

Comparative structural analysis of news heads and leads using systemic functional linguistics (SFL)

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Abstract

This study aimed at ascertaining the correlation of the patterns used in the leads and heads of model news articles, outputs of the news writers of the official publication of a state university in Nueva Vizcaya, and outputs of student writers in an annual convergence of student scribes in Region 2. After using Systemic Functional Linguistics in the analysis of 30 news articles, it was unveiled that the most common pattern used among news heads and leads understudy was Participant1-Process-Participant2 and the most commonly used placement for a circumstance was at the end of the sentence. Further, the most common function assumed by a participant is being an actor, the most commonly used process is material, and the most commonly used circumstance is location. It was also disclosed that there is a significant relationship between the functional patterns used by the three sources of the news articles. With these salient findings, better perspectives are prompted as to the use of functional language in many facets of the school and society. The findings shall serve as learning points for student writers, student leaders, language mentors, paper advisers, and those who prepare narrative reports that follow the structure of news.

Keywords: comparative structural analysis, news heads, news leads, patterns, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

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1. Introduction

The school and society from which learners acquire information and eventually thoughts and traits that make up their schema are characterized by channels that convey experiences from local to global scenarios. One form of communicating information in the most efficient way is the news which could be likened to the atmosphere that readily diffuses to the mass through various types of media. News is information about current events. This may be provided through many different media: word of mouth, printing, postal systems, broadcasting, electronic communication, and also on the testimony of observers and witnesses to events. It is also used as a platform to manufacture opinion for the population. Common topics for news reports include war, government, politics, education, health, the environment, economy, business, fashion, and entertainment, as well as athletic events, quirky or unusual events. They may also include government proclamations, laws, taxes, public health, and criminals, which are dubbed news since ancient times. According to Johnson & Ford (2011), the genre of news as we know it today is closely associated with the newspaper, which originated in China as a court bulletin and spread, with paper and printing press, to Europe.

The rise of technology that bring news to the doorstep of the people has hastened the spread of news in the society. These developments have jeopardized the purposes that news should serve. Just like in the Philippines, the dailies in recent times are blurred by issues that tried to topple the integrity of news, most monstrous is the spread of fake news. It is for this reason that measures have been taken to avert fake news and let the truth be instilled in the minds of the people especially that of the youngsters. To cater to the needs of the students to uphold truthfulness while their skills in writing are being honed, the basic and higher education in the Philippines are beefed up with campus journalism under which various kinds of journalistic writing including news writing are proffered special attention.

The efforts of educational institutions and their associates are supported by the Republic Act No. 7079, otherwise known as the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, which was enacted on July 5, 1991, to supposedly uphold and protect the freedom of the press at the campus level and to promote the development and growth of campus journalism, as stated in its declaration of policies. The Campus Journalism Act of 1991 in the Philippines is perhaps one of the strongest laws protecting the rights of the youth, particularly student journalists, and preserving the integrity of student publications.

In support to the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, school paper advisers gathered more than 18 years ago to organize the Association of Luzonwide Tertiary Paper Advisers Association (ALTPA) which started conducting the Luzonwide Higher Education Press Conference (LHEPC) in 2001 to encourage student writers to write for the school organ adhering to the ideals of responsible campus press. This event therefore signaled the birth of regional level press conferences which is now called in Cagayan Valley the Regional Higher Education Press Conference (RHEPC).

In July 2018, academicians convened in Cagayan de Oro under the mandate of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) to discuss the inclusion of writing in the various fields of campus journalism as competed in the yearly literary-cultural festival of the association. As decided, it will be incorporated into the annual activity thus the advisers and student affairs personnel who attended the meeting converged and crafted the guidelines of the new areas of competition as they are deemed meaningful activities that hone students in writing for truth, balance, and for the general welfare.

At the higher education level, Campus Journalism is a subject incorporated into the curriculum of secondary

education students (English major). One important skill the students need to learn is to write news articles. Through the mastery of the skill, they are expected to manifest their interest in the school publication which is one of the major organizations on the campus. As such, it caters to regular circulations which are of great interest to the student populace as they expect to get informed and involved in school dynamics.

News writing skills are relevant to the student leaders who prepare narrative reports as it assumes a structure that is enriched by news values like significance, proximity, human interest, prominence, statistics, and the like. Such technical outputs are also the concern of school officials, faculty members, and even administrators. The structure which shall be made definite through an analysis of its functional language shall hand benefits to the school and society.

