A Study on the Ideational Function of Uighur Hard News Headlines from the Transitivity
-A Case Study of Uygur Version "Xinjiang Daily"

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Abstract—**In this paper, the systemic functional linguistics theory is used to analyze the ideational function of the hard news headlines from the transitivity of the Uygur version "Xinjiang Daily" as the material source. Analysis of Uyghur version of the "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines transitivity can find the language tendency and social functions. Uyghur version of the "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines uses a large quantity of material processes, in which the participants are mostly proprietary nouns, while the circumstantial elements are usually reduced on the basis of complete transmission of information. These not only reflect the accuracy, objectivity and simplicity of Uyghur version of the "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines, but also reflect the social function—prompt and effective transmission of news. The circumstantial elements which indicate the degree in the hard news headlines also have an impact on the reader's cognition, which reflects that the headlines not only have intellectual characteristics, but also have guiding and ideological characteristics.**

Keywords—Uyghur; hard news headlines; transitivity; ideational function

I. INTRODUCTION

News headline is the subject of news coverage, especially in the newspaper of this style. It is not only the concentration and generalization of news reports, but also contains values or tendencies. So it directly or indirectly affect and control people's thinking, and plays an important role in the formation of people's attitudes and awareness. Discourse analysis allows readers to better understand and judge the content of news reports, core ideas and ideology.

As the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of China Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region committee, and the only party organ newspaper which is inscribed twice the name by Chairman Mao Zedong in China [1], "Xinjiang Daily" has a certain representativeness because of its long history, development and perfection. From the perspective of transitivity of Halliday's functional grammar, this paper sampled out 50 hard news headlines (which does not contain captions and subtitles) with multiple content from 20 December 2016 to 20 March 2017 for analysis. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the transitivity process of the hard news headlines of the Uyghur version "Xinjiang Daily", and to further explain the linguistic features, essence and social functions. At the same time, it aims to provide a new perspective for the writing of Uyghur news reports and readers' interpretation of discourse, and enhance the social transmission function of Uygur news reports.

II. HALLIDAY'S SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS, TRANSITIVITY THEORY

Systemic functional linguistics holds that language is the product of human social activity. As a tool for human communication, it takes on a wide variety of functions [2]. Halliday (1970, 1973, 1985/1994/2004) divides the function of language into three categories: ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function. The ideational function refers to the expression of the language to the various experiences of people in the real world (including the inner world) [3].

Transitivity is an important representation of ideational function. It is a semantic system, its role is to divide what people saw and heard into a number of "processes", that means the experience will be categorized by grammar, the "participants" and "circumstantial elements" will be specified. The transitivity system consists of six different processes:

- Material process: a process of doing something;
- Mental process: a process of sensing something;
- Relational process: a process of being something;
- Behavioral process: a process of behaving something, such as breathing, coughing, sighing, dreaming, crying and laughing, etc;
- Verbal process: a process of saying something;
- Existential process: a process of existing something [4].

III. AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSITIVITY OF THE HARD NEWS HEADLINES OF UYGHUR VERSION "XINJIANG DAILY"

Hard news usually refers to reports of serious, eventual, time-sensitive, subject matter, such as reports of major crimes, fires, accidents, speeches, labor disputes, or battles. Hard news is the core of newspaper news [5].

A. An analysis of the transitivity process

Transitivity process is manifested by clauses. This paper divided the samples 50 hard news headlines into 57 clauses, which can be divided into two kinds of clauses—itself as a hard news headline and as a part of a hard news headline. In order to better understand the language of the hard news headlines, the following will analyze the transitivity process of Uyghur version "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines from these two kinds of clauses

1) Itself as a hard news headline.

In the 50 hard news headlines, there are 43 headlines that contained the maximum grammar component is phrase. That is, there are 43 clauses that itself is a hard news headline. According to the theory of transitivity, these clauses all use the material process. The "action", "process" and "goal" of the clauses are words or phrases, which mean "who / where", "do" and "who /thing". The example sentences are shown in the following table:

TABLE I   MATERIAL PROCESS

Process type	Headline sentence	Date	Actor	Process	Goal
Material process	aptonom rajonluq xɛlq høkymiti 42-qetimliq daime jiʁin atʃti (The People 's Government of the Autonomous Region held the 42nd executive meeting)	2016.12.21	aptonom rajonluq xɛlq høkymiti （phrase： the People 's Government of the Autonomous Region）	atʃti （word： held）	42-qetimliq daime jiʁin （phrase： the 42nd executive meeting）
	ʃi dʒinpiŋ zimbabwe zuŋtuŋi mugabi bilɛn køyʃti (Xi Jinping meets with Zimbabwean President Mugabe)	2017.1.10	ʃi dʒinpiŋ （word： Xi Jinping）	køyʃti （word： meets）	zimbabwe zuŋtuŋi mugabi bilɛn （phrase： Zimbabwean President Mugabe）
	aptonom rajoinmizda jezilardiki mɛdʒburiyɛt ɛmgiki omumeyzlyk bikar qilindi (My area totally abolished rural compulsory workers)	2017.2.5	aptonom rajoinmizda （phrase： my area）	bikar qilindi （word： abolished）	jezilardiki mɛdʒburiyɛt ɛmgiki （phrase： rural compulsory workers）

2) As a part of a hard news headline

In the 50 hard news headlines, there are 7 headlines that contained the maximum grammar component is clause, a total of 14 clauses. These clauses are actually the subject - predicate structures in the headlines sentences that express a complete meaning. The following 3 samples transitivity process analysis of these seven hard news headlines were divided into clauses.

