A STUDY OF INTERACTION AND INTERACTIVE METADISCOURSE ON UKRAINE-RUSSIA CONFLICT NEWS ARTICLES

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Abstract: Metadiscourse plays an important role in news article writing as it allows writers to express their feelings and ideas using language. The objective of this study is to investigate the usage of interactive and interactional metadiscourse markers in news articles about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The research design is descriptive and qualitative, based on the theory of interactive and interactional metadiscourse markers by Hyland (2005). Five news articles were selected from The New York Times' English news article website, published between November 9-18, 2022. Data was collected using document research and analyzed through document analysis. Results showed that all types of interactive and interactional metadiscourse were present in the news articles, except for booster. The most frequently used interactional metadiscourse was self-mention, accounting for 65%, while the most frequently used interactive metadiscourse was transition, accounting for 84.7%. The implications of the above research suggest that the use of interactive and interactional metadiscourse in news articles can enhance reader engagement and understanding of the content.

Keywords: *metadiscourse, news articles, qualitative research*

INTRODUCTION

The mass media is an important tool for communicating with the public. According to Garnham (2020), the mass media provides information to the general public. People rely on the media to stay informed about events happening around them, and they can share information with others through the media. The mainstream media has the power to influence and shape people's lives, which can have a significant impact on the way individuals live. The media has various social roles and functions (McQuail, 2005). It can serve as a window to events, reflect life events and experiences of the world and society, provide a forum for discussion, and act as a filter and guide to present ideas and information to both the audience and the interlocutor.

Writers use metadiscourse components to provide readers with more than just information. These components can appear in both oral and written communication, and they help readers understand the text in various ways. Hyland (2005) describes metadiscourse as a term often used in discourse analysis and language instruction to conceptualize interaction between writers or speakers and their audiences. The concept of metadiscourse involves discussing an ongoing literary work or providing explicit literary commentary on it. This statement is used to provide information and indicate the presence of markers based on text (Ädel, 2006), which aligns with Hyland's theory that metadiscourse is a way of receiving a text (Hyland, 2005).

Metadiscourse is defined as "aspects of a text that explicitly refer to the organization of the author's stance toward either its reader or the content" (Hyland, 2005). Hyland divides metadiscourse into two major groups: interactive and interactional metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005). Interactive metadiscourse refers to rhetorical features that reflect the author's awareness of their reader or listener, their expectations, and interests. Meanwhile, interactional metadiscourse refers to rhetorical features that convey the author's alignment and judgments to their listener or reader (Hyland, 2005). Using interactive metadiscourse, the author or speaker can arrange argumentative material to produce persuasive writing. On the other hand, social participation in metadiscourse includes readers or listeners and displays the speaker's or writer's perspective regarding the subject with the proposed understanding of the language used, which is instructive. This study analyzes and examines the metadiscourse markers in five newspaper editorial articles using Hyland's metadiscourse markers as the main theory.

In this current study, the researchers have reviewed three previous studies related to the topic of metadiscourse and news articles to support their study. The first study was entitled "Study of Interactional Metadiscourse in a News Article on the Impact of Covid-19 on Education" (Aszeli et al., 2021). The study aimed to analyze interactional metadiscourse in a news article regarding the impact of Covid-19 on education using Hyland's (2005) theory. The results found that the most frequent kind found in the news article is the attitude marker, with 45.45% of the percentage. The second study, was entitled "Metadiscourse Markers in CNN Health News Article" (Aini et al., 2022). The study aimed to identify the functions and types of metadiscourse markers used in CNN health news articles using Hyland's (2005) theory. The results found that there are 11 functions and 2 types of metadiscourse markers in CNN health news articles. The third study was entitled "Analyzing Metadiscourse Markers in Two Online Newspapers' Editorials on Covid-19" (Koutchadé & Koutchadé, 2021). The study aimed to identify metadiscourse markers in the chosen online articles. The results found that interactional and interactive metadiscourse occurs in the two texts, except for code glosses and self-mentions in the first text, which were not identified.

