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**Evaluating Textuality in Selected News Articles from  
the Online Newspaper *The Guardian***

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## Dedications

To my father, brother, and particularly my dear mother who have been my source of strength guiding my path to fulfilment during times of instability.

To all of my beloved aunts and my dear cousin O. who tirelessly put me up, supported me, and stood by my side.

To my lovely childhood friend and partner Lyna, thank you for being my reliable person in this university as well as being attentive, committed, and trusting.

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## Abstract

The present work seeks to investigate the textuality of selected online news articles in terms of seven dimensions: cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality. The purpose of this dissertation is to evaluate the news articles' communicative effectiveness. To this end, this dissertation intends to reach two main objectives. The first objective targets the degree of manifestation of the articles' standards of textuality. The second objective consists in determining the contribution of these criteria to assure the news articles' clarity and communicativeness. To attain these objectives, we have opted for three news stories retrieved from the electronic version of *The Guardian*. Accordingly, a qualitative method is utilized to examine the texts. To achieve this purpose, the study relies on De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality established in their book *Introduction to text Linguistics*. Moreover, in our study we have also made use of Grice's (1975) four (04) maxims: maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. The results achieved from the analysis of the three articles are interpreted using the Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA). The findings of the current research show that the integrity of the criteria of textuality are effectively exploited making of the selected news texts well structured texts due to their clarity and efficacy. The appropriate display of the seven standards of textuality permits the news articles to provide comprehensible and straightforward information and raises the readers' engagement with the texts enhancing their understanding and criticality of media.

**Key terms:** Linguistic Discourse Analysis, online news articles, The Guardian, the seven standards of textuality.

## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

**EFL:** English as a Foreign Language

**QCA:** Qualitative Content Analysis

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# *General Introduction*

## Statement of the Problem

In the current era, with the control of internet and technology, the traditional printed communicative mass media sources such as magazines and newspapers are taking another alternative course of action to delve into the world of digitization satisfying the contemporary interests of people in electronic media. Therefore, due to this significant engagement in the technological world, it falls upon the producer to make sure that their content is produced with a communicative efficacy.

Today, in EFL classrooms the learners are more encouraged to immerge into the authentic utilization of language in real life contexts as well as to make appropriate use of technology during the learning process. Due to the need to know if online media such as newspapers for example can be potentially considered in English language instruction as effective authentic teaching materials to expose learners to the genuine use of language in real life situations, this research seeks to examine selected electronic news stories to evaluate their textuality.

Recent literature lacks new studies covering the integrity of texts' textuality. Rather, isolated textuality standards are predominantly focused on, notably "cohesion", leaving gaps in our comprehension of textuality as a whole. To clarify, one to mention is Subruto, Tarjana, and Sumarlam's (2010) study of Intertextuality in Indonesian newspaper opinion articles on education which targets the types and functions of Intertextuality in the articles to uncover its social practices. They state that the foundational social practice to the use of Intertextuality is to give an academic approach to the news texts making them more reliable and acceptable. The second study to be mentioned, which focuses again on "cohesion", is Aghdam and Hadidi's (2015) in which they explored the manifestation of lexical cohesive devices which are "collocation" and "synonymy" and their impact on coherence in political news articles retrieved from *The Guardian* and *New York Times* as well as discussion

sections of academic articles with the objective of carrying out a comparative analysis between these two genres. The third study is Malah, Tan, and Rashid's (2016) study. Its objective is to explore the relevant lexical cohesive devices in editorials of Nigerian Newspaper. The use of lexical cohesion is also evaluated to highlight the editorials' coherence.

Based on our understanding, our area of research has not received much attention concerning the exploration of the integrity of the criteria of textuality in news articles. For this reason, this research is intended to direct our attention to the adherence of news articles extracted from the *The Guardian* to the seven standards of textuality. This research's aim is to closely examine the online articles to raise our understanding on how news is produced and consumed through technology and evaluate the general clarity and communicativeness of digital media discourse.

### **Aims and Significance of the Study**

Responding to the surging enthusiasm for research within language and communication, the present research intends to explore the manifestation of the seven standards of textuality in selected news articles of *The Guardian*. Marshall McLuhan highlighted the role of new technology and medium when he said in 1964 his famous coined phrase "the medium is the message" in any field in which it is used (Euchner, 2016). The importance of the message communicated by the media relies on the language use while telling the news stories. Therefore, in this research it is intended to study written media articles extracted from the English newspaper *The Guardian*. The main focus of this analysis is to identify the seven standards of textuality exploited in the selected news articles.

This research works to achieve two foremost objectives. In the first instance, the research is to detail and depict, in light of the work of De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), the standards of textuality utilized in the news stories. Succeeding this, it is to shed light on

the impact of these standards communicating information and attracting the readers' attention and the importance of their utilization in the process of the news stories communication.

This research significantly contributes in raising the clarity of comprehension of not only media discourse but also English texts in general. It helps maintain the readers' engagement and enables them to decipher the communicated message clearly. Furthermore, it improves the communication skills and the writing abilities of EFL learners. Moreover, this study expands their understanding of English texts, improves their critical thinking abilities, and stimulates their media literacy empowering them consequently to analyze thoughtfully and deeply the conveyed information.

### **Research Questions and Hypotheses**

As outlined earlier, this investigation's core interest is to examine the seven standards of textuality in *The Guardian's* articles. For the purpose of achieving this, this investigation aspires to answer these following questions:

- 1- How are the standards of textuality exploited in the news articles?
- 2- What is the significance of the feature of textuality when effectively manifested in the three selected media articles?

The following hypotheses are raised to each question:

- 1- The seven standards of textuality are effectively used in the selected articles.
- 2- The appropriate use of the standards of textuality confirms the effectiveness and the clarity of *The Guardian's* articles, improves the English texts' comprehension in general, and raises media literacy.

### **Research Methodology**

This investigation is an analysis of the seven standards of textuality in the selected

articles' titles, subtitles, and texts from the online newspaper *The Guardian*; therefore, the analysis is corpus based. The corpus is selected through consulting the news section on the web site of the digital newspaper in its international edition. The selected articles are extracted from the news section covering the Japan's earthquake which occurred on January, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. A qualitative research is made use of in order to answer the research questions. The analysis of the data follows a Qualitative Content Analysis to examine the seven textuality standards as indicated by De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Theory of Textuality.

### **Structure of the Dissertation**

The dissertation follows the traditional simple model which contains a General Introduction, four chapters, and a General Conclusion. The first chapter is the Literature Review which deals with previous studies on linguistic discourse analysis, text analysis, textuality, its seven standards, and the domain of online media. The succeeding chapter is the chapter of the Research Methodology used in the study and the different techniques of data collection and analysis. The last two chapters are devoted for the results. In the third chapter, they are presented. After that, in the fourth chapter they are discussed on the basis of the chosen theoretical framework. Finally, the investigation attempts to provide answers to the research questions and confirm or refute the hypotheses in the General Conclusion.

# *Review of the Literature*

## **Introduction**

This chapter is devoted to the review of the literature. It deals with the key concepts of the present study and the main theoretical foundations that set the stage for the analysis of the newspapers articles' textuality. It encompasses five sections. The first two sections introduce the field of media and digital newspapers. After that, it delves into the field of linguistic discourse analysis as well as text analysis and textual analysis in the third and the fourth sections. Finally, the fifth and last section deals with the theoretical framework of this research which is based on De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality.

### **1.1. Exploring the Field of Media: Definition, Evolution, and Print vs.**

#### **Digital Media**

##### **1.1.1. Definition of Media**

In the view of Spitulnik (1999), *media*'s definition can be versatile. Rigorously, *media* which is the plural of *medium* is a type of pathway for communication transfer through diverse channels such as print, electronic, televisual, and other media. This explanation conveys a distinct meaning from the common ones of the expression *the media* as it targets the predominant media and media sector specialists. Accordingly, the terms *media*, *the media*, and *mass media* are employed in a singular form since they represent a collective composition which functions as an entity to reflect their unitary activity.

