Ideology in the news through active, passive sentences and nominalization: A study on the terrorist attack in Ankara reported in British and American newspapers

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Abstract

This study focuses on the investigation of frequency and distribution of the active, passive sentences and nominalized structures in new reports about 'the terrorist attack in Ankara on October 10th' (2015) across British and American newspapers. In the light of this purpose, the following research questions are addressed:

1.How is the news about the terrorist attack in Ankara reported in British and American newspapers as far as active, passive sentences and nominalized structures are concerned?

2.What are the frequencies and distributions of active, passive sentences and nominalized structures in news reports across British and American newspapers?

The data of the study are analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively by finding out the frequencies and distributions of the structures, and by explaining examples from the document analysis process respectively. American newspapers were found to present the agent more frequently compared to British newspapers. The results of the study show that there are instances of passivization in mitigating a claim about the agent, or attenuating to present the details of the events. The journalists use active voice in describing the actions and events whereas they prefer passive voice in presenting the actions in which the agent is unknown or irrelevant. As the newspapers examined within the domain of this study are the most circulating and leading newspapers, the choice of these structures and their potential role in conveying ideology have crucial role in presentation of the image of Turkey in external media (i.e. the news reported abroad about Turkey).

Keywords: Active and passive sentences; nominalization; ideology; news reports.

1. Introduction

The genre of news reporting has gained attention among the scholars studying in the field of sociology, political discourse and linguistics. Different writing styles and the choice of linguistic strategies in news reporting have been the subject of inquiry especially in linguistic research. News reporting is a crucial component of media discourse and it aims to inform large number of audience about the events. Therefore, media are the reflective of society, and in this respect, Oktar (2001)

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argues, "the media do not passively describe or record news events, but actively reconstruct them, mostly on the basis of their own ideological affiliations" (p.320). In order to examine the presentation of ideologies in media, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Analysis (SFA) are two approaches commonly employed to have a deep understanding about this issue. One of the pioneers of CDA, Fairclough (1995) argues that ideology invests language "in producing or interpreting a text, and the ways they are articulated together in orders of discourse" (p. 74) through both lexical meanings and "presuppositions, implicatures, metaphors, and coherence, all aspects of meaning" (p.74). This variety in investing ideology yield to "establishing a categorical and authoritative and decisive image than with giving information" (Fairclough, 1995:75).

Having mentioned the relationship between media and ideology, it is worth emphasizing that language is the key component in expressing an ideology in media. In this respect, Xie (2013) indicates, "languages are 'meaning potentials' that provide users with choices, arranged as 'system networks', about how to express their thoughts. At the level of lexis, the ideological implications of this fact are widely recognized" (p.42). Considering the fact that language in the news conveys a certain ideology, it is important to have a clear-cut definition of ideology as it is a quite broad term covering social and political aspects. In the present study, Van Dijk's (1998) definition of ideology is adopted, he defined it as follows:

> Ideologies are representations of who we are, what we stand for, what our values are, and what our relationships are with other groups, in particular our enemies or opponents, that is, those who oppose what we stand for, threaten our interests and prevent us from equal access to social resources and human rights (residence, citizenship, employment, housing, status and respect, and so on) (p. 69).

Such a definition leads us to the importance of gaining a deep understanding about different interpretations of ideological constructions presented by media. In this regard, considering the representation of discourse in news media, Fairclough (1995) indicates, "it can be seen as an ideological process of considerable social importance" (p. 65). One of the most powerful sources among the media is news reports where news reports are presented to a large audience by carrying a certain ideological aspect. In this respect, Shojaei, Youssefi and Hosseini (2013) indicate that "framing social, political, cultural, economic, and ideological realities highly depends on the language use of the mass media in general, and printed news media in particular" (p. 859).

The ideology in news reports is conveyed not only through the linguistic devices such as lexicalization, intertextuality, stance markers, discourse connectives; but also through the use of direct quotes, pictures and historical commentaries. Among the linguistic features used to convey the ideology in news reports are active and passive voices and nominalized structures. It is worth presenting the definition of nominalization used within the scope of this study as it is one of the key concepts in the wholes study. Nominalization is defined as "a transformation which reduces a whole clause to its nucleus, the verb, and turns that into a noun" (Fowler, Hodge, Kress &Trew, 1979) and nominalization semantically denotes events, propositions, and states of affairs (Zucchi, 1993).

The use of active and passive sentences makes it impossible to report the events in a neutral way because "such choices, which the language system both enables and forces us to make in every utterance, are precisely the points at which the operation of ideology can and does occur" (Xie,2013: 42). Therefore, journalists have to make a choice among the active voice, passive voice or nominalized structures, because it is not possible to use them together in an utterance. Considering the fact that the representation of ideology shapes the audience and in turn the society and bearing the fact in mind that the preference of active, passive sentences and nominalized structures is not arbitrary, and the choice is based on a strategic manner. In this regard, the employment of active, passive sentences and

nominalized structures in news reports and their role in presenting an ideology should be analyzed. Conducting such an analysis is believed to provide us with a deeper understanding about the choice of these structures in the news reports about the terrorist attack in Ankara on October 10th in British and American newspapers in terms of the underlying ideological representations and interpretations. Thus, this analysis aims to investigate whether a single news item is presented differently in different newspapers from different countries based on the ideological perspectives or not.

