INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

In the context of second language learning, there is a popular assumption that the similarities between the mother tongue and the target language will lead to facilitation and differences will cause interferences. This serves as a reasonable background for the appearance and steady development of contrastive analysis, which examines a pair of languages with an aim to find their common as well as distinctive features.

Although language is the basic human capability, it seems to be one of our most complicated behaviours. In the modern life, it is the rapid growth in communication technology that has created new media for language use. Therefore, analyzing language is unsurprisingly paid much attention to not only by linguists but also by people at large.

Language cannot be meaningful without a social context, in which it is not only regarded as a means of communication but also a vehicle of thought. Analyzing the function and linguistic features used in a certain context is the task of a discipline: discourse analysis. While types of discourse are universally similar, the function and linguistic features of each discourse turn out to be different depending on each language. This inspires the thesis author up for the contrastive study of discourse properties between English and Vietnamese, and the chosen subject is news on internet newspapers.

In Vietnam, pioneering studies on discourse by such linguists as T.N. Them, D.Q.Ban, P.V.Hoa, N.T.Dan, N.H.Tien, N.X.Thom, N.Hoa, etc. over the past decade have been opening the way for more and more comprehensive analysis. Among those, analysis on news as discourse is no longer a new territory. The Ph.D dissertation by N.Hoa (1998) was focused on discourse analysis of news (on political, economic and social issues), then followed by some other M.A theses:
Some discourse features of newspaper headlines and articles in English by B.N.Anh (2004), A study of discourse properties in English brief news headlines by V.T.V.Huong (2004), etc. However, all of those studies examine news in only print newspapers or analyze just small segments of news discourse.

Why is international news on internet newspapers chosen the subject of this study? Firstly, we are living in an era of globalization, in which all nations are closely interrelated. They need to have deep understanding of their counterparts in every issue. International news on the internet meets their information thirst. Secondly, no one can deny the roles of Internet in society, which provides a huge volume of information in the quickest, most effective way with the greatest impact. Thanks to the Internet, all countries of the world can know about each other. All the advantages of other mass media are encompassed in the Internet. The development of the Internet has brought about great revolutions in mass media, among which internet newspapers see their birth. With the overwhelming advantages of the Internet (limiting the time and space distance, updating information anytime and anywhere, combining both audio and visual means, being a huge research stock and a effective means of entertainment, etc…), internet newspapers nowadays attract the largest number of readers all over the world.

With all of the above reasons, the researcher proposes A contrastive analysis on discourse properties of international news on English and Vietnamese internet newspapers as the title of her thesis.

2. Aims of the study

The study is conducted with the following aims:

• to point out discourse properties of international news on internet newspapers

• to identify similarities and differences between international news on English and Vietnamese internet newspapers terms of discourse properties.
• to help teachers as well as learners of English acquire comprehensive understanding of news discourse.

3. **Research questions**

The study is an attempt to analyze international news on English and Vietnamese internet newspapers as a type of discourse, then make a comparison between them. Thus, it seeks answers to the following questions:

- What are the generic structure and linguistic features of international news on English internet newspapers?
- What are the generic structure and linguistic features of international news on Vietnamese internet newspapers?
- To what extent are the identified features similar?
- What are the differences between those two subjects in terms of discourse properties?

4. **Research methods and data analysis procedure**

4.1 **The methods**

- **Descriptive:** In order to give in-depth and detailed description of international news in terms of discourse analysis, the descriptive method is employed.

- **Comparative:** The thesis will provide a comparison relevant to discourse properties between the two groups of subjects

- **Deductive:** The descriptions and interpretations in the thesis are based on theories of contrastive analysis, discourse analysis and previous studies of linguists on the related field.

- **Inductive:** After the analysis to identify typical features of international news on internet newspapers, the thesis will reach some generalizations and comparisons based on those analytical results.
- **Qualitative**: This method is used in collecting data. It categorizes data into patterns as the primary basis for organizing and reporting results. It is concerned about smaller but focused samples rather than large random samples.

- **Quantitative**: The qualitative method is the systematic scientific investigation of properties, relying exclusively on the analysis of numerical or quantifiable data.

Beside the above methods, some other supplementary methods such as personal observation, surveying literature or seeking specialist information about online news and news on print newspapers, etc... have also been referred to in order to accomplish the goals of the study.

**4.2 Data analysis procedure**

In this thesis, a random collection of about 300 pieces of news (half of which are from English internet newspapers, and the other half 150 are from Vietnamese internet newspapers) will be representatives for the whole population.

Sources of the English international news are mostly from big communication corporations on the World Wide Web such as BBC, CNN, FoxNews, REUTERS, CBC. The other group of data roots from some famous Vietnamese internet newspapers such as VnExpress, VietnamNet, VnMedia, Thanhnienonline, tintuconline.

Description of international news on internet newspapers as discourses will be firstly carried out under two approaches: generic structure and linguistic features. The process of comparing will then follow. The procedure of the analysis experiences four steps:

-Step 1: analyzing discourse properties of international news on English internet newspapers

-Step 2: presenting discourse properties of international news on Vietnamese internet newspapers.
-Step 3: making a comparison between these two types of discourse in terms of
generic structures and linguistic features.

-Step 4: generalizing and concluding.

5. Scope of the study

The internet newspapers are definitely a huge stock of information in which there is
a great variety of news on all issues: sports news, entertainment news, cultural
news, social news, political news, etc. In this study, the writer only desires to focus
on the internet news of international affairs (among them are international policies,
conflicts, global problems, multilateral relationship, etc.).

Detailed analysis and extensive comparative study requires much time and effort.
Additionally, the amount of international news on internet newspapers is
continuously blooming and may be uncountable now. This thesis has no other
ambition than making itself a “selective” one, in which a limited random number of
news pieces on some famous English and Vietnamese internet newspapers are
examined.

The ultimate goal of the study is to identify major similarities and differences in
terms of discourse properties between these two groups of subjects. Therefore,
instead of supplying full descriptions of generic structures as well as linguistic
features relevant to each group, the thesis will just focus on their typical comparable
features.

6. Significance of the study

A lot of linguists consider news on the internet as a new genre of discourse.
However, the study on discourse properties of this new genre is still limited in
Vietnam. Under this circumstance, the theoretical significance of this study is to
provide a supplementary contribution to genre analysis and linguistic research.
Moreover, this is the first research focusing on contrastive analysis of international news in terms of discourse properties between English and Vietnamese internet newspapers. In practice, results of the research are meaningful in providing insights for those interested in news in general and news on internet in particular. As for teaching and learning English, in which news is considered main source of classroom material, this study will be very useful. It also assists readers in better interpreting and understanding information on the Internet, and is beneficial for the integration of Vietnamese internet newspapers into the world press.

7. Design of the study

The study is composed of three parts:

Part 1: INTRODUCTION, presents the rationale, aims, research questions, research methods and data analysis procedure, scope, significance and design of the study.

Part 2: DEVELOPMENT. This is the main part in the study with 3 chapters:

Chapter 1: provides the theoretical background for the study. Its focus is on introducing fundamental concepts in contrastive analysis, discourse properties, internet newspapers and news on internet newspapers.

Chapter 2: gives the description of discourse properties of the international news on English internet newspapers. The description is based on two main fields:

- Generic structure
- Linguistic features

Chapter 3:

- discusses discourse properties of the international news on Vietnamese internet newspapers in terms of generic structure and linguistic features.
• at the same time compares the discourse properties of international news on English and Vietnamese internet newspapers.

**Part 3: CONCLUSION.** This part is a final conclusion of theoretical framework and analysis results. Also, it suggests some implications for teachers and learners when using news as materials in the classroom.
CHAPTER 1: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1.1. Contrastive analysis

1.1.1. What is contrastive analysis?

It is assumed that learning of second language is facilitated whenever there are similarities between that language and the mother tongue. Learning may be interfered when there are marked contrasts between the mother tongue and the second language (Nickel, 1971:1). For this reason, linguists all over the world long ago recognized the necessity to find out the similarities and differences among languages. Systematic comparative studies examining these factors started around the end of 19th century and the beginning of 20th century, especially in Europe.

There exists a previous term ‘Contrastive linguistics’ referring to comparative study which gives emphasis on linguistic differences. Contrastive linguistics was defined as “a subdiscipline of linguistics concerned with the comparison of two or more languages or subsystems of languages in order to determine both the differences and similarities between them” (Fisiak, 1981: 1).

Lado (1957) marks the real beginning of modern applied contrastive linguistics. After that the term “Contrastive analysis” is used as an alternative for contrastive linguistics. According to him, the purpose of contrastive analysis is to carefully describe the source language and the target language in order to develop effective pedagogical materials. The basic assumption of contrastive analysis is learning a second language involves transferring the meanings and linguistic forms from the first language as a set of habits.

Contrastive Analysis is a method of analyzing, involving a pair of languages. Focusing on the compatible items of such two languages, the contrastive analysts will be able to find out their differential aspects. Long and Sato (1984) claim that the primary focus of contrastive analysis is on difference and types of difference.
Contrastive analysis is viewed as an interlinguistic, bidirectional phenomenon which is concerned with both the form and function of language. As such, contrastive analysis must view language psycho-linguistically and socio-linguistically as a system to be both described and acquired.

Carl (1980: 18)

Traditional contrastive analyses are all conducted along the horizontal dimensions necessarily involved in comparing an element or a class of elements in L1 with an equivalent element or a class of elements in L2 and/or vice versa.

Esra Ozdemir (www.ingilish.com)

Contrastive analysis is an inductive investigative approach based on the distinctive elements in a language


1.1.2. Kinds of contrastive analysis

Charles A (1968) proposes two kinds of contrastive analysis:

- the comparison of sister languages to discover the history of their divergence (comparative method)

- the comparison of different stages of the same language to discover the history of change in the language

However, according to SIL International (2003), contrastive analysis falls into two types:

- Intralingual
  - Analysis of contrastive phonemes
1. Feature analysis of morphosyntactic categories
2. Analysis of morphemes having grammatical meaning
3. Analysis of word order
4. Componential analysis of lexemes
5. Analysis of lexical relations

- Cross-linguistic
  1. Comparative analysis of morphosyntactic systems
  2. Comparative analysis of lexical semantics
  3. Analysis of translational equivalence
  4. Study of interference in foreign language learning

### 1.1.3. Contrastive analysis and second language learning

One of the major hindrances in learning a second language has been identified as the differences between the first language and the second language. Each language has its own grammar rules, sentence structure and word usage. Having been influenced by the first language from early childhood, adopting a second language turns out to be very difficult for a person. By pointing out the similar and different features expressed in the two language systems, contrastive analysis has proved useful for second language learning.

This type of study provides an objective and scientific basis for second language teaching. In second language acquisition if the mother tongue of the learner and the target language both have significantly similar linguistic features on all the levels of their structures, there will not be much difficulty. That is why experienced linguists and pedagogues assumed that some languages would be easier to learn than others.
Contrastive analysis is not merely relevant for second language teaching but it can also relevant to the designing of teaching materials for use in all age groups. There is a popular idea that the best language teaching materials are based on contrast between two linguistic systems. Teachers' competence, motivation and attitude of learners, teaching methods and instructional materials are the other variables that can significantly influence second language teaching. However, designed materials based on contrastive context is highly useful for a motivated learner to accomplish a more effective process of learning.

