be accounted for by the two texts' differing Tenors, and include negative polarity in the mood blocks of T1's clauses that functions to realize a Tenor in which a writer can coherently write critically and negatively about a topic that is generally reported positively by the mainstream media, and regarded as such by the predominant *classification scheme** in popular culture. In contrast to T1's negative polarity, T2 is marked by a complete absence of negative polarity in the mood blocks of its clauses, which accounts for its different Tenor, in which a writer, in order to produce a

coherent text, must confirm and reinforce the positive regard of the media and culture, in general, to the Olympics. These differences are produced simultaneously in combination with other experiential, interpersonal, and textual meanings, but are primarily manifested in interpersonal meanings.

The similarities in T1 and T2's stylistic properties and communicative functionality are more abundant, which is logical, because similarities in Field and Mode produce a larger quantity of similarities in the metafunctional modes. The similarities include similar use of powerful participants, absence of subjective modality, presence of high modality of probability in the finites, similar use of verbal processes, and similar usage of thematic progression. These similarities combine to realize similar Fields (powerful participants discussing aspects of the Olympics) and Modes (written texts) that both exhibit extreme experiential distance and spatial/interpersonal distance, resulting in similar communicative functionality that allows the authors' representations to function as authoritative, factual accounts of the happenings they describe. As both texts demonstrate texture efficiently, they both succeed in reinforcing the ideologies that are advocated within their respective cultures.

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Appendix 1- Glossary and Clarification of Key Terms

Actor- The doer, initiator, or cause of a *material process* (White, 2000: 138).

Anaphora- A type of *cohesive, endophoric reference* that points backwards to something previously in the *text* (Thompson, 2004: 181).

Arguability (non-arguability)- The effect of the way in which the *mood block* determines how likely or obligatorily, a process happens, and its positive or negative *polarity* (White, 2000: 89).

Attribute- The qualities, properties, or class membership that is applied by way of description in an *attributive relational process* (White, 2000: 138).

Attributive relational process- A type of *relational process* that has a *carrier* and an *attribute* as its participants (White, 2000:138).

Classification scheme- A way of organizing vocabulary in discourse types that constitutes a particular way of dividing up some aspect of reality that is built upon a particular ideological representation of that reality (Fairclough, 1989: 114-115).

Carrier- The entity that is to be described in an *attributive relational process* (White, 2000: 138).

Coherence- One aspect of *texture* (the other being *cohesion*) that involves the way a *text* adheres to its *extra-textual context* (Eggins, 2004: 24).

Cohesion- One aspect of *texture* (the other being *coherence*) that involves the way the elements within a *text* bind it together as a ‘unified whole’ (Eggins, 2004: 24).

Communicative functionality- The aspect of systemics that is concerned with describing the various patterns or structures of wordings which occur in the language in the context of the communicative functions or purposes they serve, and consists of three broad types of meaning or modes: (*experiential, interpersonal, and textual*) that organize language (*White, 2000: 3-4*).

Context of Culture- The *extra-linguistic level*, or the outer context around a *text*, which is described as the sum of all meanings it is possible to mean in a particular culture, contains the more specific *situational context*, and is *realized* in the *experiential, interpersonal, and textual* meanings in a text (*Butt, et al., 2001: 3*).

Context of Situation- The *extra-linguistic level*, which is situated directly within or below the *context of culture*, and which is composed of three aspects: (*Field, Tenor, and Mode*) (*Butt, et al., 2001: 3*).

Description- One of the structural elements in the information report *text type*, which is composed of information organized in bundles (*Butt, et al., 2001: 12*).

Dominant bloc- In modern capital society, a term which refers to capitalists and their alliance of like-interested agents, who through *ideology* and *hegemony*, maintain power over the general populous (*Fairclough, 1989: 33*).

Ellipsis- The set of resources by which full repetition of a clause or clause element can be avoided, and by which it can be signaled to readers that they should repeat the wording from a previous clause in the *text* (*Thompson, 2004: 180*).