1.1. *Theoretical background*

Linguistic research has focused on the examination of the relationship between language and ideology. The present study adopts the theoretical approach of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which is commonly associated with the works of Fairclough (1989, 1992, 1995) and Van Dijk (1993, 1996, 1998). CDA is a term used as a sub-branch of discourse analysis proposed by the scholars at the University of East Anglia. East Anglian scholars are commonly associated with this theoretical approach in the relevant literature. According to them, CDA, as a branch of linguistics, goes beyond the 'description of discourse to an explanation of how and why particular discourse are produced' (Teo, 2000:11). Discourse analysts commonly make use of the SFA (Halliday, 1994) in order to examine and explain the details of ideological preferences of the language users. In this sense, he suggests that language is a network of opinions, which provide the language users with the opportunity to make selections on an ideological basis. In parallel with this view, Van Dijk (1995) perceives discourse analysis as ideology analysis and he indicates, "ideologies are typically, though not exclusively, expressed and reproduced in discourse and communication, including non-verbal semiotic messages, such as pictures, photographs and movies" (p.17). Therefore, the component of discourse in examining the ideology covers a wide range of features from basic linguistic devices and word choices to semiotic choices.

In the relevant literature, it is a commonly accepted fact that media discourse is crucial in shaping the society by conveying an ideology, affecting the reality in social and political context (Ahangar, Sultani, Khoshkhoonejad, 2014). More specifically, news reports play an important role in representing the current issues in a society from national and international perspectives. As for their ideological role, reporting the news includes the selection, interpretation, and presentation of events to society, hence, "constructing reality in a manner corresponding with the underlying ideologies of the news producers and presenters" (Koosha and Shams, 2005:108).

Having mentioned the ideological roles of media discourse, it is necessary to understand what constitutes this ideology, how this ideology is shaped and the role of language in shaping this ideology. In the literature, characteristics of news language are said to be brevity, attribution, quotes, story structure, importance of the lead, stylistic consistency, rhetorical accessibility and local interpretation of globally accepted rules (Cotter, 2010). In terms of the language use in newspapers, Cotter (2010) indicates "while all journalists are very conscious of language use, and of assuming a special responsibility to upholding prescriptive norms, copy editors are especially prescriptive in their approach to the language of news stories, functioning as regulators not only for the profession but to safeguard the clarity and expressive power of the standard language in general" (p. 27). The language use here may include a variety of linguistic devices employed by the journalists. Voice is an important component among these structures conveying the journalists' position in the reported event, foregrounding or backgrounding the agent and action in a specific news. In this regard, voice includes the preference of the active voice, employment of passivization or nominalization and they carry a number of ideological functions. In the relevant literature, East Anglian group and their followers suggested that nominalization and passivization have ideological functions such as deleting agency,

reifying, positing reified concepts as agents, and maintaining unequal power relations (Billig, 2008). These terms are explained below:

- Deleting agency: According to the East Anglian group, "if speakers/writers used nominalization or passivization, they can transform statements that identified agents of actions into agentless statements that convey less information" (p.7).

- Reifying: By nominalization, reifying helps the speakers and writers "to convey that the entities, denoted by nominalization, have a real and necessary existence" (p.7).

- Positing reified concepts as agents: Speakers and writers make use of "the abstract, reified concepts as agents of processes and complete the transformation of processes into entities" (p.7).

- Maintaining unequal power relations: According to the East Anglian Group, it the writers of formal documents purposefully, in other words, not accidentally, tended to use nominalization and passivization. They point out that "formal discourse belongs to, and helps reproduce, a social context of inequality" (p.7).

Considering the functions and interpretations of the choice of active voice, the use of passivization and the employment of nominalization, it is safe to say that these preferences have the potential for ideological uses. In this regard, the ideologies of news reports could be speculated through positioning of participants and process choices, and their positioning in the clause (Thetela, 2001:354). In terms of their investigation, Van Dijk (2008) argues that the role of nominalization in discourse should be studied in comparison to possible alternative structures not in isolation. Therefore, nominalization, active and passive voice should be examined and analyzed together. Among these preferences, journalists especially prefer nominalization for various reasons such as lack of knowledge about the agent, irrelevant knowledge about the agency, the focus of author on the actions or victims rather than on the agents, lack of space, hiding or downgrading the responsible negative agency. (Van Dijk, 2008). Therefore, further studies should be examined and conducted in order to gain a deep understanding over the underlying reasons across these choices and the distribution of the preferences across active, passive sentences and nominalized structures.

1.2. *Literature Review*

The presence of ideology has been the subject of inquiry in political discourse, sociology and especially in linguistics. The relationship between ideology and its linguistic representation has been investigated particularly within the domain of different writing styles, the newspapers' policy, mainstream in media discourse and reporting traditions in journalism. Among these studies, one line of studies compared different newspapers from different countries' ideological backgrounds whereas a number of them investigated the linguistic and lexical choice behind the ideological construction.