1.1.4. Principles for contrastive study

Chaturvedi (1973) suggests the following guiding principles for contrastive study:

- To analyse the mother tongue and the target language independently and completely.
- To compare the two languages item-wise-item at all levels of their structure.
- To arrive at the categories of
  - similar features
  - partially similar features.
  - dissimilar features - for the target language.
- To arrive at principles of text preparation, test framing and target language teaching in general.

He suggests that in order to know the significantly similar structures in both languages the first step to be adopted is that both languages should be analysed independently. After that, sorting out the different features of the two languages, and comparing the two languages are necessary.
1.2. Discourse properties

1.2.1. What is discourse?

1.2.1.1 Discourse and text

Originally the word discourse comes from Latin discursus which denoted 'conversation, speech'. Because it is used differently in different subject areas, discourse is not an easy term to define. Since its introduction to modern science the term discourse has taken various, sometimes very broad, meanings.

There has been a lot of confusion between discourse and text. To some linguists, discourse is different from text but to others, they are the same subject matter and can be used interchangeably.

Brown and Yule (1983) define text as “the verbal record of communication act” and discourse as “the language in use”.

Widdowson (1984:24) reckons that “discourse is a communicative process by means of interaction. Its situational outcome is a change in a state of affairs: information is conveyed, invention is made clear, its linguistic product is text”

Crystal (1992: 35) sees discourse as “a continuous stretch of (especially spoken) language larger than a sentence, often constituting a coherent unit such as a sermon, argument, joke, or narrative” and a text as “a piece of naturally occurring spoken, written or signed language identified for purposes of analysis. It is often a language unit with a definable communicative function, such as a conversation, a poster”.

There is another approach developed by Halliday and Hasan (1976), who use discourse in reference to text. These two researchers claim that a text (discourse) is a unit of meaning. It is the language that is functional and has meaning in context of situation. It is realized by a word, a phrase, a sentence, a cluster of sentences, or even a book, etc…
According to them, text (discourse): can be defined in the simplest way perhaps by saying that it is language that is functional. [...] So any instance of living language that is playing some part in a context of situation, we shall call a text. It may be either spoken or written or indeed in other medium of expression that we like to think of. (Halliday and Hasan 1989:10)

This thesis will follow the view of Halliday and Hasan, considering discourse and text the interchangable terms.

1.2.1.2. Criteria of discourse

Seven criteria which have to be fulfilled to qualify either a written or a spoken text as a discourse have been suggested by Beaugrande (1981). They include:

- **Cohesion** - grammatical relationship between parts of a sentence essential for its interpretation;
- **Coherence** - the order of statements relates one another by sense.
- **Intentionality** - the message has to be conveyed deliberately and consciously;
- **Acceptability** - indicates that the communicative product needs to be satisfactory in that the audience approves it;
- **Informativeness** - some new information has to be included in the discourse;
- **Situationality** - circumstances in which the remark is made are important;
- **Intertextuality** - reference to the world outside the text or the interpreters' schemata

1.2.2 Register of discourse

Inevitably there is a close relationship between language and context. Language is produced in a certain context and that context becomes understandable because of the apparent purpose expressed through language.
Discourse context, or register of discourse, is defined in a number of ways by different linguists. Halliday (1976:23) views register as:

*a set of meanings, the configuration of semantic patterns that are typically drawn upon under the specified conditions, along with the words and structures that are used in the realization of these meanings.*

Halliday (1985) further defines register as “*the variety of language used in a particular situational context*”.

According to Hudson (1980), register is used in sociolinguistics to refer to “*varieties according to use*”, which is contrary to the term “*dialect*”, defined as “*varieties according to user*”. A particular register distinguishes itself from others by possessing distinctive words, by using words or phrases in a particular way and sometimes by special grammar constructions.

Galperin (1977: 89) considers registers “*the functional styles*” and he proposes: “*a functional style of language is a system of interrelated language means which serves as a definite aim in communication*”.

Galperin also divides registers into five categories:

- The language of belle-letters
- The language of official documents
- The language of scientific prose
- The language of publicistic literature
- The language of newspaper

**1.2.3 Genre of discourse**

As is defined by Swales (1990:58):

*A genre comprises a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes. These purposes are recognized by the expert members of the parent discourse community, and thereby constitute the rationale for the genre. This rationale shapes the schematic structure of the discourse and influences and constraints choice of content and style.*
Based on the work of Swales, Bhatia (1993) gives some characteristics related to genre as follows:

- Specialist members of any professional or academic community identify and understand the structure of the genre.

- The nature and construction of a genre is affected by many factors such as content, form, channel, etc… However, it is mostly marked by the shared set of communicative purposes that shapes the genre and give it an internal structure.

- When writing, the writer has to comply with the practices within the boundaries of a particular genre.

- Professional or academic community members can exploit these constraints better than the non-specialists.

He concludes that “each genre is an instance of a successful achievement of a specific communicative purpose using conventionalized knowledge of linguistic and discoursal resources”.

To sum up, genres are staged, goal-directed and purposeful. A genre can be defined as a cultural specific text-type which results from using language to help accomplish something. Genre is associated with:

- Particular purposes
- Particular stages: beginnings, middles and endings
- Particular linguistic features.

Each genre possesses its distinctive linguistics features, which focus on the genre’s language. Linguistic features involve: grammar, morphology, syntax, semantics….

1.3. Internet newspapers

3.1 Internet and the birth of internet newspapers

The Internet is a network of linked computers, allowing users to share information with one another. The appearance of Internet revolutionized the human
Originally, computers were not used as a communication medium. When they began and later in the early versions of World Wide Web software, the implications for communication became clear. In 2000, the number of U.S. households online outnumbered those subscribing to a daily newspaper (Garrison, 2005). By 2003, over 60% of U.S. households had a computer, with nearly 90% of them connected to the Internet (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2004). Although worldwide Internet statistics vary by methodology, international Web users have grown from some 604 million in 2002 (Central Intelligence Agency, 2002) to over one billion estimated Internet users worldwide in 2005.

The Internet originated from 1950s with the development of ARPANET (Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) in the USA, but it did not really take off until 1980s when the National Science Foundation used ARPANET to link its five regional supercomputer centers.

The end of the decade saw the emergence of the World Wide Web, which successfully served as an independent means of communication which attracted a lot of people.

Internet newspapers, or online newspapers, are those that exist on the Internet. Rigley (1998) points out that in the early 1990s, only a half dozen major newspapers in the USA and about a dozen smaller papers had a significant newspaper product or an interactive/on-line paper on the Internet provider like America On Line. By the mid 1990s, internet newspaper offerings appeared almost daily and practically. The number of internet newspapers increased rapidly the growth. Here are logos of some famous English internet newspapers (Figure 1):
As far as internet newspapers in Vietnam is concerned, on November 19th 1997, our country officially took part in the global information network. In February of 1998, the internet version of “Que huong” became the first Vietnamese internet newspapers on the internet. Since then, Vietnam has witnessed the continuous blooming of hundreds of internet newspapers.

Figure 2: Logos of some famous Vietnamese internet newspapers
1.3.2 Characteristics of internet newspapers

1.3.2.1 Hypertextuality:

Hypertext creates "a delivery system for separate closed units - a system which allows only embedded links pointing outward" (Nelson, 1999). Texts, interconnected through links - hyperlinks - can be referred internally (to other texts within the text's domain) or externally (to texts located elsewhere on the Internet).

Paul (1995) explained how hyperlinks can enrich the user's online journey by adding background information and providing more contexts to a developing news story. Adding hyperlinks also gives readers more options for personalization or "individualization" (Deuze, 1999). By inserting hyperlinks into online text, readers can access archived stories, read original source material, read the other relevant stories or read stories of the same interested topic.

1.3.2.2 Multimediality

Technology gives journalists more freedom in terms of presentation style. Moving images, sound, and links to more information could be blended within the same story. All of these factors facilitate the process of conveying information in the online news environment. Moreover, multimediality helps to creates attractiveness of an internet newspaper.

1.3.2.3 Interactivity

This characteristic of internet newspapers offers readers opportunities to give comment, reply, and feedback. They even can contact to the author, or the journalist to discuss more about the posted issue.

Recent new media consumption research by Shyam Sundar (2000) reveals that the more interactive opportunities websites give to users, the more involved the users will feel about the Web site.
1.3.3 Advantages and disadvantages of internet newspapers

1.3.3.1 Advantages

- Usually free of charge: internet newspapers mostly provide news, and readers often do not have to pay any fee to have a subscription or membership. This advantage allows equal opportunities for access for the poor or disabled groups.

- Frequently updated: News on internet newspapers is available 24 hours a day. By pressing the button REFRESH on the computer toolbar, readers are assured to be instantly updated to the news each minute. Thus, internet newspapers allow the publishers to get the information to the readers much more quickly than the print newspapers.

- Possible to read multiple newspapers on same topic: This advantage results from the characteristic of hypertextuality discussed above. Hyperlinks appear everywhere in the internet newspapers and ready to take readers to where they want. There are many news sources that can be retrieved at one's convenience.

- Eye-catching: The flexible multimedia experience (e.g. images, music, videos, audios) adds more interesting features for the viewers to use, leading to more interest. Readers are guaranteed to enjoy themselves much while reading internet newspapers.

- Searchable archives: Old news can be found and reread easily with the support of archive systems.

- Possible to save articles to computer: if you want to keep articles for thorough reading and analyzing later, it is not difficult just by clicking “save”

- Possible to contact with journalists/ editors via e-mail. Otherwise, readers can participate in discussion forums to give remarks on the news.
1.3.3.2. Disadvantages

- Internet newspapers can not provide the same experience of reading as a print newspaper. As for readers, the amount of information retained in their mind is not much compared to readers of print newspapers.

- Because readers just follow the links relevant to their interested story, they are not aware of other topics outside the range of their individual interest, whereas other stories on the page of a print newspaper remain visible.

- Too many distracting links. In order to access the complete article one has to scroll and click links, sometimes this process is annoying and frustrating - draw readers away from the other article on the online newspapers. In other words, internet newspapers readers are required to be more selective.

- Small reading screen: this is not good for the eye, making it uncomfortable for readers and that is why the time they spend reading cannot be long.

- Internet access costs money. Besides, readers have to pay money for electricity. Reading internet newspapers may be free of charge, but in terms of these factors, it seems to be more expensive than print newspapers.

- There appear technical problems, leading to long download times.

1.4. International news on internet newspapers

1.4.1. News

1.4.1.1 What is news?

Mark Twain’s autobiography (Paine:1959) mentions that “news is history in its first and best form, its vivid and fascinating form, and...history is the pale and tranquil reflection of it”. This indicates that the famous writer recognized the great power of news and its influence on culture.

Because news has great impact on our lives, people mostly rely on journalist to provide them with the up-to-date information about the world. The demand makes it
the journalists’ responsibility to determine what news is. However, most journalists have to admit that giving a definition to news is such a difficult task.

The notion of news is ambiguous. In everyday usage, we usually have the general notion of news, meaning 'new information', as we find in such sentences as "I have good news for you". Apparently, the notion of news we are dealing with is different from the notion of news, which involves the media. When asking: "Have you read the news?" or "Did you watch the news?", we refer to news as an item on newspapers or a television program.

