Investigating Lexical Presupposition Triggers in Iraqi Arabic Newspapers Headlines

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigates the categories of lexical presupposition triggers utilized in Iraqi Arabic newspaper headlines. Understanding these triggers is crucial for comprehending how editors convey specific functions by using lexical triggers in newspaper headlines. The data consists of sixty newspaper headlines from the online archives of four major Iraqi newspapers. A pragmatic model is adopted for analyzing the data. The model is based on the lexical presupposition triggers listed in Karttunen's (1971) and Yule's (1996) works. A qualitative approach is used to determine whether these triggers convey the pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines. The study reveals that all lexical presupposition triggers are used in the data under investigation, with non-implicative, change of state verbs and verbs of judging effectively conveying all the pragmatic functions. However, implicative, factive, non-factive, and iteratives do not. The study also concludes that the impact of these triggers on newspaper headlines is influenced by the correlation between the trigger and the rest of the headline.

Keywords: *Lexical Presupposition triggers; newspaper headlines; pragmatic functions*

INTRODUCTION

Writing up headlines is more complex than it may seem. Selecting the most appropriate vocabulary can, to a large extent, make a big difference in understanding the core of an article. Readers lay their eyes first on the headlines and immediately make up their minds whether to continue reading the article or not. Hence, it is the writer's job to tempt the readers to continue reading to know the story behind the headline. This should all be done by inserting as much attractive information as possible within a limited number of words. Strong newspaper headlines should have the pragmatic force to achieve several newspaper headline functions, such as providing context, conveying urgency, and agenda-setting (Bonyadi & Samuel, 2013, p. 1). Arguably, one way for the writer to achieve these functions is to use different lexical presupposition triggers that may fulfill the pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines. However, it is not easy to decide precisely which types of presupposition triggers are commonly used in newspaper headlines, as this will depend on which functions of newspaper headlines the editor aims to emphasize. Thus, the present study seeks to identify the lexical presupposition triggers that can convey the pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines. In light of this, the present study is directed by the following research questions:

RQ1. How far do Iraqi newspaper editors utilize all types of lexical presupposition triggers in writing newspaper headlines?

RQ2. How far does each subcategory of lexical presupposition triggers convey the inquired pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines?

RQ3. Do lexical presupposition triggers independently convey the intended pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines, regardless of other constituent components included in the headline?

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Theoretical Framework

Newspaper headlines are concise titles placed at the top of newspaper articles. They are crucial elements of journalism, serving as the primary means of catching readers' attention and communicating the article's central message   (Swan 2005, as cited in Mëniku & Marku, 2022, p. 5124). The linguistic form of a newspaper's headline is important for achieving the above-mentioned objectives. A well-written headline must be brief yet informative, typically incorporating wordplay and rhetorical strategies to capture the reader's attention. Nevertheless, the pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines extend beyond their linguistic form to include their communicative and persuasive effects on the readers (Isani, 2011, p. 86).

Pragmatic Functions of Newspaper Headlines

Reviewing the literature on the pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines, it has been found that they perform two functions in journalism: attracting attention and summarizing (Ifantidou, 2009, p. 699). Nevertheless, other scholars have suggested that newspaper headlines can serve other purposes. The following points represent a brief account of the key pragmatic functions maintained by newspaper headlines:

