

How Lebanese Channels Intervene Subjectively in Displaying Demagoguery and Violent Rhetoric

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Abstract

Lately, in the Lebanese context, several events have emerged among media channels that are, currently and diligently, working to incite competition, manufacture news, and highly attract audience's attention so to change their perspectives in a way to serve the channels' stakeholders own hidden agendas. Having said that, Lebanese media channels tend to choose certain events and narrate them in a way to fulfil their purpose. These ways include pragmatic mechanisms to determine what is newsworthy and what is not. This paper aims at investigating, using the Bednark and Caple's (2012) model, how Lebanese medial channels intervene, subjectively, in displaying aggressive rhetoric during their information bulletin introduction.

Keywords: Pragmatics, presupposition, modality, deixis, newsworthiness, rhetoric, demagoguery, bullying, violent speech

I. INTRODUCTION

In a country that is so diverse and that carries a wide array of opinions and orientations, it is only normal that reporters and TV channels manufacture the importance of certain events to influence and attract the audience's attention. Lebanese TV channels usually rely on language pragmatics mechanisms to surpass the barriers of thoughts. Hence, this study aims at (1) identifying the pragmatic mechanisms in the news information bulletin introductions, (2) identifying the worthiest news values, and (3) setting a framework to analyze how these channels are displaying aggressive rhetoric and political violence from a language science perspective. This paper hypothesizes that: 1) Lebanese TV channels rely heavily on pragmatic mechanisms to affect and influence their audience, 2) the significance of news values differs from one channel to another, 3) Lebanese channels rely heavily on presuppositions, and 4) modality and deixis are also used considerably to relay messages to the audience.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. News

In 2002, Reah defined news as providing information about a certain event that is happening and is of interest to a certain audience, and since it targets a large group of people, it is referred to as mass media.

B. News Discourse

Discourse is basically a way to constitute knowledge and to limit the way we talk about things (Fowler, 2013). It is also believed that the main function of discourse is to control people's minds (Al-Duleimi & Al-Ebadi, 2016). In 2017, Ah Hindawi and Al Ebadi expressed that news discourse is a reflection of values rather than being value free, and that language is the best mean of expression.

C. Newsworthiness

In order to identify newsworthiness or intervening subjectively, one needs to look at news values; they are elements that place value on one event rather than the other (Van Dijk, 1991). In this study, the Bednarek and Caple's (2012) model of newsworthiness is adopted; it includes negativity, impact, timeliness, and proximity.

Negativity: this value is related to the existence of disasters, wars, damage, and so on. This type of events makes the news worthy (Conboy, 2002).

Impact: events that have a greater influence on the audience are considered more newsworthy (Van Dijk, 1991).

Timeliness: events that take place recently are considered more newsworthy (Bell, 1991) in addition to the ongoing events and the ones that will happen in the near future (Bednarek & Caple, 2012).

Proximity: an event is worthier if it is local rather than distant ones that are delivered cognitively (Bednarek & Caple, 2012).

D. Pragmatic Mechanisms

A. Presuppositions

Al Hinadwi and Al Ebaid stated in 2017 that presuppositions are defined as the implicit meaning taken for granted, and which remains constant even under negation. We have different types of presuppositions which will be listed below.

a. Existential Presuppositions

According to Fairclough (1995, pp.6), existential presupposition indicates the existence of a certain entity or thing. For example, “The kind of France is bald.” It presupposes the existence of a king to France who is bald (Polyzou, 2015).

b. Factive Presupposition

In the example “Alice regrets that it is raining”, the predicate in which the reading of the object is in reference to, the terminology is retained as a condition on the speaker’s belief; in other words, the predicate makes the utterance of the entire sentence anomalous in case the speaker’s belief does not include the preposition expressed by the complement of the factive predicate (Katz & Langendoen, 1976). Going back to point one, the verb “regrets” presupposes that Alice believes it is raining.

c. Lexical Presupposition

In lexical presupposition, “the use of one form with its asserted meaning is conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that another un-asserted meaning is understood” (Yule, 1996). In Lexical presupposition, the speaker uses a particular expression which presupposes another concept, but in Factive presupposition, the speaker uses a particular expression to presuppose the truth of the information that is stated later (Al-Hindawi & Al-Ebadi, 2017). In the example “you are late again” presuppose that “you were late before”.

d. Structural Presupposition

In structural presupposition, there is an assumption that part of the structure contains information considered as known (Yule, 1996). In the example, “When did he leave?” the presupposition that the information after the WH form is already known (Al-Hindawi & Al-Ebadi, 2017).

e. Non-factive Presupposition

According to Yule (1996), a non-factive presupposition is one that is considered untrue. The verbs included are similar to: dream, imagine, pretend, etc... In the example “I dreamt that I was rich” the non-factive presupposition is that I was not rich.

f. Counter-factive Presupposition

In this type, there is the assumption that certain information is opposite to the truth (Yule, 1996). This can be expressed through the use of conditional sentences; for example, in the sentence “If Hannibal had only had twelve more elephants, the Romance languages would not his day exist.” The presupposition is that Hannibal did not have twelve more elephants (Al-Hindawi & Al-Ebadi, 2017).