Endophoric- A kind of *reference* device that points inward into a *text* (*Thompson, 2004: 181*).

Extra-linguistic levels/context- Refers to the *contexts* of *culture* and *situation* that are situated outside the linguistic levels and lexicogrammars of *texts* (*Butt, et al., 2001: 7*).

Experiential meaning- (also known as ideational) The type of communicative functionality or meaning by which speakers are able to present a picture of some external reality, to represent and make sense of the patterns of experience (*White, 2000: 4*).

Experiential distance- One of two simultaneous continua describing two types of distance in the relation between language and situation (the other being *spatial/interpersonal distance*), which consists of a spectrum with, at one end, language describing events simultaneously as they occur, and at the other, recounts, in which language functions as distant reflection, and in which the language of the text, itself, constitutes the social act (Eggins, 2004: 91).

Field- One of the three aspects of the *situational context*, which involves what is to be talked or written about, and in systemics, generally recognized to be realized within the *experiential mode* (Butt, et al., 2001: 5, White, 2000: 21).

Finite- The part of the *mood block* by which the speaker indicates the relative timing of the process in the clause, and which is central to its *arguability*, because it is only when the content of a clause is located in time that it in fact becomes negotiable (White, 2000: 85).

General statement- One of the structural elements in the information report *text type*, which is composed of identification and classification (Butt, et al., 2001: 12).

Genre- *Texts* with obligatory structural elements in common are said to belong to the same 'genre' and often share the same general purpose in the culture (Butt, et al., 2001: 8).

Given (information)- An idea in a *text* in which it is implied, because it appears to be self-evident in the situational context of an interaction, to be already known without being introduced previously in the *text*, and often contains elements of *presupposition* (Fairclough, 1989: 132).

Goal- The done-to, affected, or acted upon element in a *material process* (White, 2000: 138).

Grammatical metaphor- Occurs when meaning in a clause is represented incongruently to how it literally appears in the *text* (Thompson, 2004: 221).

Grammatical resources- The various vocabulary choices, the orderings of words and patterns of intonation that are possible in the language, and the various meanings or communicative functions these choices and patternings serve (*White, 2000: 1-2*).

Hegemonic/ (hegemony)- Enables the *dominant bloc* to maintain power over the general populous coercively, and thus economically, rather than through brute force, and is characterized by constructing alliances, and integrating rather than simply dominating subordinated classes, through concessions or through *ideological* means, to win their consent (*Fairclough, 1989: 33, 1995: 76*).

Ideology/ (ideological)- What enables power relations to be implemented consentingly by the dominant bloc in the form of hegemony, and includes institutional practices that people engage in subconsciously, and seem universal and commonsensical; they have become ‘naturalized’—accepted as natural, every day processes (*Fairclough, 1989: 33*).

Intertextuality- The relation of two texts when compared to one another in a *stylistic* manner through a system of *lexico-grammatical* analysis tools (like SFL) that often employs the use of a *metalanguage* (*Butt, et al., 2001: 8*).

Interpersonal meaning- The type of *communicative functionality* or meaning by which speakers interact with one another, influence the behaviour of others, construct and fill social roles, adopt attitudinal and evaluative positions, form bonds, relationships and alliances (*White, 2000: 4*).

Lexicogrammar/ (Lexicogrammatical properties)- In languages, systems of wordings or signing, or words, and the way they are arranged; the linguistic level in which *semantics* are realized (*White, 2000: 6-7*).

Material process- A type of process in which some participant acts upon the material world or is acted upon in some way- verbs of doing or happening, and have an *actor* and a *goal* (*White, 2000: 122,138*).

Metafunctions- The broad modes of grammatical meaning; synonymous with *experiential*, *interpersonal*, and *textual modes of meaning* (White, 2000: 17, Thompson, 2004: 30).

Metalanguage- A specialized, descriptive vocabulary (which systemics employs) that enables *texts* to be compared *intertextually* in terms of subtle, technical differences (Butt, et al., 2001: 8).

