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Whites and Browns: A Contrastive Study of Metadiscourse in English Newspaper Editorials

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Abstract

Metadiscourse is an interesting field of inquiry which is believed to play a vital role in organizing and producing persuasive writing. It is a set of linguistic devices used to communicate attitudes and mark the structural properties of a text. The study aimed to investigate whether native and non-native varieties of English varieties are similar or different from each other from the perspective of interactional meta-discourse markers. The study as contrastive rhetoric research scrutinized a corpus of 900 newspapers editorials (450 written in native English newspapers and 450 written in non-native English newspapers). Editorials were culled from 15 native English newspapers belonging to three native English countries, England, America and New Zealand, and 15 non-native English newspapers belonging to three non-native English countries, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. Based on the model of metadiscourse given by Hyland (2005), interactional metadiscoursive resources were analyzed. The frequencies of interactional metadiscourse markers in both native and non-native varieties were counted and compared with each other. The results disclosed that there were worth-pointing differences between the native and non-native English editorialists in the use of interactional metadiscourse markers. Two different varieties of English editorials showed variations particularly in the use of hedging and self-mention markers. On the whole, findings suggested that the use of interactionalmetadiscourse markers in native English editorials were more frequent than those in non-native English editorials which made their writings more appealing and convincing context.

Keywords: metadiscourse; native; non-native; newspaper; editorials

INTRODUCTION

Language is a part of society (Moreno, 1997) and society is inextricably linked to the culture which means that a piece of writing is a reflection of culture (Moreno, 1997). Writings emerge out of language. That is why language and writing are said to be a cultural phenomenon (Kaplan, 1996). The result of such a cultural phenomenon is that every society has its language and rhetorical norms and traditions (Connor, 1996). Therefore, it can be pointed out that usage of metadiscourse may vary across different cultures, languages and communities. The social view of written communication suggests that the text is a site where the writer and the reader are engaged in dialogic interactions based on shared interpretive practices. Fowler (1991) considers the author and the reader to be co-creators, discussing the nature and importance of language based on more or less shared knowledge of the world, society and language.

The term "metadiscourse" was coined by Harris in 1959 to understand the system of language. Metadiscourse is an essential tool for creating links among texts and their contexts in which they are used because metadiscourse directs readers' attention towards certain forms of engagements and interactions. It brings into light the dialogic role of discourse by revealing authors' understanding through the way he/she addresses readers and their needs. It is a way of looking at language use based on the fact that, as we speak or write, we monitor the possible responses of others, making decisions about the kind of effects we are having on our listeners or readers, and adjusting our language to best achieve our purposes.

Metadiscourse is one of the main tools that allows an author to create the meaning of a text and its social impacts on society and its readers (Siddique, Mahmood & Iqbal, 2018). It includes works by authors and their readers on mutual understanding and engagement (Hyland, 2005). Authors use the Methodiscourse to demonstrate the appropriate professional personality to guide and motivate their readers because the metadiscourse is an important part of persuasive writing (Hyland, 1998a). Therefore, persuasive writing can be considered a major object for metadiscourse research. In this regard, Ansary and Babaii (2009) point out that editorials play an important part in the design of readers' ideology and position of their readers because editorialists by designing the design of their writings design the position and ideology of their readers. Editorialist may inculcate the ideology for which he is working.

An editorialist may persuade, motivate, change, and even manipulate others (Milne, 2008). For this purpose, editorialists use metadiscourse as a strategy of manipulation and persuasion (Siddique, Mahmood & Iqbal, 2018). Ansary and Babaii (2009) pointed out that editorials of the newspapers are a significant and interesting genre for the investigation of linguistic variations among different cultures because editorials are very much representative day to day and cultural issues. As a result, a cross-linguistic study on the organization of metadiscourse would yield interesting results in newspapers' editorials.

As stated earlier, the current study has used Interpersonal Metadiscourse Model given by Hayland in 2005 which is divided into two categories, interactional category and interactive category. Both interactional and interactive categories of the model are given in Figure 1 and 2. Different markers of the model are identified and categorized based on Hyland's (2005) classification of interactional category.