E. Modality

In order to understand modality, which is another area of grammar, one needs to take into consideration the interpersonal features of its contexts of use (Thornbury & Slade, 2006). Modality mainly deals with the way speakers express their attitudes or judgments in regard to the current content; it is signaled by the use of modal verbs (must, may, will, could, etc...) and the so-called semi modals (have to, supposed to, be going to, etc...).

There are two types of modality: deontic and epistemic (Givón, 1993). Epistemic modality is of lower certainty or probability, and, on the other hand, deontic modality is of various senses of ability, intent, preference, obligation, necessity or permission (Al-Hindawi & Al-Ebadi, 2017).

F. Deixis

Deixis derives from the Greek term for “finger” and is used to indicate that the speaker is pointing with his/her finger (Thornbury & Slade, 2006). There are three types of Deixis indicated as follows.

- a. Personal: it covers the speaker, hearer, and over-hearers. Certain expressions are used such as: this, that, these, I, we, he, she, you, him, etc... (Levinson, 1983).
- b. Spatial: It refers to the immediate space (here, there) (Thornbury & Slade, 2006).
- c. Temporal: It refers to time (now, then, in, at, etc...) (Thornbury & Slade, 2006).

G. Demagoguery

According to Lomas (1961), demagoguery is described as “the process whereby skilled speakers and writers seek to influence public opinion by employing the traditional tools of rhetoric with complete indifference to truth.” Demagogues employ the most effective communication technologies to carry on with their propaganda (Nacos, Shapiro, & Bloch-Elkon, 2020).

H. Violent Speech

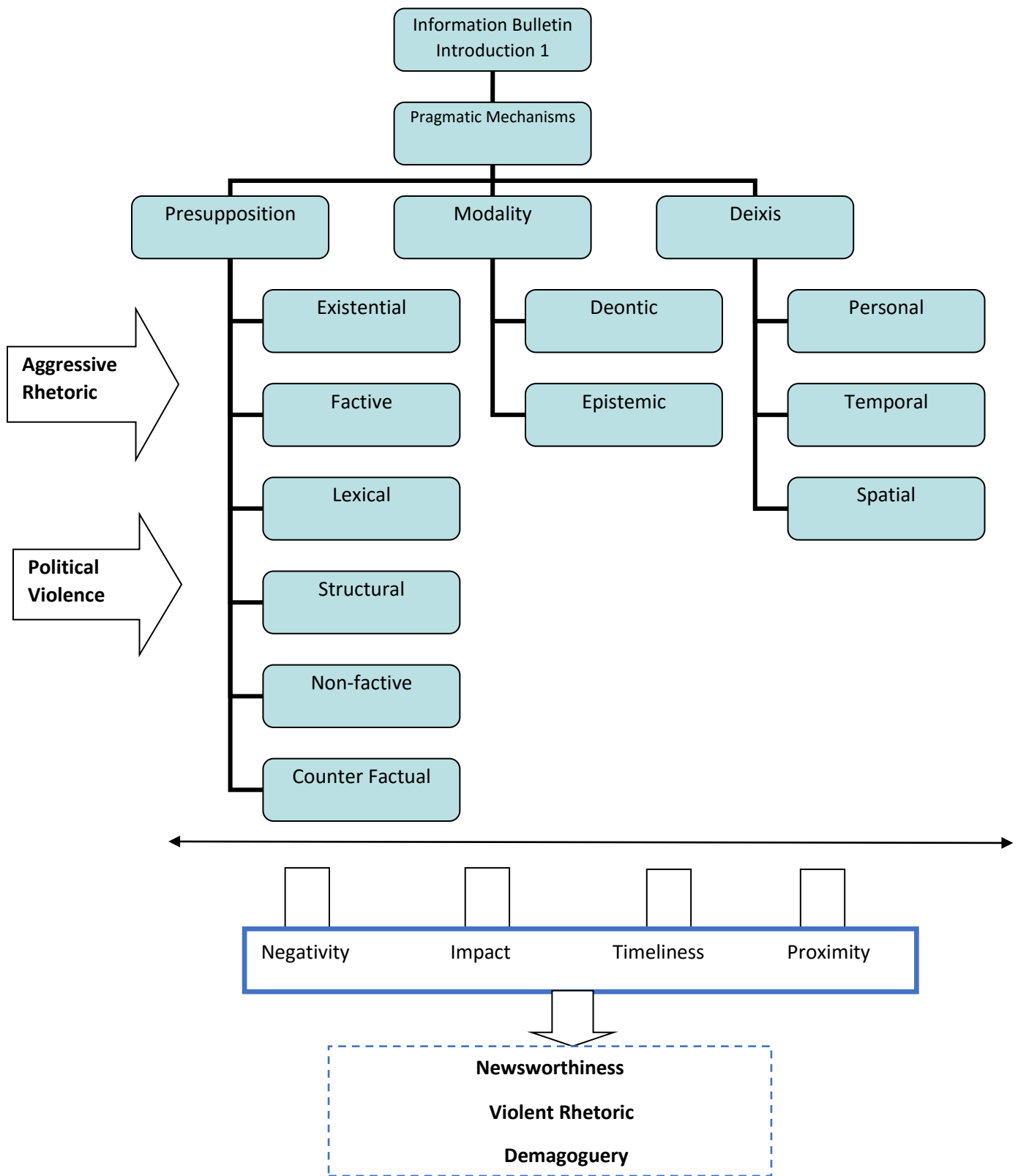
Violent speech can include physical or non-physical violence. It can also cause physical damage, a personal moral damage, or collective moral damages, and it includes the categories of violent incitement, personal offence, discrimination incitement, and collective offence (Miro-Llinares & Rodriguez-Sala, 2016).