Here are some definitions of news from dictionaries:

**Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary**

*News is new information about something that has happened recently or reports of recent events*

**American Heritage Dictionary** : News is:

- Recent events and happenings.
- A report about recent events.
- New information.

**Globe Modern Dictionary** : News is:

- A report of events as given each day by newspaper, radio, etc.
- Information which was not known before.

To sum up, the notion of news implies three aspects of news

- new information about events, things or persons
- a program type (TV or radio) in which news items are presented
- a news report, i.e., a discourse on means of media, in which new information is given.
We are concerned mostly with the third concept, in which news is considered a type of discourse published on newspapers.

With this aspect of news, there is a famous cliché among journalists: when dog bites man, it’s not news; when man bites dog, that’s news. In other words, no readers want to read about ordinary events.

1.4.1.2 Qualities of news

It is common knowledge among news professionals that news always include the essentials: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW.

**Who** are involved in the event? Their names? Their jobs? or any necessary personal information about the subjects.

**What** is the nature of the news story or event?

**Where** is the news or event taking place?

**When** will (or did) the event take place? What time and date is the event?

**Why** is the story newsworthy? Tell readers why they should care.

**How** does the event take place?

1.4.1.3 Structure of news

![Figure 3: Inverted pyramid structure](image-url)
There are some versions of news structure. Among them, inverted pyramid style is the basis for all news stories.

Telling a story in chronological order usually is not the best way to inform readers because a lot of people do not have much time or enough patience to read until the end of news to find the most newsworthy information. They want to capture the main idea of the news just after the first few paragraphs of a story.

In the inverted pyramid structure, journalists top-load the essential and most interesting elements of their story, with supporting information following in order of diminishing importance. In other words, they go from the most important material to the least important, and from general points to specific details, so it is important to start with the most vital information and add details farther down.

This structure enables readers to quit reading at any point and still come away with the essence of a story. It allows people to enter a topic to the depth without being annoyed of what they consider irrelevant details. As far as editors are concerned, this structure also facilitates them when editing the work of reporters. They can easily cut down the long news so as to fit the newspaper space.

**1.4.2 News on internet newspapers**

Salwen, Garrison, & Driscoll (2005:1) regard news on internet “a relatively new phenomenon in the history of journalism. A decade ago, newspapers and news providers were just beginning to explore the possibilities of near-instant delivery of content to readers that the World Wide Web can supply. Currently, thousands of newspapers, television and radio stations, magazines, and other publications have a presence online, and millions of Web users read news on the Internet every day”.

News was traditionally provided by means of newspapers, radio, and television through text, sound, or image. The emergence of the Internet with so many exclusive features, to some extents, has reduced the importance of such traditional news media.
Yankee Group (2001) comments “news distribution got its start with newspapers and expanded through radio and television, and people hoping to reach a mass audience had to join a large news organization, which could be a considerable hurdle. While the spread of the Internet in the 1990s largely removed this barrier, the brand recognition built up by the newspapers has made their Web sites very popular. The fact that many news-seekers use the Net as their main information tool is encouraging the newspaper companies to establish themselves as online news providers”. Their Interactive Consumer Survey 2000, conducted in the United States, indicated that large numbers of Internet users read news on the Web.

A recent study indicated that news remains among the most popular Internet activities (Salwen, Garrison, & Driscoll, 2005). Since, in theory, every Web site has as many potential readers as are online at any given time, the incentive for news organizations to develop Web presence is obvious, if not altogether well understood.

1.4.3 International news on internet newspapers

News on internet newspapers is various in topics: news of entertainment, news of social events, news of sports, etc.

International news refers to news which focuses on international issues, which involve:

- inter-relations among countries: official visits, economic cooperation, political negotiations…
- global issues: climate change, peace, conflict, international security…
- external policies and political opinions towards other countries
CHAPTER 2: DISCOURSE PROPERTIES OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS ON ENGLISH INTERNET NEWSPAPERS (E.I.N.)

2.1. Generic structure

The survey of 150 international news items on E.I.N. reveals the following overall generic structure, which also applies to internet news in general.

As discussed in the previous chapter, headline, lead, and body are considered crucial elements structuring news on internet newspapers. Besides, there are supplementary or optional factors (the time, name of reporter, sub-headlines, hyperlinks or non-linguistic features) which can classify internet news as a new genre, or a sub-genre of news.

Brief news in print newspapers may have no headline or lead, the event is presented in just a paragraph, sometimes even in only one sentence. For example:
Hurricane Dean swept across the central Caribbean heading for Jamaica, and Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula, with forecasters saying it could turn into a monster Category 5 storm within 48 hours. A hurricane warning was issued by the Jamaican government, where a direct hit was expected today.


However, the headline and the lead play an essential role in news on internet. Limited space of a computer screen does not allow for full text of all pieces of news. Hence, in the front page of any internet newspaper, headlines and leads of news are provided with hyperlinks so that interested readers can click up to read the rest story.

For example:

Figure 5: Extract from a BBC front page
2.1.1. The headline

A 1997 study by Jakob Nielsen and John Morkes finds that people rarely read Web pages word by word. According to this study, they "scan the page picking out individual words and sentences." Nielsen and Morkes reports that 79 percent of their test users always scan any new page they come across; only 16 percent read word-by-word. Researchers find out that the readers’ eyes initially go to the text after the first interaction with online news, not to photos or graphics as many people might expect.

By scanning, many readers simply read the headlines to get their news. Headlines for news in general are important, headlines for news on internet newspapers are much more important. They perform the following two functions:

- **As a communication device:** The headline is the most concise summary of the whole news. By looking at the headline, readers can understand the main content and the main information addressed in the news.

- **As a navigation device:** As stated above, no full text of news is displayed on screen at first. For this reason, it is possible to say that the headline is the bridge leading online readers to the full story. It puts the first impression on the readers and encourages them to click for more information.

In order to successfully accomplish these two functions, the headlines of news on internet newspapers are always paid much consideration to so that they should be powerful and attractive. Hence, headlines of news on internet newspapers are always in bold, large font size and have high-contrast in order to attract the readers’ eyes.

2.1.2. Date, time of releasing the news:

Because news on internet is continuously updated, the information may be not the same, even just after some seconds. The news content may change as soon as the
news is posted on internet newspapers. Identifying time and date of releasing the news is accordingly very important and beneficial to the readers.

2.1.3. Source of information

Name of the writer, the reporter or name of any news corporation that published the news is always clearly asserted. Sometimes readers can refer to the reporter to find out more about the news.

2.1.4. The lead

The international news leads often start with location where the events take place. One important factor of news is proximity. An event will be more important if it is related to the readers. A conflict in a far-off land is not as interesting as one that is close to home. International news covers all areas in the world, so providing information about the location is very useful for readers.

The lead provides the hook to get readers interested in the story. It expands on the story’s main point as introduced in the headline. Basically, news is variations of “something happened”. The lead’s function is to straightforwardly tell readers what the “something happened” is. In terms of content, the lead captures the essence of the whole news, or it summarizes the news to draw the readers in.

The lead sets the structure for the rest of the story. If the lead is good, the rest of the story comes together easily.

Functioning as exciting hooks for readers, the leads must be very informative and long enough to load the most newsworthy aspect of the events. They are supposed to give brief answers to all the key questions: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW. For example:
Mrs. Clinton yesterday came to St. Louis, Missouri to seek support for the election by participating in a campaign.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>Mrs. Clinton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHEN</td>
<td>Yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHAT</td>
<td>came to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHERE</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHY</td>
<td>to seek support for the election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW</td>
<td>by participating in a campaign</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Analyzing key elements in a news lead on E.I.N.

Investigation among 150 pieces of international news on E.I.N. reveals some findings. Considering the following chart:

![Pie chart showing distribution of news elements in the lead on E.I.N.]

The data suggests that:

- no lead provides answer to only one question.
- 5% of leads answer two questions
- the largest number of leads (58%) consist of three elements
2.1.5. The body

The headline and lead usually raise more questions than they answer. People generally find out what happened and one or two prominent details, but if they are interested in the subject they will want to know much more and ask such questions such: when? where? why? how? what effects? what significance?

If the headline and the lead are attracting enough and they decide to continue reading, the body of the news is where they find detailed information. The primary and the most prevailing function of news body is to narrate the event. While doing so, it gradually gives answers to all possible questions related to the event: WHAT, WHO, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW.

Basically, the body will give readers three kinds of information:

- details of the events, by answering the six questions 5W+H in more detail
- comments from people involved in the story
- background information to help you understand the story more deeply.

For example, with the news headline *Iraq’s justice minister resigns, official says* posted on REUTERS (31/3/2007), the news’ body is structured as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAD</th>
<th>BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi Justice Minister Hashem al-Shebly has resigned because of dissatisfaction over the running of the government, an official said on Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement about details of</td>
<td>Izzat Shahbandar, a spokesman of the secular Iraqi National List to which Shebly belongs, said the resignation had been accepted by Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"He did not feel there was any harmony in government policy and he did not want to continue," Shahbandar told Reuters. Shahbandar said Shebly had offered his resignation three days ago. The Iraqi National List is headed by former interim prime minister Maliki, under growing pressure to stem Iraq's unrelenting violence, leads a coalition of Shi'ite, Sunni, Kurdish and secular parties.

Shebly is the first cabinet minister to quit since Maliki took office nearly a year ago. Shebly's party has put forward three candidates to replace him. Maliki had been promising a cabinet reshuffle since late last year to remove underperforming ministers, but one aide has said such a move would be unlikely soon because members of his coalition were against losing any of their portfolios.

Table 2: Structure of a news body on E.I.N.

Evidently, the structure of the news makes a remarkable contribution to facilitating the understanding process of readers. That is why there is one principle in organizing news that the news structure should lead the readers from idea to idea simply and clearly.

Examining generic structure of international news on E.I.N. points out that the news body appears as a series of statements with one-sentence paragraphs consisting of only one idea, or we call “block paragraphs”. The length of each paragraph in news body on E.I.N. is about 30 words on average. Most paragraphs are composed of only one sentence (65%). Two-sentence paragraphs take 20%. 15% of paragraphs consist of three sentences. No paragraph containing four sentences are found in the survey. Considering the following table:
One-sentence paragraphs | Two-sentence paragraphs | Three-sentence paragraphs
---|---|---
65% | 20% | 15%

Table 3: Number of sentences in a paragraph on E.I.N.

Although there may be two or three short sentences in the body’s paragraphs, all of them support one idea. For example:

*The reports on Walter Reed provoked an outcry on Capitol Hill. Three senior military officers have lost their jobs and Bush has ordered a wide-ranging review of all U.S. veterans facilities. More than 24,000 soldiers have been wounded and more than 3,600 killed in the two wars.*

(Reuters- 30/3/2007)

*The EU said earlier this month that it would allow only PIA's eight Boeing 777 planes to fly to Europe. Its other 37 aircraft, mainly older Boeing 747s and Airbus A310s, were put on the EU blacklist due to safety concerns.*

(CNN- 1/4/2007)

One more characteristic of news body is the application of the inverted pyramid structure, in which the sentences are ordered basing on the level of importance.