a) Attracting the readers' attention: A newspaper headline aims to get people to read the article; thus, it must be captivating to stimulate the readers' interest and provoke their curiosity to read the article (Nasibu, 2021, p. 32).
b) Summarizing: Due to space limitations, newspaper headlines simplify complex issues into concise, captivating phrases that summarize the article's main point or message. This functional characteristic helps readers swiftly and effectively understand the core of a news story. Reducing information is essential in journalism, as readers are overloaded with information and have limited time to read the news (Kronrod & Engel, 2001, p. 687).
c) Provoking emotion: One of the functions of a well-written newspaper headline is to evoke a reaction from the reader, whether it is happiness, grief, anger, sympathy ,or surprise. This is crucial because it shapes public opinion and how individuals talk and think about the subject of an article. (Nimtupariya & Tapinta, 2021, p. 108).
d) Convey urgency: In order to portray a sense of urgency and encourage readers to act rapidly in crucial circumstances, headlines employ language that conveys immediacy or urgency. This could be accomplished by using powerful, action-oriented verbs and adjectives or expressions that imply a serious or time-sensitive matter, such as breaking news, urgent, and emergency (Anigbogu & Ibe, 2020, p. 108).
e) Providing context: A newspaper headline provides some context, particularly for complex or controversial issues, so that readers may easily understand the essential points of an article. Furthermore, providing context may clarify readers' misunderstandings about the topic. This could be achieved by including specific details in the headline, such as location, time frame, central issue or theme, individual involvement, and outcome (Martin & Hansen, 1998, p. 47).
f) Agenda-setting: Newspaper headlines often establish the agenda for public discourse by emphasizing topics, events, and issues that editors and journalists deem significant or noteworthy. By publishing specific stories, newspapers may influence public opinion and choose which subjects become the focus of public attention and discourse while leaving others untold (Ngumo & Omoke, 2021, p. 2).

Presupposition Triggers

The presupposition is an essential component in pragmatics; it involves implicit meanings communicated by a writer or a speaker to a reader or a listener via specific words referred to as presupposition triggers (Dhannoon & Hussein, 2023, p. 54). These triggers are defined by (Huang, 2007) as "linguistic constructions" that aid in determining the origin of the inference (p. 65). Presupposition triggers are classified into three primary types: existential, lexical, and structural. These main categories are subdivided into subclasses (Al-Zubeiry, 2020, p. 736). Presupposition triggers are essential in pragmatic analysis; they can reveal the writer or speaker's ability to influence the readers' or listeners' perceptions of information, demonstrating a positive or negative attitude towards the text (Thoyyibah, 2017, p. 14).

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

The data were collected from the online archives of four major newspapers published in Iraq: Al-Sabah, Al-Iraq, Al-Mada, and Al-Zaman. A maximum of sixty headlines from different categories, such as politics, sports, entertainment,

etc., were selected randomly from each newspaper. The four newspapers were selected based on their wide distribution and representation of different political views and affiliations.

Procedure of Analysis

To analyze the data, the subsequent steps are followed:

After collecting the data, newspaper headlines that contain lexical presupposition triggers are identified according to the adopted model.

The investigated triggers involve the following: implicative verbs, non-implicative verbs, factive verbs, non-factive verbs, change-of-state verbs, iteratives, and verbs of judging. These triggers are chosen based on the nature of the obtained data, i.e. Arabic newspaper headlines, and also through consulting previous studies that investigate presupposition triggers in the Arabic context, specifically, Wardat (2020, p. 194) and Hashim (2016, p. 5).

Headlines lacking these triggers are excluded from the analysis. One headline is chosen from the selected newspaper headlines as a representative example for each type of lexical presupposition trigger. The next step involves qualitatively analyzing the representative examples to measure their ability to convey the pragmatic functions that editors aim to achieve with the headlines. These headlines are evaluated based on their effectiveness in conveying the six functions of newspaper headlines: attracting the readers' attention, summarizing, provoking emotion, providing context, conveying urgency, and agenda-setting. Finally, the analysis considers whether the lexical presupposition triggers themselves can convey the intended pragmatic functions of the headline, regardless of other constituent components included in the headline.

DATA ANALYSIS

The selected newspaper headlines will be analyzed comprehensively to determine the lexical presupposition triggers according to the adopted model. Subsequently, examples from the data understudy are examined to determine to what extent lexical presupposition triggers in newspaper headlines are employed to convey certain pragmatic functions, as follows.

A. Implicative verbs

1. fī dhikrā tafjīrihal sādisa . . . 'almūṣiliyūna yarwūna mā hadatha limanāratil hadbā'

(Almada Newspaper 2023/6/21)

Transl. *On the sixth anniversary of its bombing... Mosuli people tell what happened to the Al-Hadba minaret.*

i. Attracting the readers' attention: There is a sense of expectation created by "yarwūna" (they <u>tell</u>) because of its implicative nature, which implies that people from Mosul will share personal experiences regarding the explosion of the Al-Hadbah minaret. This text effectively engages the readers, motivating them to read the article to discover specific information about the discussed incident.