Based on the reviewed studies above, the researchers have found that the studies share a similarity in discussing metadiscourse in news articles related to health. In this study, the researchers intend to examine the use of interactive and interactional metadiscourse markers in a news article about the Ukraine-Russia conflict in November 2022. This paper provides theoretical support, an overview of prior studies, a description of the materials and methods, an analysis of both texts using the provided framework, and a discussion of key findings to address specific research questions related to this study. The primary focus of this work is the analysis of metadiscourse markers in five news articles. The objectives of this study are formulated as follows:
1. What is the purpose of interactive metadiscourse in news articles, and how frequently is it used?
2. What is the purpose of interactional metadiscourse in news articles, and how frequently is it used?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
Metadiscourse
Metadiscourse is a frequently used phrase in discourse analysis and language instruction today, referring to an author's comment on a text while speaking or writing about it (Hyland, 2005). It has been extensively researched in academic papers, novels, blogs, speech materials, and general writings. Metadiscourse is a linguistic concept that describes the direction and function

of words used in a text. Hyland defines metadiscourse as a three-way relationship between text, author, and reader that allows the author to communicate with readers through text in one of his studies (Hyland, 2005). There are two layers of metadiscourse: interactional and interactive. Compared to interactive metadiscourse, which is more closely related to what Halliday refers to as the textual metafunction, interpersonal metadiscourse is more concerned with expressing the writer's opinions and their relationships and interactions with their readers. Therefore, the author uses the term "metadiscourse" to inform the reader of the text's intent and the general direction of some of its concepts (Vande et al., 1997).

Interactive Metadiscourse

	Sub-Category	Description	Examples
Interactive Resources	Transitions	Express relations between main clause	In addition, but, thus, and
	Frame Markers	Refer to discourse acts, sequences or stages.	Finally, to conclude, my purpose is
	Endophoric Markers	Refer to information in other parts of the text	Noted above, see Fig, in section 2
	Evidentials	Refer to information from other text	According to X, Z states
	Code Glosses	Elaborate propositional meaning	Namely, e.g, such as, in other words

Table 1: Interactive Metadiscourse Markers

The five different sub-categories covered by the interactive tools are transitions, frame markers, endophoric markers, evidence, and code glosses. The purpose of interactive resources is to engage and interact with readers. Interactive resources also aid in directing the reader through the text by arranging the discourse and assuming the writer's assumption of the reader's background information and the conclusions the reader can take about the topics being discussed from the text (Craig, 2008). Transitions include illustrations like additionally, but, and, with, and consequently. Frame markers refer to sequences or stages. Endophoric markers refer to particular words, as shown in Figure and section 3. Evidence is information that comes from other sources. Lastly, code glosses define the propositional (Hastomo & Aminatun, 2023).

Interactional Metadiscourse

	Sub-Category	Description	Examples
Interactional Resources	Hadges	Withhold commitment and open dialogue	Might; perhaps; possible; about
	Boosters	Emphasize certainty or close dialogue	In fact; definitely; it is clear that
	Attitude Markers	Express writer's attitude to proposition	Unfortunately; I agree; surprisingly
	Personal Merkers	Explicit references to author(s)	I; we; my; me; our

Engagement Markers	Explicitly build relationship with reader	Consider; note; you can see that

Table 2: Interactional Metadiscourse Markers

Interactional resources include five different sub-categories, namely Hedges, Boosters, Attitude markers, and Personal Markers (Hyland & Tse, 2004). Interactional resources help to pinpoint specific words and phrases that contribute to reader engagement. Hedging and reinforcing serve similar functions, such as holding commitments and emphasizing certain things. Attitude markers and Personal Markers, their function consists of expressing the author's attitude and references to the author. Lastly, reader engagement refers to establishing an explicit relationship with the reader.

News Article

Despite the proliferation of media outlets due to technological advancements, news stories remain the primary source of information for the public (Ifantidou, 2005). These articles cover news, stories, and current affairs (Nugrahani & Bram, 2020), including educational issues that have been highlighted during the pandemic from various perspectives (Huh & Lee, 2016). Newspapers refer to written material that is current and relevant, which is practical for readers due to its reliability and accessibility. News articles aim to inform readers about local and global news and can be found in periodicals, newsletters, websites, and ads. News articles may include headlines, author information, an introduction, body content, and citations, as well as visuals like images, statistics, interviews, and graphs. News articles are typically filled with facts and viewpoints on global issues. Depending on the author's use of language and consideration of the reader's interpretation, readers' opinions of online news articles can be positive or negative. Therefore, the writer expects the reader to comprehend the article's writing.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researchers adopted a descriptive qualitative research design and used the document analysis method to analyze the metadiscourse in news articles. Content analysis or document analysis is one type of qualitative research that uses a systematic procedure to analyze data (Abusalim et al., 2022). This study used the document analysis method to answer specific research questions, and also employed a quantitative research method to display the data found in the analysis as percentages and frequencies to support the research findings and discussion.