III. METHODOLOGY

The analysis part will reply basically on the two levels discussed previously: newsworthiness, and pragmatic mechanisms. By the means of pragmatic mechanisms, news values are created. As such, news values will lead to newsworthiness and eventually cast an impact on the audience.

Newsworthiness: The newsworthiness value will be analyzed to see whether or not it has been initiated by one or more of the pragmatic mechanisms. The frequency of news values will also be calculated in the information bulletin introductions of the different channels and will display

Pragmatic mechanisms: The use and the frequency of pragmatic mechanism will be studied in the different information bulletin introductions of the news channels.



IV. RESULTS

Based on the previous model, an analysis of the results of both the pragmatic mechanisms and newsworthiness will take place.

According to Conboy (2002), “negativity” is newsworthy since it talks about disasters, wars, and events that can conflict harm on people. This has been highly demonstrated through the use of presupposition in all the seven information bulletin introductions of Lebanese Channels.

As for “Impact”, according to Van Dijk (1991), events that have a greater influence on the audience are considered more newsworthy, and hence, this has been demonstrated in the seventh information bulleting introductions of Lebanese channels through the use of presuppositions and modality.

As for “timeliness”, according to Bell (1991), events that took place recently are considered more newsworthy than those who took place ahead of time. Hence, Lebanese channels relied heavily on this news value through the use of the pragmatic mechanism “deixis”.

In regard to “proximity”, events which are local are considered more newsworthy than those which are not (Bednarek & Caple, 2012). This was also highly demonstrated in all the seven information bulletin introductions.

Below are the tables demonstrating the frequencies of each news value and pragmatic mechanisms.

Table 1 Frequency of News values in Information Bulletin Introductions

Information Bulletin Introduction	News values			
	Negativity	Impact	Timeliness	Proximity
Info Bulletin Intro 1	%60	%10	%10	%10
Info Bulletin Intro 2	%33.333	%25	%33.333	%8.333
Info Bulletin Intro 3	%8.33	%66.66	%22.22	%0
Info Bulletin Intro 4	%33.333	%41.666	%16.666	%8.333
Info Bulletin Intro 5	%33.33	%44.444	%11.111	%11.111
Info Bulletin Intro 6	%55.555	%33.333	%0	%11.111
Info Bulletin Intro 7	%42.88	%42.8	%7.1	%7.1

Table 2 Frequency of Pragmatic Mechanisms

Information Bulletin Introduction #	Frequency of Pragmatic Mechanisms		
	Presuppositions	Modality	Deixis
1	%56.25	%25	%18.75
2	%60	%16	%24
3	%60	%11	%30
4	%51	%27.5	%21.5
5	%58	%15.7	%26.3
6	%55.88	%20.5	%23.5
7	%58.9	%17.9	%23

Table 3 Detailed Pragmatic Mechanisms Frequency in IBIs

IBI \ PM	Info Bulletin Intro 1	IBI2	IBI3	IBI4	IBI5	IBI6	IBI7
Existential Presupposition	%3	%20	%3	%6	%15	%9	%12
Factive Presupposition	%16	%4	%30	%15	%10	%14	%15
Lexical Presupposition	%6	%16	%0	%6	%10	%6	%2
Structural Presupposition	%23	%8	%15	%20	%21	%29	%18
Non-factive Presupposition	%0	%0	%3	%0	%0	%0	%2
Counter-factual Presupposition	%6	%12	%3	%3	%0	%0	%7
Deontic Modality	%0	%0	%0	%0	%0	%3	%0
Epistemic Modality	%20	%16	%11	%26	%15	%17	%18
Personal Deixis	%13	%20	%26	%12	%0	%6	%12
Spatial Deixis	%6	%4	%0	%3	%15	%11	%12
Temporal Deixis	%6	%0	%7	%9	%10	%5	%2
Total	~%100	%100	~%100	%100	~%100	%100	%100

A. *News Values*

In table one, it is noticed that the different channels relied on demonstrating different news values in their introductions even though some of them are common. We can see the introduction 1,2, 6, & 7 demonstrated mainly negativity while introductions 3, 4, & 5 demonstrated the impact value of newsworthiness.