In this light, it is appropriate to regard news as a social conduit that brings about people in the same spirit. It is in this context that the language of news articles may be subjected to analysis to continuously improve its structure and be able to meet the purposes it may serve as offered in the foregoing standpoints. Results of the process are likewise deemed to protect the integrity of the news by adhering to a structure that is professed by institutions in news production. This now becomes the focus of this study. Here comes the theory of Functional Linguistics which may support the above-mentioned desired process, particularly that which is relevant to the functional patterns of news articles.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

This study is brought about by the desire of the researchers to come up with a comparison of model news articles with the outputs of the news writers of The University Gazette (TUG), the official publication of the Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) - Bambang Campus, as well as with the outputs of student writers in Cagayan Valley, as retrieved from the archive of the Regional Higher Education Press Conference (RHEPC) which is an annual convergence of student scribes in the region. Alongside, the learning points which are unveiled in this study shall not only serve substantially the staff writers of the TUG, but also the student leaders, language mentors, school paper advisers, and those who prepare narrative reports that recount the insights of an event.

The analysis of these journalistic outputs was made using the Systemic Functional Linguistics approach specifically to:

- determine the systemic functional structures of selected news heads and leads as to participant, process, and circumstance;
- specific functions of conceptualization components as to participant, process, and circumstance;
- ascertain if there is a significant relationship in the systemic functional patterns of the three sets of news articles gathered (TUG news, RHEPC news, and model news retrieved from a national paper).

1.2 Theoretical Framework

Among the functional approaches, the systemic functional linguistics (SFL) shall be highlighted in this study. Systemic functional linguistics (SFL) is an approach to linguistics that considers language as a social semiotic system. It was devised by Michael Halliday, who took the notion of system from J. R. Firth, his teacher (Halliday, 1961). Firth proposed that systems refer to possibilities subordinated to structure; Halliday "liberated" choice from structure and made it the central organizing dimension of SFL. In more technical terms, while many approaches to linguistic description place structure and the syntagmatic axis foremost, SFL adopts the paradigmatic axis as its point of departure. *Systemic* foregrounds Saussure's "paradigmatic axis" in understanding how language works (Halliday, 2004). For Halliday, a central theoretical principle is then that any act of communication involves choices. Language is above all a system; SFL maps the choices available in any language variety using its representation tool of a "system network".

Functional signifies the proposition that language evolved under the pressure of the functions that the language system must serve. Functions are taken to have left their mark on the structure and organization of language at all levels, which is achieved via metafunctions. *Metafunction* is uniquely defined in SFL as the "organization of the functional framework around systems", i.e., choices. This is a significant difference from other "functional" approaches, such as Dik's functional grammar (FG, or as now often termed, functional discourse grammar) and lexical functional grammar. To avoid confusion, the full designation—systemic functional linguistics—is typically used, rather than *functional grammar* or *functional linguistics*.

For Halliday, all languages involve three simultaneously generated metafunctions: one construes experience of our outer and inner worlds (ideational); another enacts social relations (interpersonal relations); and a third weaves together these two functions to create text (textual--the wording). Since the scope of SFL is vast, this study focuses on ideational metafunctions which is classified into two subcategories: representational and logical metafunctions. Narrowing down the approach, the representational metafunctions shall be in particular employed in the functional analysis of manuscripts considered in this study. What makes it interesting is its property that concerns language is used to construe experiences in the world around and inside an individual.

The three components of the conceptualization of experience according to Li and Mahboob (2012) are participant (who/what is taking part), process (what is going on), and circumstance (when, where, why, and how the event is taking place) (see Appendix A for the definition of each subcategory of the three components of conceptualization). The diagram shown below shows the flow of concepts in this study and their relation to its output:

