

Assassin or Innocent: Portrayal of Raymond Davis in CNN Headlines

Rabiah Rustam
Nadeem Haider Bukhari
Muhammad Kamal Khan

Abstract

This article aims to explore the portrayal of Raymond Davis in CNN headlines. It also aims to analyze the lexical and grammatical strategies used within the headlines functioning as the speech acts. The impact of these strategies on the pragmatic interpretation of the CNN headlines will also be explored. Raymond Davis was a Central Intelligence Agency contractor who killed two Pakistanis and was arrested at the spot. CNN gave coverage to this event on its website with eye-catching headlines. In order to analyze the functions of headlines related with the portrayal of Raymond Davis, a qualitative analysis was conducted following the speech act theory. The lexical and grammatical analysis of the headlines functioning as the speech acts was also conducted keeping in view the previous researches in the same field. It was found that the terminology used to address Raymond Davis varied in the headlines which altered their pragmatic interpretation. By using different pragmatic, lexical and grammatical strategies, most of the headlines described Pakistani authorities responsible for holding him in Pakistan for more than two months while presenting his blameless image.

Keywords: lexical strategies, grammatical strategies, pragmatic interpretation, CNN headlines, Raymond Davis

1. Introduction

This article looks into the portrayal of Raymond Davis in CNN headlines. For this purpose, the lexical and the grammatical strategies associated with the interpretation of the speech acts will be analyzed. According to Searle (1969) a speech act communicates more than what is said. The headlines are usually associated with propaganda and manipulation more than communicating the real information, so the headlines can be treated as speech acts. As the speech acts are composed of lexical and grammatical devices, the use of these devices affects their interpretation.

The background of the study is quite important as Raymond Davis was a CIA contractor working in Pakistan on CIA missions. In a terrorism stricken country where people die every day in target killings or bomb blasts a strange event happened when on January 26, 2011 he killed two people. The murders took place in the city of Lahore that is also the capital of the Punjab Province of Pakistan and is also very important strategically as the borders of Pakistan and India are located at its one side. He shot two people and they lost their lives on the spot. Soon after this he was arrested by police. It was also discovered after the interrogation that he had been making pictures of the sensitive areas located near the Pakistani border. It was also found that he had been assigned a very important mission by CIA that was to specify and target areas for drone attacks in Pakistan. He was not only a professional spy but also a drone technology expert. These investigations made his status controversial and as a result the process of his release became quite complicated because he was considered as a security threat not only by Pakistani law enforcing agencies but also by the

political parties and the common folks. Many people protested against his release and demanded his punishment. This situation led US intelligence agencies as well as the US government increase pressure on Pakistan for his release as he was a very important personnel of US intelligence and security agencies although he was a security threat to Pakistan. As a result diplomatic efforts began while he was being tried against a heinous crime in Pakistan. First the US media propagated that he was a diplomat and under diplomatic immunity he could not be tried in Pakistan. The reality was that he was not a diplomat rather a spy in the guise of a diplomat.

Although, Raymond Davis was released on March 16, 2011 after paying ransom to the relatives of the deceased but the Raymond Davis case had a deep impact on Pak US relations as well as caused unrest in Pakistan and affected the image of Pakistan in the outside world. In this case the role of CNN can not be neglected. It is quite interesting to find out how CNN presented him in its headlines. Two important ways have been selected to figure out the strategies used to portray him in the media. One is the pragmatic portrayal while the other one is the naming strategy or the lexical portrayal. It is also important to find out how both of these strategies are connected to one another.

It was observed by the researchers that there was a change in the terminologies used for Raymond Davis. At one time his function was portrayed as a CIA contractor but later, the terminology was changed to different names such as diplomat and consular employee. This phenomenon has rarely been addressed in the researches in journalism or headline studies in linguistics. Second, the headlines were not just pieces of information rather they communicated more than what was said in the text with the help of certain lexical and grammatical features. It means that the headlines aimed to achieve certain pragmatic functions as well. The previous literature available on the use of pragmatic and linguistic strategies is very rare. In this context it would be a significant contribution to the domain of linguistics and journalism.