B. *Pragmatic Mechanisms Usage*

As it can be seen in the above tables, there are three main pragmatic mechanisms used in the seven information bulletin introductions of Lebanese Channels. As it is shown in table 2, the presupposition mechanism received the highest percentage of usage in the seven IBIs while modality and deixis were used approximately in an equal manner.

In considering table 3, the different channels relied on different pragmatic mechanisms to relay their messages to the audience. Information Bulletin Introduction 1 relied basically on structural presupposition and epistemic modality with percentages of %23 and % 20 respectively. In Information Bulletin Introduction 2, the Lebanese channel used mainly existential presupposition and personal deixis with a percentage of 20. In Information Bulletin Introduction 3, the Lebanese channel relied more factive presupposition with a percentage of 30 and secondly relied on the use of personal deixis with a percentage of 26. As for Introduction Bulletin Information 4, the channel relied basically on epistemic modality (%26) and secondly relied on structural presupposition (%20) to relay its messages to the audience. In Information Bulletin Introduction 5, the channel relied on structural presupposition (%21), existential presupposition (%15), and spatial deixis (%15). In Information Bulletin Introduction 6, the channel relied heavily on structural presupposition (%29) and epistemic modality (%17). As for Information Bulletin Introduction 7, the channel relied on structural presupposition and epistemic modality with a percentage of 18.

It is also obvious in table three that most channels relied on structural presupposition and epistemic modality in their strategy to communicate with the Lebanese. Deontic modality was rarely used with %0 for most introductions.

V. DISCUSSION

A. *Presupposition, Newsworthiness, Demagoguery*

One form of an aggressive behavior is demagoguery (Lissborg, 2018). Demagoguery is basically a process in which a skilled speaker or a writer intends to influence public opinion by using traditional tools of rhetoric with complete indifference to truths (Lomas,

1961). This is basically the main thing that the Lebanese channels are trying to do as a part of their propaganda. The main tool that is used in this process is presupposition which was demonstrated in the high percentages in the Information Bulletin Introductions;

presuppositions were used to endorse the value of negativity, which will surely be considered newsworthy to most Lebanese, and hence demagoguery was practiced upon the audience. For example, in Information Bulletin Introduction 1, the channel was trying to direct the audience against a group of deputies by using structural presupposition and foreshadowing that this might cause a tremendous negative effect on Lebanon. This is shown through this extract “The deputies **who** relieved themselves and Riad Salameh from the responsibility of making such a decision”. This is interpreted with the presupposition that it is already known that those deputies relieved themselves and Riad Salameh from the responsibility which has a negative impact on the Lebanese people. Another example is manifested in Information Bulletin Introduction 2, when the channel used lexical presupposition in saying “She also explained that” meaning that this piece of information was mentioned before. In this piece of information, the ambassador was talking about pulling the diplomats’ families out of the country due to the bad circumstances Lebanon is passing through. The ambassador assured that its country will continue to support Lebanon but, at the same time, pulled out all its diplomats from the country. The channel used this information to demonstrate the value of impact on the Lebanese and arise in them the fear of the future; that is one form of demagoguery.

Another form of an aggressive behavior is bullying; and usually with influential parties which engage in demagoguery and assail political opponents, the consequences transcend the hate speech on social media platforms (Nacos et al., 2020). So bullying that is executed through linguistic violence and through powerful parties is dangerous and is based on supremacy and predominance (Apressyan, 1998). Presupposition was used as an important device in executing bullying. For example, in Information Bulletin Introduction 4, the channel used structural presupposition to indicate that the bad infrastructure in Lebanon is a reflection of the bad politicians who were responsible for building it as shown in this quote “even the snow could not hide the bad infrastructure which is quite similar to the bad selves of the politicians responsible for building it.” Here, the channel was highlighting the news value of negativity and bullying verbally the politicians of a certain party by using structural presupposition.