ii. Summarizing: The presence of "yarwūna" (they <u>tell</u>) suggests that the forthcoming content will involve a recounting or retelling of events through the statements of Mosul people affected by the terrorist attack. This sums up the article's main point, suggesting that it will concisely depict the events surrounding the explosion and its subsequent effects. However, it is essential to acknowledge that the trigger does not function autonomously. It is necessary to be integrated with the other components in the headline to provide a thorough account of the news event.

iii. Provoking emotion: The term "yarwūna" (they <u>tell</u>) possesses the potential to evoke an emotional reaction by referring to the individual narratives or experiences of the people of Mosul in connection with the explosion incident. The readers may experience empathy or establish a sense of connection with the events that are being narrated. This approach is expected to increase readers' desire to read the content for further information regarding the tragic event.

iv. Providing context: The analysis reveals that the trigger "yarwūna" (they <u>tell</u>) in (1), along with other elements in the headline, effectively provides contextual information for readers. The phrase "fī dhikrā tafjīrihal sādisa" (On the sixth anniversary of its bombing) sets the base for the time frame of the event. Likewise, the word "'almūṣiliyūna" (Mosuli people) reveals the location of the event by specifying that the article is related to the people of Mosul. Moreover,

the phrase "mā hadatha limanāratil hadbā'" (what happened to the Al-Hadba minaret) provides the central issue or theme of the article. This can offer a deeper understanding of the explosion's impact on the community and the city's history.

v. Agenda-setting: The data analysis indicates that the implicative verb "yarwūna" (they <u>tell</u>) in (1) sets the agenda for Iraqi readers by emphasizing the personal and sentimental consequences of the minaret's destruction. This trigger implies that the people of Mosul have a distinctive perspective on the event, which makes their narratives valuable. It appears that the editor deliberately employs this trigger to impact the debate on rebuilding and preserving the minaret and raise empathy and understanding for the people of Mosul.

B. Non-implicative verbs

2. Wazīrul mawīrid: turkiya taʿtazimu tashjīda 20 saddan ʿidhāfiyan ʿalal furūʿil mughadhijati lil'anhur

<div align="right">(Al-Iraq Newspaper 2023/3/16)</div>

Transl. *Minister of Resources: Türkiye intends to build 20 additional dams on the tributaries of the rivers*

i. Attracting the readers' attention: The article's headline understudy successfully catches the readers' attention and motivates them to read the entire article to understand the subject matter comprehensively. The use of the trigger "taʿtazimu" (intends) in the headline implies that Türkiye's plan to construct an extra 20 dams along the rivers' tributaries is likely to be carried out, which could have significant repercussions for downstream countries such as Iraq. These consequences may include the impact on agriculture and the daily lives of Iraqi people.

ii. Summarizing: In (2), the trigger "taʿtazimu" (intends) compresses Türkiye's plan to build an additional 20 dams along the tributaries of its rivers. This aids in providing a concise summary of the message the writer wants to convey. Nevertheless, it is essential to note that the trigger does not operate independently. It must be combined with the other words in the headline to provide a comprehensive news summary.

iii. Provoking emotion: The analysis reveals that the use of the trigger "taʿtazimu" (intends) in (2) elicits feelings of worry, concern, or anger among Iraqi readers who are aware of their country's reliance on the rivers that flow from Turkish territories on agriculture and domestic purposes. The resulting feelings can be ascribed to the ambiguity and possible negative impacts linked to this trigger, as it emphasizes the possible negative consequences of Türkiye's plan to construct dams on rivers that flow into Iraq.

iv. Providing context: In example (2), the trigger "taʿtazimu" (intends), combined with other elements in the headline, offers essential contextual information to Iraqi readers, enhancing their comprehension of the reported event. This includes location, time, and the central issue. Using this trigger implies that Türkiye's proposed construction of 20 new dams on the headwaters of rivers is a future project and is not currently happening. In addition, the trigger "taʿtazimu" (intends) is ambiguous, suggesting that the planned ideas may undergo revisions. Iraqi readers can infer that while Türkiye is committed to building these dams, there may be room for alterations or revisions in their plan.