*Major powers circulated a new draft of a resolution to pressure Iran to suspend uranium enrichment with only minor amendments Thursday, and said they intend to submit it to a U.N. Security Council vote within two days.*

*The five veto-wielding members of the Security Council, along with Germany, rejected South Africa's proposal for a 90-day "time out" on all sanctions.*
Acting U.S. Ambassador Alejandro Wolff said the United States also rejected amendments by Indonesia and Qatar calling for the Middle East to be free of weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to deliver them, saying the resolution should only deal only with Iran's nuclear program.

The resolution's sponsors - Britain, France and Germany - submitted the text in its final form and it will likely be voted on Saturday, said British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry.

(AP- 22/3/2007)

Referring to the above piece of news, the first paragraph is the most important, containing all the new and important information. With hurry readers, maybe the first paragraph is informative enough. The other paragraphs are sub-important because they just explain the event in more detail.

2.1.6. Optional news elements

- Hyperlinks: The headline and the lead tell you the main ideas of the news, but they do so in a very shortened form. They give you enough information, however, to allow you to make an important decision. They allow you to decide whether you want to click at the hyperlinks to read the whole news or to skip it and move on to another more interesting one.

The appearance of hyperlinks is the most distinguishable feature of internet news in comparison with news in print newspapers. In print, the document forms a whole and the user is focused on the entire set of information. On the internet, documents are splited into multiple hyperlinked pages since users are not willing to read long pages. Users can enter a site at any page and move between pages as they chose, so make every page independent and explain its topic without assumptions about the previous page. Hyperlinks are created in larger and bold font sizes or have different colour from the news text. They lead readers to news of related subjects or link to background or explanatory information to help those who do not have the necessary knowledge to understand or use the page.
- *Non-linguistic features:* photographs, videos or audios beside the news text create another distinctive characteristic of news on internet newspapers. The combination of such high technological factors makes the news more attractive and informative.

- *Sub-headlines:* not all news on internet newspapers have sub-headlines, but the using of sub-headlines is its distinctive feature compared to news in print newspapers. Sub-headlines are considered the hooks that facilitate the readers’ information memorizing.

To summarize the generic structure of international news on E.I.N., the following piece of news from AP on March 27th 2007 can be taken as an illustration:

**Israeli, Palestinian leaders to meet**  
By ANNE GEARAN, AP Diplomatic Writer 21 minutes ago

JERUSALEM - After three days of intensive Mideast diplomacy, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced Tuesday that Israeli and Palestinian leaders have agreed to begin meeting every two weeks.

Rice said she occasionally would participate in the meetings between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is sharing power with Islamic Hamas militants.

"They achieved something, which is the very regularized meetings between the two of them, in which they will not just talk about their day-to-day issues, but also about a political horizon," Rice said at a news conference.

But a senior Israeli government official said that for now, Olmert will only talk to Abbas about security and humanitarian issues, as well as a "general political horizon," which was not further defined by Rice or Israeli officials. Olmert will not discuss specifics, such as the borders of a future Palestinian state, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.
Olmert could start addressing final status issues once there is no more rocket fire from Gaza and Hamas-allied militants release an Israeli soldier they captured nine months ago, added the official.

Rice said peacemaking was made "more complex" by Hamas' presence in the government.

*Israel*, the United States and the *European Union* count Hamas as a terror group.

---

The components of the above piece of news can be identified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEADLINE</th>
<th>Israeli, Palestinian leaders to meet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REPORTER</td>
<td>By ANNE GEARAN, AP Diplomatic Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>21 minutes ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location-LEAD with a hyperlink (the bold word)</td>
<td>JERUSALEM - After three days of intensive Mideast diplomacy, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced Tuesday that Israeli and Palestinian leaders have agreed to begin meeting every two weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BODY with a photograph and two hyperlinks (the bold words)</td>
<td>Rice said she occasionally would participate in the meetings between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is sharing power with Islamic Hamas militants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"They achieved something, which is the very regularized meetings between the two of them, in which they will not just talk about their day-to-day issues, but also about a political horizon," Rice said at a news conference.

But a senior Israeli government official said that for now, Olmert will only talk to Abbas about security and humanitarian issues, as well as a "general political horizon," which was not further defined by Rice or Israeli officials. Olmert will not discuss specifics, such as the borders of a future Palestinian state, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Olmert could start addressing final status issues once there is no
more rocket fire from Gaza and Hamas-allied militants release an Israeli soldier they captured nine months ago, added the official.

Rice said peacemaking was made "more complex" by Hamas' presence in the government.

Israel, the United States and the European Union count Hamas as a terror group.

Table 4: Example of typical international news on E.I.N.

2.2. Linguistic features

2.2.1. Lexical choice

One main characteristic of international news on E.I.N. is that it is read by people all over the world. The fact that English is an international language and E.I.N. are boomingly available on the internet 24 hours a day makes them become the most prevalent means of communication. International news on E.I.N. mentions full aspects of issues relating to all parts of the world. Internet users worldwide take concern about it with the aim to understand other countries as well as to see what the world say about their own nations. This characteristic determines the lexical choice of international news on E.I.N.

Generally speaking, popular words are preferred, which ensures that everyone across the world can read and understand it. By using uncomplicated words, not only the information is provided clearly and exactly but also the readers’ capacity of getting content will obviously increase. If the reporters make all effort to think of too cute words to transfer their ideas, users may encounter difficulties in picking up the meaning of the text.

Take the following sentences extracted from news as examples, whose content is rather comprehensible because of uncomplicated word choices.
For the second time in three years, Miss America is all dressed up and looking to attract a new television network, pageant organizers said on Friday.

Reuters- 30/3/2007

A French architect said on Friday he had cracked a 4,500-year-old mystery surrounding Egypt's Great Pyramid, saying it was built from the inside out.

CNN- 20/3/2007

The international news covers all issues on the world: politics, economy, religion, lifestyles, health, education...Hereafter, there appear many term words of certain fields, relying on the main topic of the news. For example:

Political news:

*Acting U.S. Ambassador* Alejandro Wolff said the United States also rejected amendments by Indonesia and Qatar calling for the Middle East to be free of weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to deliver them, saying the resolution should only deal only with Iran's nuclear program.

AP-22/3/2007

Police stormed the offices of Zimbabwe's main opposition party Wednesday and arrested its leader hours before he planned to talk to reporters about a wave of political violence that had left him briefly hospitalized.


Health news:

*Three people in Indonesia have died from bird flu, taking the country's death toll to 69, health officials say.*
The virus claimed the lives of a boy aged 15, a 22-year-old woman and a 40-year-old man in separate parts of the country, the health ministry said.


Economic news:

China's food exports to the United States have grown rapidly in recent years, with seafood the single biggest category. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt made clear, though, that ensuring the safety of imports is not a problem confined to China, with U.S. $2 trillion worth of products from across the globe this year consumers purchasing.


Detailed description about the event is put forth in news body. It is also noteworthy that news informs the events rather than analyzing or commenting on them. It is impossible for news reporters to impose their personal idea on the news. That means all the posted information must be objective. The neutral language is also employed in international news on E.I.N. because international issues are very sensitive. Press, especially via the internet, has unimaginably strong impact. The relationship between countries may be influenced by just an unfriendly opinion revealed in the news. Thus, reporters try to avoid words expressing their personal viewpoints in international news, only present the fact of the event. Metaphors and modal auxiliaries are rarely found partly because these kinds of words, to some extent, can reflect the writer’s personal opinions. One feature of internet newspapers is that, under many circumstances, they are informal. This informality allows reporters to find humorous ways of expressing. However, in the case of international news, puns absolutely do not work.

2.2.2 Tense

The simple present tense is the most popular form of verbs in international news on E.I.N., in spite of the fact that the news may describe something that is happening,
something that happens repeatedly, even something that happened already or something that is going to happen in the near future. The present tense gives the subject a sense of freshness and immediacy, making it more interesting to read. This grammatical phenomenon often appears in the headlines. In the news leads and news bodies, verb tenses are used with the consideration of happening time of the event.

For example, the headline *Three die in 'hell' of Houston office-building fire* use the simple present tense for the verb *die*, but events in the news actually happened in the past. Considering the following lead:

> Three people were killed and at least seven were injured Wednesday in a four-alarm fire at an office building in northeast Houston, authorities said.

**CNN- 29/3/2007**

Meanwhile, the headline *Major powers submit final Iran draft* use simple present tense for the verb *submit* to refer to the event that is going to happen in the future.

> Major powers circulated a new draft of a resolution to pressure Iran to suspend uranium enrichment with only minor amendments Thursday, and said they intend to submit it to a U.N. Security Council vote within two days.

**REUTERS- 22/3/2007**

2.2.3. Directness and indirectness

To meet the requirement of direct, attractive and true to the news content, the direct and indirect speeches are essential to news. Surveying 150 international news items on **E.I.N.** shows that the direct and indirect speech appears in all of them.

The use of directness and indirectness in international news on **E.I.N.** can be classified into three types:
2.2.3.1. Direct quotations

Direct quotations represent word-for-word what the speaker said. Such quotes are exact words of a source written in complete sentences and are endorsed in quotation marks. For example:

"This is better than the other theories, because it is the only theory that works," Houdin told Reuters after unveiling his hypothesis in a lavish ceremony using 3D computer simulation.  

REUTERS - 18/3/2007

"The text that we have submitted is one which we believe finds the center of gravity of the debate," Jones Parry told reporters after a closed-door Security Council meeting. "It's an appropriate, proportional, incremental response to the situation."  

AP - 22/3/2007

2.2.3.2. Partial quotations

Partial quotations are mixtures of direct and indirect quotes. They may also be referred to as modified or fragmentary quotations. For example:

They said "surprisingly rapid changes" were occurring in Antarctica's Amundsen Sea Embayment, which faces the southern Pacific Ocean.  


The Pentagon program "remains a high-risk area" dogged by cost overruns, schedule delays and performance gaps, said the Government Accountability Office.  

FOXNEWS - 28/3/2007

2.2.3.3. Indirect quotations

Indirect quotations represent more or less what the speaker said, but without using quotation marks. The speaker’s ideas are presented mainly but not entirely his own words. For example:
Germany's government has said it would be willing to discuss requests for additional payments if Israel submits a formal petition, but that so far no such request had been made. FOXNEWS-29/3/2007

Gen Musharraf's opponents had argued that his election was illegal because he was still head of the army. CNN- 30/3/2007

Investigating 150 international news items on E.I.N. shows that: indirect quotations are the most popular (62%), followed by direct quotations (25%) and partial quotations are the least prevalent (13%). The data are expressed in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct quotations</th>
<th>Indirect quotations</th>
<th>Partial quotations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Directness and indirectness on E.I.N.

2.2.4 Sentence patterns

When analyzing sentence patterns of international news on E.I.N., we need to look closer at three segments of news. The reason is that in each level of the news, the sentence patterns vary in order to perform the certain tasks.

2.2.4.1. The headline

Generally, a headline may be formed from a word, a phrase, a sentence fragment or a sentence. Nevertheless, surveying 150 pieces of international news on E.I.N. shows that there is no headline shaped from a word. This unsurprisingly fact results form one distinctive feature of reading news on internet that stated earlier: readers just scan the web screen to get the news. Correspondingly, just a word as the headline cannot fulfill its function of conveying the information presented in the news. The presence ratio of headline types is expressed in the following table:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Headlines</th>
<th>Phrase Headlines</th>
<th>Fragment Headlines</th>
<th>Sentence Headlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 6: Types of headlines on E.I.N.*

Sentence and fragment headlines outnumber the phrase ones because they have proven to be more effective in transmitting enough information. When scanning the internet newspapers for news, readers are more satisfied with the clarified and informative headlines, whose meanings are immediately transferred by fragment and sentence headlines.