In the light of the above mentioned scenario, there are two main objectives of the current study. First, it aims to explore the lexical and grammatical strategies used in the headlines about Raymond Davis and second, it aims to study their impact on the pragmatic interpretations of the headlines keeping in view the speech act theory given by Searle (1969).

Related to the above mentioned objectives, two questions need to be answered that are mentioned below:

- i. Which lexical and grammatical strategies have been used to portray Raymond Davis in CNN headlines?
- ii. How is the pragmatic interpretation of the headlines affected by these strategies?

2. Literature Review

Literature review for the current article gives an overview of the speech act theory and its use in the headlines analysis. Moreover, it also discusses the use of the lexical and the grammatical strategies in the headlines.

Searle (1969, p.16) defined speech act as a basic or minimal unit of communication. He also established that although words and sentences play important role in the linguistic communication

but they can not be termed as the units of communication. He argued that the words and sentences are speech acts produced under certain conditions.

Searle (1979, pp. 1-8) proposed a detailed set of certain conditions called felicity conditions for the successful performance of a speech act. These conditions are the following:

- i. Differences in the point or purpose of an utterance:** Illocutionary point is the main purpose of a person behind making an utterance. It is associated with the perlocutionary intent or the intentions behind an utterance to get the hearer do something. It is a part of illocutionary force but not same as illocutionary force. For example requests and commands are the attempts to get the hearer do something but their illocutionary forces are different.
- ii. Differences in the direction of fit:** Illocutions have the direction of fit as an important component of illocutionary point to get the words or in strict words, the propositional content to match the world. In other cases they can attempt to get the world match the words. Direction of fit emerges as a result of the illocutionary point. Directives (commands, requests) have a world to word direction of fit while assertives (statements, descriptions) have a word to world direction of fit.
- iii. Differences in expressed psychological states:** In the performance of an illocutionary act the speaker expresses an attitude or a psychological state. For example in a request the speaker's psychological state is a wish or desire while in an apology it is a regret. This state may be sincere or insincere. An expression can be made even without having a belief, desire or an intention.
- iv. Differences in the strength of illocutionary forces:** There exist differences in the strength with which an illocutionary point is presented. For example 'suggest' and 'insist' have same illocutionary points but different degrees of strength.
- v. Differences in the status or position of speaker and hearer:** Status or position affects an utterance. For example command or order can only be issued by a person of higher authority.
- vi. Differences in the way utterances relate to the interests of the speakers and hearers:** This feature is a kind of preparatory condition where the speakers and hearers interests are involved. As there is a difference between boast and lament or congratulations and condolences.
- vii. Differences in relation to the rest of the discourse:** Some expressions relate the utterance to the rest of discourse or the surrounding context. For example, the expressions such as 'I reply', 'I deduce' and 'I conclude' depend on the surrounding context.
- viii. Differences in propositional content that are determined by IFIDs:** Illocutionary force indicating devices are present in the propositional content and contribute in making the differences. For example a report is about the present while a prediction is about the future.
- ix. Differences in speech acts and the acts that need not be performed as speech acts:** Sometimes, in order to perform a speech act it is not necessary to make an expression about it. For example a person estimating something may not say 'I estimate' or a person concluding something may not say 'I conclude'.
- x. Differences on the basis of extralinguistic institutions:** Sometimes special positions are required to perform a speech act. For example the acts of blessing, excommunicating and

christening cannot take place when an ordinary person utters them rather when a priest utters them.

xi. Differences on the basis of illocutionary verbs: Illocutionary verbs have performative uses such as 'promise', 'order' and 'conclude' but it is not necessary that an illocutionary act must take place only when a performative verb is there. It can take place even without the presence of a performative verb.

xii. Differences in the style of performance of an illocutionary act: Illocutionary verbs make a difference but sometimes the style of performance differs. For example, 'announce' and 'confide' do not have any differences in the illocutionary point or propositional content but only in the style of performance of an act.