v. Convey urgency: The immediacy of the situation in the aforementioned newspaper headline is established through the use of the trigger, "taʿtazimu" (intends), which signifies a future intention or plan, implying that Türkiye is currently making preparations to construct an additional 20 dams soon. The reference to the Minister of Resources intensifies the sense of urgency. Furthermore, the precise numerical value "20" in the context of infrastructure projects also highlights the scale and time-sensitive nature of the work. Consequently, the presupposition trigger in the newspaper headline understudy could stimulate significant consideration by readers and encourage the Iraqi government to take action if necessary.

vi. Agenda-setting: The data analysis reveals that the trigger "taʿtazimu" (intends) in (2) functions as a powerful instrument for agenda-setting, effectively guiding the readers and governmental initiatives to the potential threat to the water supply in Iraq. On the one hand, readers are urged to think about how these projects could affect their region and to demand that their government implement the appropriate measures. On the other hand, the use of this trigger can set the agenda for the Iraqi government by compelling them to reconsider their policy regarding water resources and develop a plan to mitigate any potential negative consequences related to the construction of these dams.

C. Factive verbs
3. ʿalʿiraqu ya'safu li'ighlāqil qunṣuliyatil ʿamrīkiyyati fil baṣra: multazimūna bihimāyatil biʿthāt

<div align="right">(Almada Newspaper 2018/9/29)</div>

Transl. *Iraq regrets the closure of the US Consulate in Basra: We are committed to protecting missions.*

i. Attracting the readers' attention: In (3), the factive presupposition trigger "ya'safu" (regrets) fulfills the pragmatic function of attracting the readers' attention by generating a sense of emotional engagement[2] and capturing their curiosity. Using emotional language, editors encourage readers to read the entire article and engage more deeply with the news.

ii. Summarizing: The trigger "ya'safu" (regrets) in (3) sums up the article for the reader by portraying an emotional tone that highlights Iraq's regression regarding the consulate's closure, as well as the country's commitment to protecting diplomatic missions. Consequently, this summary provides readers with a clear understanding of the main events of the article and their significance. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that the trigger does not function in isolation. Integrating this trigger with the other words in the headline is necessary to furnish a coherent and substantial summary of the article.

iii. Provoking emotion: The analysis reveals that the newspaper headline in (3) employs the factive verb "ya'safu" (regrets) to evoke a range of emotional responses from Iraqi readers. This is attributable to the complicated relations between the United States and Iraq due to the 2003 American invasion of Iraq. While browsing this text, some readers may experience negative emotions such as sorrow, despair, or anger. Such responses may stem from the belief that the consulate's closure can indicate deterioration in the relations between Iraq and the United States. Other readers may perceive the situation differently, and they may consider the closure to be a positive development. Thus, encounter feelings such as comfort or pleasure. Ultimately, the trigger "ya'safu" (regrets) can be considered as a sentimental stir that impacts the readers' opinions.

iv. Providing context: Based on the examination of data, it can be observed that the factive trigger "ya'safu" (regrets) in (3) associated with other elements in the headline serves the purpose of providing context for Iraqi readers. This trigger implies that a regrettable event has occurred, which facilitates the readers' understanding of essential information, including the temporal and spatial context of the event, as well as the involved entities, specifically Iraq and the American consulate.

v. Convey urgency: A detailed analysis of the data reveals that using the trigger "ya'safu" (regrets) in the headline under investigation to convey urgency to Iraqi readers can be debatable. Although the trigger implies that the Iraqi government is worried about the effects of the closure on its relations with the United States, the trigger "ya'safu" (regrets) is stative, not an action-oriented verb. Thus, it does not convey a required sense of urgency in the newspaper headline understudy. In addition, the headline "multazimūna bihimāyatil biʿthāt" (committed to protecting missions) suggests that the Iraqi government is undertaking efforts to resolve the causes that led to the closure of the American consulate in Basra.

vi. Agenda-setting: The data analysis reveals that employing the trigger "ya'safu" (regrets) in (3) is an effective strategy for agenda-setting purposes. The trigger above effectively conveys the event and its significance, especially in the Iraqi context where the closure of the consulate may impact American-Iraqi relations. Hence, using this trigger in the headline can be viewed as a strategy to set the agenda for public discussion and capture the Iraqi readers' interest by stressing the issue's seriousness.