Studying metadiscourse is a well-established research field. Many researchers have conducted research using Interpersonal metadiscourse model. Different markers of metadiscourse have been identified and examined in several ways by different researchers in a number of contexts, including science popularizations, textbooks (Crismore, 1984; Hyland, 1999, 2000), student writing (Crismore, Markkanen & Steffensen, 1993), research articles (Mauranen, 1993; Valero, 1996; Moreno, 1997; Hyland, 1998a, 1998b, 2000, 2001; Mur-Dueñas, 2011), and advertisement (Olivera, Sacristán, Baño & Fernández, 2001). But surprisingly little attention has been given to the genre of newspaper opinion and editorials.

Contrastive studies are more important than a normal investigation of metadiscourse because they analyse two fields and by comparing them give results. They are more important for the understanding of cultural and linguistic variations (Mina & Biria, 2017). Bhatia (1993) pointed out that there are a lot of genres within one newspaper such as sports reports, opinions, editorials, news reports, and headlines etc. which make the language of a newspaper attractive. In such a wide variety of genres, an editorial is the most significant and appropriate for the analysis of metadiscourse because editorials hold writers' opinion about political and public issues (Mina & Biria, 2017).

Figure 1

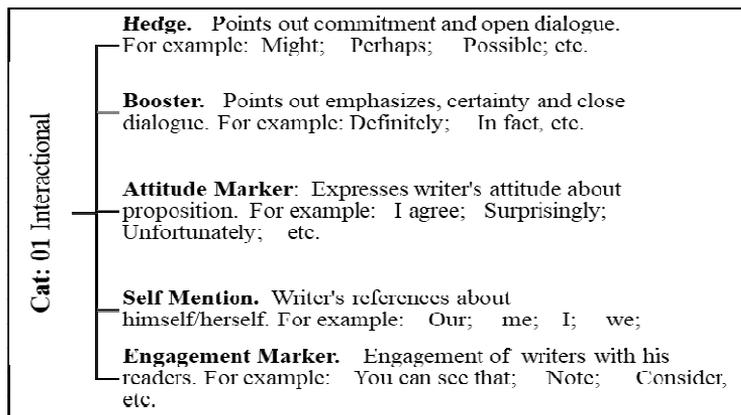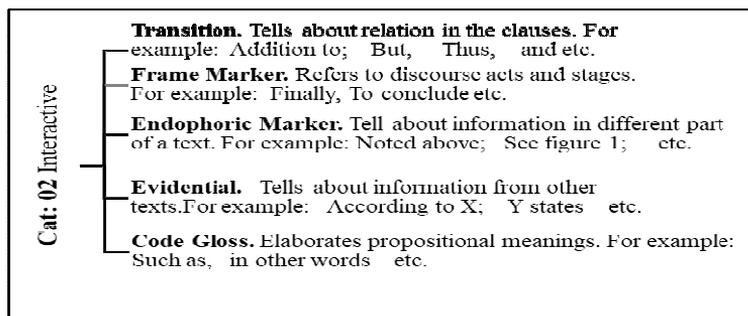*Hyland's Model of Interpersonal Metadiscourse (2005: 49)*

Cat: 01 Interactional

Hedge. Points out commitment and open dialogue. For example: Might; Perhaps; Possible; etc.

Booster. Points out emphasizes, certainty and close dialogue. For example: Definitely; In fact, etc.

Attitude Marker: Expresses writer's attitude about proposition. For example: I agree; Surprisingly; Unfortunately; etc.

Self Mention. Writer's references about himself/herself. For example: Our; me; I; we;

Engagement Marker. Engagement of writers with his readers. For example: You can see that; Note; Consider, etc.

Figure 2

Hyland's Model of Interpersonal Metadiscourse (2005: 49)

Cat: 02 Interactive

Transition. Tells about relation in the clauses. For example: Addition to; But, Thus, and etc.

Frame Marker. Refers to discourse acts and stages. For example: Finally, To conclude etc.

Endophoric Marker. Tell about information in different part of a text. For example: Noted above; See figure 1; etc.

Evidential. Tells about information from other texts. For example: According to X; Y states etc.

Code Gloss. Elaborates propositional meanings. For example: Such as, in other words etc.