B. Modality, Newsworthiness, Violent Rhetoric

According to Miller (2005), as part of propaganda, communication is used either as transmission of information (disseminating information farther and faster), as a ritual (a sacred ceremony that draws people together in fellowship and communities), or as a ritual of excommunication that pits groups against each other. Now going back to point one and the use of a linguistic toolbox, the analysis showed that his pragmatic mechanism has been used to

maximize the news values of negativity and impact through displaying violent rhetoric. For example, in Information Bulletin Introduction 7, the channel was attacking the Lebanese president by maximizing the newsworthiness of the impact of the president caring only about himself and accusing the president of abusing his judicial powers to support his son in law by

using epistemic modality (will); this was manifested in saying “then we will reveal all the skeletons in your closets”. Another examples can be seen in Information Bulletin Introduction 1, the channel used adjectives and nouns as bombs dropped on their audience such as (missing brave souls, the republic of hysteria, its citizens are doomed and its politicians are abusers); and then, the channel used epistemic modality to maximize the news value of negativity by saying that “the whole system will collapse”.

C. Deixis, Newsworthiness, Violent Rhetoric

In regard to Deixis, it is mainly used – as the two previous pragmatic mechanisms – to maximize negativity and timeliness through displaying violent rhetoric. For more illustration, in information Bulletin Introduction 1, and since events that happen recently are considered more newsworthy than old ones, the channel focused on a next week’s hearing which will have an impact on the Lebanese. Another example would be Information Bulletin Introduction 3 in which the channel used personal deixis to refer to the careless of the Lebanese displaying a violent rhetoric against them by accusing them that they don’t take things seriously; as if this is an indirect way to push the Lebanese to act and revolt.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the previously mentioned analysis and discussion, the below conclusions were made.

- 1) Lebanese channels utilize pragmatic mechanisms to maximize newsworthiness.
- 2) Lebanese channels employ demagoguery and violent speech in the Information Bulletin Introductions.
- 3) Lebanese channels used presupposition the most in the IBI to relay specific messages.
- 4) Lebanese channels also used modality and deixis in the IBL to relay specific messages.
- 5) Certain presuppositions, modality, and deixis types were not used.
- 6) Negativity and impact were the most newsworthy.

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Table 4 Appendix A Presupposition (Information Bulletin Introduction 1)

#	Text	Presupposition Type
1	The deputies who relieved themselves and Riad Salameh from the responsibility of making such a decision	Structural
2	Why would the government set such a plan?	Structural
2	Why would the government set such a plan?	Lexical
3	Who will fund this plan? The ministry of finance or the Bank of Lebanon	Structural
4	As long as there is no clear answer to this point	Factive
5	The same will apply to next week's hearing	Factive
6	When the council will flee his responsibilities	Structural
7	Where the Lebanese money is being abused day by day	Structural
8	After the Lebanese people have been robbed, it was time to make them face hunger.	Structural
9	What is even worse it was time to rob their lives	Structural
10	Either keep the financial support and then the whole system will collapse	Counter Factual
11	Or remove the financial support to keep the system intact	Counter Factual
12	They admit that the financial support has failed so far	Factive
13	Without providing any solution except for chaos	Factive
14	They admit that whoever benefited are the rich, monopolists, and	Factive

	smugglers.	
15	It is the government of hysteria	Existential
16	Her politicians and leaders abused her until death	Lexical

Table 5 Appendix B Presupposition (Information Bulletin Introduction 2)

#	Text	Presupposition Type
1	After four months of Beirut explosion	Existential
2	And after 40 days of assigning Saed Hariri, the president designate	Existential
2	And 40 years of existing political powers	Existential
3	It seems that the economic, political, and living situations is deteriorating	Factive
4	While the Lebanese citizen is losing hope	Structural
5	Even if trying to invoke initiating a government	Counter Factual
6	If it has been acknowledged that the current politics is useless	Counter Factual
7	If they started caring again about people's suffering	Counter Factual
8	Who are seeking to live a good life	Structural
9	Specially that the governor of the bank of Lebanon informed politicians that this is the last chance to keep on the financial support of goods	Lexical
10	When it comes to Lebanese journalists migration	Structural
11	They discussed issues to support public and private media organizations	Lexical
12	We will start with the report of the British embassy	Existential
13	About withdrawing the diplomatic staff	Existential
14	The British ambassador explained	Lexical
15	She also explained that	Lexical

Table 6 Appendix C Presupposition (Information Bulletin Introduction 3)

#	Text	Presupposition Type
1	The Lebanese follow thousands of news reports and political programs	Factive
2	They see thousands of striking news	Factive
3	But they don't take things seriously	Factive
4	In regard to the announcement of the majority of politicians, they either watch it out of fun	Structural
5	Or since it is a status quo	Structural
6	They speak thousands that people believe to be useless	Factive
7	The president of Lebanon "Michelle Aoun"	Existential
8	in which his presence a normal continuation of his past and that his only consideration is Lebanon	Structural
9	The Lebanese awakening that always expressed	Factive
10	Even if defeated multiple times, if they don't set things straight,	Counter-factual
11	Away from the useless generalization	Factive
12	A needed new judicial uprising against a major recession in regard to the judicial system	Non Factive
13	It pushed a lot of people to believe that any issue will be solved	Factive
14	Even though they know that coming out of this problem requires an international acceptance, which will not happen anytime soon	Structural
15	People are still hopeful and this is the only things they have in the long run	Factive