- **The headline as a phrase**

  The syntactic structure of a phrase consists of more than one word but lacks the subject-predicate organization. Functioning as an introduction for the topic of the news, headlines are often realized as noun phrases. The study on international news on English internet newspapers shows that noun phrases make up 90% among phrase headlines.

  As for noun phrases, Quirk (1973: 375) distinguishes two constituents: *the head and the modification*. The modification can precede or follow the head, correspondingly named *pre-modification* and *post-modification*.

  ![Figure 7: Structure of an English noun phrase](image)

- **Pre-modification** *(Optional)*  
  - **HEAD (NOUN) Obligatory**  
  - **Post-modification**
Noun phrase is the brief way to state an event, so when encountering a noun phrase, readers often ask themselves many questions related to the event. This practice, to some extent, arouses their curiosity and therefore stimulates them to click more.

Noun phrase headlines of international news on English internet newspapers may have three different expressions depending on the presence or the absence of optional elements.

- **Pre-modification + Head noun + Post modification**

  (1)          (2)                (3)

  For example:  *Civil War Warning to Palestinians*

  (1)          (2)                (3)

  AP-5/6/2007

  *The New Face of Italian Politics 5*

  (1)          (2)                (3)

  REUTERS- 25/5/2007

  *The Reality on the Ground in Iraq*

  (1)          (2)                (3)

  REUTERS- 11/5/2007

  *Hanging Crackdown in Iran*

  (1)          (2)                (3)

  CNN- 18/5/2007

- **Pre-modification + Head noun**

  (1)          (2)

  For example:  *Commonwealth climate plan*

  (1)          (2)                FOXNEWS- 29/8/2007
- Head noun + Post modification

For example:  

Rules of Inhospitality

Violence in Gaza

Fear of fresh conflict

- The headline as a fragment

A fragment is a group of words lacking a subject predicate but still convey a complete thought. Thus, in terms of grammatical structure, fragments are wrong and need editing. However, lots of internet newspapers choose fragments to form their news headlines. Fragments not only satisfy the requirement of condensation for headlines but also rather succeed in the function of communication device. Despite being incomplete sentences, they are still understandable for all readers.
Fragment headlines of international news on E.I.N. are formed as the results of omitting some certain words, usually the verbs such as “to be” or the auxiliary verbs.

The verb “to be” is often omitted in the cases of passive voice, for example:

*Three U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq's Anbar*

(Three U.S. soldiers were killed in Iraq's Anbar)  
*Reuters* - 30/7/2007

*Israel Accused of Air Raid on Syria*

(Israel was Accused of Air Raid on Syria)  
*CBC* - 6/9/2007

*Fukuda Approved As Japan PM*

(Fukuda was Approved As Japan PM)  
*FOXNEWS* - 25/9/2007

or before the sentence complements, for example:

*Six Dead in Angolan Plane Crash*

(Six people found/were dead in Angolan Plane Crash)  
*BBC* - 28/6/2007

*Israel Reluctant to Ease West Bank Restrictions*

(Israel was Reluctant to Ease West Bank Restrictions)  
*AP* - 25/6/2007

*North Korea 'still on Us Terror Blacklist’*

(North Korea is 'still on Us Terror Blacklist’)  
*CNN* - 4/9/2007

Fragment headlines usually use “to + verb” to imply the near future plans or intentions. For example:

*Chirac to Be Interviewed Over Charges of Corruption*

(Chirac is going to Be Interviewed Over Charges of Corruption)  
*AP* - 24/6/2007

'Super Typhoon' to Hit Shanghai

('Super Typhoon' is going to Hit Shanghai)  
*CBC* - 18/9/2007
Hugo Chavez to submit unlimited re-election bill to parliament 23/7
(Hugo Chavez is going to submit unlimited re-election bill to parliament)
REUTERS- 23/7/2007

- The headline as a sentence

Undoubtedly sentence headlines hold the upper hand among the headlines for news on internet because they state a complete thought and are the most comprehensible to internet scanners.

Quirk (1973:191) divides English sentences into four types: statements (declarative), questions (interrogative), commands (imperative) and exclamation (exclamatory). After investigating the first data group of 150 international news pieces on E.I.N., we recognized that most of headlines are written in the form of statements with 78%. The question headlines rank the second with 18%, followed by command headlines with 3% and exclamation headlines nearly 1%. The following table indicates the findings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement headlines</th>
<th>Question headlines</th>
<th>Command headlines</th>
<th>Exclamation headlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 7: Types of sentence headlines on E.I.N.*

Statement headlines have a predominant position compared to the other three types because providing a statement is the simplest way to receive information. In the mean time, exclamation headlines are not so popular since they contribute to expressing the news reporters’ opinion, which is a taboo in writing news.

Examples of statement headlines:

*India celebrates anti-British revolt* BBC- 11/5/2007
Examples of question headlines:

What is Brown likely to do as PM? BBC- 11/5/2007


Examples of command headlines:


Don't Panic -Britain is Not the US AP-8/4/2007


Example of exclamation headline:

What a dilemma! BBC- 14/7/2007

The frequent usage of complex sentences as headlines is another notable characteristic of international news on E.I.N. As for headlines in print newspapers, simple sentences outnumber complex ones (88% vs. 12% respectively, according to a survey by N.T.V.Dong in 2000). However, in the case of international news on E.I.N, there is not such a big difference.
Simple sentences | Complex sentences
---|---
75% | 35%

*Table 8: Simple vs. complex sentences as headlines on E.I.N.*

Examples of complex sentences as headlines:

*US Predicts Regime Change in Zimbabwe As Hyperinflation Destroys the Economy.*

FOXNEWS- 21/6/2007

*Poland Evokes War Dead As EU Talks Get Tough*

CNN- 21/6/2007

*Blair Knew Us Had No Post-war Plan for Iraq*

CBC- 16/6/2007

*As Glaciers Melt and Rivers Dry Up, Coal-fired Power Stations Multiply*

AP- 19/6/2007

As far as simple sentence patterns are concerned, in order to gratify the informative characteristics of news headlines on the internet, such patterns as SV and SVO on internet newspapers are not as popular as in their print counterparts. Instead, the longer sentence patterns in which more information is enclosed are supposed better. The rate of sentence patterns among international news headlines on E.I.N. shows not much difference, which can be represented in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SV</th>
<th>SVO</th>
<th>SVC</th>
<th>SVA</th>
<th>SVOA</th>
<th>SVOC</th>
<th>SVOO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 9: Sentence patterns of headlines on E.I.N.*

SV: *Oil price soars*  
CNN-30/8/2007

SVO: *Bhutto Condemns Rushdie Attack*  
REUTERS- 21/6/2007

*Sarkozy Appoints Woman Chancellor*  
AP- 19/6/2007
2.2.4.2. The lead

Taking with them a lot of information, leads apparently cannot have forms of phrases or fragments as the headlines. Instead, in terms of grammatical structure, all of them are sentences. More specifically, the leads are always complex sentences due to the heavy task of transferring core information of the events.

The study of the subjected group also indicates that under all circumstances, the lead is a single paragraph consisting of a single sentence, or we name single-sentence lead. For example:

\[\text{Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called for an end to presidential term limits on Wednesday to extend his rule and strengthen a self-styled socialist revolution in the OPEC nation.}\]

\[\text{Reuters- 15/8/2007}\]

\[\text{Burmese soldiers have again fired shots as they attempt to disperse thousands of anti-government protesters in the main city, Rangoon.}\]

\[\text{BBC- 27/9/2007}\]
Myanmar security forces have arrested two prominent anti-government activists - a Buddhist monk and a labor rights advocate, fellow dissidents said Tuesday.

Iran warned India on Wednesday that it would sign a multi-billion dollar gas pipeline deal with Pakistan alone if New Delhi did not swiftly agree terms on transit pricing with Islam.

2.2.4.3. The body

Like the lead, most of sentences in the news body are complex sentences. For example:

The tractor attack Tuesday took place in the Chenkaladi military camp in eastern district of Batticaloa, a hotbed of violence between the rebels and the government.

After hearing the news, John and Elizabeth Edwards called Snow, during a refueling stop in Salina, Kan., on their way to Los Angeles, to express their support and concern.

Tariq Kirmani, the chief of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), had also been under pressure due to the state-owned carrier's mounting losses.

Sometimes the sentences are very complex:

Despite the doubling of planned spending in major weapons systems since 2001, unanticipated cost growth has reduced the return on this investment," GAO chief David Walker, who is the U.S. comptroller general, said in a cover letter to Congress.
The EU voiced full support for the plan revived at an Arab summit in Riyadh this week offering Israel peace and relations in exchange for complete withdrawal from Arab land occupied in 1967 and a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem.

2.2.5. Cohesion devices

The object of cohesion devices is to give readers information, and wow them with convoluted style. As mentioned earlier, the body of international news on E.I.N. is composed of block paragraphs, which are mostly formed from only one sentence. Series of paragraphs must be linked to one another to make the news content flow naturally from the beginning to the end. In those paragraphs, there must be transitions so that the readers have no trouble understanding.

Cohesion devices in the news may be anything from one word to a complete sentence:

- Single words: for, also, finally, furthermore, meanwhile...
- Synonyms
- Phrases: on the other hand, in response, in addition...
- Clauses: when this had been done, if this were the case...
- Sentences: A second factor needs to be considered...
- Repeated key words, especially key words from the headline or key words from the preceding paragraphs.

The last cohesion device is the most frequently used to connect one paragraph to others. Take the following international news items from AP (26/3/2007) as an illustration of cohesion devices:

The headlines: Cambodia's Prince Norodom Ranariddh Charged With Adultery
Prince Norodom Ranariddh has been charged with adultery for having a mistress while still being legally married to his wife, a Cambodian court official said Monday.

The next paragraph repeatedly refer to the main character:

The prince, a former prime minister now living in France, faces up to a year in prison and fines of up to $245 if convicted, said Sok Kalyan, a prosecutor at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court, adding that the charge was filed last month.

The third paragraph introduces another person related to the prince, while repeating the key word charge and Cambodia:

Muth Chantha, a spokesman for Ranariddh, said the charge is politically motivated. The prince's opponents want to prevent him from returning to take part in political activity in Cambodia, Chantha said.

The fourth paragraph again mentions the key word adultery charge and the main character Ranariddh, in the mean time introduce a new factor of the event Funcinpec party:

The adultery charge is the latest legal trouble facing Ranariddh, who was sentenced in absentia to 18 months in prison last week after being sued for embezzlement by members of the royalist Funcinpec party he once led.

The following paragraph repeatedly mention Funcinpec and the main character Ranariddh:

Funcinpec ousted Ranariddh as its leader in October, citing his alleged incompetence and frequent absences from the country.
CHAPTER 3: DISCOURSE PROPERTIES OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS ON VIETNAMESE INTERNET NEWSPAPERS (V.I.N.) IN COMPARISON WITH E.I.N.