##### **1.1.2. Definition of Digital Media**

In accordance with the statement made by Acerbi (2016, as cited in Briggs & Burke, 2009), digital media are especially designed in an electronic layout to be utilized on electronic

tools like computers and mobile phones. Several digital extensive spread media platforms exist, but the most recent ones are the social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tiktok, and others.

According to Finnemann (2011), digital media are a kind of *meta-medium* because they are varied and flexible. In addition, all media channels have the capability to be digitized. Furthermore, digital media do not possess proprietary characteristics due to the fact that they are societally shaped. The digital media's supremacy affected the twentieth century mass media development which adopted an alternative strategy adjusting with the technological ones. Dewdney and Ride (2006) don't agree with the term *digital media*. They argue that this term does not portray an exclusive mirroring of technology digitization. Yet, it leans towards prioritizing technology as a sole feature of a medium. Alternatively, they propose the term *new media* because it tends to focus more on the modern media strategies' cultural notions and circumstances given that culture, technology, and media practices are connected across all phases (Dewdney & ride, 2006).

### **1.1.3. The Evolution of Digital Media**

In spite of the fact that the progress of digital media might have commenced with the production of digital computers in the 1940s, their vast expansion was not brought to attention until the extensive circulation of PCs and the internet (Acerbi, 2016, as cited in Briggs & Burke, 2009). Social media are the latest versions along with universal networking. In fact, Facebook in its beginnings was more circulated among students and employees than the large public (Boyd & Ellison, 2008). Thereafter, the first iPhone was released in early 2007 which paved the way to the global proliferation of smartphones (West & Mace, 2010). In addition, during the last decade, social media have achieved an exceptional expanse. For instance in

2016, Facebook has registered 1.7 billion engaged participants, monthly (West & Mace, 2010). As an outcome to the undeniable influence of digital media on the actions of an immense range of people, academic attention for online media in multiple domains has been experiencing a swift growth (Acerbi, 2016).

#### **1.1.4. Print vs. Digital Media: The Impact of Digitization on News Stories**

Print media have been present since the seventeenth century, and they were the most prominent shape. However, the digitized era is swiftly expanding. As an illustration, considerable newspapers and magazines such as *Newsweek* and *Smartmoney Magazine* have shared their motivated intention into alternating their consumption to an online format as well as *The Guardian* who also rumoured to adopt an only digital version (PANBlast, n.d). Nevertheless, the asserted thought of the death of the print has manifested doubts among many researches who anticipated that this idea, as it rotates around a specific example ignoring crucial notions, demanded confirmation and, therefore, generalization was not legitimated. As a concrete exemplification, Barthelemy, Bethell, Christiansen, Jarsvall, and Koinis conducted a study in 2011 to verify the claim that the age of the print media has reached its end focusing on newspapers. The findings derived from the conducted research clearly demonstrate that the exaggerated assertions concerning the regression of the printed newspapers lack validation in spite of the fact that it is without a doubt that noteworthy changes were occurring in particular to profit from the digital material as well as compensating for the minimal print advertisements and decreased revenues. News agencies are undergoing adjustments and transformation. Furthermore, it is important to mention that the western influence accentuates the claim of the continuous newspapers' drop failing to

consider the print newspapers' strong revenues in several developing countries (Barthelemy et al., 2011).

In contrast, a study conducted in 2019 by Kalombe and Phiri showed different results. Their study focused on the developing Southern African country Zambia's print newspapers. The study outcomes highlight the progressing online media menace on printed media. The analysis of the findings demonstrate that age has a role in the privileging of online media owing to the fact that the vast portion of young people prefer digital information content which they access through their digital devices. As a consequence, the revenues of the print newspapers suffer a negative impact for the reason that sponsors target the extensive audience which in this case belongs to the web news platforms. Similarly, Gherseti (2014) has conducted a comparison of news content in online and print media at covering the 2010 Election campaign in Sweden. However, the results contrast with the previous ones. Based on this academic exploration, the difference between the online and print reporting is almost negligible. The audience of both digital and print newspapers have been exposed to the same information.

## **1.2. Understanding Digital Newspapers: Definition and Evolution**

### **1.2.1. Definition of Digital Newspapers**

Similar to the regular printed newspapers, digital newspapers are analogous in information and structure. However, they provide engaging material precisely designed for the audience differently from the standard newspapers. The same components are integrated in the digital newspapers however in the internet. Increase use of textual material, images, auditory, and visual recordings endorse the subject matter. Digital newspapers are commonly

obtainable in web pages. Sometimes, editorial content is prolonged in the cover page (Palmer & Eriksen, 1999).

Perreault and Ferrucci (2020) interviewed a number of digital journalists who publish uniquely in electronic platforms with the aim of getting a thorough insight into digital journalism. The journalists were addressed several questions and among them was how do they perceive the significance of digital journalism. After a careful analysis of the participants' answers, the researchers have noticed that their answers fall into three categories which are interconnected with each other. The first category that the journalists put into digital journalism is "technology". According to them, there is no particular form of technology that is directly related to digital journalism. Alternatively, technology has to be considered as an element of journalism to be regarded digital. Therefore, as long as technology is used, whatever circulated information by whomever, is digital journalism.

Next, the second category discusses "speed". The participants explained that through digitally transmitting news, people's access to them became more instantaneous. One participant said, "If used in the right way, (digital journalism) gives people the information that they could get in print (more quickly). It also allows anyone to become a journalist. It's definitely very positive... but there's also a lot of over-stimulation." So, regardless of the speed through which the audience gets the news, the content may be lacking credibility which could create a feeling of untruthfulness among people. However, many other journalists shared that provided that the advantages exceed the disadvantages, the latter are justifiable. The last category is "serving the audience". Through the participants' answers, it is concluded that digital journalism indeed attains broader public contrary to the printed one. Digital

journalism conforms to the audience's preferences rather than necessities which turn them into consumers (Perreault & Ferrucci, 2010).

### **1.2.2. The Evolution of Digital Newspapers**

Since the seventies, news has been digitized and in May 1992 Chicago Tribune released the first newspaper on America Online. Nevertheless, it was until 1995 that the online newspaper we know today evolved as a salient worldwide news service (Krumsvik, 2006). Utesheva, Cecez-Kecmanov & Schagwein (2012) noted that in the past twenty years, the wide spread and the extensive use of digital and wireless technologies have been the leading force of the communicative sector. Consequently, the world has observed the transition from "previously physical artifacts to the digital realm". At the outset, news has been conveyed verbally. After the broad growth of mass media, the news transportation significantly altered. The alteration from physical newspapers to electronic ones is one of the notable examples illustrating the digital influence and the wide proliferation of mass media. Moreover, they (2012) highlighted that this transition was made through the medium which is considered the cause as well as the agent of alteration. In addition, the communication between the producers and the audience also got influenced to become two sided rather than one sided enabling the consumers' feedback which was not permitted in the print newspapers due to its limited nature.

Nicholson (2012, p.64) provides a thorough explanation for the idea of "digital methodology". He highlights that the difference between a regular newspaper and an online one goes beyond the mere material distinctions. An online newspaper is more than just another 'form' of the regular one. Rather, it brings a new aspect as the resources are improved

and not just imitated. In addition, the digitized texts have new sources more accessible with better possibilities to essentially consult, explore, arrange, and examine.