Table 7 Appendix D Presupposition (Information Bulletin Introduction 4)

#	Text	Presupposition Type
1	It is only a curse that can cause this destruction to a country that is so small as Lebanon	Existential
2	But this curse is not from extraordinary forces but from its own citizens who chose the worst of leaders	Structural
3	And from leaders who only abused the system	Structural
4	The last message relayed the French president, in the name of the group to support Lebanon, which was firm but not the last.	Factive
5	Macaroon who will visit Lebanon before vacations will not only focus on the French force in the UNIFEI	Structural
6	But will extend to meet Lebanese officials and politicians in Al Mokhtara palace for a third round table	Lexical
7	If Lebanese officials were able to form a government, then we will be able to move under the auspices of France to the stabilization period	Counter factual
8	Or we remain in facing our differences which will make Macaroon leave Lebanon suffer its own deadly fate	Structural
9	Political indicators do not show that there is a logical way	Factive
10	For the Lebanese parties close to the president and the free political movement are presupposing to wave the government of Hassan Diab and at the same time hold him responsible for not being able to form a government before going back on using criteria as a pretext	Lexical
11	The president in charge insists on his position which supports the French	Lexical and structural
12	But the two Shiaa parties, along with Jonblat, are being aloof either for regional considerations or for private benefit	Factive
13	There was news initiated by the free political movement about the possibility of a visit by the president in charge to Baabda	Factive
14	Knowing that this visit would be in vain	Factive
15	There are considerations to relieve the financial support or at least limit it to save the Bank of Lebanon by saving the foreign currency	Existential
16	One hour of rain caused to drown Beirut and its north east suburbs which wasn't able to redeem itself after the explosion	Structural
17	Even the snow could not hide the bad infrastructure which is quite similar to the bad selves of the politicians	Structural

Table 8 Appendix E Presupposition (Information Bulletin Introduction 5)

#	Text	Presupposition Type
1	Based on a deputy in the free political party, the president in charge Saad al Hariri will visit the Baabda castle	Existential
2	To suggest for the president Aoun the shape of the new government after agreeing on names	Factive
3	And in an official announcement that doesn't reflect this mentality	Structural
4	The president of the free political movement held the president in charge ethically and nationally responsible for procrastination	Existential
5	Lashing accusations and baring responsibilities endorses the fact that the forming a government is yet to be achieved	Structural
6	And while it is known that president Berry is frustrated from this procrastination	Factive
7	And emphasizing that the only way is to form a government	Lexical
8	These local warnings synchronize with international ones specially the French	Existential
9	The French words fall on deaf ears	Lexical
10	One of the most prominent results is wavering the financial support to be discussed in a governmental meeting	Structural
11	Knowing that there are three options only	Structural

Table 9 Appendix F Presupposition (Information Bulletin Introduction 6)

#	Text	Presupposition Type
1	The Lebanese were not shocked by the floods since this is something they are used to	Lexical
2	Accompanied by ministries 'apologies and common excuses	Factive
3	What is shocking is the white view that is ruined by the recurrent black crisis	Structural

4	While there are experts for the weather forecast, no expert can understand the political, economic, or social Lebanese phenomena.	Structural
5	These crisis were able to remain still until it was affected by an American involvement controlling Lebanon	Factive
6	Any economic news is bounded to the governor of the Bank of Lebanon and his batch of politicians, economics, and journalists who support him	Structural
7	None of the bank depositors nor the parents of students abroad are able to break this system of corruption	Existential
8	That controls their kids 'future	Structural
9	Local and military files are being questioned by courts	Factive
10	After the convictions of the internal security forces and the current investigation of the Lebanese army	Existential
11	Abbas Ibrahim said: revealing this operation is an honor for the internal Lebanese security forces	Factive
12	In regard to Covid – 19, the Lebanese people only hope is the vaccine which won't be available in Lebanon before months.	Factive
13	Abiding by the medical measures is a must	Existential
14	In addition to the world health's organization warning that coming up with a vaccine doesn't mean that the pandemic is over.	Structural
15	What is even worse the political and trade markets	Structural
16	Which will offer the vaccine to some countries rather than the others	Structural
17	Which is considered discrimination according to Mohammad Jawad Tharef, the Iranian foreign minister	Structural
18	Commenting on the news that Germany is intending to include Israel in the vaccination European program against covid-19 while excluding the Palestinians	Lexical and Structural
19	In Palestine, the Israeli terrorism did not exclude young Palestinians who commemorated the death of the martyr Ali Abou Alia, a 14 years old, who passed away due to gunshots in Al maghir village near Ram Allah	Structural