The sample in this study is five news articles about Ukraine - Russia conflict. The news articles are taken from the English news articles website of The New York Times. The news articles on Ukraine - Russia conflict on the website are chosen based on the most recent articles between 9-18 November 2022. In this study, the collecting technique of the data is Document research. The steps to collect the data is as follows: First, the researchers collected five recent news articles in November 2022 about Ukraine- Russia conflict on The New York Times news articles website. Second, the researchers determined examples of words that are categorized as Interactive and interactional metadiscourse. Third, the researchers read through the chosen news articles in search of the clauses and sentences that are containing interpersonal or interactive metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005), framework of metadiscourse markers. Fourth, the researchers then took note of how many clauses and sentences are categorized for later purposes.

The data in this study were analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative methods through document analysis. Document analysis is a systematic approach that takes into account all relevant material, follows a list of steps during analysis, and requires consistency checking with coding (Vande et al., 1997). In the quantitative analysis, data from each news article will be compiled into a table displaying the frequency and percentage of each type of interactive and interpersonal metadiscourse, as categorized by the framework of (Hyland, 2005) metadiscourse markers theory. This table will then be analyzed qualitatively with supporting theory, and the results will be compared in terms of percentage.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the five news articles about the Ukraine-Russia conflict, it was found that all of the writers used markers from the meta-discourse category. The first category is interactive, which includes subcategories such as frame markers, transitions, endophoric markers, evidence, and code glosses. The second category is interactional, which includes subcategories such as hedging, reinforcers, attitude markers, self-identification, and engagement markers. The findings are displayed in Tables 3 and 4.

Research Question 1: What is the purpose interactive metadiscourse in the news articles and how does the frequency of the usage?

Quantitative findings

Category	Interactive Frequency	Percentage
Transitions	238	84.7%
Frame markers	10	3.6%
Endophoric	19	6.8%
Evidentials	13	4.6%
Code glosses	1	0.3%
Total	281	100%

Table 3. Interactive meta-discourse makers in News Article

The table above displays the percentage and frequency of interactive metadiscourse analyzed from the five latest news articles about the Ukraine - Russia conflict in November 2022. The table displays that all of the types of Interactive metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005), theory are found within the five news articles. The most frequent type of interactive metadiscourse that appears in the five articles is Transition with a percentage of 84.7%. The second most frequent type is Endophoric markers with a percentage of 6.8%, in this case, the researchers found that the authors attempted to fortify their opinion with supporting arguments or additional information. The other types found are Evidential with a percentage of 4.6%, in this case, the researchers found that the authors used the evidential type to support their presuppositions. And Frame markers with a percentage of 3.6%, in this case, the researchers found that the authors used this type to label their articles. The least frequent type is Code glosses with a percentage of 0.3%, in this case, the researchers found that only one of the five news articles containing code glosses is used to exemplify something in the text.

Transition

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker transition in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to express relations between main clauses (Hyland, 2005). Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles are presented as follows.

1. *...hitting Moscow's troops before they can settle **and** build defenses on the eastern bank of the Dnipro River, across from Kherson.*
2. *...and even peace talks, over the winter, **but** after pushing the Russians out of Kherson, Ukraine has no desire to stop.*
3. *"I think there will be counterattacks in other directions, **so** that the enemy does not have time to transfer reserves and block strikes."*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as transitions are bolded. The researchers found that in all of the examples, the writers use transitions to connect their statements and to add further information to the sentences, which helps them to write effectively and helps the reader to gather conveyed information.

Frame Markers

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker frame markers in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to refer to discourse acts, sequence or stages (Hyland, 2005). Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles are presented as follows.

1. *Today," Ms. Torchanska said, "the Ukrainian forces **finally** took the entire village under their control. It's such a blessing. Everyone feels festive."*
2. *...like saying, 'It's not necessary to have absolute territorial integrity, we need to negotiate, we need to go for compromise so that **finally** we can have peace again,".*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as frame markers are bolded. In all of the examples above, the researchers found that the writer use it in the perspective of an informant to closing the report or information gathered.