In the later classification Searle and Vanderveken (1985) gave seven components of an illocutionary force mentioned below that enable the speaker to express something and the hearer to understand it.

i. Illocutionary point or purpose of an utterance: Illocutionary point is the main purpose of a person behind making an utterance. Searle (1979) explained the different kinds of illocutionary points:

- i. Assertive illocutionary point:** Assertive illocutionary point presents a proposition as an actual state of affairs in the world.
- ii. Commissive illocutionary point:** Commissive illocutionary point commits the speaker to some course of action that has been mentioned in the propositional content of the message.
- iii. Directive illocutionary points:** Directive illocutionary point attempts to let a person do something that is according to the propositional content contained in the message.
- iv. Declarative illocutionary point:** Declarative illocutionary point helps to bring into existence a state of affairs that has been mentioned in the propositional content of the message.
- v. Expressive illocutionary point:** Expressive illocutionary point helps to communicate the attitudes or emotions about a state of affairs as described in the propositional content of the message.
- ii. Degree of strength of illocutionary point:** It is the power of an illocutionary point to bring about certain action. An action is brought about according to the propositional content having illocutionary strength. There is a difference between 'request' and 'insist' although both are directive illocutionary acts. 'Insist' has a stronger illocutionary point than request does.
- iii. Mode of achievement:** The manner by which a speaker accomplishes the illocutionary point of an utterance is called the mode of achievement. If a speaker gives a command, it means that he has an authority to give orders.
- iv. Propositional content condition:** The condition imposed by an illocutionary force on the propositional content is the propositional content condition. If a person makes a promise in an utterance, it means that the proposition contained within the promise refers to the future state of affairs.
- v. Preparatory conditions:** Preparatory conditions cover the affairs that have already been presupposed by the person who produces an utterance and uses an illocutionary force to accomplish his/her objective. Preparatory conditions are necessary for the employment of

an illocutionary force. If there is an illocutionary force of promise, then the preparatory condition behind the promise is that it has been presupposed by the speaker that he has the ability to fulfill that promise.

vi. Sincerity conditions: Whenever anyone performs an illocutionary act with a propositional content, certain psychological state is also expressed in that content. Sincerity condition determines that whether the content of the illocutionary act is identical to the propositional content of the expressed psychological state or not. In a sincere speech act, the speaker believes what he says while in an insincere speech act is the speaker does not believe what he says. For example, an insincere promise is the one where the speaker does not intend to do what he says while in a sincere promise the speaker is committed to do what he says.

vii. Degree of strength of the sincerity conditions: Same illocutionary point can be achieved with different degrees of strength; similarly, the same psychological state can be expressed with different degrees of strength. For example, a speaker making a request wants the hearer to do the expressed act. He can request with a weaker degree of strength or beg, implore or beseech with a strong degree of strength. Degree of strength of the sincerity conditions and the degree of strength of illocutionary point vary directly but it does not always happen. As in case of an order, the greater degree of strength comes from the mode of achievement.

Searle and Vanderveken (1985, pp.8-20) stressed that the character of an illocutionary act is entirely dependent upon the nature of its illocutionary force and the propositional content. An illocutionary point is achieved by means of propositional content. Many preparatory conditions are determined by illocutionary point. Propositional content also helps to determine the psychological state. An illocutionary force can be determined once the illocutionary point, preparatory conditions, mode of achievement of illocutionary point, propositional content conditions, sincerity conditions and degree of strength of sincerity conditions are specified. Two illocutionary forces F1 and F2 can be considered identical if they possess identical sets of the above mentioned conditions. Two illocutionary forces may differ from one another even if one or two of these conditions differ.

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, pp. 7-8) every sentence even a one word sentence has an indicator of illocutionary force. Without the presence of illocutionary components the theories of meaning cannot be considered complete. In order to assign illocutionary acts to the sentences it is quite important to analyze illocutionary verbs and other IFIDs.

Verschueren (1997, p. 30) tried to elaborate the concept of Illocutionary Force Indicating Devices other than the illocutionary verbs. These devices included the following:

- i. Sentence type: Sentences can be used as IFIDS. For example declarative sentences have assertive force; interrogatives have the force of question and imperatives have directive forces associated with them.
- ii. Aspects of word order, stress and intonation.
- iii. Adverbs can serve as the indicators of meta pragmatic awareness such as frankly, seriously, briefly, confidentially. He gave following examples for the adverbs:
 - i. Admittedly, John's a lousy driver.
 - ii. Certainly/ undoubtedly, humans are a danger to themselves.