### **1.3. Linguistic Discourse Analysis: Key Concepts**

#### **1.3.1. Definition of Discourse**

Paul Gee (2011, p.28) states that the formation of individuals' identities and activities involves more than just language or linguistic elements; it extends to the incorporation of non-linguistic elements. Thus, language is merely one aspect of the broader system through which humans build meaning. He (2011, p.30) adds "A Discourse is a characteristic way of saying, doing, and being". In different terms, discourse represents the manner a person speaks, acts, and behaves. This includes the language used in real- life situations, as well as behaviours and attitudes (Paul Gee, 2011). Furthermore, discourse involves the use of language in different settings. It mirrors the community organization and it actively participates in forming it. So, discourse impacts the way people communicate within society (Paltridge, 2012, as cited in Jaworski & Coupland 2006, p.3). Additionally, the connection between the investigation of the use of language and the examination of writings for comprehending digital language results in what is called literacy studies, which analyzes the societal habits of individuals in depth, that are used of texts. These writings obviously belong to the structure of societal practices (Barton & Lee, 2013).

#### **1.3.2. Discourse Analysis and Linguistic Discourse Analysis**

The study of discourse analysis has deepened due to the valuable contributions of influential scholars who have formed its theoretical principles and research approaches. James Paul Gee (2011), in his seminal book *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis* states that

discourse analysis concentrates on particular elements in speech, writing, gestures, and actions which are perceived as crucial for supporting the analysis arguments and comprehending a conversation. In addition, Physical features are not all taken into consideration merely because those are appropriate to the context and the analysis's aims. Depending on the analyst's theories about language, context, and interactions is the manner to decide what to involve or not in transcripts. Therefore, the latter serve more than just a distinct record; it is a significant component of the analysis that reflects the analyst's theories and ideas.

Discourse analysis originated in the realm of linguistics, thus their relationship can be concisely explained as "Linguistics shares with other sciences a concern to be objective, systematic, consistent, and explicit in its account of language" (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2003, as cited in Gystal, 1987). Therefore, linguistic discourse analysis involves not merely the study of isolated words, but also studies the use of language in real - contexts.

Furthermore, the advancement of 'discourse analysis' went through different disciplines in linguistics. For instance, those concentrated on the form of language, though the main focus is still on the use of language, like Hymes (1972) who worked on 'anthropological linguistics' which dealt with how languages work in social exchanges in order to mirror cultural factors (Barton, 2004, p.60).

On the other hand, significant contributions have been made by researchers in discourse analysis to the exploration of linguistic diversity and shifts in language. Observing discourse records throughout different periods, these researchers have explained the process of language transformation, specifically in relation to interactive elements (Johnstone & Andrus, 2024, p.5).

## **1.4. Text Analysis: An Overview of Main Ideas**

### **1.4.1. Definition of Text**

Following Halliday and Hasan (1976), a text in linguistics represents a coherent entity, oral or written. In simple terms, Halliday and Hasan (1976) view text as something that contains a texture which allows differentiating between what is considered a text and what is not. Texture in turn, comes from the way the text's different parts are connected together in a cohesive way to construct meaning. While Paltridge (2012, p.18) see that a text from "the view of discourse as the social construction of reality", is viewed as sets of communication that are deeply integrated to social and cultural norms ,written and spoken forms, and are formed by these social and cultural contexts. Therefore, this demonstrates that texts are used not merely to convey information only, but comprise social and cultural practices, as well. In an online setting, Barton and Lee (2013, p.11) note that understanding language is characterized by how it is used in daily activities, and examining the content of texts. Therefore, "literacy studies" are the background that authors rely on, so that they can emphasize on the way texts are utilized in social context as there is a continual change in online language.

### **1.4.2. Definition of Text Analysis**

Text analysis is regarded as a method for providing advanced tools (literary criticism, philology, content analysis, and others) in order to interpret a piece of writing that can be in some ways difficult for an ordinary audience to comprehend. It has also an essential role in detecting the "attitudes, behaviours, concerns, motivations and culture" of the author, according to a professional perspective (Bauer, Süerdem & Biquelet, 2014). Yet, Adolphs

(2006) emphasize that because of the developments in information technology, electronic texts analysis is expanding rapidly (specifically in higher education context). Therefore, electronic text analysis permits to explore systematically the repeated structures in the way language is utilized.

### **1.4.3. Definition of Textuality**

In linguistics, the concept of textuality can differ among scholars. For instance, in their seminal work *Cohesion in English*, Halliday and Hasan (1976) define textuality by examining both of the two features ‘cohesion’ and ‘coherence’. On the other hand, De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), in their book *Introduction to Text Linguistics*, viewed cohesion and coherence only as two characteristics of the seven standards of textuality. Therefore, the definition of textuality can vary from one scholar to another. By its textual characteristics, texts can create meaning and mold people’s comprehension. It also holds the capacity to articulate its own definition and acquire a specific identity. Simultaneously, texts, due to textuality, go beyond transmitting a particular information, they construct individuals’ perceptions and even challenge them (Silverman, 1986).

Both Neubert and Shreve (1992) define textuality as an intricate linguistic construct which mirrors particular restrictions within both social and communicative situations. Moreover, they have added ‘textness’ or ‘textuality’ including seven standards: cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality (Neubert & Shreve, 1992, p.70). In other words, textuality is complex as it involves different features and the use of language can be restricted by some social and communicative rules. On the other hand, Hanks (1989) claims that textuality is characterized by coherence and

connectivity, and that defining textuality is ambiguous as connectivity can depend on the text's characteristics, the interpretation of readers or viewers, or a fusion of both factors.

#### **1.4.4. Definition of Textual Analysis**

Texts are viewed to be pivotal since they are based on social settings of a given community, they work like the origin of knowledge that producers of text utilize in order to improve and expand the explanation of a particular document (Hanks, 1989). In this manner, the evolution of textual analysis has been through diverse intellectual movements which are shaped by the contributions of scholars from different fields, including Saussure's structuralism in the early twentieth century, semiotics by Barthes and other movements. Therefore, textual analysis, according to Mckee (2001), is a method employed in the realm of academic research for collecting and examining information. There are certain academic fields, specifically in both social and physical sciences that maintain a demanding level of rigor in their approaches, pursuing deep - rooted, and approved methodologies for gathering and handling information. From another stand point, Dearing (1959) states that textual analysis involves forming and examining the connections between different patterns of ideas which are able to be reconsidered and reevaluated as needed. He adds (1959, p.9) "...the basic rule for textual analysis is to arrange the states of a text as far as possible so that none will be intermediary between two others that agree against it in any respect.". In other words, textual analysis enables to identify connections between various idea patterns, and it provides the opportunity to reconsider these connections as necessary. In addition, its major rule proposes to organize its elements to avoid any element acting as an intermediary between two other elements and that aims for a clear analysis. Moreover, Smith (2017, p.1) claims:

Textuality analysis is a method of study utilized by researchers to examine messages as they appear through a variety of mediums [sic.]. The data generated for textual analysis can come from documents, films, newspapers, paintings, web pages, and so forth. These forms of data serve as the ‘texts’ under study and are used to assess the meanings, values, and messages being sent through them.

Therefore, researchers use textual analysis as a method in order to analyze messages or information and evaluate meanings in various texts.

## **1.5. De Beaugrande and Dressler’s (1981) Theory of the Seven Standards of Textuality**

### **1.5.1. Background**

Text linguistics elucidates the capability of first language speaker in creating and understanding texts in particular contexts (Jucker, 2002). In detail, communicative text linguistics emphasizes on the functional dimensions of texts and considers them intricate language actions, utilizing speech act theory as a framework for its exploration (Jucker, 2002, as cited in Brinker, 1992, p.2). Henceforth, De Beaugrande and Dressler are two prominent scholars in the field of text linguistics. They are influenced by Halliday and Hasan’ (1976) widely recognized work *Cohesion in English* on the exploration of language use and organization in texts. Essentially, De Beaugrande and Dressler’s (1981) seven standards of textuality framework focuses on enhancing the clarity and effectiveness of a text.