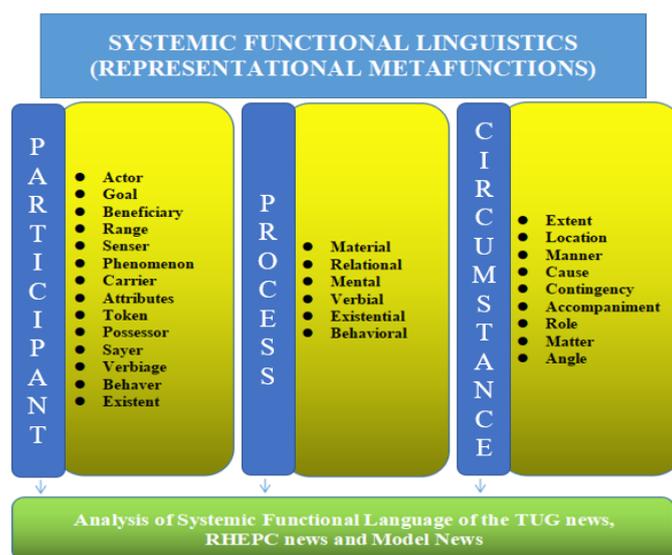


Figure 1. Conceptual Paradigm of the Study

2. Methodology

This study was carried out using quantitative-qualitative descriptive design through which descriptive and inferential questions were posted. Answers to the problems are further triangulated with qualitative data collected from the three sources: model news articles taken from a national newspaper (March 2017 to February 2018) with the outputs of the news writers of TUG (2014-2018), as well as the outputs of student writers in 2017 RHEPC. The leads and heads of news articles were investigated in this study since they are the most significant parts of a news article especially that they pass the cut-off test in the pyramidal presentation of a news, specifically the straight news which are mostly read in the front page of a newsletter or newspaper.

The articles were subjected to analysis using the Systemic Functional Linguistics approach which was pioneered by M.A.K. Halliday (2004). For Halliday, all languages involve three simultaneously

generated metafunctions: one construes experience of our outer and inner world (ideational); another enacts social relations (interpersonal relations); and a third weaves together these two functions to create text (textual--the wording). Since the scope of SFL is vast, this study focuses on ideational metafunction which is classified into two subcategories: representational and logical metafunctions. The representational metafunction was specifically utilized in the analysis of the articles in this study since it is used to construe experiences in the world around and inside a person. The data were evaluated as the functional patterns used by the articles which were tallied and presented in frequencies and percentages. To find the relationship of the functional patterns among the three sets of sources, Chi-Square was used at 0.05 level of significance.

3. Results and Discussion

After having organized the heads and leads extracted from three sources namely model news articles taken from a national newspaper, the outputs of the news writers TUG (2014-2018), as well as the outputs of student writers in 2017 RHEPC, the words and group of words were clustered into either participant (who/what is taking part), process (what is going on) or circumstance (when, where, why, and how the event is taking place) which are the components of conceptualization. The succeeding tables disclose the results of the analysis. Systemic functional structures of selected news heads and leads as to participant, process, and circumstance. The heads and leads were labeled based on their functions in relation to other components of the sentence regardless of circumstances which are descriptors of process. Hence the patterns were labeled as to the existence of participant and process. A separate analysis was done however on the types of circumstances used in the heads and leads.

Table 1 shows the patterns used in the heads and leads under study. It could be seen that the most common pattern used was Participant₁-Process-Participant₂ or Par₁-Pro-Par₂ with a combined frequency of 39 taking 65.00% of the total articles analyzed, followed by the pattern Participant₁-Process or Par₁-Pro (17, 28.33%) and the least commonly used is Participant₁-Process-Participant₂-Participant₃ or Par₁-Pro-Par₂-P₃ (4, 6.67%).

Table 1

Systemic functional structures of selected news heads and leads as to participant and process

| Functional Pattern | Head (Frequency) | Lead (Frequency) | Total | Percentage |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-------|------------|
| Par ₁ -Pro | 7 | 10 | 17 | 28.33 |
| Par ₁ -Pro-Par ₂ | 21 | 18 | 39 | 65.00 |
| Par ₁ -Pro-Par ₂ -Par ₃ | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6.67 |
| Total | 30 | 30 | 60 | 100.00 |

The most common functional pattern as to participant and process could be illustrated by the following:

Head:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Sandigan</u> | <u>junks</u> | <u>graft case</u> | <u>vs ex-envoy to UN</u> |
| <i>Participant</i> | <i>Process</i> | <i>Participant</i> | <i>(Circumstance)</i> |

Lead:

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Three of the college-based student councils, College of Education (CTE), College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) want and College of Industrial Technology (CIT)</u> | <u>with regards to the procedure of to restore the old policy collecting the student council (SC) fees</u> |
| <i>Participant</i> | <i>Participant (Circumstance)</i> |

The participant in the sample head is a word while in the lead a nominative clause which may be found at the beginning or middle of the sentence. A single word or a cluster modifier becomes a part of the participant. On the other hand, the process is referred to as the main action in the sentence. To have a better view of the details relevant to this problem, table 2 shows specific data distributed among the three sources of articles - TUG, RHEPC and the model paper.