The adverb in the first sentence serves as an attitudinal marker while in the second it shows epistemic properties.

Muhammed (2005) applied speech act theory and conducted a pragmalinguistic analysis of the selected political newspaper headlines from distinguished newspapers, such as Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and The Washington Post. Out of a total of 50 illocutionary speech acts she found 02 declaratives, 39 representatives, 04 expressives, 01 directive and 04 commissives. She also found following linguistic features in the headlines:

- i. Deletion:** It is the omission of lexical items such as articles, demonstrative adjectives, possessive adjectives, verb 'be' and titles, such as Mr., Sir, and Dr., to save space in a headline.
- ii. Special Use of Tenses:** Present tense is used in headlines to add freshness, immediacy and also to create interest. Present tense describes something happening in the present or the past. It is also used for the events happening repeatedly. Present progressive tense is used with the omission of the auxiliary to report the events that are developing. The infinitive is used to refer to the future. The past participle is used in passive constructions.
- iii. The Use of Acronyms and Abbreviations:** Abbreviations, and acronyms make headline writing easy, but they also add ambiguity to the headlines.
- iv. Pre and post modification:** They occur in different ways in headlines as adjectives; participles, adverbials, genitive 's' and nouns are used as pre modifiers. Post modifiers are also used where modifier follows the modified expression.
- v. Ambiguity:** There are various reasons why ambiguity is created in the headlines. Context alters word meanings. As editors have to shift the headline materials in order to save space. In this way the particular word important to the context is missing. Sometimes nouns and adjectives are joined in a way that they convey double meanings. Generalization is also a cause of ambiguity. Generalization must only be made when a specific fact cannot be stated within the limits of the headline. Sometimes, it overstates the results. Muhammed (2005) gave following different kinds of ambiguity:

The first one is lexical or referential ambiguity where a single lexical item has more than one meaning the ambiguity is lexical. The second is syntactic ambiguity where an entire sentence has more than one interpretation. The third one is textual ambiguity that occurs when incompatibilities exist between different parts of text or specifications exist in multiple directions, across a text.

Hall (2012) attempted to identify as well as classify the speech acts in UK broadsheet newspapers. He termed speech acts as under theorized aspect of journalism that play an important role in social constructionism. He examined the way in which newspapers use speech acts and discussed the discursive and linguistic strategies used in the acts of deliberating, informing and witnessing.

Hall (2012, pp. 08-10) defined three acts in the following manner:

- i. Informing:** These are the acts of information used by media to report what is going on and why

ii. Deliberating: These acts report different voices in media as well as identify and compare the values given to them. These acts also invite opposing views

iii. Witnessing: These acts affirm the reality of an event.

Hall (2012, p. 04) emphasized that the deliberate use of certain lexical and syntactic arrangements media reports the news as well as invites the desired responses from the audience. He stated that media language is a performative language as it invokes certain attitudes from audience. He explained that the acts of informing, deliberating and witnessing are used by the journalists to give shape to the agendas, opinions, identities and social reality.

Although the above mentioned researches have applied speech act theory to the analysis of the headlines but they left certain gaps that need to be filled. The concept of felicity conditions has not been applied to the analysis of the speech acts or their categorization. Similarly the speech acts have not been discussed keeping in view the lexical and grammatical devices that help to mark the illocutionary force. Current study aims to apply the felicity conditions as well as lexical and grammatical devices to the analysis of the speech acts.

3. Methodology

Qualitative methodology was chosen as a suitable way to analyze the lexical and grammatical items and their association with the analysis of the pragmatic functions of the headlines.

3.1 Collecting Data

The period during which Raymond Davis was taken into custody started from January 26, 2011 and ended in his release on March 16, 2011. All the headlines during this period were collected. A sum of 40 headlines was selected from CNN website(editioncnn.com). A software RSS Bandit was used to collect these headlines. The advantage of using this software is that it classifies the headlines according to different categories such as sports, health, politics etc. In this way it becomes easier to select the desired category.