D. Non-factive verbs

4. ʿaṣwātu ṣawārīkhin qawiyatin jidan yuʿtaqadu ʿanahā tuṣību qāʿidata ʿaynil asad 'al'ān

(Al-Iraq Newspaper 2020/1/17)

Transl. *Very loud rocket sounds are believed to be hitting the Ain al-Assad base now.*

i. Attracting the readers' attention: A detailed examination of the data indicates that the trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believed) in (4) fulfills the pragmatic function of catching the readers' attention. In recent years, Iraq suffered from significant instability and conflict; therefore, news articles concerning potential security threats interest Iraqi readers. The editor generates a sense of instability and expectation regarding the circumstances at the Ain al-Assad facility through the use of the trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believed). This encourages readers to inquire for further information regarding this news story.

ii. Summarizing: The data analysis demonstrates that the non-factive trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believed) in (4) combined with other elements in the headline conveys the pragmatic function of summarizing. Utilizing this trigger in the headline understudy communicates the essential elements of the news event, which involves a belief that the Ain-

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[2] Emotional involvement could be positive or negative.

Al-Asad military base has been under rocket attack, without presenting a definite assertion about the event. Employing such a language strategy is essential in journalism since events are constantly subject to modification.

iii. Provoking emotion: A thorough analysis of the data reveals that the trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believed) in (4) can arouse various emotional responses from Iraqi readers. It increases the possibility of a rocket attack on the Ain al-Asad military base. Thus, it provokes a spectrum of feelings among Iraqi readers, such as fear, worry, and hate, particularly for those who are aware of the violent and unstable past of their country.

iv. Providing context: The data analysis indicates that the trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believed) in (4) effectively serves to provide the readers with meaningful context. Although the trigger does not overtly indicate contextual elements such as location and time, its inclusion influences the readers' perception of these elements. Combined with "Ain al-Asad" in the headline, it clarifies that the reported event is linked to that specific location. Similarly, when used with the word " 'al'ān" (now) at the end of the headline, it implies that the reported event is currently taking place. Furthermore, it does not name specific individuals but suggests a belief that someone or a group is behind this incident.

v. Convey urgency: The data analysis exposes that the trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believed) in (4) fails to convey a sense of urgency for the readers. This trigger communicates a belief rather than an explicit announcement, which minimizes the dramatic effect of headlines that draw attention to a specific issue. It might be more effective to utilize assertive speech that clearly expresses certainty to instill a strong sense of urgency during crucial situations.

vi. Agenda-setting: The data analysis demonstrates that the trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believed) in (4) plays a crucial role in agenda-setting. It captivates the readers' interest and emphasizes the possible impact of an event on various aspects of societal discourse. It also plays a great role in influencing public opinion and provoking discussions. This, in turn, can urge the government to take action by initiating discussions about policy and highlighting issues for public awareness.

E. Change of state verbs

5. Tawaqufu mashārīʿin fī baghdīda bisababi dhaʿfi tajhīzil kahrubā'

(Azzaman Newspaper 2023/8/8)

Transl. *Projects in Baghdad stopped due to the weak electricity supply.*

i. Attracting the readers' attention: Based on the analysis, it appears that the trigger "Tawaqufu" (stopped) employed in (5) effectively grabs the reader's attention. This trigger arouses the readers' anxiety concerning the irregular power supply in Iraq, which significantly affects people's daily activities. Furthermore, the position of this trigger at the beginning of the headline sets the tone for the whole article. Consequently, the readers are evoked to read the entire article to understand the situation better.

ii. Summarizing: The analysis shows that the trigger "Tawaqufu" (stopped) in (5) paired with the other elements in the headline conveys the core message of the article that ongoing projects in the capital stopped due to electricity shortage. This aligns with the newspaper's goals of emphasizing space utilization and reader understanding. Therefore, it fulfills the pragmatic goal of providing a simplified yet informative summary.

iii. Provoking emotion: The analysis indicates that the trigger "Tawaqufu" (stopped) employed in (5) not only conveys information but also elicits emotional reactions from Iraqi readers, such as concern, dissatisfaction, and anxiety. These emotions are further intensified by the ongoing electricity shortage in Baghdad and its substantial consequences on residents' daily lives. Therefore, it generates pressing and distressing engagements with the article, which aligns with the pragmatic function of provoking readers' emotions.