## **1.5.2. The Seven Standards of Textuality**

### **1.5.2.1. Cohesion**

The advancement in linguistics and text linguistics has fostered the evolution of the “cohesion” concept. Influential scholars like Halliday and Hasan emphasized on cohesion in terms of ‘grammatical’ and ‘lexical’ devices to shape coherent texts (1976), whereas De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) explored the notion of cohesion as one characteristic of the seven standards of textuality in order to form an accurate and effective text. In this perspective, Halliday and Hasan (1976) claim that cohesion is a semantic concept that describes meaningful relationships between elements within a text, so that it establishes the coherence of a text. It takes places when the understanding of one aspect in the discourse depends on the other. Each element requires the other one as it can be understood only by pointing out the interconnected element. Cohesion is then manifested through the combination of both grammar and vocabulary. Therefore, it is referred to by Halliday and Hasan (1976) as grammatical cohesion including ‘reference’, ‘substitution’, ‘ellipsis’, and ‘conjunction’ in addition to lexical cohesion such as ‘reiteration’, ‘collocation’, and other lexical cohesive devices.

Similarly, De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) describe cohesion as the systems which enable the surface level writings’ elements to jointly link among a succession. According to Xhepa (2016), who state that a text is to be complete and intrinsic when it meets seven specific criteria. Among these, cohesion and coherence are indicated as two important standards. Thus, the lack of one of them would render the text incomplete. Cohesion and coherence then fit together, knowing that cohesion facilitates the understanding of the way

diverse parts of a sentence are linked to each other in terms of syntax and grammar (Xhepa, 2016).

In accordance with De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), it is significant to mention that syntax comprises ‘long’ text sections which are devices that aim for providing consistency and efficiency to the surface structure of the text. Among these devices, “recurrence” is repeating exactly the same items. It is utilized to maintain someone’s opinion and it may transmit sudden events which can be contradictory with someone’s stand, while “partial recurrence” is the transition of the identical element to another grammatical category. Another device is “parallelism” which is the utilization of equivalent patterns in order to emphasize on resembling actions, but with different words. In addition “paraphrasing” entails the reformulation of the structure elements, keeping the same meaning. Indeed, there is as well the employment of other cohesive devices for clarifying and minimizing the structure of a piece of writing. One significant device is “pro-forms” which are brief words that substitute specific statements for a more succinct text. It provides the writer freedom of not rewriting the whole elements for maintaining meaning dynamic. So, ‘pronouns’ are the common “pro-forms” used to replace ‘nouns’ or ‘noun phrases’. The reference can be either ‘anaphora’ that is the use of a pro- form after the co- referred expression, or ‘cataphora’ which uses the “pro-form” before the co-referred term or expression. “Ellipsis” is an additional cohesive device. It happens in cases where a piece of writing includes a noticeable gap or omission. It consists of what is called ‘gapping’, when the verb is omitted, and ‘ellipsis of subjects’ in both ‘independent’ and ‘dependent’ clauses. Both “pro-forms” and “ellipsis” can be helpful tools to economize the number of words to effectively transmit the information.

Another important and obvious device that makes connections between different occurrences is “junction”. In its turn, it is divided into four fundamental types. The first one is ‘conjunction’ and it connects parts which are correspondingly relevant and real in the context of the concept produced. It is indicated by ‘and, moreover, also, in addition, furthermore, and others’. “Conjunction” is typically the most utilized type of junctives. Concerning the second type, it is called ‘disjunction’ and it connects parts which only one can be authentic in the text. It includes generally ‘or’ and at times ‘either- or’, ‘whether or not’, and others. The third one is ‘contrajunction’ which connects parts with a similar condition but appear to be contradictory like a cause and its sudden consequence. Finally, the last type is ‘subordination’ and it connects parts in which one is dependent on the other like conditions. It involves different ‘repertory of junctive expression’; this can be a cause, and ‘relation of temporal proximity’. Junctives do not only support writers structuring texts, but also they facilitate the readers’ understanding. Additionally, when they are used moderately, a particular degree of informativeness is preserved.

### **1.5.2.2. Coherence**

De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) mentioned that the concept of coherence holds a significant role in maintaining an effective and accurate text. Discussing about the meaning of words refers to their ability to transmit and present information or knowledge which is termed as ‘meaning’. Thus, the employment of words, in a text, to convey particular knowledge comprises ‘sense’. Even though words can possess different meanings, they transmit merely one sense in the text; so that, when the meant sense is uncertain, there will be what is called ‘non- determinacy’. At the same time, the persistence of ‘the non- determinacy’ can be named

as ‘ambiguity’ when it is unplanned or diverse while the writer aims to transfer different senses simultaneously.

The concepts of a text need to be tightly connected to each other by a certain “strength of linkage” which avoids incoherent sequencing that may hinder the logical evolution of ideas. The connection between ideas in a text is represented by different levels. The first level is “determinate knowledge”. It refers to the knowledge that is related in a straight manner to the main topic of a text by providing information which provides a nature to the overall concept. The second level is “typical knowledge” which includes particular information about the concept but not its integrity. Whereas the third level constitutes information which are randomly mentioned and irrelevant to the principal concept and it is called “accidental knowledge”. The “strength of linkage” between a narrative’s ideas relating to the core concept is more concerned with the “determinate knowledge” and the “typical knowledge” as the “accidental knowledge” overuse is more likely to impede the relationship between the paragraphs’ progression of ideas.

### **1.5.2.3. Intentionality and Acceptability**

Keeping with De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), it is clear that both cohesion and coherence are the widely recognized and significant standards of textuality which demonstrate the way various elements of a text are integrated and convey meaning. Yet, these two standards solely are insufficient to distinguish between what counts as text and what does not during actual exchanges. Hence, a language arrangement has to be ‘intended’ of being a piece of writing and ‘accepted’ to be used in discourse. The notion of intentionality is then including the aims of the writers. Straightforwardly, the creator of a text aims for the language arrangement to result in a connected and logical piece of writing. However, because of a

number of limitations like duration and resources, they may prevent writers to realize their aims in the final exposition. De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) state that if a text displays both 'cohesion' and 'coherence', it demonstrates the intention of the writer to produce a communicatively clear and effective piece of writing.

Following De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), Paul Grice (1975, 1978) proposes a broad approach in pragmatic that includes a group of maxims. These maxims are used by writers in discussions. Thus, he divides the maxims into four types. Firstly, 'the maxim of quantity' means that the transmitter of knowledge should transfer only the needed information, without adding inappropriate information. Secondly, 'the maxim of quality' emphasizes on the authenticity and honesty of information, so that the individual ought to transmit trustful knowledge. Thirdly, 'the maxim of relation' is about appropriateness. It can be split into two: the type of information that can be connected to a specific subject and the type of information which is valuable in obtaining an aim. Finally, the last type is 'the maxim of manner'. It involves five important manners for organizing and transferring pieces of writing. The first one is 'be perspicuous', which means that the aim of the individual should be clear when conveying the information. The second one comprises an additional 'injunction' to 'avoid obscurity of expression'. The individual's purpose in transferring information and obtaining an aim can be affected by 'obscurity' of utterances, so the producer's intention needs to be demonstrated as clear as possible through using straightforward language which is a key principle in pragmatics as it concentrates on how meaning is affected by conversational contexts. The third manner is 'avoid ambiguity'. In cases, when the intended sense is not able to be determined, it refers to ambiguity, but when the diverse senses are used on purpose, this is called 'polyvalence'. While 'ambiguity' is intolerant, 'polyvalence' is acceptable. Concerning the fourth maxim, it is 'be brief' which

refers to the extent of brevity that an individual can use to communicate information. Finally, the last manner is ‘be orderly’, which means the presentation of elements in an organized way, as it is needed (De Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981.).