Mode- One of the three aspects of the *situational context*, which involves the kind of text that is being made; that is the means by which the communication occurs as a social process, and in systemics, generally recognized to be realized within the *textual mode* (Butt, et al., 2001: 5, White, 2000: 21).

Mood Block- In terms of *interpersonal* analysis, the part of the clause that is composed of three elements: (*subject*, *finite*, and *polarity*), and is the part of the clause that is central to its *arguability* (White, 2000: 89).

New (information)- In contrast to *given* information, information that is not evident in the *situational context* of an interaction, and is properly established textually as a new idea (Fairclough, 1989: 132).

Polarity- The part of the clause that is central to its *arguability*; whether the clause is positive or negative, or contains some form of negotiation (White, 2000: 89).

Presupposition- Textual content that is implied to be self-evident or *given* to participants in an exchange, but often contains elements of *ideology* (Fairclough, 1989: 132).

Realization- Describes how relationships between levels of language (extra-linguistic: *context of culture* and *context of situation*, and linguistic: *semantics*, *lexicogrammar*, etc.) in linguistics are related (Butt, et al., 2001: 6-7).

Reference- The set of *grammatical resources* that allow the speaker to indicate whether something is being repeated from somewhere earlier in the *text* (Thompson, 2004: 180).

Register- *Texts* with meanings in common are said to belong to the same 'register' (Butt, et al., 2001: 8).

Relational process- Processes that are concerned with being and having, and which serve four interrelated functions: (identification, attributive, possessive, and locational) (White, 2000: 128).

Rheme- The part of the clause that comes after the *theme*, and in clauses with *topical* themes, begins with a *finite* (Butt, et al., 2001: 136).

Sayer- The source of the message or the information that is communicated in a *verbal process* (White, 138: 2000).

Semantics- Systems of meanings in languages that are realized at the linguistic level in a *text* (Butt, et al., 2001: 6).

Spatial/interpersonal distance- One of two simultaneous continua describing two types of distance in the relation between language and situation (the other being *experiential distance*), which is characterized by a scale that has two poles describing the respective chances of immediate or delayed feedback between the readers and writer of a *text* (Eggins, 2004: 91).

Stylistics/ (stylistic)- The term by which the investigation and comparison of *texts* are often referred to (Butt, et al., 2001: 8).

Subject- The part of the *mood block* that is central to the *arguability* of the clause, and which, in systemics, is the participant who/which is most directly implicated in the arguability or negotiability of the clause (White, 2000: 83-84).

Tenor- One of the three aspects of the *situational context*, which involves the social roles, relationships, and attitudinal positions between the speaker and hearer (or writer and reader), and in systemics, generally recognized to be realized within the *interpersonal mode* (Butt, et al., 2001: 5, White, 2000: 21).

Text- In SFL, a technical term for any unified piece of language that has the properties of *texture* (Eggins, 2004: 24).

Text types- In general, *texts* which have the same sorts of meanings and/or the same structural elements are said to belong to the same 'text type', of which there are at least

seven: (recount, narrative, procedure, information report, explanation, exposition, and discussion (*Butt, et al., 2001: 8*))

Textual meaning- The type of *communicative functionality*, or mode of meaning that arises out of the arrangement of *experiential* and *interpersonal* meanings within actual acts of communication, meanings by which *experiential* and *interpersonal* meanings enter into relationships with each other and with the situation in which the communication occurs (*White, 2000: 4*).

Texture- The property that distinguishes *text* from non-text, and involves the interaction between two components (*coherence* and *cohesion*) (*Eggins, 2004: 24*).

Theme- In English, the first element in a clause, which speakers and writers use to signal to their audience what the message in the clause is about. Theme gains significance in comparison with *rheme* (*Butt, et al., 2001: 135-136*).

Thematic progression- A phenomenon that occurs in the *textual* metafunction, and is characterized by having the *rheme* or *theme* from a previous clause carried into a subsequent clause's theme (*Butt, et al., 2001: 142*).