A contrastive study of Persian and English editorials was conducted by Kuhi and Mojood in 2012 based on Hyland's model (2005). It showed very interesting results. The results disclosed that English and Persian editorials were different from each other because of their linguistic and cultural variations. The study pointed out that attitude markers and interactional markers were very prominent in newspapers editorials. On the whole, the results of the research commended that metadiscourse had a conclusive role in the organization of persuasive techniques in newspapers commentaries.

Following this tradition of contrastive research a cross-linguistic study conducted by Shahid, Qasim and Hasnain (2020). It analyzed English and Urdu newspaper editorials by using Hyland's (2005) model. The results of the study showed that both the languages were different from each other in the use of metadiscourse markers. On the whole, the study concluded that the use of interactional metadiscourse was a predominant category and attitude marker was a predominant feature in both groups.

Although different researches were conducted in the past by the different researchers in different genres there is a complete lack of contrastive research on newspaper editorials. There is a dire need of metadiscourse research in this field. That is why the present study intended to investigate interactional metadiscourse markers in native and non-native English editorials.

Objectives and Hypothesis

The present research is designed to find out whether the native and non-native English varieties are similar or different from one another. It is also designed to investigate the differences and similarities between native and non-native English editorialist in the use of interactional metadiscourse marker. It tries to find out whether both groups of editorialists use similar types of markers or not. It is based on premise that English editorialists are good at using metadiscourse markers in their editorials than non-native ones which make their writing more appealing and convincing.

RESEARCH METHOD

Data Collection

Two different corpora were built based on the selection of 900 (450 written in Native English newspaper and 450 written in Pakistani English newspaper) editorials taken from native newspapers and non-native English newspapers. To mitigate the diachronic effects on the selected sample, only editorials published in March, April and May (2019) were included in the sample. The purpose of taking data from native and non-native English editorial was that the researcher assumed native English editorialists were better in English and using meta-discourse markers in their editorials than non-native ones. Table 1 and 2 shed more light on the selection procedure of data. Links of newspapers were given in the reference list under the heading of *Newspaper.*

Table 1
A Summary of the Data Sample Taken from Native English Editorials

Sr. No	Name of Newspaper	Country	No of Editorials	Words
01	The New York Time	America	30	13437
02	Washington Post		30	15882
03	Afro American		30	19428
04	State of Arizona		30	21372
05	USA Today		30	17610
06	The Guardian	England	30	23538
07	City A.M.		30	15183
08	Lancashire Evening Post		30	14133
09	Yorkshire Post		30	18504
10	The Bolton News		30	25788
11	The New Zealand Herald	New Zealand	30	18489
12	The Press		30	24507
13	The Northern Advocate		30	21246
14	The Southland Times		30	15282
15	The Nelson Mail		30	13737
	Total		450	278136

Table 2
A Summary of the Data Sample Taken from Non-native English Editorials

Sr. No	Name of Newspaper	Country	No of Editorials	Words
01	Dawn	Pakistan	30	19701
02	The News International		30	15147
03	Pakistan Observer		30	21270
04	The Nation		30	17967
05	Daily Pakistan		30	26763
06	Hindustan Times	India	30	21291
07	Times of India		30	13707
08	The Tribune		30	21291
09	The Hindu		30	16935
10	The New India Express		30	20736
11	Daily News	Sri Lanka	30	16296
12	The Daily Mirror		30	19623
13	Sunday Observer		30	14163
14	The Island		30	14724
15	Daily FT		30	19734
	Total		450	279348

Data Analysis

Data analysis was based on Hyland model of metadiscourse. As already mentioned, Hyland model of metadiscourse was divided into two categories Interactive and Interpersonal (Hyland, 2005) but, in this research, only one category of this model, interactional, was investigated in both native and non-native English editorials. It was subdivided into five major categories. For subcategories, the description is given in Table 3. Then Frequencies of both groups were investigated using Antconc 3.5.7. Frequencies of different categories were calculated from both corpus and after getting the total of all markers, the results were compared with one another.