Concerning the standard of “acceptability”, one appropriate notion for texts which are written in particular situation rather than isolated sentences is called “grammaticality” (De Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981). De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) explains that the order of sentences and their grammatical structures play an important role in determining the acceptability of texts; however, how these structures create a mental imagery of the context of the situation is also a critical point. Therefore, how the sentences manage to share the same context of the situation as close as possible to the real life’s situation raises the acceptability of the text. That is, when the text is grammatically accepted through the achievement of cohesion and coherence but its sentences fail to help the reader contextualize the situation of the context, the text’s acceptability restrains.

#### **1.5.2.4. Informativity**

The utilization of the concept of informativity is to identify the degree of information which surprises or attracts the audience. Informativity can be associated with context. However, it can also occur in any part of the language structure. While context is given more attention as it has a fundamental role in making sense of the text, the linguistic structure elements such as sounds or structure have less emphasis or attention (De Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981).

According to De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), there are three orders of informativity. The first order informativity encompasses all the essential and crucial

information required for the receiver to comprehend effectively the main issue. This information shared is new and central to the text's theme. At this level, both function words and content words are mandatory to convey information. While content words make it more effective to help receivers better imagine the accurate situation and engage their emotions, function words are considered less significant since they stress connections rather than the context. However, when the text carries information which is unexpected by the reader, the text includes the second order informativity. This makes the text less boring and more captivating for the reader. Concerning the third order informativity, it includes information that is not directly linked to the main subject and may not meet the readers' expectations but it adds more depth to the understanding of the overall matter. This order relies on the "strength of linkage" that we previously mentioned in the element of the standard of "acceptability". When a situation shares more "determinate knowledge" than "typical knowledge", it does not include a third level informativity.

#### **1.5.2.5. Situationality**

The notion of situationality involves the components which make a piece of writing significant to a present and attainable circumstance. It is unusual for the surrounding context to influence without some form of negotiation since most individuals incorporate their personal thoughts and aims into their own comprehension of the present interactional context. The use of the available proof from the situation is then, simultaneously, combined with previous information and perspectives about the arrangement of reality. Thus, when a piece of writing aims for providing objective interpretation of the situation, it is viewed as 'situation monitoring'. However, when the text seeks to influence or impact the situation, it is what is called 'situation management' (De Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981).

De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) note that from Osgood's 'experiments', a clear diversity of monitoring is 'simply describing'. In this case, when individuals are given occurrences and items for describing them, they do not only rely on what is called 'stimulus' and 'response', but also on their thoughts and prior knowledge in order to detect what is appropriate to be given significance and what is not. According to Goffman (1974), different items also called 'tracks' in situations can be both valuable and invaluable depending on how the writer presents the information to the audience. Thus, situations can be split into two main categories, 'situation monitoring' and 'situation management'. Concerning the first category, the writers identify sudden item or occurrence then they make it the main focus in the piece of writing providing all the necessary details in relation to it. For the second category, situation management in communicative texts attempts to direct or guide a situation in favour of the aim of the contributor (De Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981).

#### **1.5.2.6. Intertextuality**

The concept of intertextuality encompasses the way one document is impacted by or refers to another document. Therefore, the creation or the engagement with the text depends on previous learned knowledge from different other texts that an individual has met in the past. So, the more people relate a present text to a previous one, the stronger connection between them increases. This can be considered as 'mediation'. In addition, when texts are strongly impacted by different references 'extensive mediation' occurs. These texts comprise particular features for specific aims. In contrast, mediation is given less importance when quoting or referencing from well- acknowledged texts (De Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981). In other words, familiar texts' credibility is obvious by the vast public, so it is unnecessary to detail explanations or overuse mediation, whereas less known texts need a strengthened

interpretation to facilitate the audience's understanding. Therefore, relating texts to each other for the purpose of enriching the meaning is significant.

### **Conclusion**

In this chapter, pivotal elements of the research topic were thoroughly introduced. In the first section, a comprehensive explanation of media, digital media, its evolution, and print vs. digital media were made available. In addition, a grasp of digital newspapers and their development was made. Then, this chapter shed light on linguistic discourse analysis, discourse, text, texture as well as text and textual analysis. Finally, the focus in the last section was towards the theoretical framework of the study that is De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality. In the first instance, it provided its contextual foundation. Following that, it addressed the criteria of the model on which the analysis of the digital news articles' data will be based.

# *Research Methodology*

## **Introduction**

This chapter is concerned with the utilized research methodology to examine textuality in the news articles retrieved from the online newspaper *The Guardian*. It incorporates four main sections. First, it presents an explanation of the qualitative approach analysis. Then, it offers a descriptive framework of the corpus of the study. Next, it sheds light on the data collection procedure and selection of the newspaper. Finally, the fourth section provides clarification on the data analysis procedure which consists of the Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) and De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality.

### **2.1. Research Methodology**

#### **2.1.1. Definition of the Qualitative Approach**

In accordance with Hammersley (2013), the qualitative approach is a versatile analysis of data that is based on concrete evidence. This social research design requires undefined data which are not restricted to a unique category, for instance, news articles, recordings, documents, videos, and others. In addition, it highly stresses during the research process the role of subjectivity. Furthermore, it necessitates a detailed research process of modest numbers of inherent phenomena and to utilize verbal examination instead of numerical. Thorne (2000) states that: "... discourse analysis and narrative analysis both rely heavily on speech as the most relevant data form..." (p.70). Therefore, because our study's analysis is a linguistic discourse analysis of news articles, the qualitative approach is the appropriate research design for it.

## 2.2. Description of the Corpus

As mentioned before, the purpose of the present study is to identify the standards of textuality, in the light of De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) model, in the news articles genre. Therefore, three online newspaper articles (see appendices A, B, and C) were selected for a textual analysis including. Considering that our attention concentrates on the communicative function of language texts, which aligns perfectly with our field of study in language and communication, the articles were retrieved from the well acknowledged English digital newspaper *The Guardian*.

*The Guardian* is a British newspaper which was established in 1821. In 2011, it held a regular daily circulation of 280,000 copies (Braber, 2014). It inclines identifying with the centre-left political dominant audience. As mentioned by Sedjane (2020), in her dissertation, the broadsheet was widely reputable for its inquisitive, fair-minded, and literary-oriented journalism. Its online platform which was released in 1999 is a Webby award winner for three years consecutively (2005, 2006, and 2007), granted by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, due to its supremacy over competing digital newspapers (Sedjane, 2020). In addition, it was offered the title of the premier online daily newspaper from the British Newspaper Awards for six years in succession (Sedjane, 2020). The following table illustrates the three selected articles' titles, reporters, and date and time of publication.

N°	Titles of the Articles	Reporter	Date and time
1	<i>Japan orders people to evacuate after 7,6-magnitude quake hits west coast</i>	Gavin Blair and agencies	Monday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 at 20.27 GMT

2	<i>Japan earthquakes: 'battle against time' to find those trapped under rubble as death toll rises</i>	Gavin Blair	Monday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 at 21.18 GMT
3	<i>Japan earthquake: death toll rises to 62 amid warnings of landslides and aftershocks</i>	Guardian staff and agencies	Wednesday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024 at 02.55 GMT

**Table 1:** The Titles of the Selected News Articles

## 2.3. The Data Collection Procedure

As formerly elucidated, the current investigation explores the digital English news articles' textuality. It carries two objectives: to identify the articles' criteria of textuality and to pinpoint the role these criteria play to ensure the news articles' clarity and effectiveness. The corpus of the research is determined by the necessity to depict the integrity of the components of textuality; therefore the articles share the same central topic.

### 2.3.1. Selection of the Newspaper *The Guardian*

To attain the previously stated aims, The British well-acknowledged newspaper *The Guardian* was consulted on the website ([www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)) in its international edition. Three articles were retrieved from the website covering the same topic about the Japan's devastating earthquake which occurred on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 due to the need to analyze the seven dimensions of textuality which require the articles to share the same central topic. In consideration of the analysis, the articles are examined in the light of De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality.