Table 10 Appendix G Presupposition (Information Bulletin Introduction 7)

#	Text	Presupposition Type
1	Beirut was covered in white despite all the black surrounding it	Existential
2	The Lebanese do not expect a good social political exist since the political parties are suffocating this country	Factive
3	Being a whiner, the Free Political party held Saad Al Hariri and the political parliament the responsibility of procrastinating in forming the government.	Factive

4	Refusing the fact that this is done due to current circumstances and given pressures	Structural
5	Believing that abiding by fixed criteria and principles is the only way out for the president in charge	Lexical
6	Who is the only issue behind forming the government (It's either me or there won't be Saad al Hariri)	Structural
7	Supporting Gibran is on alert in Baabda	Existential
8	Which is obvious in every meeting between the president Michel Aoun and the president in charge	Structural
9	The president's condition is the one third (Deactivating)	Existential
10	Even if the country was doomed to hell	Counter Factual
11	This is the current political situation that the president cannot deny	Structural
12	Since he believes that this is the last fight and accordingly he will decide on his successor	Structural
13	If Gibran Bassil is guilty in the eyes of the American cabinet	Counter factual
14	Then we will reveal all the skeletons in your closets	Existential
15	As if corruption is new and now we are considering its results	Counter factual
16	It is the same corruption with the same three corruptive names	Factive
17	Which should have been closed already	Structural
18	Even though these names should not be defended and are liable to suspicion	Non factive
19	The main concern is using corruption issue as pretext for war	Factive
20	The immolation wars will continue	Existential
21	By calling to empower the government of Hassan Diab	Factive
22	This is to force Saad Al Hariri to apologize from being able to form a government	Factive
23	A supreme defense council which is only concerned with sewage and cleaning up	Structural

Table 11 Appendix H Modality IBI1

#	Text	Modality Type
1	Why would the government set such a plan?	Epistemic
2	Why would the government set such a plan?	Epistemic
3	Who will fund this plan?	Epistemic

4	The same will apply to next week's hearing	Epistemic
5	When the council will flee his responsibilities	Epistemic
6	Either keep the financial support and then the whole system will collapse	Epistemic

Table 12 Appendix I Modality IBI2

#	Text	Modality Type
1	We will start with the report of the British embassy	Epistemic
2	The British ambassador explained	Epistemic
3	She also explained that	Epistemic
4	A successor will be announced later	Epistemic

Table 13 Appendix J Modality IBI3

#	Text	Modality Type
1	It pushed a lot of people to believe that any issue will be solved	Epistemic
2	Even though they know that coming out of this problem requires an international acceptance, which will not happen anytime soon	Epistemic
3	That might be right	Epistemic

Table 14 Appendix K Modality IBI4

#	Text	Modality Type
1	It is only a curse that can cause this destruction to a country that is so small as Lebanon	Epistemic
3	Macaroon who will visit Lebanon before vacations will not only focus on the French force in the UNIFEI	Epistemic
4	But will extend to meet Lebanese officials and politicians in Al Mokhtara palace for a third round table	Epistemic

5	If Lebanese officials were able to form a government, then we will be able to move under the auspices of France to the stabilization period	Epistemic
6	Or we remain in facing our differences which will make Macaroon leave Lebanon suffer its own deadly fate	Epistemic
7	Knowing that this visit would be in vain	Epistemic
8	One hour of rain caused to drown Beirut and its north east suburbs which wasn't able to redeem itself after the explosion	Epistemic
9	Even the snow could not hide the bad infrastructure which is quite similar to the bad selves of the politicians	Epistemic

Table 15 Appendix L Modality IBI5

#	Text	Modality Type
1	Based on a deputy in the free political party, the president in charge Saad al Hariri will visit the Baabda castle	Epistemic
2	Your country will be doomed	Epistemic
3	The financial support that will be discussed	Epistemic

Table 16 Appendix M Modality IBI6

#	Text	Modality Type
1	While there are experts for the weather forecast, no expert can understand the political, economic, or social Lebanese phenomena.	Epistemic
2	These crisis were able to remain still until it was affected by an American involvement controlling Lebanon	Epistemic
3	None of the bank depositors nor the parents of students abroad are able to break this system of corruption	Epistemic
4	In regard to Covid – 19, the Lebanese people only hope is the vaccine which won't be available in Lebanon before months.	Epistemic

5	Abiding by the medical measures is a must	Deontic
6	Which will offer the vaccine to some countries rather than the others	Epistemic
7	Which is considered discrimination according to Mohammad Jawad Tharef, the Iranian foreign minister	Epistemic