The theoretical frameworks in CDA and the systematic functional linguistics have shed a light on such kind of research studies as they provide analytical tools from an ideological perspective. In this respect, for example, Vo (2013) examined the language and ideology in English and Vietnamese business hard news reporting and focused on the presentation of governments, central banks and people. It was found out that whereas governments and central banks are presented as more powerful than those in the English reports, people in Vietnamese are shown "as passive and absent while those in English are presented as active, performing various roles in the experiential world of business" (p. 1).

Studies in the field of linguistics have demonstrated that Western media construct ideological representations of the news from different countries and societies. The previous studies also show that these representations affect the interpretation of the target audience and shape the readers' interpretations of a fact.(Teo, 2000; Thetela, 2001; Fang, 2001; Oktar, 2001; Kuo & Nakamura, 2005; Koosha & Shams, 2005; Van Dijk, 2008; Shojaei, Youssefi & Hosseini, 2013; Xie, 2013; Vo, 2013;

Ahangar et.al., 2014), Among these studies, for example, Koosha and Shams (2005), adopted Halliday's transitivity model and examined the headlines of news story published by British newspapers on Iran's nuclear program. They found out that "British newspapers' coverage of Iran's nuclear tended to present a negative image of Iran and its nuclear program in the context of "us" and "them" (p.107). In another study conducted on the ideological presentation of news in Western media, Shojaei et.al. (2013) found out that the linguistic devices are the most important devices through which ideological representations can be conveyed in the news stories of newspapers and they include lexicalization and collocational patterns, presupposition, intertextuality, and modality.

Among these studies, Ahangar et.al. (2014) conducted a study in order to examine the presence of any ideology in the headlines of news story of Keyhan and Etemad Iranian newspapers and they found out that Keyhan newspapers tended to highlight semantic roles and processes of Principlists discourse whereas Etemad newspaper tended to foreground the reformists discourse. In addition to the political issues, racism has also been the subject of inquiry and in a study conducted by Toe (2000) in news reporting in two Australian newspapers, it was found out that there is the "evidence of a systematic othering and stereotyping of the ethnic community by the white majority" (p.7). In the relevant literature, Kuo and Nakamura (2005) brought a new perspective by examining the translated versions of the news report appearing in two ideologically opposed newspapers. They pointed out that despite both news articles are translated from an identical English text, "noticeable differences are found with respect to editorial deletions and additions, syntactic and lexical variations, as well as stylistic differences in paragraph/thematic combinations" (p. 410). They argue that these structural choices are not arbitrary and they are ideologically motivated. In the literature, there are also a number of studies conducted to examine the presentation of news from two ideologically opposed newspapers. For example, Fang (2001) focused on the discourse strategies of news reports in two ideologically opposed newspapers in China and s/he found out that both syntactic options and lexical choices are used to downplay or highlight the agent.

In nearly all studies conducted in this field of study, comparative analyses revealed that a news report is presented in different ways focusing on different ideological interpretations. Consequently, in Van Dijk's words, mental representations "are often articulated along Us versus Them dimensions, in which speakers of one group will generally tend to present themselves or their own group in positive terms, and other groups in negative terms" (p. 22).

In the Turkish setting, studies on the presentation of ideological aspects across newspapers are quite rare (Oktar, 2001; Oktar & Değer, 2015). To my best knowledge, Oktar (2001) is a pioneer in this field of study and she focused on the examination of the presentation of secularists and anti-secularists in two newspapers with different ideological orientations. She found out that there is "an ideological conflict between secularists and radical Islamists reflected in the media discourse, a conflict that lies behind the struggle between contemporaneity and anachronism, between progressiveness and reactionarism, between modernity and traditionalism" (p. 343).

Based on the theoretical background and the analysis of the relevant studies on this topic it is seen that "CDA is at its strongest in the direct comparison of different media accounts of the same event, demonstrating how language is a vehicle of covert interpretation in supposedly neutral reporting (Kuo &Nakamura, 2005: 396). Language, in this respect, involves transitivity as an analytical tool within the domain of Halliday's SFG together with thematization and lexical cohesion. According to Toe (2000), transitivity is a useful analytic tool that foregrounds the agency or, more accurately, the attribution of agency and process to the various participants in the text by the writer. In this respect, Billig (2008) points out that nominalization and passivization can be described as transformations. According to Billig (2008), as East Anglian group and some other analysts also emphasize, ideological

features associated with nominalization and passivization are "deleting agency; reifying; positing reified concepts as agents; maintaining unequal power relations" (p.6).