## **2.4. The Data Analysis Procedure**

### **2.4.1. Qualitative Content Analysis**

Owing to the fact that the quality of the corpus is qualitative, qualitative content analysis is the most adequate method to analyze the news articles (corpus). Schreier (2013, p.2) provides an in depth explanation of the Qualitative Content Analysis:

Qualitative content analysis is a method for systematically describing the meaning of qualitative data (Mayring, 2000; Schreier, 2012). This is done by assigning successive parts of the material to the categories of a coding frame. This frame is at the heart of the method, and it contains all those aspects that feature in the description and interpretation (...) of the material. Three features characterize the method: qualitative content analysis reduces data, it is systematic, and it is flexible.

This method of analysis entails complete concentration on specific aspects connected to the main focus of the study in contrast to other qualitative methods which supplements the data making it difficult to minimize the quantity of the material content.

### **2.4.2. De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality**

As already mentioned, the present investigation engages in De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality developed in their book *Introduction to Text Linguistics*, to examine the news articles' textuality. De Beaugrande and Dressler set seven standards of textuality which determine the communicativeness of texts and their clarity which are: cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and

intertextuality to which we are going to investigate their presence in the newspaper articles under study.

### **Conclusion**

This chapter has put forth the research design of the study. First, it delivered an explanation of the mixed method approach. Second, it elucidated a depiction for the corpus of the present investigation. Third, it explains the data collection procedure and selection of the newspaper. In the last section, it illuminated the data analysis procedure comprising the Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) as well as De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality.

# *Presentation of the Findings*

## Introduction

This chapter delineates the attained results from the analysis of the selected digital newspaper's articles from *The Guardian*. The explored data comprises three news stories covering the Japan's earthquake that occurred in January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The analysis is undertaken in consideration of De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality. In the light of this, the description is partitioned into two sections. The initial section describes the criteria of textuality found in the articles, while the succeeding section unveils their degree of utilization.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Textual Analysis of the Standards of Textuality in the Selected News Articles

This section contains the description of the manifestation of the seven criteria of textuality: cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality. In addition, some examples extracted from the selected news stories are provided.

##### 3.1.1. Cohesion

The analysis of the cohesive devices utilized in the selected news articles showed that the integrity of the devices which are "recurrence", "partial recurrence", "parallelism", "paraphrasing", "pro-forms", "junction", and "ellipsis" is employed in the first two news articles while in the third one "recurrence", "partial recurrence", "parallelism", "paraphrasing", "pro-forms", "junction", and "ellipsis" are employed except for "partial recurrence". Presented in the table below some instances:

**Article 1:**

Cohesive Devices	Examples from the Article
<b>Recurrence</b>	<p>1-“The JMA initially issued a major tsunami <b>warning</b> for... The <b>warning</b> was downgraded to a regular tsunami several hours later...”</p> <p>2-“Earthquakes that strike off the Sea of Japan <b>coast</b> are known ... on the Pacific <b>coast.</b>”</p> <p>3-“<b>The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)</b> said dozens of quakes of at least magnitude 3.5 hit the region... <b>The JMA</b> initially issued a major tsunami...”</p>
<b>Partial Recurrence</b>	<p>1-“The US Pacific Tsunami <b>Warning</b> Center, which had <b>warned</b> of possible tsunamis...”</p> <p>2-“Authorities in <b>Japan</b> were still assessing the extent of the damage...the <b>Japanese</b> prime minister...”</p> <p>3-“The <b>Japanese</b> airline ANA turned back ...while <b>Japan</b> Airlines cancelled most of its services...”</p>
<b>Parallelism</b>	<p>1-“A powerful earthquake has struck central Japan’s western coastline, triggering waves over a metre high and prompting tsunami <b>alerts</b> and <b>warnings</b> for people to evacuate.”</p> <p>2-“It <b>knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes</b> and <b>disrupted flights and rail services.</b>”</p> <p>3-“The disaster <b>devastated towns</b> and <b>triggered nuclear meltdowns</b> at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.”</p>
<b>Paraphrasing</b>	<p>1-“The warning was <b>downgraded to a regular tsunami several hours later, meaning the waters could still reach up to 3 metres (10 feet).</b>”</p> <p>2-“We’re not that close to the coast so tsunamis are not a worry but the <b>aftershocks just keep coming</b> and <b>shaking the whole house</b>, it’s terrifying.”</p> <p>3-“More than 36,000 households lost power in Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, according to the <b>utilities provider Hokuriku Electric Power.</b>”</p>
<b>Proforms</b>	<p>1-“<u>The quake</u>, which is estimated to have been magnitude 7.6, struck the Noto Peninsula... <b>It [anaphora reference]</b> knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes and disrupted flights and rail services.”</p> <p>2-“Authorities in Japan ...the Japanese prime minister, <u>Fumio Kishida</u>, said. “Residents need to stay on alert ...as soon as possible,” <b>he [anaphora reference]</b> said. Buildings shook 190 miles (300km) away in Tokyo.”</p> <p>3-“A <u>Tokyo resident</u> visiting <b>her [anaphora reference]</b> hometown of Takaoka...”</p>
<b>Junction</b>	<p>1-“Local hospitals reported a number of injured people arriving for treatment, <b>though</b></p>

	<p>[<b>conjunction</b>] damaged roads were hampering the transport of patients.”</p> <p>2-“Authorities in Japan were still assessing the extent of the damage <b>and</b> [<b>conjunction</b>] people needed to prepare for more tremors, the Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, said.”</p> <p>3-“The magnitude 9 quake of 2011 triggered a tsunami that took approximately 30 minutes <b>before</b> [<b>subordination</b>] it hit the coastline.”</p>
<b>Ellipsis</b>	<p>1-“Japan has strict construction regulations intended to ensure buildings can withstand strong earthquakes and routinely [...] holds emergency drills to prepare for a major jolt.”</p> <p>2-“Hokuriku’s Shika plant in Ishikawa, which was the closest to the quake’s location, had already halted its two reactors for a regular inspection before the quake and [...] experienced no impact from it, the agency said.”</p>

**Table 2:** Cohesive Devices in the News Article 1

**Article 2:**

<b>Cohesive Devices</b>	<b>Examples from the Article</b>
<b>Recurrence</b>	1-“The US president, Joe Biden, said in a statement that his administration was in touch with <b>Japanese</b> officials and “ready to provide any necessary assistance for the <b>Japanese</b> people.”
<b>Partial Recurrence</b>	1-“British prime minister Rishi Sunak said the UK stood ready to support <b>Japan</b> and that “British nationals in the affected areas should follow the advice of the <b>Japanese</b> authorities.”
<b>Parallelism</b>	<p>1-“Japan’s prime minister has said the country is facing a “battle against time” to rescue those affected by a series of major earthquakes which reportedly <b>killed at least 55 people, injured dozens and sparked fires</b> that destroyed homes..”</p> <p>2-“...rescue operations have been hindered by badly <b>damaged</b> and <b>blocked</b> roads and one of the area’s airports has been forced to close due to runway cracks.”</p> <p>3-“...water could reach as high as five metres and people were evacuated to <b>sports halls, schools</b> and other <b>public buildings</b>.”</p>
<b>Paraphrasing</b>	1-“The worst-affected area was around the <b>Asachi-dori street, a district popular with visitors and known for its many wooden buildings</b> .”
<b>Proforms</b>	<p>1-“The worst-affected area was around the <u>Asachi-dori street</u>, a district popular with visitors and known for <b>its</b> [<b>anaphora reference</b>] many wooden buildings.”</p> <p>2-“A <u>woman</u> in <b>her</b> [<b>anaphora reference</b>] fifties was confirmed dead in Nanao city...”</p>