Table 3

Interactional Metadiscourse Model (Hyland, 2005)

Main Categories	Subcategories	Examples
Hedges	Epistemic verbs	May, can, would etc.
	Probability adverbs	About, probably, perhaps etc.
	Epistemic Expressions	Most, probable, typical etc.
	Intensifier adverbs	Always, never, actually etc.
Booster	Intensifier adjectives	True, obvious, clear etc.
	Intensifier verbs	Prove, think, decide etc.
	Attitude verbs	Tend, propose, suggest etc.
Attitude Markers	Attitudinal adverbs	Fortunately, unfortunately, etc.
	Attitudinal adjectives	Inappropriate, usual, unusual etc.
Self-mention	1st person pronoun	We, me, I etc.
	Reader pronoun	You, one's, your etc.
Engagement Markers	Interjection	By the way etc.
	Directive imperatives	Note, note that etc.
	Obligation modals	Do not, need to, must to etc.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Based on the results in Table 4, the frequency and percentage of boosters, Engagement markers and self- mentions in the native English newspapers editorials were significantly more than their use in non-native English newspapers editorials. Also, there was a significant difference in applying hedges and attitude markers between the two groups. In subsequent categories

of hedges, a significant difference between the two groups was observed. Non-native English editorialists applied epistemic verbs, probability adverbs, and epistemic expressions in their editorials more frequently than the editorialists of native English newspapers.

Table 4
Frequencies of Interactional Metadiscourse Markers in the Corpus

Interactional Markers	Whites Editorials		Browns Editorials	
	F	*P	F	P
Hedges				
Epistemic verbs	3283	21.68	4368	31.65
Probability adverbs	1347	8.89	1002	7.26
Epistemic Expressions	390	2.57	522	3.78
Total	5020	33.15	5892	42.70
Boosters				
Intensifier adverbs	984	6.50	567	4.10
Intensifier adjectives	354	2.33	375	2.71
Intensifier verbs	807	5.33	627	4.54
Total	2145	14.16	1569	11.37
Attitude markers				
Attitude verbs	837	5.52	738	5.34
Attitudinal adverbs	63	0.41	150	1.08
Attitudinal adjectives	225	1.48	264	1.91
Total	1125	7.43	1152	8.34
Self-mentions	4827	31.88	2418	17.52
Engagement markers				
Reader pronoun	1560	10.30	513	3.71
Interjection	03	0.01	03	0.02
Directive imperatives	75	0.49	114	0.82
Obligation modals	1509	9.96	2136	15.48
Total	3147	20.78	2766	20.04
Grand Total	15138	100	13797	100

Note: *=F$\times$100÷T=%, F: Frequency, P: Percentage

A significant difference was observed in applying intensifier adverbs and verbs. Native editorialists used more adverbs than non-native editorialists. In addition, no significant difference was observed in applying intensifier adjectives in two groups.

Table 5

The Use of Hedges in Newspapers Editorials

Hedges	Words	White Editorials		Brown Editorials	
		F	P	F	P
Epistemic verb	May	318	6.33	402	6.82
	Might	141	2.80	93	1.57
	Can	684	13.62	738	12.52
	Could	342	8.42	528	8.96
	Could not	36	0.71	81	1.37
	Would	696	13.86	723	12.27
	Would not	24	0.47	57	0.96
	Should	294	5.85	648	10.99
	Should not	15	0.29	87	1.47
	Need	219	4.36	288	4.88
	Must	195	3.88	339	5.75
	Seem	48	0.95	69	1.71
	Estimate	03	0.05	06	0.10
	Argue	24	0.47	09	0.15
	Clear	150	2.98	144	2.44
	Claim	54	1.07	66	1.12
	Indicate	09	0.17	18	0.30
	Tend to	12	0.23	09	0.15
	Suggest	12	0.23	36	0.61
	Suppose	06	0.11	00	000
	Assume	00	000	27	0.45
Probability adverbs	About	996	19.84	588	9.97
	Probably	48	0.95	27	0.45
	Perhaps	75	1.49	108	1.83
	Maybe	36	0.71	00	00
	Possibly	24	0.47	00	00
	Almost	99	1.97	144	2.44
	Relatively	06	0.11	00	00
	Fairly	06	0.11	06	0.10
	Mainly	03	0.05	36	0.61
	Frequently	09	0.17	12	0.20
	Sometimes	21	0.41	27	0.45
	Somewhat	09	0.17	27	0.45
	Generally	15	0.29	27	0.45
Epistemic expressions	Most	288	5.73	414	7.06
	Probable	03	0.05	00	000
	Possible	78	1.55	102	1.47
	Apparent	09	0.17	00	000
	Uncertain	03	0.05	03	0.05
	Typical	06	0.11	00	000
	In most cases	03	0.05	03	0.05
Total		5019	100	5892	100