a)   *sijase keŋɛʃ ʃindʒŋ ujʁur aptonom rajonluq 11-nøwɛtlik komitetiniŋ 5-jiɛinini kelɛr jili1-ajniŋ8-kyni ietʃiʃ qarlr qilindi （ 2016.12.24:* The autonomous region's political commissar decided to hold the fifth session of the 11th session on January 8 next year）

- sijase keŋɛʃ ʃindʒŋ ujʁur aptonom rajonluq 11-nøwɛtlik komitetiniŋ   5-jiɛinini kelɛr jili1-ajniŋ8-kyni ietʃiʃ （ material process: The autonomous region's political commissar will hold the fifth session of the 11th session on January 8 next year）

b)   *ʃi dʒinpiŋ seurixqa berip, ʃiwejtsarijɛ federatsijɛsidiki dølɛt iʃliri zijartini baʃlidi （2017.1.16:* Xi Jinping arrived in Zurich to start a state visit to the Swiss Confederation）.

- ʃi dʒinpiŋ seurixqa berip （ material process: Xi Jinping arrived in Zurich）

- ʃi dʒinpiŋ ʃiwejtsarijɛ federatsijɛsidiki dølɛt iʃliri zijartini baʃlidi （material process: Xi Jinping started a state visit to the Swiss Confederation）

c)   *ʃi dʒinpiŋ dunja iqtisad mumbiriniŋ 2017-jilliq jilliq jiʁininiŋ baʃliniʃ murasimiʁa qatnaʃti hɛm asase mɛqsɛt nutqi søzlidi （*2017.1.18: Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in 2017 and delivered a keynote speech）

- ʃi dʒinpiŋ dunja iqtisad mumbiriniŋ 2017-jilliq jilliq jiʁininiŋ baʃliniʃ murasimiʁa qatnaʃti （ material process: Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in 2017）

- ʃi dʒinpiŋ asase mɛqsɛt nutqi søzlidi （ material process: Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech）

From the above analysis can be seen in the above 14 clauses, there are 13 clauses use the material process. Because the material process is basically same with the one in the above clauses that itself is a headline, so this paper here no longer analyze a specific example sentence. The difference is that some of the clauses as part of the hard news headline can also act as "actors" or "goals" in the whole news headline process, not just words or phrases.

It is worth noting that there is a clause uses mental process. Although the 2017.1.1 news headline contains three clauses are used in the material process, but the predicate of the headline "tɛbrigaidi(congratulations) " is expressed in the mental process. The mental process of this hard news headline is analyzed in the following table 2:

TABLE II MENTAL PROCESS

Process type	Headline sentence	Date	Senser	Process	Phenomenon
Mental process	ʃi dʒinpiŋ tɛlɛgramma ɛwɛtip, dʒuŋgo xɛlqara telewizijɛ istansisi dʒuŋgø 《jɛrʃari》 telewizijɛ tori niŋ pirogramma kørsitiʃgɛ baʃliʁanliqini tɛbrigaidi (Xi Jinping sent a letter to congratulate the China International Television (China World Television Network) launched)	2017.1.1	ʃi dʒinpiŋ（word：Xi Jinping）	tɛbrigaidi (word: congratulate)	dʒuŋgo xɛlqara telewizijɛ istansisi dʒuŋgø 《jɛrʃari》 telewizijɛ tori niŋ pirogramma kørsitiʃgɛ baʃliʁanliqini （clause：China International Television (China World Television Network) launched）

B. An analysis of the transitivity participant

In the case of participants in the hard news headlines, it was found that the participants were usually proprietary nouns which represent places, person, organizations, etc. (see Table I) and phrases or clauses which represent social events or government action (see 2017.1.15 headline sentence above).Among them, there are 48 participants, accounting for 96% of the participants who refer to the exclusive object. Of the remaining 3 participants who are common nouns, two are the pronouns represent the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, one is the ordinary term "country" particularly refers to "China", accounting for only 4%. From the language of the participants we can see that the "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines focus on the accuracy of language expression.

C. An analysis of the transitivity circumstantial element.

The transitivity circumstantial elements include the time, space, the way, the degree, the comparison, the concomitant, the causal, the identity, etc., the common expression form is the adverb phrase, the prepositional phrase or the clause. The environmental component is a supplement to the event process [6].

In the 50 hard news headlines, there are 10 headlines expressly expressing the environmental significance. Complementary circumstantial elements for the incident process have intellectual characteristics. While the circumstantial elements which represent the degree of the incident process with subjective judgment will have an impact on the reader's cognition, it reflects that these headlines have guiding and ideological characteristics. The remaining 40 hard news headlines basically conform to the "subject + object + predicate" form, the omission of the circumstantial elements is mainly reflected in the news text. From the vast majority of omission on environmental elements, we can see that the "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines focus on the simplicity of language expression.

IV. CONCLUSION

Although the statistical number of headlines is limited, the process type statistics inevitably exist deviation, but the above analysis shows the Uyghur version of "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines' language tendency and social functions. Uyghur version of "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines' main features are: hard news headlines use a large number of material processes to report work progress in various fields of our country and Xinjiang Autonomous Region during 20 December 2016 to 20 March 2017, so that more readers can understand the situation and development strategy in China and Xinjiang region. Hard news headlines have the features with accuracy, objectivity, simplicity. The language of hard news headlines is characterized by accuracy, objectivity, and simplicity. Uyghur version of the "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines use a large number of proprietary nouns to represent participants, and reduce the circumstantial elements on the basis of complete transmission of information, so that the news can be quickly and effectively delivered; Influenced by the subject of the text, language ideology and other factors, Uyghur version of "Xinjiang Daily" hard news headlines not only have the intellectual characteristics, but also have guiding and ideological characteristics.

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