iv. Providing context: The data analysis revealed that the trigger "Tawaqufu" (stopped) captures various contextual elements that are vital for readers. Initially, it provides a geographical reference by specifying the place as Baghdad. Furthermore, although the title lacks a clear indication of the precise duration, its use of the past tense suggests that the projects have recently stopped. In addition, it highlights the central theme of inadequate electricity supply, thus clarifying the core problem ongoing projects encounter. Moreover, it indirectly involves the residents of Baghdad as they deal with the repercussions of electricity disruptions.

v. Convey urgency: Based on the analysis, it can be inferred that the trigger "Tawaqufu" (stopped) in (5) communicates a sense of urgency and highlights the negative consequences of the electricity cut on essential projects. Using this trigger, the reader is immediately urged to perceive the situation as critical and requiring immediate consideration. This sudden shutdown of the projects significantly boosts the pressure in Iraq. Incorporating such headlines raises awareness, fosters compassion, stimulates discussions and drives government agencies to respond expeditiously.

vi. Agenda-setting: The analysis shows that the use of the trigger "Tawaqufu" (stopped) in (5) serves as a powerful agenda-setting for readers. It motivates authorities to respond to the people's growing concerns about electricity shortage by adopting new policies regarding producing and distributing electrical energy and resources.

F. Iteratives

6. ʻalhukūmatu tuʿīdu ʻihyāʻal mashārīʻil mutalakiʻati munthu 2006

<div align="right">(Al Sabaah Newspaper 2023/6/26)</div>

Transl. *The government revives stalled project from 2006*

 i. Attracting the readers' attention: The analysis reveals that the verb "tuʿīdu" (revives) in (6) has the potential to generate iterative presupposition. This verb can denote the pre-existence of a particular entity or activity. Additionally, the analysis shows that the editor effectively uses this trigger to raise the readers' curiosity and encourage them to explore further details in the article. The editor achieves his/her objectives depending on the reader's pre-existing knowledge of Iraq's ongoing infrastructure challenges and their interest in the government's new plan for the renewed projects and their potential outcomes.

 ii. Summarizing: The analysis demonstrates that the iterative trigger "tuʿīdu" (revives) in (6) combines with the other element in the headline serves the purpose of summarizing. It provides a brief overview of the essential issue presented in the article and emphasizes the government's efforts to fix the conditions that had previously caused a project delay. Condensing the essential information into one word is an efficient way to communicate the crucial issues in an article, and this is particularly vital in newspaper headlines, where space is limited.

iii. Provoking emotion: The analysis shows that the trigger "tuʿīdu" (revives) in (6) provokes a range of emotions among Iraqi readers. The trigger implies that the government is implementing active steps to revive projects left stagnant for a considerable time. As a result, some readers may experience optimistic feelings such as hope, enthusiasm, and faith in the government's dedication to achieving progress and view it as a promising development. However, the trigger "tuʿīdu" (revives) may act as a reminder of previous governmental inefficiency, economic difficulties, and unfulfilled promises. Consequently, other readers may encounter pessimistic feelings such as doubt, dissatisfaction, annoyance, or disappointment.

iv. Providing context: The data analysis reveals that the trigger "tuʿīdu" (revives) in (6) provides readers with contextual information about time, theme, and, to a lesser degree, place. Nevertheless, the reader's familiarity with the subject matter will determine the amount of information a given term conveys. The use of the trigger "tuʿīdu" (revives) imparts both temporal and thematic context by indicating that a previous attempt and subsequent failure that took place within the timeframe since 2006. Furthermore, it underlines the possible complexities associated with the revival of the enterprises. The absence of a specific place in the headline is remedied by the inclusion of the term "ʻalhukūmatu" (government), which provides geographical context. This thorough explanation of context enhances readers' understanding of the topic and encourages them to read the article in detail.