Note: F: Frequency, P: Percentage

According to the results, hedges were used in the non-native English editorials more than the native English editorials. They were in higher sequence, and all subtypes of this maker were used more frequently in the non-native English editorials as compared to the native ones.

Table 6

The Use of Boosters in Newspapers Editorials

Booster	Words	White Editorials		Brown Editorials	
		F	P	F	P
Intensifier adverbs	Certainly	45	2.09	57	3.56
	Really	168	7.83	42	2.62
	Undoubtedly	00	0.00	06	0.37
	Always	189	8.81	81	5.06
	Never	156	7.27	135	8.44
	Definitely	18	0.83	15	0.93
	Obviously	21	0.97	27	1.68
	Clearly	84	3.91	45	2.81
	Totally	18	0.83	18	1.12
	In fact	69	3.21	69	4.31
	Of course	99	4.61	48	03
	Actually	117	5.45	24	1.50
Intensifier adjectives	True	111	5.17	75	4.69
	Certain	45	2.09	81	5.06
	It is clear that	09	0.41	18	1.12
	Obvious	21	0.97	27	1.68
	Undeniable	12	0.55	06	0.37
	Clear	150	6.99	144	09
	Evident	06	0.27	24	1.50
Intensifier verbs	Demonstrate	12	0.55	12	0.75
	Indicate	09	0.41	18	1.12
	Show	108	5.03	111	6.94
	Prove	27	1.25	30	1.87
	Think	153	7.13	66	4.12
	Decide	24	1.11	33	2.06
	Know	276	12.86	147	9.19
	Find	87	4.05	135	8.44
	*Found	111	5.17	75	4.69
Total		2145	100	1599	100

Note: *= (Siddique, Mahmood & Iqbal, 2018), F: Frequency, P: Percentage

Based on the results in table 6, there was a significant difference between native and non-native editorialists. Boosters in the native English editorials were applied more than the non-native editorials of English. In the subcategory

of intensifier adverbs, they were used more frequently in the native English editorials compared to the non-native editorials.

Table 7

The Use of Attitude Markers in Newspapers Editorials

Attitude Marker	Words	White Editorials		Brown Editorials	
		F	P	F	P
Attitude verbs	Feel/felt	132+60=192	17.06	27+33=57	5.20
	Believe/believed	102+60=162	14.4	48+54=102	8.85
	*Think/thought	153+78=231	20.53	66+87=153	13.2
	Presume/Expect	48+06=54	4.8	15	1.30
	Consider	39	3.46	48	4.16
	Appear	09	0.8	57	4.94
	Sound	27	2.4	54	4.68
	Notice	09	0.8	60	5.20
	Sense	48	4.53	93	8.07
	Suppose	06	0.53	00	000
	Predict	00	000	03	0.26
	Estimate	03	0.26	06	0.52
	Tend	12	1.06	09	0.78
	Propose	03	0.26	03	0.26
	Suggest	12	1.06	36	3.12
	Agree	27	2.4	21	1.82
	Prefer	00	000	18	1.56
Attitudinal adverbs	Usually	06	0.53	24	2.08
	Importantly	15	1.33	21	1.82
	Significantly	09	0.8	39	3.38
	Unfortunately	27	2.4	60	5.20
	Fortunately	06	0.53	06	0.52
Attitudinal adjectives	Essential	12	1.06	27	2.34
	Important	120	10.66	150	13.0
	Interesting	21	1.86	15	1.30
	Usual	24	2.13	09	0.78
	Unusual	15	1.33	15	1.30
	Remarkable	12	1.06	12	1.04
	Desirable	00	000	03	0.26
	Appropriate	12	1.06	24	2.08
	Inappropriate	03	0.26	03	0.26
	Understandable	06	0.53	06	0.52
Total		1125	100	1152	100

Note: *= (Siddique, Mahmood & Iqbal, 2018), F: Frequency, P: Percentage

Here in Table 7, there was no clear difference observed between native and non-native editorialists. The frequency of attitude markers in both varieties is almost the same. Native and non-native editorialists used almost attitude markers with the same frequency.