	3-“... <u>residents</u> of coastal areas were being told not to return to <b>their</b> [anaphora reference] homes...”
<b>Junction</b>	1-“Mobile phone networks in the region were also damaged <b>but</b> [contrajunction] service was gradually being restored.” 2-“Aftershocks <b>could</b> [subordination] slam the affected areas over the next few days...” 3-“Japanese public broadcaster NHK TV initially warned that torrents of water could reach as high as five metres <b>and</b> [conjunction] people were evacuated...”
<b>Ellipsis</b>	-“Japan earthquakes: ‘battle against time’ to find those [...] trapped under rubble as death toll rises”

*Table 3: Cohesive Devices in the News Article 2*

### Article 3:

<b>Cohesive Devices</b>	<b>Examples from the Article</b>
<b>Recurrence</b>	1-“We have received a lot of information about <b>people</b> in need of rescue and there are <b>people</b> waiting for help...” 2-“About 90% of the houses [in the town] are <b>completely</b> or almost <b>completely</b> destroyed...” 3-“A woman at a shelter in the town of Shika told TV Asahi that <b>she</b> “hasn’t been able to sleep” due to aftershocks. “I’ve been scared because we don’t know when the next quake will hit,” <b>she</b> said.
<b>Partial Recurrence</b>	<b>Absence of Partial Recurrence</b>
<b>Parallelism</b>	1-“The 7.5-magnitude quake on Monday that rattled Ishikawa prefecture on the main island of Honshu <b>triggered tsunami waves more than a metre high, sparked a major fire and tore apart roads.</b> ” 2-“It <b>knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes and disrupted flights and rail services.</b> ” 3-“Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors as authorities warned of <b>landslides and heavy rain</b> after a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people.”
<b>Paraphrasing</b>	1-“ <b>The powerful quake – which the JMA measured at 7.6</b> – was one of than 400 to shake the region through Wednesday morning, the agency said.” 2-“ <b>Toshitaka Katada, a University of Tokyo professor specialising in disasters,</b> said...”

	3-“Japan lifted all tsunami warnings after waves at least <b>1.2 metres (four feet)</b> ...”
<b>Proforms</b>	<p>1-“A <u>woman</u> at a shelter in the town of Shika told TV Asahi that <b>she</b> [<b>anaphora reference</b>] “hasn’t been able to sleep” due to aftershocks...”</p> <p>2-“...<u>people</u> were prepared because the area had been hit by quakes in recent years. <b>They</b> [<b>anaphora reference</b>] had evacuation plans and emergency supplies in stock.”</p> <p>3-“The country is haunted by a massive 9.0-magnitude <u>undersea quake</u> off northeastern Japan in 2011... <b>It</b> [<b>anaphora reference</b>] also swamped the Fukushima atomic plant, causing one of the world’s worst nuclear disasters.</p>
<b>Junction</b>	<p>1-“Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors <b>as</b> [<b>subordination</b>] authorities warned of landslides and heavy rain....”</p> <p>2-“Japan experiences hundreds of earthquakes every year <b>and</b> [<b>conjunction</b>] the vast majority cause no damage.”</p> <p>3-“Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors as authorities warned of landslides and heavy rain <b>after</b> [<b>subordination</b>] a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people.”</p>
<b>Ellipsis</b>	1-“ About 90% of the houses [in the town] are completely or almost completely destroyed[...] the situation is really catastrophic,” he said, according to broadcaster TBS”

**Table 4:** Cohesive Devices in the News Article 3

The distribution of the standard of “cohesion” is displayed in the following table within the three articles:

	<b>Article 1</b>	<b>Article 2</b>	<b>Article 3</b>
<b>Recurrence</b>	5	1	3
<b>Partial Recurrence</b>	3	1	0
<b>Parallelism</b>	5	3	2
<b>Paraphrase</b>	7	5	4
<b>Ellipsis</b>	2	1	1
<b>Pro-forms</b>	10	7	10
<b>Junctions</b>	38	27	33

**Table 5:** The Distribution of the Cohesive Devices in the Three News Articles

The table shows that in article 1 sixty-seven (70) cohesive devices were identified in the text in which “junction” dominates with thirty-eight (38) instances. On the other hand, article 2 shows forty-five (45) occurrences with “junction” being the most frequent cohesive devices similarly to article 1 with twenty-seven (27) occurrences. “Junction”, analogously to the first two articles, is the most utilized cohesive device with thirty-three (33) instances in article 3 which contains a total of fifty-three (53) cohesive devices. Therefore, the most prevalent cohesive devices in the three selected articles are clearly “junction”.

### 3.1.2. Coherence

According to De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), when texts segments provide the same idea which relate to the main concept, it promotes their coherence and avoids “ambiguity”. Therefore, the three selected articles’ segments demonstrate impeccable “determinacy” in connection with the central ideas as the authors made a clear “spreading activation” where each idea of a segment is enhanced by the previous one. Herein some examples:

**Article 1:** Some segments related directly to the article’s central idea: *7.6 magnitude quake hit Japan’s western coast.*

- “A powerful earthquake has struck central Japan’s western coastline...”
- “The quake, which is estimated to have been magnitude 7.6, struck the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture...”
- “In Wajima city, close to the epicentre, people were reported to have been buried beneath the rubble of houses that collapsed.”

- “Hokuriku’s Shika plant in Ishikawa, which was the closest to the quake’s location, had already halted its two reactors for a regular inspection before the quake and experienced no impact from it, the agency said.”
- “A government spokesperson, Hayashi Yoshimasa, said people should prepare for possible further quakes...”

**Article 2:** Some segments related directly to the article’s central idea: *‘battle against time’ to find those trapped under rubble as death toll rises.*

- “Police and local authorities early on Tuesday reported cases of bodies being pulled from the rubble of collapsed buildings while others remained trapped.”
- “We must rescue them as quickly as possible, especially those who are trapped under collapsed structures,” Fumio Kishida said during an emergency disaster meeting.”
- “One thousand army personnel have been dispatched to the worst-hit area in the country’s relatively remote Noto peninsula, but rescue operations have been hindered by badly damaged and blocked roads...”
- “A woman in her fifties was confirmed dead in Nanao city, where more than 30 people were taken to hospital.”
- “Other residents of the area were reported to have been found unconscious or believed to be trapped under rubble or missing.”

**Article 3:** Some segments related directly to the article’s central idea: *death toll rises to 62 amid warnings of landslides and aftershocks.*

- “Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors as authorities warned of landslides and heavy rain after a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people.”

- “The 7.5-magnitude quake...triggered tsunami waves more than a metre high, sparked a major fire and tore apart roads.”
- “The regional government announced Wednesday that 62 people had been confirmed dead and more than 300 injured 20 of them seriously.”
- “The toll was expected to climb as rescuers battled aftershocks and poor weather to comb through rubble.”
- “Nearly 34,000 households were still without power in Ishikawa prefecture, the local utility said. Many cities were without running water.”

After that, the successively activated ideas need to be connected to each other by a “strength of linkage” which ensures a correct logical progression of ideas. It consists of three different levels: “determinate knowledge” which includes information directly connected to the central idea, “typical knowledge” which includes information about the concept, and “accidental knowledge” which includes random information irrelevant to the main concept. Only “determinate knowledge” and “typical knowledge” are present in the articles. Also, “determinate knowledge” is found more present in the articles than “typical knowledge”. Examples are given in the following table:

	Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
<b>Determinate Knowledge</b>	-“The quake, which is estimated to have been magnitude 7.6, struck the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture...”	-“Japan’s prime minister has said the country is facing a “battle against time” to rescue those affected by a series of major earthquakes which reportedly killed at least 55 people, injured dozens and sparked fires that destroyed homes.”	-“Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors as authorities warned of landslides and heavy rain after a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people.”

