

## **Transitivity as a marker of valuation process in journalistic discourse**

Maciej Kielar (*Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań*)

The process of valuation is assumed to be a discursive phenomenon. Considering Puzynina's (1992) ideas, which Krzeszowski (1997: 16) characterises as '[p]ragmatics of axiological terms,' one may notice that valuation may also be realised in language on the level of the grammatical structure. Therefore, the aim of the analysis in the present paper is to show the link between grammatical structures and their functions in expression of valuation. It seems possible through the integration of assumptions of functional grammar, the idea that valuation is present in every linguistic production and the fact that Critical Discourse Analysis (henceforth CDA) views discourse as a collection of socially constructed values.

The focus is on the idea of 'transitivity' which in the current paper is understood according to Halliday's (1978: 46) and Fowler's (1991: 70) definitions. Hence, according to Wodak's (1995: 207-210) outline of CDA modes, 'social semiotics', or, in other words the 'functional school' of CDA, appears to be best suited for the present study, as it focuses on the relation between grammatical system and purposes it serves to its users.

To exemplify the use of 'transitivity' in the expression of valuation in journalistic discourse, it has been decided to investigate the Press discussion of the EU enlargement in 2004, in ten British and Irish national daily newspapers. Therefore, the corpus of the Press release consisting of some 30.000 words has been gathered. It encompasses articles published between 15 April and 7 May 2004 which represent such journalistic genres as press note, report, commentary, report with elements of commentary and coverage. In the course of its analysis, expressions introducing valuation have been divided into active sentences with the agent as grammatical subject and active sentences with other role as grammatical subject. Consequently, the significance of transitivity as a linguistic mechanism used by journalists for the purpose of introducing valuation is presented and discussed with reference to selected examples.

- Fowler, Roger. 1991. *Language in the News: Discourse and Ideology in the Press*. London: Routledge.
- Halliday, Michael, A., K. 1978. *Language as Social Semiotic: The Social Interpretation of Language and Meaning*. Baltimore: University Park Press.
- Krzeszowski, Tomasz, P. 1997. *Angels and Devils in Hell. Elements of Axiology in Semantics*. Warszawa: Energia.
- Puzynina, Jadwiga. 1992. *Język wartości [Language of Values]*. Warszawa: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe.
- Van Dijk, Teun, A. 1998. *Ideology: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. London: Sage Publications.
- Wodak, Ruth. 1995. 'Critical linguistics and critical discourse analysis' in Jef Verscheuren, Jan-Ole Östman, Bloomaert (eds.) *The Handbook of Pragmatics*. Amsterdam; Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 204–210.
- Wodak, Ruth. 2000. 'Recontextualization and the transformation of meanings: A critical discourse analysis of decision making in EU meetings about employment policies' in Srikant Sarangi, Malcolm Coulthard (eds.) *Discourse and Social Life*. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 185–206.