Topical (theme)- The first element, and the place where the experiences in a clause begin (*Butt, et al., 2001: 136*).

Transitivity- The means by which *experiential meaning* is expressed, which is also known as process type, and characterized by the choice of process implicating associated participant roles and configurations (*Eggins, 2004: 206*).

Verbal process- A type of process through which people describe processes of communication (verbs of signaling and saying), and that has a *sayer* (*White, 2000: 123, 138*).

Appendix 2—Text One

The 2008 Olympics: Subterranean Rot

August 26, 2008 By Dave Zirin

P1 Not since Marco Polo has anyone traveled so far up China's Silk Road with such amoral élan. But there was Jacques Rogge, president of the IOC, knight of the court of King Leopold's Belgium, three-time Olympian in the grand sport of yachting - standing astride Beijing at the close of the 2008 Olympic games. In front of a stunning 90,000 at the Games' closing ceremony, he said, "Tonight, we come to the end of sixteen glorious days which we will cherish forever. Through these games, the world learned more about China, and China learned more about the world."

P2 But what did the world really learn? From NBC's ratings-rich coverage alone, not all that much. We learned that China is remarkably beautiful, Michael Phelps can really swim and Usain Bolt is truly quite fast. Oh, and there are pandas there, some of whom died in the Sichuan earthquake. We can't forget about the pandas.

P3 As the Washington Post's veteran columnist Thomas Boswell wrote in his last missive from Beijing: "In all my decades at The Post, this is the first event I've covered at which I was certain that the main point of the exercise was to co-opt the Western media, including NBC, with a splendidly pretty, sparsely attended, completely controlled sports event inside a quasi-military compound. We had little alternative but to be a conduit for happy-Olympics, progressive-China propaganda. I suspect it worked."

P4 I applaud Boswell for his honesty, but it is hard not to have contempt for the aside that "we had little alternative" but to dance the infomercial shuffle. Boswell and the press made a choice the moment they stepped on China's soil.

P5 They chose not to seek out the near two million people evicted from their homes to make way for Olympic facilities.

P6 They chose not to report on the Chinese citizens who tried to register to enter the cordoned off "protest zones" only to find themselves in police custody. (A shout out here to all who will find themselves shortly in similar "protest zones" in Denver and

Minneapolis-St. Paul.)

P7 They chose not to report on the Tibetan citizens removed from their service jobs by state law for the duration of the games.

P8 They chose not to ask what \$42 billion, the price tag of the games, could have meant to earthquake ravaged Sichuan.

P9 They chose to not point out the bizarre hypocrisy of seeing Michael Phelps--with full media fanfare--taking a group of Chinese children to their first meal at McDonalds. (Even though Phelps famously eats 12,000 calories a day during training, I can't imagine much of it comes from Mickey D's.)

P10 They chose not to report on the foreign nationals who as of this writing, are still being held in Chinese prisons for daring to protest. (According to the Associated Press, the US Embassy pleaded with China to free protesters, gently suggested, that China could stand to show "greater tolerance and openness.")

P11 They chose not to ask why George W. Bush was the first US president to attend the Olympics on foreign soil, and why the State Department last April took China off its list of nations that commit human rights violations.

P12 They chose not to ask whether it was a conflict of interest for General Electric to both own NBC and be one of the primary sponsors of the games as well as the supplier of much of the games' electronic security apparatus, including 300,000 close circuit cameras. All indications are that these cameras will most likely remain in place once the world has turned its attention elsewhere.

P13 They chose not to ask and re-ask the question of why the games were in Beijing in the first place, considering that Rogge and Beijing organizing committee head Liu Qi both promised that the Olympics would come alongside significant improvements in human rights.