3.2 Processing Data

The headlines were processed by selecting only the data that were important for analysis. Unnecessary materials associated with the headlines in the form of catalogues and hyperlinks were stripped off. The headlines were then saved in the form of Microsoft Word document files.

3.3 Sampling

Out of the already collected headlines purposive sampling technique was used to select only those headlines that focused on Raymond Davis and in which there was a change in the terminologies used for him. As a result only five headlines were found to be suitable for the analysis.

3.4 Lexical and grammatical devices

The lexical devices that seemed to have important role in the headlines were figured out in the light of the previous researches that have already been mentioned in the literature review.

3.5 Categorization of the headlines into speech acts

Speech act theory was selected as the basis for the categorization of the headlines into speech acts. Felicity conditions given by Searle (1969) were selected as the most important means for the

speech act identification. Moreover the functions of the lexical and grammatical devices in the interpretation of the speech acts were also analyzed.

4. Data Analysis and Discussion

In order to find out the impact of the lexical and grammatical devices on the interpretation of the pragmatic functions it was necessary to categorize them into different kinds. These categories and their roles are given below that would further be discussed in the speech act interpretation.

Following headlines numbered from H1 to H5 are under consideration for analysis:

H1. Pakistani court denies diplomatic immunity for CIA contractor

H2. Pakistani judge delays hearing for jailed U.S. diplomat

H3. American citizen reportedly detained in Pakistan

H4. Pakistani judge blocks move to release U.S. consular employee

H5. Pakistan continues to hold U.S. diplomat

4.1 Types of lexical and grammatical devices in the headlines

Following devices were used in the headlines:

4.1.1 Use of modifiers

Use of modifiers was found one of the most important lexical strategies used to portray Raymond Davis in CNN headlines. Modifiers have been used in the headlines to assign attributes to different entities. There can be found pre and post modifiers. Word “Pakistani” has been used before using the words “court” and “judge”. Word “American” has been used before the word “citizen”. Similarly the word “diplomatic” has been used before using the word “immunity”. Another example of modifier can be found in the second headline H2 where the word “jailed” has been used before the “US diplomat. Similarly the words “US”, “CIA” and “US consular” can be found in the headlines that help to add qualities to the terms such as diplomat, contractor and employee respectively.

There can be observed a shift in the terminologies used for Raymond Davis. In the first headline H1 he has been termed as a CIA contractor. In the second headline H2 he has been termed as US diplomat. In the third headline he has been termed as American citizen. In the fourth headline he has been termed as a US consular employee while in the last headline he has once again been termed as a US diplomat. Three headlines portray him as a person associated with a diplomatic mission. Only one headline has addressed him as US citizen whereas he has been portrayed as an intelligence agency employee in only one headline. Most of the headlines function to use terminologies that help to highlight his innocence. After reading these headlines it becomes difficult to figure out whether Raymond Davis was guilty or not. No headlines use the words Raymond Davis. Diplomats are usually given diplomatic immunity according to the Geneva Convention and they can not be kept arrested for a long time. In this context Pakistan could not keep Raymond Davis detained. After reading the term “American citizen” once again it becomes difficult to figure out what was done by Raymond Davis for which he was accused till the reader reads the whole story. The term CIA contractor portrays him as a person responsible for the task assigned by an organization and he must have some immunity.

4.1.2 Use of verbs

Speech act verbs can be found in most of the headlines. The most prominent of these verbs are “denies”, “delays”, “blocks” and “continues”. Two other forms of verbs such as participles and infinitive can also be found. Here the participles such as “jailed” and “detained” function to add an attribute only while the infinitive form “to hold” shows a situation that is in progress.

4.1.3 Use of voice

All the headlines are in the form of active voice except the third one that is in the form of agent less passive. The use of active voice emphasizes the role of the subject and by doing so highlights the role of the Pakistani court of law and a Pakistani judge who was dealing with the decision of Raymond Davis case. In case of the third headline it is unclear to find out who detained the American citizen because the agent is absent.