 v. Convey urgency: Based on the data analysis, it is evident that the iterative trigger "tuʿīdu" (revives) in (6) does not convey a sense of urgency to the readers. While this trigger suggests restarting the projects that have been stagnant since 2006, it lacks the explicit and immediate action-oriented tone typically used in urgent headlines. Editors often employ strong verbs, adjectives, or temporal adverbs to explicitly indicate that the subject matter is of immediate importance. For instance, incorporating the temporal adverb "fawran" (immediately) into the headline "The government immediately revives stalled projects" highlights the required urgency.

vi. Agenda-setting: The analysis indicates that the trigger "tuʿīdu" (revives) in (6) is a deliberate and effective selection that sets the agenda for the readers. It influences the readers' decision by emphasizing the government's constant failure to complete projects, drawing attention to the duration of the problem, and indirectly urging readers to participate in critical discussions about the government's accomplishment. Thus, this careful selection of information can influence readers' opinions, direct debate towards crucial issues, and encourage a more focused discussion on the government's efforts to tackle developmental impediments.

G. Verbs of judging

7. Taqrīrun ʻamrīkiyun yantaqidu dhaʻfal ʻijrāʻātil ʻirāqiyati fī muwājahati jafāfil ʻahwār

<div align="right">(Almada Newspaper 2023/3/14)</div>

Transl. *An American report criticizes the weakness of the Iraqi measures in facing the drought of the marshes*

i. Attracting the readers' attention: The analysis indicates that the editor uses the trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) in the above headline to grab the readers' interest, especially for those who are interested in the political and environmental concerns that are emphasized in the headline. This trigger evokes negative connotations as it emphasizes the deficiency in Iraqi measures, addresses a sensitive subject, i.e., the dryness of the marshlands, and introduces an element of foreign interference. This combination is expected to arouse interest and inspire readers to explore the article further for additional information.

ii. Summarizing: The data analysis shows that the verb of judging trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) in (7) combined with the other components in the headline effectively reduces complex information into concise and captivating sentiment. Using this trigger to denote criticism clearly communicates the article's central idea, making it easier for readers to understand the content quickly. However, it also introduces a subjective meaning that may not be entirely unbiased.

iii. Provoking emotion: A detailed analysis of the headline understudy indicates that the trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) can stimulate emotional reactions from the readers and affect their interpretation of the headline. For example, the reader who favors the Iraqi government and holds an anti-American perspective may experience emotions of anger and offense as a reaction to criticism. On the contrary, a reader dissatisfied with the Iraqi government and worried about the environment may believe criticism is necessary and crucial. On the other hand, readers unaware of or uninterested in such issues may not witness any emotional reaction. Consequently, the kind of emotional reaction provoked by the trigger "yantaqidu" depends on the reader's understanding of the news event.

iv. Providing context: The data analysis reveals that the trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) in (7) does not convey the elements of context directly. Nevertheless, employing it in the headline, along with other components, helps the readers to recognize the contextual elements. Concerning the time frame, the trigger denotes a present tense action and negative evaluation. Thus, this suggests that the issue is critical and needs urgent intervention from the Iraqi authorities. Concerning the time frame, the headline suggests that the issue is critical and pressing, as the trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) denotes a present tense action and a negative evaluation of the situation. As for location, the headline incorporates the term "Marshes" indicating that the event described relates to the southern parts of Iraq. Besides, the headline reveals the two parties involved: the American and Iraqi authorities. Finally, the article's central issue or theme is the marshes' drought resulting from climate change and poor water supply.

v. Convey urgency: The data analysis shows that the trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) serves the pragmatic function of conveying urgency, even if it does not explicitly require an action. Employing this trigger to draw attention to the Iraqi government's failure to respond to the droughtiness of the marshes suggests a need for an urgent and effective response. Therefore, when analyzing the pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines, it is crucial to consider the language's broader cultural context and underlying connotations, particularly when headlines focus on specific communities.