In terms of the preference of active and passive voice by the journalists, Busa (2014) points out that "the active voice is the preferred form because it allows the journalist to describe actions in a manner that is more direct and easier to understand, as it reflects the way people think and process information (p.102). S/he further indicates that passive voice is often preferred when an unknown or irrelevant performer performs the action. The following examples are provided from COCA corpus in order to show such a distinction:

1. The third child was found inside a back bedroom, near where Mr. Johnson had escaped to a roof ledge. (COCA: NYTimes)

2. Two police and four refugees were killed in the blast, which did not appear to be aimed at the visiting delegation. (COCA: AssocPress)

Having mentioned about one aspect of the preference of passive voice, passive voice can be used in a strategic manner in journalistic writing. In this respect, it was pointed out that "the passive voice can also be used to purposely leave the performer of the action unspecified, a strategy that the reporter can use to avoid ascribing direct responsibility for an action to anybody in particular" (Busa, 2014:102). Different from the use of passive voice in news reporting, active voice, as shown in the following examples, is used when the agent is known and specified (e.g. the police, a group of teenagers):

3. Police arrested 18 people, state TV reported, describing the protesters as rioters. (COCA: AssocPress)

4. A group of teenagers attacked a pizza delivery driver and robbed him of cash and a vehicle. A Jessup man, 18, was arrested. (COCA: WashPost)

5. In the past, North Korea has provoked us on many occasions, but this is the first time they have made a direct attack on South Korean soil, " said Lee, making his first public remarks since the crisis began last week with the attack on civilian-inhabited Yeonpyeong island. " Launching a military attack on civilians is a crime against humanity, even during wartime. (COCA: WashPost)

1.3. *Research questions*

In the present study, the critical discourse analysis is adopted in order to figure out whether a single news item is presented differently in different newspapers from different countries based on the ideological perspectives or not. In this regard, this study aims to find out how active, passive sentences and nominalization presented in news reports about the 'terrorist attack in Ankara on October 10th' (2015) in British and American newspapers. A further scope of this study is to investigate the frequency and distribution of the active, passive sentences and nominalized structures across different newspapers. In the light of the aforementioned purposes, the following research questions were addressed in the present study:

1- How is the news about the terrorist attack in Ankara reported in British and American newspapers as far as active and passive voices and nominalized structures are concerned?

2- What are the frequencies and distributions of active and passive voices and nominalized structures in news reports across British and American newspapers?

2. Method

The current study employs a mixed methods approach and adopts the method of document analysis. In the analysis, the documents are analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively by finding out the frequencies and distributions of the structures, and by explaining examples from the document analysis process.

2.1. *Data*

The data of this study come from the collections of news reports compiled from British and American newspapers about the terrorist attack in Ankara on October 10, 2015. The British newspapers are *The Telegraph, The Guardian* and *The Independent* and the newspapers from United States of America are *New York Times, USA Today* and *Washington Post*. These newspapers are chosen from both countries because they are the leading newspapers in respective country. Other criteria in choosing these newspapers are the theme of the news, which is the 'terrorist attack in Ankara', accessibility of the newspapers on the Internet, the popularity of these newspapers in both countries and their orientation. Using these criteria, three news reports between the dates October 10-14 (2015) are selected from each newspaper. These collections of texts are saved as Word document files called the British Newspapers and American Newspapers. The numbers of words are 8,842 in British newspapers, and 8,356 in American newspapers respectively. The overall data consist of 17,198 words (see Table 1).

Table 1. Word Numbers of the Newspapers

British Newspapers	The Telegraph	8,842 words
	The Guardian	
	The Independent	
American Newspapers	New York Times	8,356 words
	USA Today	
	Washington Post	
Total word size		17,198 words

2.2. *Data Analysis*

The data of the study are analyzed quantitatively by finding out the frequencies and distributions of the active, passive sentences and nominalized structures in British Newspapers and American Newspapers and qualitatively by explaining examples from the document analysis process to show the presentation of the same news from different newspapers. In the data analysis process the first step is converting the collection of news reports saved as word document into *.txt* format in order to make it compatible with the concordancing tool used for this study. This tool is AntConc 3.2.4, which is a free corpus analysis tool for text analysis used in order to figure out the active, passive sentences and nominalized structures within the domain of this study. (see Figure 1.)
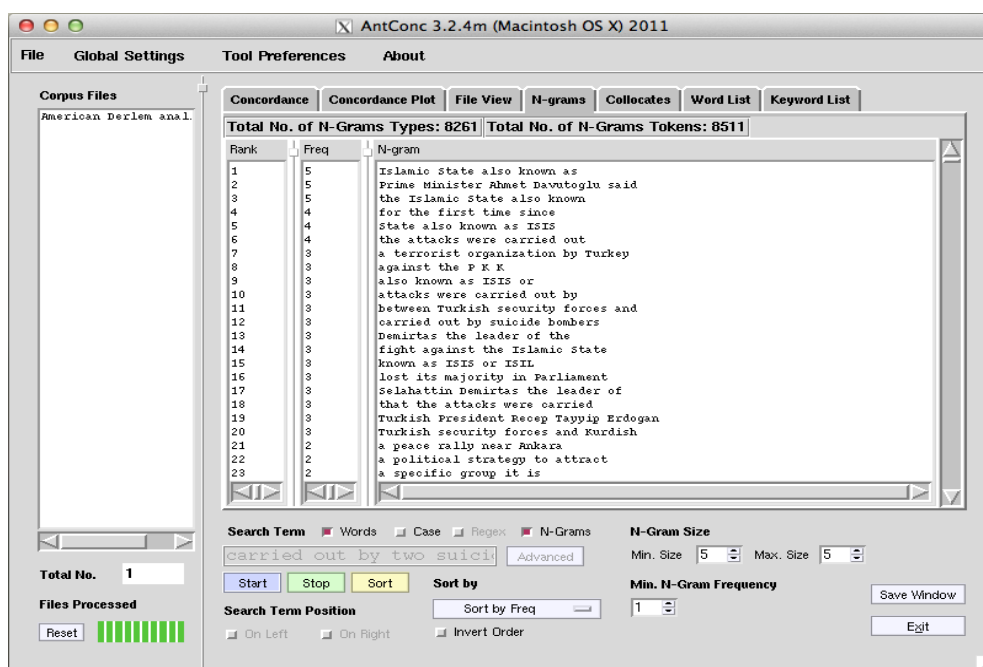
Figure 1. AntConc 3.2.4 Concordancing Tool