4.1.4 Effect of the lexical and grammatical devices on the pragmatic interpretation of the headlines

Speech act theory was applied in order to find out the pragmatic functions of the headlines. The most important functions according to the speech act theory are the illocutionary functions that can either be direct or indirect. The above mentioned headlines have been analyzed both ways in order to find out the direct and indirect speech acts.

4.1.5 Direct and indirect speech acts

Direct speech acts are easy to figure out as some performative verbs have been used in the headlines. On the other hand if the contextual factors are taken into account and the roles of the lexical devices are considered then the result can be different.

First headline H1 seems to be an act of denial if the performative verb “denies” is taken into account. It seems that the Pakistani court has the main role in denying the diplomatic immunity for a CIA contractor. The second headlines uses the verb “delays” and it seems that the headline is an act of delay as the verb is in the present form. The third headline H3 does not use any performative verb still, it can be termed as an act of information or report as the adverb “reportedly” has been used in it. The fourth headline uses the verb “blocks” as a performative verb and seems to be a speech act that shows that an action has been stopped. The last headline H5 uses the verb continue which gives a sense in combination with the infinitive form “to hold” that has been used next to it that it is an act of continuity of a situation.

On the contrary if the background of the Raymond Davis story is taken into account and the headlines are put to a detailed analysis according to the felicity conditions then the results are different. There is a context of the situation related to every word used in the headlines and affects the way in which the speech acts may be assigned or interpreted.

Table 4.1: Analysis of the felicity conditions

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H1. <u>Pakistani court denies diplomatic immunity for CIA contractor</u>	The proposition is about the current state of affairs.	The writer has evidence who is responsible for the bad state of affairs.	The writer thinks that the current state of affairs is not fair for the people who are being victimized.	Pakistani court is responsible for the current state of affairs and the authority must change it.
H2. <u>Pakistani judge delays hearing for jailed U.S. diplomat</u>	--do--	--do--	The writer does not want the delay.	Pakistani judge is responsible for the delay.
H3. <u>American citizen reportedly detained in Pakistan</u>	--do--	--do--	The writer has a desire that the detained person must be freed.	Pakistan is involved in the detaining a citizen.
H4. <u>Pakistani judge blocks move to release U.S. consular employee</u>	--do--	--do--	The writer wants the change of the bad state of affairs.	The Judge is misusing his authority.
H5. <u>Pakistan continues to hold U.S. diplomat</u>	--do--	--do--	--do--	Pakistan is involved in the continuity of the current situation.

The analysis of the felicity conditions indicates that most of the propositional content of the headlines is related with the current states of affairs. The preparatory conditions indicate that there is some reason or evidence associated with the headlines. The sincerity conditions show a sense of sympathy associated with a person who has already committed a crime and also indicated that the states of affairs is bad. The essential conditions blame the Pakistani authorities for committing something bad that is not in favor of the American agent Raymond Davis and also against US Pakistan relations. The headlines writer has tried his level best to prove that Raymond Davis was innocent.

These felicity conditions arise as a result of the contexts associated with the above mentioned linguistic items that have been used in the headlines.

Verb “deny” has been used in H1 that is basically an action verb and puts the emphasis on the subject that the subject is responsible for the act committed. The term “CIA contractor” has been used to affiliate Raymond Davis with an organization having legal status. At that time CIA was cooperating with Pakistan. Although the verb “deny” is present in the headline still it can not be

termed as an act of denial rather an act of accusation on Pakistani court. The purpose of the headline writer is to give a message that although it was possible that diplomatic immunity could be given but the court denied it. Another strategy is to place "Pakistani court" as a subject of the sentence. While the noun phrase is at the start the role of the agent directly goes to the NP working as a subject.

In this second headline H2 verb "delay" has been used where once again the emphasis is on the role of the subject of the sentence that is Pakistani Judge. It clearly makes the headline an act of blame. The term "US diplomat" has been used to portray Raymond Davis as a person having diplomatic immunity and as a person who can not commit a heinous crime. Verb "delay" that has been used here does not mark the headline as an illocutionary act of delay rather an act of accusation if the context of the headline is studied. The intended meaning being conveyed by the headline by keeping "Pakistani judge" or the noun phrase at the initial position of the sentence is to put the blame on Pakistani judge.