3.1. Generic structure

In general, there is no big difference in overall generic structure of international news between V.I.N. and E.I.N., because they are of the same genre. They all have to comply with basic principles of general internet news. Moreover, the readers have the similar reading styles (they just scan internet newspapers for news), reading speed (slower than reading print newspapers) and memorizing process (less information remained in mind after reading on the internet).

Therefore, beside the three most significant elements: headline, lead, and body, international news on V.I.N. also consists of other supplementary factors (the time of releasing the news, the name of writer) and optional elements (the sub-headlines, hyperlinks and non-linguistic features).

However, there is a little change in the order of these news elements, which is shown in the following figure:
Again, headlines and leads are indispensable elements because they are often posted on the front page of any internet newspapers and provide hyperlinks for readers to carry on. For example:

**CHINH TRỊ**
- HNDND Đà Nẵng khẳng định Hoàng Sa là lãnh thổ thuộc TP
- Cam kết CĐA cho Việt Nam đạt kỳ lục 5,4 tỷ USD

**KINH TẾ**
- Vietcombank tự tin IPO với mức giá khởi điểm 100 nganxep
- TP.HCM: Ác lý hương thơm

**VĂN HÓA**
- Sở duyệt biên cảnh film Thái tổ Lý Công Uan
- Hồ Gươm sẽ có bục tường chân không lở, xả sá?

**CÔN TÍCH - VIÊN THỌNG**
- JetBlue cung cấp dịch vụ e-mail, VIM trên chuyến bay
- VinaPhone, MobiFone nổ lực chế giảm cước

**TƯƠNG VIỆTNAM.NET**
- Đại sứ mới lên got chỉ?
- Yên miền đi mất cuối đời Tổng thống Musharra

**LÀM BÁO CƯỜNG VIỆTNAMNET**
- Bài rac tự phát anh hưởng tới người dân
- Bàn bạc hiện lê cho đối tư viên Việt

**XÃ HỘI**
- Video: Lời khai mâu thuẫn "tổ.stats"
- Bàu người chết di 3 tuổi!

**QUỐC TẾ**
- CIA huy động chim chỉ hình thấm và vụ cắm cò khung bể
- Bệnh dễ mắc nhất là căn không chuyển do bàn

**GIÁO DỤC**
- Vụ dán biển HS: Báo trước tên lên tiếng!
- Thêm một học sinh mầm non bị... tết

**NHÀ THÁO**
- Ngày 7/12: Giám thềm của HCV, TTN năng lên xếp nỗi
- Biên xích VN lấp đủ dài trong ngày ra quân

**KHOA HỌC**
- Người cựu tế báo gọc: Đăng lâm thất. Chứt không chỗ!
- 30 ngày nào, người dân mới được xem thể của tình

**THỦ HÀ QUỐC**
- Đạo đức xã hội đang cần “may trò tho”?
- "Hai khốn": Hiếu quá và hà luy

---

**Figure 9: Extract from a vietnamnet front page**

### 3.1.1. The headline, the time and source of information

Headlines on **E.I.N.** is always the first part of the news. On **V.I.N.**, it is flexible whether the headline or the time and date come first. **Vnexpress** often puts time before the headline while other internet newspapers place it after the headline.

Headlines on **E.I.N.** is followed by name of the reporter or source of information. This is not the same as **V.I.N.**, in which the name of reporter or source of information stands at the end of the news.
3.1.2. The lead

Leads on E.I.N. often start with location. Meanwhile, there is no location identified at the beginning of leads on V.I.N.

Performing the same functions as the lead of international news on E.I.N, leads on V.I.N. are also supposed to be answer to the six key questions: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY and HOW.

There are not many leads which can satisfy readers by answering all the six question like the following lead:

Quân đội Pakistan hôm qua đã đốt ngớt thực hiện một chiến dịch tổng lực nhằm vào Nhà thò Đỏ ở thủ đô Islamabad do các cuộc đàm phán để giải thoát phụ nữ và trẻ em bị cầm giự tại đạo đã thất bại.

(thanhnienonline- 10/7/2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>Quân đội Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHEN</td>
<td>hôm qua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW</td>
<td>đốt ngớt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHAT</td>
<td>thực hiện một chiến dịch tổng lực</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHERE</td>
<td>nhằm vào Nhà thò Đỏ ở thủ đô Islamabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHY</td>
<td>do các cuộc đàm phán để giải thoát phụ nữ và trẻ em bị cầm giự tại đạo đã thất bại</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10: Analyzing key elements of a news lead on V.I.N.

News leads on E.I.N. and V.I.N. share a common feature that none of them provides answer to only one question. Moreover, the leads consisting of three or four elements are the most preferred with 42% and 35% respectively. Only 3% of leads answer two questions, 17% of leads are responses to five elements, and the
rest 5% of leads are made up from all the six key elements. Data are shown in the below chart:

![Pie chart showing the distribution of key elements in news leads on V.I.N.]

**Figure 10: The presence of key elements in news leads on V.I.N.**

### 3.1.3. The body

Generally speaking, the body structure of international news on V.I.N. is similar to that on E.I.N. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAD</th>
<th>Statement about details of the event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mờt tranh đồng đất mạnh 7,5 độ Richter xây ra vào lúc 17h05 giờ GMT ngày 8/8 (khoảng 0h sáng nay 9/8, giờ Hà Nội) đã làm rung chuyển đảo Java của Indonesia.</td>
<td>Tâm của con chấn động được xác định nằm ở độ sâu 289km dưới đáy biển, cách thủ đô Jakarta 100km về phía đông. Theo Trung tâm Cảnh báo sóng thần Thái Bình Dương, do tâm của trận động đất ở quá sâu dưới đáy biển nên khó có khả năng xảy ra sóng thần. Trận động đất kéo dài khoảng 1 phút cùng với các dư chấn của nó đã làm nhiều tòa nhà cao tầng ở thủ đô Jakarta và một số vùng phụ cận bị rung dữ dội. Người dân hoảng loạn bỏ chạy ra đường.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments from people involved

Một người dân tại thủ đô Jakarta cho biết, bà đang ngủ trong nhà mình ở tầng 26 của một căn hộ chung cư bị thức giấc do khối nhà chung cư mà bà đang ở bị du đưa dời.

Background information

Động đất và sóng thần thương xảy ra ở Indonesia do đất nước này nằm trên một "Vành đai lửa" Thái Bình Dương. Theo AP, trong trận động đất gây sóng thần xảy ra vào tháng 12/2004 có tám cách mặt đất khoảng 30km, đã làm hơn 130.000 người thiệt mạng tại Indonesia.

Table 11: Structure of a news body on V.I.N.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>One-sentence paragraphs</th>
<th>Two-sentence paragraphs</th>
<th>Three-sentence paragraphs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.I.N.</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.I.N.</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12: Differences in a body’s paragraph between V.I.N. and E.I.N

Unlike international news on E.I.N., one-sentence paragraphs with limited numbers of clause are not popular on V.I.N. This facilitates the Vietnamese readers in simplifying the information so that they feel the most understandable. For example:

Hôm 17/8 vừa qua, Tổng thống Nga Vladimir Putin tuyên bố nước này nói lại các chuyến bay Tuấn tra khập thể giới của những chiến phi cơ ném bom
Bodies of international news on **V.I.N.** also comply to the inverted pyramid structure with the information is sequenced basing on the level of importance. For example:

*Ít nhất 113 thương dân đã thiệt mạng và hơn 200 người bị thương sau 3 ngày xảy ra giao tranh dữ dội giữa quân chính phủ và lực lượng nội dấy ở thủ đô Mogadishu.*


3.1.4 Optional news elements

International news on V.I.N. also consists of some optional factors such as the hyperlinks, sub-headlines or non-linguistic features. Considering the following news:

Mỹ thật chất cảm vân chống Myanmar

23:25' 25/09/2007 (GMT+7)

Tổng thống Bush hôm 25/9 đã tuyên bố các biện pháp trừng phạt mới của Mỹ đối với nhà cầm quyền Myanmar và hồi thúc các nước khác làm theo.

''Mỹ sẽ thật chất các biện pháp trừng phạt kinh tế đối với giới lãnh đạo Myanmar và những người ủng hộ họ về tài chính, ông Bush phát biểu trước Đại hội đồng LHQ, nói thêm rằng Mỹ sẽ mở rộng lệnh cấm visa đối với các quan chức nước này và gia đình họ.

Tuyên bố của ông Bush được đưa ra sau khi 30.000 nhà sư và 70.000 người khác tuân hành khắp trung tâm của thành phố chính ở Myanmar, bất chấp lời cảnh báo chính phủ sẽ điều động quân đội để chấm dứt các cuộc biểu tình.

Biểu tình xảy ra sau khi gia nhập liên hiệu đột ngột tăng vọt vào tháng trước. Hôm nay, chính quyền nước này đã triển khai hàng trăm binh sĩ và cảnh sát chống bạo động tại Yangon. Lệnh giới nghiêm vào ban đêm đã được ban bố và cấm tập trung quá 5 người.
The components of the above news item are identified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEADLINE</th>
<th>Mỹ thật chất cảm vấn chính Myanmar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>23:25' 25/09/2007 (GMT+7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD</td>
<td>Tổng thống Bush hôm 25/9 đã tuyên bố các biện pháp trừng phạt mới của Mỹ đối với nhà cầm quyền Myanmar và hồi thucht các nước khác làm theo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BODY</td>
<td>`Mỹ sẽ thật chất các biện pháp trừng phạt kinh tế đối với giới lãnh đạo Myanmar và những người ủng hộ vô tội tài chính, ông Bush phát biểu trước Đại hội đồng LHQ, nói thêm rằng Mỹ sẽ mở rộng lệnh cấm visa đối với các quan chức nước này và gia đình họ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuyên bố của ông Bush được đưa ra sau khi 30.000 nhà sư và 70.000 người khác tuân hành khám trung tâm của thành phố chính ở Myanmar, bắt chấp lời cảnh báo chính phủ sẽ điều động quân đội để chấm dứt các cuộc biểu tình.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biểu tình xảy ra sau khi gia nhiên liều dốt ngọt tăng vọt vào tháng trước. Hôm nay, chính quyền nước này đã triển khai hàng trăm binh sĩ và cảnh sát chống bạo động tại Yangon. Lệnh giới nghiêm vào ban đêm đã được ban bố và cầm tập trung quá 5 người.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuy nhiên, Hội đồng Bảo an lại chia rẽ về biện pháp trừng phạt nước này.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPORTER</td>
<td>Minh Son (theo Reuters, AFP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13: Example of typical international news on V.I.N.
3.2. Linguistic features

3.2.1. Lexical choice

One crucial difference of international news between **E.I.N.** and **V.I.N.** in terms of readers is: while **E.I.N.** is read by people worldwide, **V.I.N.** has a more limited number of audience, who are only from Vietnam or know Vietnamese. This decisive characteristic makes the linguistic features of international news on **V.I.N.** definitely not the same as its English counterpart.

The most striking difference in terms of lexical choice between **V.I.N.** and **E.I.N.** is the level of objectiveness and neutral language from the writers. Reporters of **E.I.N.** always try to avoid expressing their own opinions. On the other hand, we can see a lot ways using rhetorics in international news on **V.I.N.**, which may be inferred as the reporters’ point of view. For example:

*Người Mỹ “ngán” hàng Trung Quốc*  
Thanhnienonline- 30/6/2007

Instead of using a more neutral verb: *do not like*, or *không thích* in Vietnamese, the reporter chose the word *ngán*, which really conveys more than *do not like*.