Table 2*Frequency distribution of head and lead patterns according to source of article*

| Functional Pattern | TUG | RHEPC | Model | Total |
|--|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Par ₁ -Pro | 3 | 0 | 14 | 17 |
| Par ₁ -Pro-Par ₂ | 15 | 18 | 6 | 39 |
| Par ₁ -Pro-Par ₂ -Par ₃ | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 20 | 20 | 20 | 60 |

It could be seen that the dominant pattern used in both the outputs of TUG and RHEPC is Par₁-Pro-Par₂ while for the model news, the most commonly used pattern was Par₁-Pro which is considered to be simplest of all patterns having one participant and one process. The following illustrates such pattern:

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| Six armed members of the New People's Army | surrendered | voluntarily | to the Philippine Army which was reported in Camp Aquino, Tarlac | on Monday, April 3 |
| <i>Participant</i> | <i>Process</i> | <i>Circumstance</i> | <i>Circumstance</i> | <i>Circumstance</i> |

As to circumstance, the most commonly used placement was at the end of the sentence which is considered usual. Thirty-six (36) heads and leads wrote a circumstance at the ending of the sentence or paragraph. This is made to express description of the process or action as to manner, location, extent, matter, role and the like. This quantity takes 60.00% of the total articles while 6 were written at the beginning (10.00%) and only one at the middle (1.67%). On the other hand, 17 or 28.33% did not bear any circumstance. Table 3 shows the above result:

Table 3*Systemic functional structure of selected news heads and leads as to circumstance*

| Circumstance Placement | Head (Frequency) | Lead (Frequency) | Total | Percentage |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|------------|
| Beginning | 0 | 6 | 6 | 10.00 |
| Middle | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1.67 |
| End | 14 | 22 | 36 | 60.00 |
| No circumstance | 16 | 1 | 17 | 28.33 |
| Total | 30 | 30 | 60 | 100.00 |

3.1 Specific functions of conceptualization components as to participant, process and circumstance

Based on meanings of words divulged in Appendix A, the participants in the leads and heads were classified further into specific functional role. The articles were distributed according to their types as shown in table 4.

Table 4*Specific functions of conceptualization components as to participant*

| Participant Type | Head (Frequency) | Lead (Frequency) | Total | Percentage |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|------------|
| Participant ₁ | | | | |
| actor | 18 | 16 | 34 | 56.67 |
| senser | 7 | 5 | 12 | 20.00 |
| sayer | 4 | 7 | 11 | 18.33 |
| token/identified | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3.33 |
| possessor | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1.67 |
| | 30 | 30 | 60 | 100.00 |
| Participant ₂ | | | | |
| goal | 10 | 8 | 18 | 30.00 |
| identifier | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3.33 |
| phenomenon | 4 | 4 | 8 | 13.33 |

importance.

Table 6

Specific functions of conceptualization components as to circumstance

| Circumstance Type | Head (Frequency) | Lead (Frequency) | Total | Percentage |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|------------|
| Cause | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5.19 |
| Extent | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3.90 |
| Location | 10 | 31 | 41 | 53.25 |
| Manner | 5 | 17 | 22 | 28.57 |
| Matter | 0 | 6 | 6 | 7.79 |
| Role | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1.30 |
| Total | 16 | 61 | 77 | 100.00 |

In same table, the circumstance of manner follows, with 22 or 28.57%, while less used types are matter (6, 7.79%), cause (4, 5.19%), extent (3, 3.90%) and role (1, 1.30%). However, other types were not used like contingency, accompaniment, and angle. The other details of a news as to whys and hows are presented in the second to third paragraphs hence circumstances making use of manner, cause, extent, matter and the like are most likely excluded in the heads and leads. An illustration of the most used circumstances follows:

Head:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Man | was shot | dead | in QC |
| <i>Participant</i> | <i>Process</i> | <i>Circumstance (manner)</i> | <i>Circumstance (location)</i> |

Lead:

| | | |
|---|----------------|--|
| The Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) – Bambang Campus | had | its first Bulalayaw Festival grand opening themed, on February 28, 2018 “Sining-Galing ng Pinoy” |
| <i>Participant</i> | <i>Process</i> | <i>Participant</i> <i>Circumstance (location)</i> |

3.2 Significant relationship in the systemic functional structures of the three sets of news articles gathered (TUG news, RHEPC news and model news retrieved from a national paper)

Correlational procedures were carried out to ascertain if there is a significant relationship between the patterns (used in the heads and leads) and the source of the articles as to The University Gazette, Regional Higher Education Press Conference and the selected model newspaper. This procedure is done to determine if the articles from the local paper and regional writing tilt conform with standards of the newspaper model.