vi. Agenda-setting: The analysis shows that the trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) in the headline understudy conveys the pragmatic function of agenda-setting. Along with other components in the headline, this trigger raises the readers' awareness of issues related to the environment, particularly the dryness of the marshes, and emphasizes the necessity for urgent solutions. Consequently, this could lead to public debate and subsequent arrangements. Furthermore, this trigger can stimulate anger towards foreign interference in local affairs.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents and discusses the findings derived from analyzing the data in the previous section and addresses the research questions. The data analysis reveals that thirty-five of the sixty selected newspaper headlines use lexical presupposition triggers. Each of these headlines includes one lexical presupposition trigger. The analysis further indicates that the seven investigated subcategories of lexical presupposition triggers are present within the identified headlines. Thus, this finding is consistent with Al-Hindawi and Mohammed's (2023) work, as they prove that the primary type of presupposition trigger employed in Fox and BBC News headlines is the lexical presupposition triggers. This finding also implies that these headlines can significantly impact readers' interpretation of news events and expose the newspaper's editorial bias by asserting specific facts or values that are not widely acknowledged or confirmed. Furthermore, the findings demonstrate that three subcategories of lexical presupposition triggers, namely non-implicative, change of state verbs, and verbs of judging, effectively convey all the analyzed pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines. However, the remaining subcategories—implicative verbs, factive verbs, non-factive verbs, and iteratives—do not convey a sense of urgency in their respective headlines. For example, the implicative presupposition trigger "yarwūna" (they tell) in example (1) does not convey urgency, as it only accounts for a prior

event. Likewise, the use of the factive presupposition trigger "ya'safu" (regret) in example (3) does not convey urgency since this trigger is a stative verb rather than a dynamic one. This finding is consistent with Taguchi and Gracheva's (2023) findings, as they note that stative verbs in the simple aspect do not convey urgency. Nevertheless, using a stative verb in the progressive aspect might sometimes convey urgency depending on the context of its use.

Similarly, the non-factive presupposition trigger "yuʿtaqadu" (believe) in (4) does not reflect a sense of urgency for the readers since it communicates a belief instead of an overt statement. Throughout stressful circumstances, it might be more effective to employ assertive speech that clearly expresses certainty to instill a strong sense of urgency. Finally, the iterative verb "tuʿīdu" (revive) in (6) fails to express the necessity to respond promptly, as expected in urgent newspaper headlines. To write an urgent headline, newspaper editors incorporate linguistic terms such as action verbs and time-sensitive adverbs. These techniques enhance the headline's ability to capture the readers' attention and convey the urgency of the news event.

The subsequent finding shows that the impact of the investigated lexical presupposition triggers on most of the inquired pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines depends on the relationship between the trigger and the remainder of the headline rather than the trigger itself. Relying only on the triggers themselves may not reflect the pragmatic function and may result in incompleteness in the readers' interpretation. Nevertheless, the investigation demonstrates that the degree of dependence on other parts of a headline, along with the trigger itself, to convey the newspapers' function varies among the pragmatic functions. For instance, all the investigated lexical presupposition triggers require the involvement of the other elements in the headline to convey the pragmatic functions of summarizing and providing context. For example, the verb of judging trigger "yantaqidu" (criticizes) needs the incorporation of the other elements in the headline to convey the pragmatic function of providing context. As for the other pragmatic functions, the findings show that the employment of the trigger within the newspaper headline conveys the pragmatic function. However, it is also essential to consider the other components in the headline, but to a lesser extent.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis conducted on the chosen newspaper headlines, several conclusions are presented:

1) Iraqi newspaper editors employ all the investigated lexical presupposition taggers when composing newspaper headlines. The utilization of these lexical triggers is crucial in influencing the reader's opinions and perspectives toward certain news events. Depending on the lexical presupposition taggers utilized in the headline, the reader may form a favorable or unfavorable attitude towards the article's content.

2) The non-implicative, change of state verbs, and verbs of judging, lexical presupposition triggers effectively convey all the analyzed pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines. However, implicative verbs, factive verbs, non-factive verbs, and iteratives—do not reflect the pragmatic function of conveying urgency in the headlines understudy. The analysis indicates that when interpreting urgency in headlines, it is necessary to consider the total interaction of linguistic components that explicitly elicit a sense of immediate action or time sensitivity, in addition to focusing on a particular trigger.

3) The effect of the investigated lexical presupposition triggers on the majority of pragmatic functions of newspaper headlines is determined by the correlation between the trigger and the rest of the headline rather than the trigger itself. Combining lexical presupposition triggers with other components in a headline can effectively aid in conveying the intended pragmatic functions, improve clarity, and ensure the intended message is effectively communicated.

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