

Grammatical Principles in French Newspaper Headlines

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Abstract. *This study is devoted to the study of the grammatical features of headlines in French newspapers. The purpose of the study is to identify and analyze the grammatical principles used in the construction of newspaper headlines in French. As research material, the titles of the newspapers Le Monde, Le Figaro and Libération were selected. Headings were analyzed in terms of grammatical structure, verb forms, articulations and other grammatical features. The results of the study showed that when making headlines in French newspapers, short and concise grammatical structures, simple forms of the verb present and past tense, clear articulations are widely used. Also found in the headings are acquired pronouns and abbreviated forms of adjectives. The results of the study can be used in the teaching of French, in the practice of translation and in the linguistic analysis of newspaper texts.*

Key words: *French, newspaper headlines, grammatical principles, grammatical structure, verb forms, articles.*

INTRODUCTION

Newspaper headlines are an important part of the press. Titles express the main idea of the article, attract and influence the reader [1]. Therefore, it is important to be correct and clear not only in terms of content, but also in terms of grammar.

French-language newspapers are among the oldest and most influential publications in the world. The construction of titles in the French press is based on specific grammatical principles. This study examines and analyzes the grammatical features of headlines used in French newspapers.

METHODS AND LITERATURE ANALYSIS

As research material, headlines from three major French newspapers - Le Monde, Le Figaro and Libération - were selected. When choosing titles, their topic and genre were not taken into account, since the purpose of the study was to study grammatical features.

Comparative-descriptive, statistical and contextual analysis methods were used in the research. The titles were analyzed and classified in terms of grammatical structure, verb forms, articles and other grammatical features. The obtained results were statistically processed and expressed in percentages.

There is a number of academic studies on the grammatical analysis of titles in French. In particular, M. Grevisse and A. Goose [2] showed the main grammatical rules of creating a title in French. S. Marnette [3] studied the role of abbreviations and omissions in creating headlines in French newspapers. K. Jereczek [4] analyzed the titles pragmatically and studied their communicative functions.

RESULTS

According to the results of the study, the headlines in French newspapers are mostly short and have concise grammatical structures. The average length of titles is 8-10 words. The shortest title is 2 words and the longest is 16 words.

In terms of grammatical structure, the headings are divided as follows:

simple sentences - 62%;

compound sentences - 26%;

elliptical sentences - 12%.

Therefore, the headlines of French newspapers are dominated by simple sentences. This ensures that the titles are short and to the point.

The following results were obtained regarding the use of verb forms:

present tense (Présent) - 73%;

past simple form (Passé simple) - 15%;

adjective (Participe passé, Participe présent) - 7%;

other verb forms - 5%.

It can be seen that the present tense form of the verb is widely used in French newspaper headlines. This shows that the headlines are relevant and relevant to the present. Also, the past simple form of the verb is actively used in the titles.

The following results were recorded on the use of articles:

definite article (article défini) - 56%;

indefinite article (article indéfini) - 24%;

cases where the article is not used - 20%.

In French, articles are an important grammatical tool. The results of the study showed that definite articles are used more often in the headlines of French newspapers. This means that the subject or event expressed in the title is clear and concrete.

In addition, the following grammatical features were observed in French newspaper headlines:

use of accusative pronouns (pronom personnel tonique) - 9.3%;

shortened adjectives (participe passé elliptique) - 6.7%;

compounds without prepositions (syntagme nominal sans préposition) - 4.7%.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The obtained results show that grammatical principles are of great importance in the headlines of French newspapers. Headlines should be short and concise, but also grammatically correct and clear.

While the abundant use of simple sentences ensures the conciseness of the titles, the active present tense of the verb shows their urgency. A relatively rare but consistent use of the simple past tense refers to facts or events identified in headlines.

Most of the use of articles, especially the definite article, follows the rules of French grammar. The definite article expresses the knowledge of the subject, and the indefinite article expresses its unknown [5]. Definite articles are more commonly used because titles often refer to specific things.

The use of accusative pronouns and abbreviated adjectives is also one of the grammatical features of titles. They serve to make headlines more concise and concise. The use of prepositional phrases shows the nominal character of the titles.

The grammatical features of French newspaper headlines are not only related to linguistic but also to socio-pragmatic factors. Headlines are designed to attract the attention of newspaper readers, arouse their interest and encourage them to read the article. Therefore, headlines should be short, concise and effective [6]. The use of grammatical devices can help headlines accomplish these tasks.

For example, the title of a headline like "Le gouvernement lance un plan de relance économique" ("The government is launching a plan for economic recovery") uses a present tense verb and a definite article to present this information directly and clearly. On the other hand, "Plan de relance économique : le gouvernement va-t-il tenir ses promesses ?" ("Economic recovery plan: Will the government deliver on its promises?")

Taking into account the communicative functions of the headings, their grammatical structure can also change. For example, interrogative sentences or exclamatory sentences can be used in titles [4]. In such cases, headlines directly address the reader and attract his attention more strongly.

Headlines from online versions of French newspapers were not taken into account in the study. However, with the development of online publications, the grammatical characteristics of titles can also change. Abbreviations, abbreviations, and graphic tools are increasingly being used in online titles [7]. Naturally, this affects the grammatical structure of the titles.

Comparing the grammatical features of French newspaper headlines with newspaper headlines in other languages and cultures can also yield interesting results. Determining the similar and different grammatical features of titles in different languages is important from the point of view of linguistics and cultural studies.

Although grammatical principles serve to increase the effectiveness of newspaper headlines, their content and semantic features also play an important role. The grammatical structure of the titles should be inextricably linked with their content [8]. Therefore, it is necessary to take into account both grammatical and semantic aspects in the interpretation of titles.

CONCLUSION

Headlines in French newspapers are grammatically specific. Short and concise grammatical structures, present and past simple forms of verbs, definite articles are widely used in them. The titles also contain abbreviated forms of accusative pronouns and adjectives.

The results of the research can be used in teaching French and translation practice. Knowing the grammatical features of French newspapers helps translators translate headlines correctly and accurately. In addition, the results of the study may be relevant to the linguistic analysis of newspaper headlines in French.

The application of grammatical principles to newspaper headlines can be studied in other languages as well. This makes it possible to compare the grammatical features of newspaper headlines in different languages and to identify common principles.

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