*“Mỹ nhân” xỏ mũi FBI VÀ CIA*  
vnexpress-7/11/2007

*Mỹ nhân* in Vietnamese are often understood as *beautiful person*. But in this case, the writer wants to refer to *American people* or *the U.S.A* in general. The verb *xỏ mũi* obviously shows the writer’s personal viewpoint.

*“Tôn Ngộ Không” đái não New Delhi*  
tintuconline-1/11/2007

The above headline with the use of *Tôn Ngộ Không* and *đại não* will be surely very eye-catching and will stimulate readers to click on for more information. In fact, the news says about monkeys in New Delhi.

Considering other examples:
Rhetorical speech is often used in the headlines in order to attract readers. This difference between V.I.N. and E.I.N. may result from the different scale of impact. V.I.N. have restricted scale of influence, and E.I.N. have much wider scale. Moreover, it may be also affected by the subjectiveness, which is nature of Vietnamese thinking.

However, there still exist similarities in terms of lexical choice between V.I.N. and E.I.N. That is the use of popular and comprehensible words. Also, the international news on V.I.N. covers all issues: politics, economy, religion, lifestyles, health, education…So, like E.I.N., many term words of certain fields, relying on the main topic of the news are applied. For example:

Political news:

Washington, Tel Aviv và Liên minh châu Âu đều tỏ ra vui mừng trước chiến thắng của Nicolas Sarkozy trong cuộc bầu cử tổng thống Pháp hôm qua. Việc Sarkozy trở thành tổng thống Pháp cũng khiến trù sờ của EU tại Brussels hân hoan, bởi sự ủng hộ của ông dành cho kế hoạch cải cách kinh tế và nỗ lực cứu vãn hiện pháp EU. Vnexpress-7/5/2007
Economic news:


3.2.2 Tense

The tenses in Vietnamese are not expressed via the conjugation of verbs like in English. Instead, the using of words such as đã, đang, sẽ and time expression like hôm qua, hôm nay, tuần sau… will help determine the Vietnamese tenses.

In the international news on E.I.N., the time of happenings is only clearly claimed in the news body, but present simple tense is applied with headlines because that is the most concise way to convey key information. By contrast, tenses on V.I.N. are identified very straightforwardly, even in the headlines. For example:

Ông Chavez sẽ từ bỏ quyền lực vào năm 2013

thanhnienonline-30/11/2007

Lại thảm sát đắm máu tại Mỹ

vietnamnet- 28/11/2007

When there is no time expression in the headlines like the two above examples, the events are understood as happened already. For example with the headline Cháy lớn ở California, the news informs the incidents happened in the past.

Các vụ cháy rừng tại thành phố Malibu, Nam California, đã tàn phá một khu vực rộng lớn, giết chết ít nhất 1 người và đe dọa những ngôi nhà trị giá hàng triệu USD của nhiều ngôi sao Hollywood. Theo Hãng tin AFP, gió quá mạnh khiến cho các đóm cháy trở nên hung h_asmn. Trong đó, hơn 500 nhân viên
chữa cháy đang được huy động để không cho cháy đâm cháy mà người ta cho là do cấp diện bị đốt gây ra. Một số tòa nhà bị thiếu rụi và hàng ngàn cư dân được sơ tán khi đâm cháy tràn qua những ngọn đồi gần biển.

Or the headline Iran chế tạo bom thông minh introduces the new successful invention of Iran:

Giới chức quốc phòng Iran hôm 22.8 cho biết nước này đã chế tạo được bom thông minh nặng 900 kg. Theo Hãng tin IRNA của Iran, bom thông minh này - có tên gọi là Qased - đã được các chuyên gia trong Bộ Quốc phòng Iran chế tạo và Tehran đang chuẩn bị sản xuất hàng loạt quả bom thông minh này.

3.2.3. Directness and indirectness

Similar to international news on E.I.N., directness and indirectness appears in all news on V.I.N. in three main types:

Direct quotations:

Bộ trưởng Nội vụ Thái Lan Aree Wongariya cho biết đã lệnh cho tất cả các tỉnh tăng cường an ninh cho dịp năm mới truyền thống. "Chúng tôi phải thật chặt an ninh ở mọi nơi. Tôi đã lệnh cho tất cả các tỉnh tăng cường cảnh giác và cử các thông tin viên đi khắp nơi để tìm manh mối".

Partial quotations:

Ông Kim Il Chol còn cho rằng việc trở thành một thế lực hạt nhân trên thế giới "là một sự kiện lịch sử đáng ca tụng" của CHDCND Triều Tiên, hiện
thúc hóa kỹ quan về một đất nước đủ hung mạnh để không ai dám khiêu khích


Indirect quotations:

Johndroe âm chỉ việc nhà thương thuyết hàng đầu của Iran là Ali Larijani cảnh báo rằng Tehran có thể từ bỏ Hiệp ước không phổ biến hạt nhân, nếu sức ép từ bên ngoài đối với chương trình nguyên tử của họ tăng cao.


Investigating 150 international news items on V.I.N. shows the similar result as E.I.N.: indirect quotations are used most frequently, then direct quotations and partial quotations the least. However, the rate is a bit different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotations</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
<th>Partial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.I.N.</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.I.N.</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 14: Directness and indirectness on V.I.N. and E.I.N.

3.2.4 Sentence patterns

3.2.4.1 The headline

Surveying 150 pieces of international news on V.I.N. shows that news headlines are shaped from either phrases or sentences, in which sentence headlines overwhelm phrase ones with 85% and 15%.

Like international news on E.I.N., there is no headline on V.I.N. made up from a word. Nevertheless, while 41% of E.I.N. headlines are fragments, no such kind of headline forming is found on V.I.N.
Table 15: Types of headlines on V.I.N. and E.I.N.

- The headline as a phrase

All phrase headlines in the study of 150 news items on E.I.N. are noun phrase. In the case of international news on V.I.N., phrase headlines are flexibly applied, mainly with two types: noun phrases and verb phrases. Besides, adjective phrases and prepositional phrases are sometimes recruited.

Table 16: Types of phrase headlines on V.I.N.

There are more noun phrases employed than other types because noun phrases are the most suitable to state new information. Looking back to the structure of noun phrases we mentioned in the previous section, we see that Vietnamese noun phrases have no pre-modification. The head nouns, therefore, stand initially and are usually followed by post-modification. In the below examples, the head nouns are underlined:

Cuộc nội chiến trong Nhà Trang

Bão táp giữa chính trường Israel

Bước đi nguy hiểm của Hamas
International news on \textbf{V.I.N.} also use verb phrases as headlines. Nouns serve as the heads in noun phrases, and similarly, verb phrases have verbs as the heads. Head verbs on \textbf{V.I.N.} are also placed at the beginning of the phrase. Take the following phrases as illustrations, in which the head verbs are underlined:

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{Khai mạc hội nghị hòa bình Trung Đông} \quad \text{VnMedia- 26/10/2007}
\item \textit{Phát hiện cúm gia cầm ở Bangladesh} \quad \text{tintuconline- 12/10/2007}
\item \textit{Cứu thoát toàn bộ hành khách sau vụ tàu đâm bàng} \quad \text{vnexpress-25/10/2007}
\end{itemize}

When adjectives hold up the position of the heads in phrases, we have adjective phrases, which are sometimes applied to international news on \textbf{V.I.N.} For example:

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{Căng thẳng cuộc đua giành sự đề cử trong Đảng Dân chủ} \quad \text{thanhnienonline- 1/11/2007}
\item \textit{Nóng bỏng cuộc chạy đua vũ trụ} \quad \text{vnMedia- 3/9/2007}
\end{itemize}

Prepositional phrases are occasionally used as headlines on \textbf{V.I.N.} For example:

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{Bên trong chợ thuốc phiện Afghanistan} \quad \text{vietnamnet- 30/8/2007}
\item \textit{Từ Seattle tới VN} \quad \text{tintuconline- 2/10/2007}
\end{itemize}

- \textbf{The headline as a sentence}

Like international news on \textbf{E.I.N.}, sentence headlines are still the most pervasive on \textbf{V.I.N.} because they take along the amount of information that is sufficient enough for internet readers to continue with the rest of news.

As for the four types of sentences that Quirk (1973:191) points out (statement, question, command and exclamation), the survey among 150 pieces of international
news on V.I.N. sees that no command and exclamation sentences are used as headlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Commands</th>
<th>Exclamations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.I.N.</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.I.N.</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 17: Types of sentence headlines on V.I.N. and E.I.N.*

Like the sentence headlines on E.I.N., statement headlines dominate question headlines with 85% versus 15% correspondingly.

Examples of statement headlines:

*Chiến ham Trung Quốc lần đầu đến thăm Nhật Bản*

VnMedia- 26/7/2007

*Tổng thống Iran đề nghị được giám sát bao cung tổng thống Mỹ*

Vietnamnet- 1/10/07

*Pakistan thề ten làta hành trình*

Vnexpress- 26/8/2007

*Mỹ sẽ bán bom thông minh cho Singapore*

Tintuconline-18/8/2007

Examples of question headlines:

*Hằng hãng không quốc gia Italia giá 1 euro?* — vietnamnet- 22/7/2007


Comparing the appearance of simple sentences and complex sentences as headlines unveils a fact that simple sentences are more popular. This is the similarity between E.I.N. and V.I.N.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Simple sentences</th>
<th>Complex sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.I.N.</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.I.N.</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 18: Simple vs. complex sentences on V.I.N. and E.I.N. headlines*

Examples of simple sentences:

\[
\text{CHDCND Triệu Tiến có bước chuyển tích cực}
\]

thanhnienonline- 17/6/2007

\[
\text{Nga đưa tiến Yeltsi}
\]


Examples of complex sentences:

\[
\text{Bắc Kinh trong sương mù, nhiều chuyến bay bị hủy}
\]

vnexpress- 8/10/2007

\[
\text{Iran bắt động nổi vì vấn đề hạt nhân}
\]

vietnamnet- 30/9/2007

\[
\text{Hillary hứa thu hẹp quyền lực nếu đắc cử tổng thống Mỹ}
\]

ttvnonline- 26/9/2007

Analyzing simple sentence headlines on V.I.N. indicates that there are plenty of sentence structures used. Like international news on E.I.N., SVO and SVA are of the most priority compared to the other types. For example:
The structure SV is of the least preference, because it provides the least information to readers. For example:

SV:  

Liên Xô trở lại        vnMedia- 26/8/2007

There is no big difference in the use of the other sentence structures in the headlines on V.I.N. such as SVC, SVOA, SVOC or SVOO. For example:

SVC:  

Pakistan thành nam châm không bớ        vnexpress- 14/10/2007

SVOA :  

Thồ Nhĩ Kỳ leo thang chiến dịch quân sự gần Irác.  

vietnamnet- 14/10/2007

SVOC:  

Mỹ tuyên bố California là vùng thảm họa  

thanhniennonline- 21/9/2007

SVOO:  