In H3 Raymond Davis who was previously termed as CIA contractor has been termed as an American citizen. The terminology has been changed in order to create an impression in the minds of the readers that he was just an innocent citizen. Word "detained" has been used to convey a message that he has been kept under arrest for a long time and still there has not been taken proper action in order to set him free. The information about time cannot be found in the headline in order to create doubt in the minds of the readers. If the headline is seen carefully as a sentence it can be found that "American citizen" is at the subject position and an adverb "reportedly" has been used to create doubt in the minds of the people regarding the news headline. It is being conveyed that until now the citizen has been detained although he must have been freed.

In H4 the message is once again about Raymond Davis but here he has been termed as a US consular employee. He has already been termed as CIA contractor and an American citizen. A contractor and American citizen as well as a consular employee cannot be accused of any crime because they have been assigned duties and are exempted of charges under diplomatic immunity. In this headline the verb "block" has been used once again in order to put the blame of the Pakistani Judge as it seems while reading the headline that it is the authority of the judge who can block the release or can release the consular employee. It can be inferred clearly from the headline that the move to release the US diplomat could succeed but it is the Pakistani judge who has stopped the move.

In H5 the verb "continues" has been used to indicate that the same situation still exists and Raymond Davis has not yet been freed. Pakistan has once again been blamed for holding Raymond Davis. A diplomat has diplomatic immunity and cannot be kept under arrest for a long time. Word Pakistan has been kept at the subject position in order to highlight the agent role especially to show that Pakistan is playing a negative role by not releasing the innocent diplomat.

5. Conclusion

The current article focused on discussing the portrayal of Raymond Davis in the CNN headlines. It was found during the analysis that the portrayal of Raymond Davis was affected by the lexical choices used to present him in different ways. The way he was named in the headlines as diplomat, citizen and US consular employee not only affected the way he was presented in the

media but also the pragmatic interpretations. Every lexical choice used to address him possessed a situation specific context. The context in which the word US citizen is used is different than the context in which the term “consular employee” is used. These words used in the headlines provided context for the interpretation of the news headlines and every time portray Raymond Davis with a different status. Similarly the use of voice affected the roles of the agents. If the pragmatic functions are considered, the headline writers have tried their level best to present Raymond Davis as innocent while on the other hand Pakistan its law enforcing institutions were blamed for taking negative actions against a US diplomat. It shows how biased the media reporting was. The lexical and grammatical choices were inappropriate to the situation.

References

- Bedrichova, L. (2006). *Headlines and subheadlines in newspaper reporting*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Masaryk University, Brno.
- Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (1999). *Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Harlow: Longman.
- Hall, S.B. (2012). *The discourse of protest: Using discourse analysis to identify speech acts in UK broadsheet newspapers*. London School of Economics and Political Science. United Kingdom.
- Morris, J. J. (2004). Textual analysis in journalism. In H. S. Lorio (Ed.), *Qualitative Research in Journalism: Taking It to the Streets* (pp. 155-166). Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Muhammed, M.M. (2005). *A Pragmalinguistic analysis of selected English political newspaper headlines*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Council of the College of Education for Women, University of Baghdad.
- Nemickienė, Z. (2010). Linguistic means for realization and evaluation of the message in newspaper headlines. *Profesinės Studijos: Teorija ir praktika*, 34-41. Retrieved July 20, 2011 from: <http://pstp.svako.lt/ps06/linguistic%20means%20for%20realization%20and%20evaluation%20of%20the%20message%20in%20newspaper%20headlines.pdf>
- Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech acts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech acts: An essay in the philosophy of language*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press.
- Searle, J. R., & Vanderveken, D. (1985). *Foundations of illocutionary logic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Yamashita, T. (1998). Contrastive analysis of discourse representation in Japanese and American newspaper reports. *Intercultural Communication Studies*, 7(2), 177-191.
- Verschueren, J. (1997). *Understanding Pragmatics*. London: Edward Arnold.

Websites

www.editioncnn.com and www.rssbandit.org