Table 17 Appendix N Modality IBI7

#	Text	Modality Type
1	Who is the only issue behind forming the government (It's either me or there won't be Saad al Hariri)	Epistemic
2	Since he believes that this is the last fight and accordingly he will decide on his successor	Epistemic
3	Then we will reveal all the skeletons in your closets	Epistemic
4	Which should have been closed already	Epistemic
5	Even though these names should not be defended and are liable to suspicion	Epistemic
6	The immolation wars will continue	Epistemic
7	This is to force Saad Al Hariri to apologize from being able to form a government	Epistemic

Table 18 Appendix O Deixis

#	Text	IBI #	Type
1	When the council will flee his responsibilities	1	Personal
2	Who will fund this plan?	1	Spatial
3	As long as there is no clear answer to this point	1	Spatial
4	The same will apply to next week's hearing	1	Temporal
5	After the Lebanese people have been robbed, it was time to make them face hunger.	1	Temporal
6	What is even worse it was time to rob their lives	1	Personal
7	They admit that whoever benefited are the rich, monopolists, and smugglers.	1	Personal

8	Its politicians and leaders abused it until death	1	Personal
9	If they started caring again about people's suffering	2	Personal
10	Who are seeking to live a good life	2	Personal
11	Specially that the governor of the bank of Lebanon informed politicians that this is the last chance to keep on the financial support of goods	2	Spatial
12	They discussed issues to support public and private media organizations	2	Personal
13	We will start with the report of the British embassy	2	Personal
14	She also explained that	2	Personal
15	They see thousands of striking news	3	Personal
16	But they don't take things seriously	3	Personal
17	Or since it is a status quo	3	Personal
18	They speak thousands that people believe to be useless	3	Personal
19	in which his presence a normal continuation of his past and that his only consideration is Lebanon	3	Personal
20	The Lebanese awakening that always expressed	3	Temporal
21	Even if defeated multiple times, if they don't set things straight,	3	Personal
22	Even though they know that coming out of this problem requires an international acceptance, which will not happen anytime soon	3	Personal and Temporal
23	The last message relayed the French president, in the name of the group to support Lebanon, which was firm but not the last.	4	Temporal
24	If Lebanese officials were able to form a government, then we will be able to move under the auspices of France to the stabilization period	4	Personal
25	Or we remain in facing our differences which will make Macaroon leave Lebanon suffer its own deadly fate	4	Personal
26	For the Lebanese parties close to the president and the free political movement are presupposing to wave the government of Hassan Diab and at the same time hold him responsible for not being able to form a government before going back on using criteria as a pretext	4	Personal and Temporal
27	The president in charge insists on his position which supports the French	4	Personal
28	Knowing that this visit would be in vain	4	Spatial

29	One hour of rain caused to drown Beirut and its north east suburbs which wasn't able to redeem itself after the explosion	4	Temporal
30	To suggest for the president Aoun the shape of the new government after agreeing on names	5	Temporal
31	And in an official announcement that doesn't reflect this mentality	5	Spatial
32	Lashing accusations and baring responsibilities endorses the fact that the forming a government is yet to be achieved	5	Temporal
33	And while it is known that president Berry is frustrated from this procrastination	5	Spatial
34	These local warnings synchronize with international ones specially the French	5	Spatial
35	The Lebanese were not shocked by the floods since this is something they are used to	6	Spatial
36	These crisis were able to remain still until it was affected by an American involvement controlling Lebanon	6	Spatial
37	Any economic news is bounded to the governor of the Bank of Lebanon and his batch of politicians, economics, and journalists who support him	6	Personal
38	None of the bank depositors nor the parents of students abroad are able to break this system of corruption	6	Spatial
39	That controls their kids 'future	6	Personal
40	After the convictions of the internal security forces and the current investigation of the Lebanese army	6	Temporal
41	Abbas Ibrahim said: revealing this operation is an honor for the internal Lebanese security forces	6	Spatial
42	In regard to Covid – 19, the Lebanese people only hope is the vaccine which won't be available in Lebanon before months.	6	Temporal
43	The Lebanese do not expect a good social political exist since the political parties are suffocating this country	7	Spatial
44	Refusing the fact that this is done due to current circumstances and given pressures	7	Spatial
45	Who is the only issue behind forming the government (It's either me or there won't be Saad al Hariri)	7	Personal
46	This is the current political situation that the president cannot deny	7	Spatial
47	Since he believes that this is the last fight and accordingly he will decide on his successor	7	Spatial and Personal
48	Then we will reveal all the skeletons in your closets	7	Temporal

			and personal
49	As if corruption is new and now we are considering its results	7	Temporal and personal
50	Even though these names should not be defended and are liable to suspicion	7	Personal
51	This is to force Saad Al Hariri to apologize from being able to form a government	7	Spatial