P14 As Sophie Richardson of Human Rights Watch said: "The reality is that the Chinese government's hosting of the games has been a catalyst for abuses, leading to massive forced evictions, a surge in the arrest, detention and harassment of critics,

repeated violations of media freedom, and increased political repression. Not a single world leader who attended the games or members of the IOC seized the opportunity to challenge the Chinese government's behavior in any meaningful way."

P15 The legacy of these games will be in no short order: China's dominance, in winning more gold medals than the US; the aquatic dominance of Phelps; and the blistering triumph of Bolt and the Jamaican sprinters. But we should also remember the ravaging of a country, sacrificed at the altar of commercialism and "market penetration." And we should recall a mainstream press, derelict in its duty, telling us they had "little alternative" but to turn this shandeh into a globalization infomercial.

P16 Liu Qi called the Olympics "a grand celebration of sport, of peace and friendship." Not quite. Instead it was a powerful demonstration of the way the elephants of the east and west can link trunks and happily trample the suffering grass. England, you're next. And you thought the blitzkrieg was rough.

Appendix 3—Text Two

World leaders congratulate China on success of Beijing Olympics

P1 BEIJING - More world leaders and parliament speakers have warmly congratulated China on the complete success of the Beijing Olympic Games.

P2 Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet, who had attended the opening ceremony of the Games in Beijing, said in his congratulatory message that the Beijing Olympiad, themed "One World, One Dream", was not only a global sports event, but a rare opportunity to share and promote unity, friendship and peace -- the common values of all humankind.

P3 The successful hosting of the Games served as an opportunity for the whole world to deepen its understanding of China's social customs and culture, showcase China's ever growing international status and prestige, as well as its capability to host grand activities, Triet said.

P4 Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said the huge success of the Beijing Olympics will be carved into people's memories along with the image of fearless Chinese rescuing survivors after the devastating 8.0 magnitude earthquake in China's southwestern Sichuan province.

P5 During the opening ceremony, China sent the world a strong message of "peace," which is not only China's goal, but also the direction that the whole world should take, Fukuda said. He expressed hope of consolidating and enhancing the strategic and mutually beneficial relations between Japan and China, and together making a gesture of peace to the world.

P6 Describing the Beijing Olympics as one of the most splendid sporting events, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the president of the Maldives, said the Games showcased China's recent rapid development, and promoted the spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation.

P7 The king of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, said China achieved "unprecedented" success in organizing the Beijing Olympic Games. The achievements

made at the Games reflected the wishes of all humanity for peaceful coexistence, and increased friendship and cooperation, he said.

P8 Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan highlighted the hospitality of the Chinese, the well-organized Olympics, the excellent facilities, and the opening ceremony coherent with Chinese culture and modern technology, all of which had left an indelible impression on the audience.

P9 Nigerien President Mamadou Tandja congratulated China on the successful conclusion of the Beijing Olympics and expressed appreciation of the friendship between the two countries.

P10 President Thomas Boni Yayi of Benin said the people of China were earnest and willing to be devoted to the Olympics, and the Chinese government had shown great foresight and brilliant leadership, all of which contributed to the success of the Beijing Games.

P11 President Emanuel Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia said he had left China with the full understanding of the "One World, One Dream" theme and appealed for the building of a better world for everyone.

P12 Argentine Vice President Julio Cobos said the marvelous opening ceremony of the Beijing Games had amazed the world. China's perfect organization had allowed the athletes to participate in the sports gala without worries and compete for good results.

P13 The speaker of the Lithuanian parliament or Seimas, Ceslovas Jurseenas, said China had revealed its features, potential and long history to the world during the Olympics and wished the country success in its future comprehensive development.

P14 Dimitris Sioufas, the president of the Greek parliament, praised China's historic contribution to the development of the Olympic Games and the great achievements of its reform and opening up policy. He expressed the belief that the China's development would inspire the whole world.

P15 Jean Ping, the African Union Commission chairperson, said China had provided favorable conditions for the athletes which helped them achieve repeated successes. The

foreign guests were all satisfied with the reception and the Beijing Olympics had gained world recognition, he added.