Endophoric Marker

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker Endophoric markers in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to refer to the information in other parts of the text (Hyland, 2005). Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles are presented as follows.

1. *...**noted above** that Mr. Zelensky did not repeat his prior refusal to negotiate with a Russian government led by Mr. Putin.*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as Endophoric markers is bolded. In the example above, the researchers found that the writer use it to guide the reader to read a certain part of the text again to understand the point discussed in the sentence.

Evidential Marker

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker Evidential markers in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to refer to the information from other text (Hyland, 2005). Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles are presented as follows.

1. *Ukraine could step up a covert campaign designed to show that it can strike back even on Russian soil, **according to** analysts.*

2. *...forces to mount a large-scale offensive action, which, **according to** military convention,...*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as evidential markers are bolded. In the example above, the researchers found that the writer use it to refer the statement in the sentence to a certain other text outside this text.

Code Gloss

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker code-glosses in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to elaborate propositional meanings (Hyland, 2005). Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles are presented as follows.

1. *Western officials see events this fall **such as** the suspected sabotage of Germany's rail system and drone surveillance...*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as code-glosses is bolded. In the example above, the researchers found that the writer use it to exemplify the events of which also fall before to give a further information to the reader.

Research Question 2: What is the purpose interactional metadiscourse in the news articles and how does the frequency of the usage?

Quantitative Findings

Category	Interactional Frequency	Percentage
Hedges	20	31%
Booster	0	0%
Attitude markers	1	1%
Self-mentions	42	65%
Engagement markers	2	3%
Total	65	100%

Table 4. Interactional meta-discourse makers in News Article

The table above displays the percentage and frequency of interactional metadiscourse analyzed from the five latest news articles about the Ukraine-Russia conflict in November 2022. The table shows that all types of interactional metadiscourse in (Hyland, 2005) theory, except for Boosters, were found within the five news articles. The most frequent type of interactional metadiscourse that appears in the five articles is Self-mention, with a percentage of 65%. The second most frequent type is Hedges, with a percentage of 31%. The other types found are Engagement markers with a percentage of 3% and Attitude markers with a percentage of 1%. The type of interactional metadiscourse that is not used or nonexistent in the five news articles is Boosters. In this case, the researchers found that the authors did not attempt to strengthen their arguments to the reader.

Qualitative findings

Hegdes

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker Hedges in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict which are Might, Possible and about. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to without commitment and open dialogue (Hyland, 2005). Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles are presented as follows.

1. *Other U.S. officials said it was not entirely clear that Moscow was abandoning the west bank of the Dnipro, and **might** not be clear for a few days.*
2. *The occupation forces had telegraphed a **possible** pullback for weeks, ...*
3. *... who had been outspoken **about** Russia's deteriorating military situation, ...*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as Hedges are bolded. The hedges' feature are to reject to commit, to provide an alternative opinions, to show uncertainty, or to subtlety giving viewpoints (Ädel, 2006). In the example 1 and 2 above, the researchers found that the writer use Hegdes to subtlety express their uncertainty. In the example 3, the writer use hedges to subtlety express their insight.

Boosters

The findings show that there is no metadiscourse marker "boosters" in the news articles about the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to enhance the writer's argument (Hyland, 2005). The researchers inferred that the writers didn't use boosters because they didn't want to strengthen their arguments for the reader.

Attitude Markers

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker attitude marker in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse is to express writer's attitude towards a proposition (Hyland, 2005). Example of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles is presented as follows.

1. *"**I agree** with our president," Ms. Rodavanova said. "Better without electricity, without water and without heat if also without the Russians."*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as Attitude marker is bolded. In the example above, the researchers found that the writer use attitude marker to express their attitude towards a proposition in the perspective of an informant in their writing.

Self Mention

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker self mention in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse is to explicitly refering to the authors (Hyland & Tse, 2004). Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles are presented as follows.

1. *Nobody asked me," Dr. Terpak said, "but if they did, **I** would have said, 'Go ahead and take the shot.'"*
2. *"They wouldn't have left if **we** didn't shoot at them," he said.*
3. *"It was the most important relic of **our** church," he said.*

In the examples above, the words that are categorized as self mention are bolded. In all of the examples above, the researchers found that in the news articles the authors are writing from the perspective of an informant to prove that the news is a fact and is not overstated.