Table 7

Analysis of relationship between functional patterns used in news articles from The University Gazette, Regional Higher Education Press Conference and the selected model newspaper

| Functional Pattern | TUG | RHEPC | Model | Total |
|--|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Par ₁ -Pro | 3 | 0 | 14 | 17 |
| Par ₁ -Pro-Par ₂ | 15 | 18 | 6 | 39 |
| Par ₁ -Pro-Par ₂ -Par ₃ | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 20 | 20 | 20 | 60 |

Computed Chi-Square=27.176
(df=4; critical value = 9.488 at 0.05 level of significance)

Table 7 discloses the computed Chi-Square of 27.176 which is relatively higher than the critical value of 9.488 with degree of freedom of 4 (df=4) at 0.05 level of significance. This means that the null hypothesis along this problem is rejected, consequently, there is a significant relationship between patterns and sources of news articles.

In general, this finding means that there are some functional patterns used by majority of the three. In this case, the TUG and RHEPC share same pattern which is the Par₁-Pro-Par₂. The model articles however deviate from what is used regularly by TUG and RHEPC by using the simplest form and functions of heads and leads, that is the Par₁-Pro which is deemed more appropriate in papers which circulate daily news, thus observing brevity, simplicity of language, and directness.

The news writing styles in the campus are carried into the regional writing tilt of the RHEPC since participants are the writers themselves in the campus level.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

To come up with a comparison of the patterns used in the leads and heads of model news articles, the outputs of the news writers of The University Gazette (TUG), the official publication of the Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) - Bambang Campus, and the outputs of student writers in Cagayan Valley, as retrieved from the archive of the Regional Higher Education Press Conference (RHEPC) which is an annual convergence of student scribes in the region, this study came about. The findings shall serve as learning points not only for the staff writers of the TUG, but also the student leaders, language mentors, school paper advisers, and those who prepare narrative reports that recount the insights of an event which follows the structure of a news.

After using Systemic Functional Linguistics in the analysis of the news articles, the following conclusions were derived: The most common pattern used among news heads and leads under study was Participant₁-Process-Participant₂. This is true in the TUG and RHEPC outputs but not in the model newspaper because its articles most commonly used Participant₁-Process pattern which is considered simplest and most efficient for commercialized papers. As to circumstance, the most commonly used placement was at the end of the sentence which is considered usual since details are found toward the end of a news sentence.

The most common function assumed by a participant is being an Actor which refers to a participant who/which does something. The material process is the most commonly used process which refers to a physical experience performed by the actor while the most commonly used circumstance is location which is an indicator of time and place which are essential in a news article. There is a significant relationship between the functional patterns used by the three sources of news article - TUG, RHEPC and model paper. However, it could be discerned that the model news are more simplistic in pattern than the TUG and RHEPC outputs.

With these salient findings, it is recommended that news published in renowned papers may be used as basis for functional patterns in writing news articles at the campus level; student leaders may use functional language in their preparation of narrative reports patterned from the news heads and leads investigated in this study; language mentors may teach campus journalism and other English subjects using functional patterns to illustrate intelligibility in writing outputs also along other fields like feature, sports, editorial writing and other genres of writing; school paper advisers may encourage the use functional language as it adapts to the needs of the modern reading public; and other researchers to venture into the functional analysis of discourses used in extension, narrative, and police reports, and other types of write-ups.