The second phase of the data analysis process is the identification of the verbs in news reports from British and American Newspapers. In this step, the searching is carried out through the use of 'Clusters' function of the tool. This function is used to figure out the frequencies and distributions of active and passive structures employed in British and American newspapers. The third phase of the analysis is the examination of the nominalized structures in the news reports. In order to conduct this analysis, N-grams function of AntConc program is used: 2 word, 3 word and 4-word N-grams are sorted and each sorted occurrence is analyzed manually in order to decide whether they are nominalized structures or just random co-occurrences. In this analysis, only the nominalized structures are counted and examples are explained in terms of their presentation of the same news in British and American newspapers.

3. Results and Discussion

The present study examined the news about the terrorist attack in Ankara reported in British and American newspapers in terms of the employment of active, passive sentences and nominalized structures, their frequencies and distributions across these newspapers. The quantitative analysis conducted in order to find out the frequencies and distributions of the active, passive and nominalized structures in British and American Newspapers. As a result of the quantitative analysis, it was revealed that there are 550 active structures and 111 passive structures in British newspapers whereas there are 564 active structures and 69 passive structures in American newspapers. It is seen that British newspapers employ passive structures much more frequently than the American newspapers. It was also revealed that the most common active structure in both collections of texts is the use of say which is used to convey the direct quotations and reported speech from the officials during the event as shown in extract (1).

1. Without naming the suspects, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said at a news conference on Wednesday that both the Islamic State and the Kurdistan Workers. (American Newspaper: New York Times)

It was also found out that in British newspapers, the most commonly used passive structures are the verbs killed, injured, wounded, named and organised, whereas in American newspapers the verbs used in passive voice are attacked, killed, carried out, considered and blamed. The common point in both of these occurrences is that the passive voice is used with these verbs without explicitly providing the agent as shown in the following examples:

2.   At least 95 people were killed and more than 500 were injured, the Health Ministry said. But local politicians said the remains of 120 victims had been identified. (American Newspaper: Washington Post)

3.   Despite his comments, it is believed investigators are focusing on Isil because of the attack's similarities with past bombings by the extremist group. (British Newspaper: The Telegraphs)

4.   Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, whose office issued a ban on news coverage of the attack that was widely ignored, declared three days of national mourning. (American Newspaper: New York Times)

5.   Turkish MP Sirri Sureyya Onder also claimed a suspicious vehicle and another suspicious package had been found and that bomb-disposal experts had been called to the scene. (British Newspaper: The Guardian)

In both of these examples, the writers of the news reports do not provide any information about the agent(s). While extract (2) described the action, and summarizes the event, extract (3) comments on the identities of the attackers after the Mr Davutoğlu's comments and explanations on the identification of attackers. In extract (4), the agent is also not provided and the writer does not give information about who ignored the ban on news coverage of the attack. The reason for the choice of both passivization over active voice in presenting this news and not providing the agent may be that this news was reported just after the terrorist attack. The journalists may not have reliable and certain information about details of the event and the agents because after the terrorist attack in Ankara, there was a media blackout in order to prevent potential problems and speculations. Another reason may be the editors' policy in safeguarding 'the clarity and expressive power of the standard language in general" (Cotter, 2012: 27). Additionally, the preference of nominalized structures by journalists may stem from the lack of knowledge about the agent, irrelevant knowledge about the agency, the focus of author on the actions or victims rather than on the agents, lack of space, hiding or downgrading the responsible negative agency. (Van Dijk, 2008). Nevertheless, as East Anglian group argue, passivization and the choice of passive voice over active is not ideologically random. This preference may have ideological functions such as conveying less information, reifying, 'transforming the processes into entities', and reproducing a 'social context of inequality' (Billig, 2008: 7).

Having provided samples from American and British newspapers about deleting agency or preference of omitting the agent over providing it, the results of the study also revealed that there are passivized examples where the journalists provide the agent as shown in examples (6) and (7). In both of these extracts, the writer foregrounds the agent by providing the exact names such as '*anti-Erdogan sentiment'* and *'pro-Kurdish politicians'*. Among these instances found in the collection of newspapers, it was found out that American newspapers present the agent more frequently than the British newspapers do. The results of the study also revealed that American newspapers foreground the action and the agent especially in describing the events and providing reported speech as shown in extract (8). In this extract, the writer foregrounds the police's attack on the Kurdish leaders and members whereas in extract (7) the writer foregrounds the attack on the government at the same time provides the agent by saying '*by pro-Kurdish politicians'*.