Table 8

The Use of Self-mention in Newspapers Editorials

Self-mention	Words	White Editorials		Brown Editorials	
		F	P	F	P
1st person Pronoun	We	1602	33.18	798	33
	Our	750	15.53	462	19.10
	*The author	09	0.18	15	0.62
	I	1758	36.42	429	17.74
	Mine	15	0.31	15	0.62
	The writer	03	0.06	93	3.84
	Us	465	9.63	522	21.58
	Me	225	4.66	84	3.47
Total		4827	100	2418	100

Note: *= (Siddique, Mahmood & Iqbal, 2018), F: Frequency, P: Percentage

There was a clear difference in both groups as it can be seen from the above-mentioned table. Self-mentions were used more in native English editorials compared to non-native English editorials. The highest difference between native and non-native was found in self-mention *we*.

Table 9

The Use of Engagement Markers in Newspaper Editorials

Engagement Marker	Words	White Editorials		Brown Editorials	
		F	P	F	P
Reader pronoun	You	1221	38.79	384	13.88
	Your	324	10.29	123	4.46
	Yourself	15	0.47	06	0.21
	One's	00	000	00	000
Interjection	By the way	03	0.09	03	0.10
Directive imperatives	Note that	03	0.09	27	0.97
	Consider	39	1.23	48	1.73
	Note	18	0.57	39	1.40
	Think about	15	0.47	00	000
Obligation modals	Do not	48	1.71	108	3.90
	Have to	126	4.00	102	3.68
	Need to	120	3.81	159	5.74
	Must	195	6.19	339	12.25
	Should	294	9.34	648	23.42
	Would	696	22.11	723	26.41
	Wouldn't	24	0.76	57	2.06
Total		3147	100	2766	100

Note: F: Frequency, P: Percentage

According to Table 9, reader pronoun and obligations were used more frequently in native English editorials than in the non-native ones. But overall there was not much difference in the two groups.

On the whole, the findings of the study have pointed out that both groups of editorialists used interactional metadiscourse indicators in their editorials which show that they were conscious of the momentous part of metadiscourse markers in persuasion and manipulation (Hyland, 2005). Together with native and non-native newspaper, editorialists used metadiscourse markers to construct, organize and to evaluate the contents of the text. Editorialists of both native and non-native English are different at different levels of interactional metadiscourse. Editorialists in the two different varsities (native and non-native) might have diverse approaches in consuming certain subtypes of metadiscourse because of their cultural modifications.

The interactional metadiscourse is a resource of logical, persuasive and manipulative varieties (Hyland, 2005), so, it can be found very frequently and commonly in the newspaper editorials. Dafouz (2003) while pointing out the persuasive and manipulative nature of interpersonal metadiscourse (interactional in Hyland's model) stated that interpersonal metadiscourse is very important in the construction of text which appears attractive, logical and convincing to the reader. Hence, the findings of the research suggest that the native and non-native English newspapers editorialists used interactional metadiscourse markers to make their writings more convincing and more appealing.

Findings show that the hedges and engagement markers are most frequent in both corpora. Among the interactional resources, booster and attitude markers are thought to have a convincing and manipulative function. Their presence in both the corpora shows that these items function as convincing and manipulative strategies in the editorials. Few examples have been discussed below which are found in native and non-native editorials.

Sometimes they will learn by trial and error (*Dawn,* 1 March 2019).

Sometimes Border Patrol makes large (*State of Arizona,* 11 April 2019).

This is terrorism and nothing else that nobody **could** and **should** tolerate. It **must** be rooted out forthwith (*The Daily Mirror,* 11 April 2019).