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APPENDIX A

Types of the Participant, Process and Circumstance

According to Mahboob (2012)

List of Participant Roles in English

1. An 'Actor' refers to a participant who/which does something; for instance: The Chinese military had just tested a stealth fighter jet.
2. A 'Goal' refers to a participant upon which the process has created an impact; for instance: The President's visit will soothe recent tensions between the two countries.
3. Unlike a Goal a 'Range' specifies the scope of the happening expressed in the process, instead of being impacted by it; for instance: He successfully climbed the mountain in 24 hours.
4. A 'Senser' (or an 'Experiencer') refers to the participant who senses something; for instance: China and the United States of America have never enjoyed such broad common interests.
5. A 'Phenomenon' on the other hand, is the 'something' that is sensed by the Senser; for instance: Kissinger recalled his secret visit to China in 1971.
6. A 'Carrier' is the participant upon which a quality is assigned; for instance, The international financial crisis was very severe in 2008.
7. An 'Attribute' is the quality that is assigned to the Carrier; for instance, Societies are more harmonious, nations are more successful, and the world is more just.
8. Unlike a Carrier, an 'Identified' (also known as 'Token') refers to the participant which is identified as another participant – the 'Identifier' (also known as 'Value'); for instance: China's decision-making on North Korea (Identified) was always a black box (Identifier).
9. A 'Possessor' is the participant who owns something, while the 'something' is referred to as 'Possession'; for instance, The President (Possessor) will have a regal entourage of aides, bodyguards, and limousines (Possession).
10. A 'Sayer' is the participant who addresses another participant – the 'Receiver' – with a message, i.e., the content of saying; for instance, He (Sayer) asked a senior U.S. official (Receiver) if this is true.
11. The message, in English, is analyzed as a participant known as the 'Verbiage'; for instance, He told the manager that coordination is not his strong suit.
12. A 'Behaver' is an animate being whose behavior is described in the clause; for instance, The kid was shaking with fear when he was found.
13. An 'Existent' is a participant who introduced into the scene; for instance, There was little progress on the Obama administration's goal.

Types of Process

| Process Types | Essential Participant Roles | Examples | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Material | Actor + Goal | She murdered someone. | | |
| Action-transitive | | | | |
| Action ditransitive | Actor + Beneficiary + Goal | She bought her kid a present. | | |
| | Actor + Goal + Beneficiary | She bought her kid a present. | | |
| Intransitive | Actor | The sugar dissolved in the coffee. | | |
| | Actor + Range | She climbed the mountain. | | |
| Behavioral | Behaver | She was laughing wholeheartedly. | | |
| Mental perception | Senser / Experiencer + Phenomenon | She saw a car. | | |
| affection | | She liked his music. | | |
| cognitive | | She forgot his name. | | |
| quoted | | She taught it's a beautiful day. | | |
| reported | | She taught that it was a beautiful day. | | |
| Verbal | Sayer + Receiver + Verbiage | She told her kid a story. | | |
| | | quoted | She told it's a beautiful day. | |
| | | reported | She told that it was a beautiful day. | |
| Relational | Carrier + Attribute | She was pretty smart. | | |
| attribute | | | | |
| identifying | | | Identification/Token + Identification/Value | She was the class representative |
| | | | Identification/Value + Identification/Token | The class representative was her. |
| possessive | Possessor + Possession | She had a dog. | | |
| circumstantial | Carrier + Circumstance | She was at the roof last night. | | |
| Existential | Existent | There was a girl on the roof. | | |

Types of Circumstances

| Circumstance Type | Typical probe | Example realization | Subcategory | Subcategory probe |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| Extent | How ___ ? at what intervals? | for three hours every three hours | temporal | for how long? |
| | | ever second step | | |
| | | for six miles | | |
| Location | At what point | in September Before tea | temporal | when? |
| | | in the yard from Paris | spatial | where? |
| Manner | How? | with a hammer by trickery | mean | by what means? |
| | | quickly | quality | how? |
| | | like a top | comparison | What like? |
| Cause | Why? | because of you to him | reason | Why? |
| | | for better result in the hope of a good deal | purpose | For what purpose |
| | | on behalf of us | behalf | On whose behalf? |
| Contingency | In what circumstance? | In the event of rain without more help | condition | Under what condition? |
| | | In spite of the rain | concession | Despite what? |
| | | In the absence of proof | default | Lacking what? |
| Accompaniment | Together with? | With (out) his friends | comitative | Who/what with? |
| | | As well as them instead of them | additive | And who/what else? |
| Role | | As a concerned parent | guise | What as? |
| | | (smashed) into pieces | product | What into? |
| Matter | What about? | About this reference to that | | |
| Angle | Says who? | According to the shorter Oxford | | |