Engagement Markers

The findings showed that there is a metadiscourse marker engagement markers in the news articles about Russia-Ukraine conflict. The function of this metadiscourse marker is to explicitly build relationships with the reader. Examples of this metadiscourse marker in the news articles is presented as follows.

1. *...said this week that the coming cold was an opportunity for both sides to* **consider** *peace talks.*

In the example above the word that categorized as engagement markers is bolded. In example above, the research found the purpose of the authors using engagement markers is in line with Sahragard & Yazdanpanahi, engagement markers used to help the authors to use appropriate words to negotiate, connect, and oppose with the readers (Aszeli et al., 2021)

DISCUSSION

This current study used Hyland (2005) metadiscourse theory to analyze the news stories, focusing on both interactive and interactional metadiscourse. Interactional metadiscourse aims to involve the reader in the text, and there are five categories: engagement markers, boosters, attitude markers, self-mentions, and hedges. Hedges serve as a strategy to avoid committing and encourage conversation, while boosters highlight assurance or emphasize communication. Attitude markers convey the writer's perspective on the idea, and self-mentions clarify the author's identity. Engagement markers explicitly build a relationship with the reader. On the other hand, the purpose of interactive metadiscourse is to assist the reader in following along as they read the material, and there are five categories: transition, frame marker, endophoric marker, evidential, and code gloss. A transition conveys relationships between primary clauses, while a frame marker identifies discourse actions, sequences, or phases. Endophoric markers reference information from other sections of the text, and the evidential function refers to data from other documents. Code glosses clarify propositional meanings.

The news articles taken from the English news articles website The New York Times are entitled: 'Winter Will Be a Major Factor in the Ukraine War, Officials Say', the second news article is 'Russia Orders Retreat From Kherson, a Serious Reversal in the Ukraine War', the third news article is 'Ukraine Signals It Will Stay on the Offensive, Despite Talk of a Lull', the fourth news article is 'Russia Tried to Absorb a Ukrainian City. It Didn't Work', and the last news article is 'Ukraine Peace Talks Remain Distant Even as Moscow Signals a Retreat'. The reason why the researchers choose the five news articles is that it is the latest topic on the website, not only that the researchers also found that the interactional and interactive metadiscourse in these news articles has not been analyzed yet. This is why the researchers are interested to analyze the interactional and interactive metadiscourse in these news articles.

Based on the research findings above, the researchers found similarities and differences in the study findings conducted by Aszeli et al. (2021). The similarities include the scope of the study, which is analyzing interactional metadiscourse, the topic of the study, which is analyzing news articles, and the theory used, which is Hyland (2005) theory. However, there are differences in the object of the study and the study results. In this study, the object is news articles about the Russia-Ukraine conflict, whereas in the previous study, the object is the impact of COVID-19 on education. Additionally, the most frequent type of interactional metadiscourse in the news articles in this study is Self mentioned (65%), whereas in the previous study, it is Attitude marker (38.81%). Therefore, these two studies are not in line with each other, even though the study scope and topic are the same.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion above, it can be concluded that metadiscourse is essential in writing news articles, as several interactional and interactive markers were found in the news articles from the sample, along with their function and purpose. The number of interactional metadiscourse instances found in the news articles was 65, whereas the number of interactive metadiscourse instances was 281. The most frequent kind of interactional metadiscourse was self-mention with a percentage of 65%, while the most frequent type of interactive metadiscourse was a transition with a percentage of 84.7%. Some of the main purposes the researchers interpreted from the writers using interactional and interactive metadiscourse were to assist the reader in reading the text, to strengthen their arguments, to express their insights, and to prove that the news is a fact and not overstated by writing from an informant's perspective.

Although this study provides valuable insights into the use of metadiscourse in news articles, a larger sample size could provide a more comprehensive analysis. Future research could use a more extensive collection of news articles from various sources to draw more reliable conclusions. To broaden the scope of the research, future studies could also analyze different types of news articles, such as opinion pieces, editorials, and feature stories. This approach could help researchers better understand the nuances of metadiscourse usage in different types of news articles. Conducting a similar study in other languages could provide an opportunity to compare the usage of metadiscourse across different languages and cultures. This could shed light on the universal or culturally-specific aspects of metadiscourse in news articles. Last, future studies could explore how the use of metadiscourse differs in news articles about different conflicts. This approach could help researchers identify patterns in the use of metadiscourse across different contexts.

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