Lánh đoạn Hội giáo gửi thông điệp hoà bình tới giáo hoàng  

vietnamnet- 29/9/2007
Statistics about the ratio of sentence patterns used in headlines on V.I.N. with comparison to E.I.N. are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Patterns</th>
<th>SV</th>
<th>SVO</th>
<th>SVC</th>
<th>SVA</th>
<th>SVOA</th>
<th>SVOC</th>
<th>SVOO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.I.N.</td>
<td></td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.I.N.</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 19: Sentence patterns in headlines on V.I.N. and E.I.N.*

3.2.4.2 The lead and the body

In terms of sentence types, leads and bodies of international news on V.I.N. also engage the complex sentences rather than the simple ones. For example:

_Nguời phát ngôn Bộ Ngoại giao Iran Mohammad Ali Hosseini hôm qua đã lên án quyết định của Anh phong tuộc hiệp sĩ cho nhà văn Salman Rushdie._

thanhnienonline- 17/6/2007

_Tổng thống Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono đã công bố quyết định cải tổ nội các hôm thứ hai vừa qua có liên quan đến bộ trưởng viễn chinh phủ nhằm lấy lại uy tín đối với người dân nước này._

Vnexpress- 2/7/2007

_Ông Chris Albrecht, Chủ tịch Hội đồng Quản trị kiêm Giám đốc điều hành kênh truyền hình HBO đã bị buộc từ chức hôm thứ tư (9.5) vừa qua sau khi bị bắt giữ tại khách sạn MGM ở Las Vegas hôm chủ nhật trước đó do tình nghi đến vụ việc tân công người bạn gái của mình cách đây 16 năm những sự đó đã được thà ra._

Thanhnienonline-10/5/2007
3.2.5. Cohesion devices

As mentioned in the previous section, the body of international news on V.I.N. is also composed of block paragraphs. Block paragraphing makes the use of effective transitions very important.

Like E.I.N., the mostly used cohesion device is repetition of the key words which are presented in the headlines. Take a news item on V.I.N. as an illustration for the use of cohesion devices:

The headline: Taliban tuyên bố sẽ định đoạt số phận 21 con tin Hàn Quốc vào trưa 1.8.

Key words from the headline: Taliban, 21 con tin Hàn Quốc, trưa 1.8

In the lead, those key words are repeated. The bold adverb sau khi helps to connect the two clauses of the sentence:

Nỗ lực giải cứu những người Hàn Quốc bị các tay súng Taliban cầm giữ tại Afghanistan đã trở nên cấp bách hơn bao giờ hết vào hôm 31.7, sau khi Taliban hả sát con tin thứ hai và đặt thói hận chót mới cho số phận của 21 con tin còn lại.

The lead mentions Afghanistan, the shelter of Taliban, which appears in the second paragraph. There are two sentences in this paragraph, being linked by repeating the name Shim, the character of the event.

Cảnh sát Afghanistan sáng qua đã tìm thấy thi thể của Shim Sung-min, 29 tuổi, bị vấp chân một con đường ở làng Arzoo, ngôi làng cách thị trấn Ghazni khoảng 10 km về phía đông nam. Shim, một cửu chuyên viên công nghệ thông tin, là thành viên của nhóm cứu trợ Hàn Quốc bị Taliban bắt kể hôm 19.7.
The news goes on with a direct quotation from a spokesman who works for Taliban, the key word *Taliban* is once again referred. The paragraph content also focuses on giving more details explaining the headline:

"Nếu chính quyền Kabul và Chính phủ Hàn Quốc không đưa ra câu trả lời tích cực đối với yêu cầu của chúng tôi về việc thả các tù nhân Taliban vào giữa trưa ngày 1.8, chúng tôi sẽ giết các con tin còn lại", người phát ngôn *Taliban Q.Yousuf* nói với Hãng tin Reuters qua điện thoại từ một địa điểm bị mất vào hôm 31.7. Y cho biết các nhà thương thuyết Afghanistan đã không liên lạc với Taliban kể từ khi con tin thứ hai bị giết vào tối 30.7, rằng Taliban nghi ngờ chính quyền Kabul và các lực lượng nước ngoài định tung chiến dịch giải cứu.

To relate the two sentences in the above paragraph, the reporter uses personal pronoun *Y* (he ) to refer to the spokesman.
CONCLUSION

1. Summary of main findings

International news on E.I.N. and V.I.N. has been analyzed in terms of two main fields: generic structure and linguistic features.

As for generic structure, the key elements of news (headline, reporter, date and time of releasing the news, lead, body) as well as other optional factors (sub-headline, hyperlinks or non-linguistic features) have been pointed out.

As far as the linguistic features are concerned, the thesis has been focused on:

- Lexical choice
- Tense
- Directness and indirectness
- Sentence patterns
- Cohesion devices

The thesis is mainly aimed at finding out the similarities and differences between the two subject groups. The ultimate findings show that the two groups of subject share some common characteristics, but they also expose a lot of differences.

1.1 Similarities

1.1.1 In terms of generic structure

- Beside the three crucial segments belonging to the news: the headline, the lead and the body, there are other factors such as the date-time of releasing the news, name of reporter, the sub-headlines, the hyperlinks and non-linguistic features. These news elements perform the same functions on E.I.N. and V.I.N.
- The lead: The lead answer important questions of WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW. No lead on both E.I.N. and V.I.N. provides answer to only one question. Leads giving answers to 3 key questions are of the most preference.

- The body: The body on both E.I.N. and V.I.N. employs the inverted pyramid structure and gives readers three kinds of information:
  - details of the events
  - comments from people involved
  - background information

Body structure is made up of block paragraphs. In most cases, one-sentence paragraphs are applied.

1.1.2 In terms of linguistic features

- Lexical choice: Popular words are preferred on both E.I.N. and V.I.N. International news covers all issues ranging from politics, economy, religion, lifestyles to health, education…Correspondingly, there appear many term words of certain fields, relying on the main topic of the news.

- Directness and indirectness: international news on E.I.N. and V.I.N. all recruits the use of direct and indirect speech. Indirect quotations are most frequently used, followed by direct quotations and partial quotations are the least prevalent.

- Sentence patterns:
  - The headlines:
    - A headline may be formed from a phrase or a sentence.
    - Sentence headlines are the most pervasive.
    - There is no headline formed from a word
    - Headlines as phrase: mostly noun phrases
- Headlines as sentence: more statement sentences than questions, more simple sentences than complex sentences
- There appear all sentence patterns: SV, SVO, SVC, SVA, SVOA, SVOC, SVOO, among which SV patterns are the least used.
- The lead and the body: All leads and news bodies are complex sentences.

- Cohesion devices: There are transitions to link the sentences within a paragraph and among paragraphs. The mostly used way of cohesion is repeating the key words from the headlines.

1.2. Differences

1.2.1. In terms of generic structure

- Sequence of headline, time and source of information:

On E.I.N., headline comes first, then the date of time of releasing the news, followed by name of reporter or source of information. But on V.I.N., it is not fixed whether the headline or the time comes first. Name of reporter or source of information is placed at the end of the news.

- The lead is enclosed with the location on E.I.N. but no location is identified at the beginning of the lead on V.I.N. Refer to Figure 6 and Figure 10.

The differences in presence of news elements between E.I.N. and V.I.N. leads can be indicated in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2 elements</th>
<th>3 elements</th>
<th>4 elements</th>
<th>5 elements</th>
<th>6 elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E.I.N.</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.I.N.</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 20: Differences in the presence of news elements between E.I.N. and V.I.N. leads*
- The body: Numbers of sentences in a body’s paragraph are different between E.I.N. and V.I.N. Refer to Table 12 for more detail.

1.3.2. In terms of linguistic features

-Lexical choice: Reporters of E.I.N. always try to avoid manifesting their own opinions. On the other hand, there are many rhetorics in international news on V.I.N., which may be inferred as the reporters’ point of view.

-Tense: In the case of E.I.N., the time of happenings is only clearly claimed in the news body, and present simple tense is applied with headlines regardless of whether it is saying about the past, present or future. However, tenses on V.I.N. are identified very straightforwardly, even in the headlines.

- Sentence patterns: Differences between E.I.N. and V.I.N. in terms of sentence patterns are only shown in the headline:

  - Headlines on E.I.N. are in the forms of phrases, fragments or sentences. But headlines on V.I.N. have only two forms: either phrases or sentences.

  - Headlines as phrases: There is certain number of verb-phrases, adjective phrases and preposition phrases in headlines on V.I.N., while mostly noun phrases are used on E.I.N.

  - Headlines as sentences:

    - All four types of sentences (statement, question, command, exclamation) are used on E.I.N. but there is no command or exclamation sentences in headlines on V.I.N.

    - The ratio of simple and complex sentences in headlines on E.I.N. is 75% vs. 35%. But that rate changes in headlines on V.I.N. with 80% and 20% respectively.
- Sentence patterns: ranging according to the most to the least being used, on **E.I.N.** the order of sentence patterns is: SVOA- SVO- SVA-SVC-SVOC-SVOO-SV, but on **V.I.N.** we have SVO-SVA-SVOA-SVOC-SVC-SVOO-SV.

2. **Implications for English language teaching and learning**

Newspapers have always provided a welcome basis for discourse studies. The number of researches in which newspaper-based corpora are employed in order to investigate certain aspects of language has risen considerably. Although newspapers obviously do not represent the entire language, their most important advantage is that there is hardly any other domain which offer such a broad number of linguistically distinctive varieties (Crystal 1994:388) because they contain numerous text types.

International news on internet newspapers is among those text types, encompassing many distinctive features. Identifying those features by analyzing and comparing between **E.I.N.** and **V.I.N.** is apparently very beneficial to English learning.

In order to attain a good command of a foreign language, learners should either be exposed to it in genuine circumstances and with natural frequency, or painstakingly study lexis and syntax by trying to create contact with natural input. International news on **E.I.N.** is a huge source of that natural input, which is always available and very easy to get. News in general and international news on internet in particular is therefore often considered the main source of learning materials in classroom. Understanding its discourse properties definitely facilitates the process of English learning.

The findings of this study can be applied in language teaching. For example, with reference to teaching vocabulary, international news’ topics are related to a lot of fields. Learners can learn much from terminologies. The vocabulary memorizing process is stimulated because words are grouped according to the topics. Moreover,
international news provide them with useful semantic contexts to guess or infer the word meaning, finding the synonyms, antonyms

As for teaching and learning grammar, realization of grammatical items such as the tense, the voice, the directness and indirectness, cohesive devices…are very useful methods for learners.

International news of internet newspapers can also be used as good materials of teaching and practicing translation because the lexical choice allows the use of popular and informal language. In addition, the news content is familiar to the people’s daily life.

3. Suggestions for further research

On carrying out this study, I myself have gained much knowledge and are more interested in the internet news. The Internet has been indeed proving to be a very interactive, dynamic medium that combines visual and textual elements in an environment that is nearly unrestricted by time and space. International news is only a small part among those elements, which definitely encompass the interesting discourse properties. Other elements on the internet beside the news, for example the online advertisements, online chatting, or the blogs…are expected to be very attracting for further researches.

Because of the limitation of time and knowledge, the writer unavoidably makes some mistakes while conducting the study. Suggestions and constructive remarks are therefore highly appreciated. However, the writer hopes that, to some extent, this thesis will be of usefulness for readers.