6.   The HDP was buoyed by anti-Erdogan sentiment across the nation, as well as widespread support from Turkey's Kurds, a minority ethnic group that represents roughly a fifth of the country's population but whose votes have traditionally been split. (American Newspaper: Washington Post)

7.   There had been fears he would launch a suicide attack similar to his brother's and yesterday the government was attacked by pro-Kurdish politicians as well as the public for failing to tackle the Isil spillover from the Syrian war. (British Newspaper: The Telegraph)

8.   The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) said in a statement that police attacked its leaders and members as they tried to leave flowers at the scene (American Newspaper: USA Today)

Other than the aforementioned examples, the results of the study show that there are instances of passivization in mitigating a claim about the agent, or attenuating to present the details of the events as shown in example (9) and (10). In extract (9) the writer prefers to use '*is believed*' instead of saying '*we believe*' or '*officials believe*'. This preference over active voice has undoubtedly ideological purposes as mentioned in the previous examples. It was also found out that *believe* is a verb that is passivized in British newspapers, it has 4 passivized occurrences in British newspapers and has no occurrence in American newspapers. As for extract (10), it is seen that the writer emphasizes that the action or event is more significant and deserves more attention than the agent of the activity. Rather than active forms of these verbs, it is seen that the journalists use active voice in describing the actions and events whereas they prefer passive voice in presenting the actions in which the agent is unknown or irrelevant. For example, as shown in extract (10), the writer prefers to say '*were reported*' and '*were detained*' rather than '*the police detained the bombers*' and '*news agencies reported*'. With respect to these preferences, Fang (2001) indicated that syntactic options and lexical choices are used to downplay or highlight the agent and these choices are ideologically motivated.

9.   According to the reports, one of them is believed to be a brother of the suicide attacker who killed at least 32 people in July at a gathering of Kurdish activists in the southeastern city of Suruc, and who the government said had links to the Islamic State. (American Newspaper: New York Times)

10.   On Wednesday, two people who posted tweets suggesting a bomb could explode in the capital the day before the suicide bombings were detained. It was reported that the tweets said: "The bomb will explode in Ankara" and "What if (the Islamic State group) explodes (a bomb) in Ankara? (British Newspaper: The Telegraph)

The results of the current study conform to Busa's (2014) study as she indicated that "the active voice is the preferred form because it allows the journalist to describe actions in a manner that is more direct and easier to understand, as it reflects the way people think and process information (p.102). S/he further indicates that passive voice is often preferred when an unknown or irrelevant performer performs the action. Therefore, one of the reasons in the dominant use of passive voice in news reports may be addressing the audience easily and the lack of reliable information about the agent(s).

 Having mentioned about the results and argumentation on the choice and presentation of active and passive structures, the analysis of the nominalized structures in the British and American newspapers revealed that there are 149 occurrences of four word, three word and two word nominalized structures in the top ten occurrences of these structures in American newspapers. It was revealed that nominalization is used to describe the terrorist attack and the following events after the attack by using the structures such as 'attack on the nation's soil', 'peace rally', 'responsibility for the bombings' in American newspapers. The comparative analysis between American and British newspapers revealed that the choice of vocabulary in American newspapers is more neutral as far as the nominalized structures are concerned. In this regard, in the relevant literature, Zhang (2011) classifies the words into three categories according to their emotional coloring such as commendatory words, which are conveyed with active evaluation, derogatory words, which are words with negative

evaluation, and neutral words, which have no evaluation. With respect to the nominalized structures, it was revealed that neutral words are dominantly used in American newspapers (see table 2) while the nominalized structures with evaluative functions were used in British newspapers (see Table 3).

Table 2. Nominalization in American newspapers

Four word nominalized structures	f	Three-word nominalized structures	f	Two-word nominalized structures	f
attack on our unity/the entire nation/nation's soil	7	a peace rally	8	peace rally	13
responsibility for the attack/bombings/violence	6	elections in June	6	cease fire	8
also known as ISIS	4	an attack on	5	suicide bombers	8
as a terrorist organization (by Turkey)	4	on social media	5	terrorist attack	8
a unilateral cease fire	3	two suicide bombers	4	Kurdish militants/rebels	8
fight against the Islamic state	3	a suicide bombing	4	security forces	7
percent of the vote	3	a coalition government	3	twin bombings	5
violence related to conflicts/against the Kurds/ in the Kurdish southeast	3	behind the attack	3	news conference	4
a feeling of panic	2	failing to protect	3	peace process	4
a drop in violence	2	worst terrorist attack	3	general elections	3
Total	37		44		68

The following extracts are taken from American newspapers and these examples present the dominant use of nominalized structures in presenting the news.

