

Facticity and Reader-Friendliness Through the Corpus-Based Investigation of Editorials from *The Guardian* and *The Daily Yomiuri*

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Abstract

The aim is to focus on about 550 English editorial texts in UK (The Guardian corpus, hereinafter, GC) and Japan (*The Daily Yomiuri* corpus, hereinafter, DC) each and to look at how persuasive rhetoric styles are reflected in lexico-grammatical features at metadiscourse level through corpus-based investigation. From the quantitative analyses of the wordlist, GC was marked by a higher STTR, which means fewer repeated words but a wider variety of expressions there. DC used more recurrent, longer words and shorter but more paragraphs in a text than GC, which made a difference in the number of textual discourse elements. From the qualitative analysis of the concordance lines including lexical bundles and collocation, DC showed a unique way of using patterns which were much longer word sequences than the lexical bundles, given the same or quite similar meanings as well as forms. This is explained in terms of pattern grammar and reader-friendliness. On the other hand, GC did not show any categorical unified features after the lexical bundles as DC. Instead, GC was characterised by meticulous hedging techniques, resulting in higher frequencies of interpersonal metadiscourse items. For example, it exhibited the higher frequency of *always*, which usually serves as a booster, but the frequent collocation of *always* in GC was *not always* and used as a hedge to control the writers' commitment. In sum, the factors of the different distribution of metadiscourse items in DC and GC were related to long lexical bundles and meticulous hedging techniques. The higher frequency of interpersonal metadiscourse items in GC reflected its careful but sincere attitude toward facticity, or exact information as a member of the mass media. GC not only exhibited greater frequencies of interpersonal discourse markers but also suggested their potential massive number under the surface.

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