Lawmakers **should** insist on reading the entire report (*Washington Post,* 18 April 2019).

According to the study proposed by Hyland (2005), attitude pointers furnish an opening for authors to indicate an assumption of common values, attitudes and responses to substance, by this means they describe a situation that brings readers into a state where arouse the concept of consequences of the agreement. So it is considered to be tough and readers are not able to disagree. In this manner, these devices help authors in completing their foremost objectives in the credible writings i.e., encouraging their readers. Few examples have been discussed below which are found in native and non-native editorials.

Unfortunately, this sad story doesn't end here (*Hindustan Time*, 22 April, 2019)

Unfortunately, there's plenty of evidence that the president can't be taken at his word when he says that the report is a "complete and total exoneration" of wrongdoing (*The New York Time*, 18 April, 2019).

I sought the thoughts of a retired international journalist whose opinion is **usually** worthy, knowing his distaste for Pilger (*The New Zealand Harald*, 17 March 2019).

Forced marriage is when the bride, groom (or both) don't want to get married but are pressured into it, **usually** by their families (*Pakistan Observer*, 20 March 2019)

The results of the research, therefore, indicate that both native and non-native editorialists are cognizant of the convincing and manipulative power of these metadiscourse devices that is why they attach prime importance to them in their writings. As a result, one might be accomplished that frequent consumption of attitude indicators is projected as an innate representation of commentaries genre.

The outcomes of the research also reveal an interesting difference between the two sets of writers in the editorial genre. There is a significant and clear difference between native and non-native editorials in the use of hedges. Non-native English editorials contain fewer hedges than native English editorials which showed a weakening of arguments because hedges show a weakening of a claim through an unambiguous qualification of the writer's promise to display uncertainty (Hyland, 2005, 2007) and show that facts are presented as a judgment rather than qualified facts and figures (Hyland, 1998b). Hyland (1994: 241) opposes that in persuasive writing, hedges are an

important means of both supporting the writer's position and building writer-reader relationships. Few examples have been discussed below which are found in native and non-native editorials.

> **It is clear** that the CJI ought not to have presided over the special Bench that took up the matter that concerned himself (*The Hindu*, 7 Mach 2019).

> **It is clear** that through the AFRO and the other Black Press members' amplification of racial injustices, the Black community began to force the majority to recognize the entitlements they could no longer negate based upon race (*Afro American*, 10 April 2019).

The native English editorialists heavily overuse hedges by comparison with their non-native counterpart. It may be because of rhetorical conventions which are use by two sets of writers. In the nutshell, native English editorialists are found more appealing and polite to their reader than non-native English editorialists because of the fact presented thorough booster.

CONCLUSION

The current research showed that frequencies metadiscourse markers were quite frequent in the native English editorials compared to non-native English newspaper editorials. Findings of the study concluded that there are differences between native and non-native varieties of English in the use of interactional metadiscourse markers. Frequencies of main and subcategories of interactional metadiscourse vary in different Englishes as the study revealed that native editorialists used more interactional markers than their counterpart. The study also revealed that there are differences and similarities between native and non-native English regarding the use of markers. There were certain markers which were used by native but not by the non-native or vice-versa. The thing which becomes very important to point out that is the frequencies of the markers. Although the markers were similar in both varieties there was a significant variation among their use. For instance, findings of the research showed that use of self-mention, hedges and boosters are different across native and non-native editorials which pointed out linguistics variations across native and non-native cultures. It can be stated that similarities and differences are because of cultural differences between native and non-native editorials.

On the whole, the study indicated that metadiscourse plays a significant and vital role in the construction and organization of persuasive strategies in any text. The study indicated that interactional markers played an important role in maintaining the link between reader and writer as it is indicated through attitude markers in both varieties. The study as contrastive research took a step towards the cross-linguistic analysis of two varieties of English within the same genre. It is hoped that it would play a vital role in teaching second and foreign languages. It would be beneficial for the learners and teachers to analyze and identify linguistic variation in the English language. There is considerable potential in this area for future research. The relatively small number of the analysed editorials was one of the limitations of the study. Other studies with larger samples could be applied to be certain about the validity of these findings.[rgt]

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