11. No group has claimed responsibility for the twin bombings, which officials said had most likely been carried out by suicide bombers. (New York Times)

12. In the aftermath of Saturday's blasts, pro-Kurdish news sources reported the PKK declared a unilateral cease-fire until elections on Nov. 1, calling on its fighters to halt all further armed actions against the state, unless attacked. The move was anticipated in recent days, but it remains unclear whether it will lead to a drop in violence. (USA Today)

13. Turkish PM blames suicide bombers in peace rally attack that killed 97 (USA Today) (title)

14. The blasts, which officials called the deadliest terrorist attack in modern Turkey's history, occurred near Ankara's main train station just as Kurds and leftists planned to march to protest the recent resumption of armed conflict between the Turkish state and Kurdish militants. (New York Times)

As for the British newspapers, it was found out that there are 178 occurrences of four, three and two word nominalized structures. It means that, as far as the data of the present study concerned, British newspapers employ nominalization and passive structures more compared to the American newspapers in presenting the news. The results of the analysis show that the most common nominalizations are *'terror attack', 'the deadliest terror attack', 'terrorist organization', 'suicide bombers', 'anti-government slogans'*. It is seen that nominalization is employed in order to both describe the event and to present information about the agents. In these instances, as it is also seen in extract (15), (16) and (18), the main difference compared to the occurrences in American newspapers is the use of *'anti-government slogans'* and the difference in the choice of more evaluative and

descriptive vocabulary (especially the preference of adjectives) such as '*extremist, the deadliest, escalating, intensive and suspected*'.

Table 3. Nominalization in British Newspapers

Four-word nominalized structures	f	Three-word nominalized structures	f	Two-word nominalized structures	f
carnation at the site	5	anti-government slogans	8	terror attack	14
the deadliest terrorist attack	5	pro-Kurdish activists	8	terrorist organization/ demonstration/attack/act	12
days of the national mourning	4	a peace rally	8	suicide bombers	12
responsibility for the attack	4	the death toll	7	government slogans	8
site of the bombings	4	behind the attack	5	Kurdish activists	8
three days of national mourning	4	deadliest terror attack	5	news agency	8
a group of mourners	3	the escalating violence	5	murderer Erdoğan	7
attack on pro-Kurdish activists	3	a suicide attack	4	peace march	6
suspected members of ISIS	3	the extremist group	4	intensive care	6
attack on peace rally	3	the suicide bombers	4	wounded people/protestors	6
Total	38		53		87

The below mentioned extracts are examples for nominalization in British newspapers. These extracts have the examples of evaluative words such as *extremist, deadliest, anti-government*.

15. Investigation into Turkey's deadliest terrorist attack to be 'completely focused' on Isis (The Independent) title. (The Independent)

16. A Turkish news agency reports that police have detained 14 suspected members of Isis in the Turkish city of Konya. It is unclear if the detentions were related to the attack in Ankara (The Independent).

17. Ahmet Davutoglu said on Monday said the extremist group was the country's "first priority" to investigate as he confirmed that the attack on a peace rally in Ankara was carried out by two suicide bombers. (The Telegraph)

18. Protestors chanting "murderer Erdogan" and other anti-government slogans gathered near the scene of the deadliest terror attack in Turkey's history, which has claimed 128 lives and left hundreds wounded. (The Independent)

Having presented the employment of nominalization in British and American newspapers, it was found out that majority of the occurrences in the nominalized structures are found in the headlines and sub-titles of the news reports. These parts serve a crucial role in the presentation of the news as headlines are suggested to form "the summary of the news story, which strategically serves as the expression of its macrostructure" (Van Dijk, 1988:226). The headlines of the British and American newspapers are found to present the most striking points of the terrorist attack with heavy use of nominalized structures.

In addition to their crucial role in getting the attention of the audience, the choice of nominalization and heavy use of these structures may have concerns about persuading the reader(s). In this respect, Bonyadi and Samuel (2011) indicated that there is presupposition through nominalization and this presupposition is used in order to persuade the readers. Another important point is that these structures may affect the readers' perceptions. In this respect, He and Zhou (2015) pointed out that "news reporters intentionally implant and invest ideologies into news reports by choosing words of their

interests for the purpose of impacting on readers' perception about the accidents being reported". In the relevant literature, it was also pointed out that Western media construct ideological representations of the news from different countries and societies and these representations undoubtedly affect the interpretations of the audience. Moreover, presenting the news reports in a neutral way is difficult and the choice between active and passive voice carry ideological functions and "such choices, which the language system both enables and forces us to make in every utterance, are precisely the points at which the operation of ideology can and does occur" (Xie, 2013: 42). Therefore, active, passive sentences and nominalized structures may impose different interpretations in the readers and potential audience.

In the relevant literature, East Anglian group and their followers suggested that nominalization and passivization have major ideological functions such as deleting agency, reifying, positing reified concepts as agents, and maintaining unequal power relations (Billig, 2008). As the newspapers examined within the domain of this study are the most circulating and leading newspapers, the choice of these structures and their potential role in conveying ideology have crucial role in the presentation of the image of a country (Turkey) in the external media.

4. Conclusions

Considering the crucial role of the presentation of active, passive sentences and nominalized structures in manipulating readers' opinions and interpretations of news reports, the current study aimed to identify these structures in the presentation of the same event- terrorist attack in Ankara- in different newspapers- in British and American newspapers. The analyses of the news from six different newspapers, which are The Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent and New York Times, USA Today and Washington Post, revealed that British newspapers employ passive structures much more frequently than the American newspapers. It was found out that in British newspapers, the most commonly used passive structures are the verbs *killed, injured, wounded, named* and *organised*, whereas in American newspapers the verbs used in passive voice are *attacked, killed, carried out, considered* and *blamed*. It was found out that American newspapers present the agent more frequently than the British newspapers do. The results of the study show that there are instances of passivization in mitigating a claim about the agent, or attenuating to present the details of the events. Compared to the active forms of these verbs, it is seen that the journalists use active voice in describing the actions and events whereas they prefer passive voice in presenting the actions in which the agent is unknown or irrelevant. This finding leads us to discuss the role of active and passive sentences and nominalization in foregrounding or backgrounding certain type of information. The use these structures, the preference of one structure over another is not arbitrary and the choices are ideologically motivated. The following examples from two different newspapers presenting the same event show that national mourning is foregrounded in example (b) whereas it is backgrounded in extract (a).

a)   Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said there were strong indications that the attacks were carried out by two suicide bombers and declared three days of national mourning (USA Today-American Newspaper)

b)   Turkey began three days of national mourning on Sunday and flags flew at half mast across the country. (The Telegraph-British Newspaper)

As Van Dijk (2008) suggests, nominalization is preferred when the agent is unidentified, knowledge about agency is irrelevant, the author wants to hide or downgrade the responsible negative agency, etc. Considering the fact that the constructed and imposed ideological representations through

newspapers affect the interpretation of the target audience and shape the readers' interpretations of a fact (Teo, 2000; Thetela, 2001; Fang, 2001; Oktar, 2001), the present study is believed to shed a light on the presentation of a single news in different newspapers. Considering the fact that interpretation of the surrounding events is conveyed through the news reports and they impose a number of ideological meanings, the representation of ideology shapes the audience and the society. Therefore, bearing the fact in mind that the preference of active, passive sentences and nominalized structures is not arbitrary, and the choice is based on a strategic manner critical reading of the news event represented by different newspapers has a crucial role. Awareness among the public and especially among the students is necessary as the news reflect the public discourse and "ideologies are generated and transformed in actual discursive events" (Fairclough, 1995:25). Critical reading and reading between the lines has crucial beneficial effects on public in criticizing and evaluating the surrounding events in the society. As Baudrillard (1982) states it is futile to try to gain an understanding on the characteristics of the audience without focusing on the mass media.

This critical analysis of British and American newspapers reporting on the terrorist attack in Ankara is also believed to contribute to the relevant literature and stimulate further research studies conducted in order to examine the presentation of ideology in reporting news and events. In this regard, future research may focus on a detailed and comparative examination of ideological features suggested by East Anglian group related to nominalization and passivization such as deleting the agency, reifying, positing reified concepts as agents and maintaining unequal power relations. Different types of nominalization, which Billig (2008) named them as transformations, such as linguistic, etymological, psychological, between-text and within-text nominalization may be the subject of inquiry for future research.

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Gazete söyleminde düşünyapının etken, edilgen cümleler ve adlaştırma yoluyla gösterimi: İngiliz ve Amerikan gazetelerinde Ankara terör saldırısı üzerine bir çalışma

Öz

Bu çalışma, İngiliz ve Amerikan gazetelerinde 10 Ekim 2015 tarihindeki Ankara terörist saldırısı konusunda yapılan haberlerdeki etken, edilgen tümcelerin ve adlaştırılmış yapıların sıklığını ve dağılımını incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu amaç doğrultusunda, aşağıdaki araştırma sorularına yanıt aranacaktır:

1.   Etken, edilgen cümleler ve adlaştırılmış yapılar açısından 10 Ekim (2015) Ankara terör saldırısı konusundaki haberler İngiliz ve Amerikan gazetelerinde nasıl sunulmuştur?

2.   İngiliz ve Amerikan gazetelerindeki etken, edilgen tümcelerin ve adlaştırılmış yapıların sıklığı ve dağılımı nedir?

Çalışmanın verisi, yapıların sıklık ve dağılımları nicel ve nitel analizler yoluyla incelenmiş olup doküman analizi yoluyla örnekler incelenmiştir.

Çalışmanın sonucunda, Amerikan gazetelerinde İngiliz gazeteleriyle karşılaştırıldığında kılıcının daha sık gösterildiği saptanmıştır. Çalışmanın sonuçları, edilgen yapıların çoğunlukla kılıcı konusunda bir iddiayı veya olayın ayrıntılarını sunmayı hafifletmek için kullanıldığını göstermiştir. Gazetecilerin etken tümceleri olayları veya durumları betimlemek için kullanırken edilgen yapıdaki tümceleri kılıcının bilinmediği veya bağıntısız olduğu durumlarda kullandıkları saptanmıştır. Araştırma kapsamında incelenen gazetelerin bu ülkelerde en çok okunan ve önde gelen gazeteleri olduğu için, etken, edilgen tümceler ve adlaştırma seçimi ve bu yapıların düşünyapıyı yansıtması Türkiye'nin dış basındaki görünümü açısından önemli bir role sahiptir.

Anahtar sözcükler: Etken; edilgen tümceler; adlaştırma; düşünyapı; gazete söylemi

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