<b>Typical Knowledge</b>	-“Authorities in Japan were still assessing the extent of the damage and people needed to prepare for more tremors, the Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, said.”	-“Bullet trains and flights in and out of the region were all suspended Tuesday morning.”	-“Japan experiences hundreds of earthquakes every year and the vast majority cause no damage.”
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**Table 6:** “Strength of linkage” Levels in the Three News Articles

### 3.1.3. Intentionality and Acceptability

The third standard is concerned with the “intention” of the author while producing a piece of writing. Four maxims are to be found in the text to discover whether the producer seeks clearness and honesty or to influence and control the receivers. Accordingly, given that the chosen texts are newspaper articles, the authors’ intention to “inform” is clearly detected. We effectively know about the quake that occurred, its circumstances, and outcomes thanks to the new and valuable information provided by the authors. As previously discovered in the element of “coherence”, “determinate knowledge” level is the dominant information level used by the authors to convey information and serve the primary goal of the article which is to “inform”. Therefore, given that “determinate knowledge” is the level of information which is in direct relation with the central topic as it shares relevant information, which serves the comprehension of the general idea of the text. It is safe to conclude that the four maxims are well identified in the articles as they present only the relevant information avoiding the unnecessary specifics (maxim of quantity), supply reliable information assisting it by real evidence (maxim of quality), provide a logical progression of ideas without any deviation from the central topic (maxim of relation), and use a clear and straightforward language free from ambiguity or obscurity (maxim of manner). Here are some examples:

		Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
<b>Maxim of Quantity</b>	of	-“The quake, which is estimated to have been <b>magnitude 7.6</b> , struck the <b>Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture</b> on the <b>main central island of Honshu</b> at about <b>4.10pm local time (07.10 GMT)</b> . “	-“In <b>Wajima city</b> , fires were still burning at <b>7am local time on Tuesday</b> and the fire department reports more than <b>100 homes and other buildings</b> have been completely destroyed. At least <b>15 of the dead</b> were in <b>Wajima city...</b> ”	-“ <b>The regional government</b> announced Wednesday that <b>62 people</b> had been <b>confirmed dead</b> and more than <b>300 injured</b> , <b>20 of them seriously.</b> ”
<b>Maxim of Quality</b>	of	-“ <b>The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)</b> said dozens of quakes of at least magnitude 3.5 hit the region between 4pm and 7.30pm.”	-“ <b>Japanese public broadcaster NHK TV</b> initially warned that torrents of water could reach as high as five metres...”	-“ <b>Toshitaka Katada, a University of Tokyo professor specialising in disasters</b> , said...”
<b>Maxim of Relation</b>	of	-“A powerful <u>earthquake</u> has struck central Japan’s western coastline... <u>The quake</u> , which is estimated to have been magnitude 7.6, struck the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture.... Wajima city, close to the <u>epicentre</u> , people were reported to have <u>been buried beneath the rubble of houses that collapsed.</u> ”	-“Japan’s prime minister has said the country is facing a <u>“battle against time” to rescue</u> those affected by a series of major earthquakes...Police and local authorities early on Tuesday reported cases of <u>bodies being pulled from the rubble...</u> “We must <u>rescue</u> them as quickly as possible...” Fumio Kishida said during an emergency disaster meeting.”	-“Ishikawa and its Noto peninsula, one of the worst affected areas, has been hit by more than <u>100 aftershocks...</u> Japanese <u>rescuers</u> were scrambling to search for <u>survivors</u> as authorities warned of <u>landslides and heavy rain</u> after a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people...The 7.5-magnitude quake on Monday that rattled Ishikawa prefecture on the main island of Honshu triggered <u>tsunami waves more than a metre high...</u> ”
<b>Maxim of Manner</b>	of	-“The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which had warned of possible tsunamis along 190 miles of coast, said about four hours after the 7.6-magnitude quake that the tsunami danger had “largely passed”.	-“The quakes, the largest of which had a magnitude of 7.6 at a shallow depth of 10km, struck on the west coast of Japan’s main island on Monday and shook buildings in Tokyo, around 300km away.”	-“Nearly 34,000 households were still without power in Ishikawa prefecture, the local utility said. Many cities were without running water.”

**Table 7: Grice’s Maxims in the Three News Articles**

Acceptability for its part, it deals with how acceptable the sentences are by the receiver which is not completely based on their grammaticality. As noted by De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), when the sentences of a discourse are grammatically correct (through cohesion) but fail to mirror the actual context in which the text is produced, mental images in the minds of the receivers would not succeed to be created making the conceptualization of the situation impossible. As discovered earlier in the analysis of “cohesion” and “coherence”, the three selected articles’ sentences are connected through several devices. In addition, the articles segments’ information is connected to each other in harmony relating to each article’s central idea picturing impeccably the situations’ circumstances which enables the receivers to accept the sentences as they help through the conceptualization of the circumstances of the context. Examples:

Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
<p>-“ A powerful earthquake has struck central Japan’s western coastline, triggering waves over a metre high and prompting tsunami alerts and warnings for people to evacuate.”</p> <p>-“It knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes and disrupted flights and rail services.”</p> <p>-“ Authorities in Japan were still assessing the extent of the damage and people needed to prepare for more tremors, the Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, said.”</p>	<p>-“ Police and local authorities early on Tuesday reported cases of bodies being pulled from the rubble of collapsed buildings while others remained trapped.”</p> <p>-“The worst-affected area was around the Asachi-dori street, a district popular with visitors and known for its many wooden buildings. The cause and casualty numbers were currently unclear.”</p> <p>-“A woman in her fifties was confirmed dead in Nanao city, where more than 30 people were taken to hospital.”</p>	<p>-“Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors as authorities warned of landslides and heavy rain after a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people.”</p> <p>-“The regional government announced Wednesday that 62 people had been confirmed dead and more than 300 injured, 20 of them seriously.”</p> <p>-“In the coastal city of Suzu, mayor Masuhiro Izumiya said there were “almost no houses standing”.</p>

**Table 8:** “Acceptability” in the Three News Articles

### 3.1.4. Informativity

Concerning “informativity”, it is concerned with the familiarity of the receiver with the communicated information in the text, and it contains three orders of informativity. The three selected articles contain the first order informativity with information which are relevant and central to the topic and the second order informativity with information which is unpredictable by the receiver. Here are some instances:

	Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
<b>First Order Informativity</b>	-“Footage broadcast by NHK appeared to show buildings collapsing in Ishikawa. More than 36,000 households lost power in Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, according to the utilities provider Hokuriku Electric Power.”	-“In Wajima city, fires were still burning at 7am local time on Tuesday and the fire department reports more than 100 homes and other buildings have been completely destroyed. At least 15 of the dead were in Wajima city, the Kyodo news agency said.”	-“The regional government announced Wednesday that 62 people had been confirmed dead and more than 300 injured, 20 of them seriously.”
<b>Second Order Informativity</b>	-“The magnitude 9 quake of 2011 triggered a tsunami that took approximately 30 minutes before it hit the coastline.”	-“The US president, Joe Biden, said in a statement that his administration was in touch with Japanese officials and “ready to provide any necessary assistance for the Japanese people.”	-“The number of earthquakes in the Noto peninsula region has been steadily increasing since 2018, a Japanese government report said last year.

**Table 9:** “Orders of Informativity” in the Three News Articles

Moreover, it has already been mentioned that the three selected articles are dominated by “determinate knowledge” rather than “typical knowledge”; therefore, this cancels out the third level of informativity which consists of pieces of knowledge that are trivial to the main concept of the text. In addition, “content words” are plentiful among the articles making it

easier for the producer to maintain focus on the context and for the receiver to better conceptualize the situation. For example:

Article	Examples of Content Words
<b>Article 1</b>	<p>1-“The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which <b>had warned of possible tsunamis along 190miles of coast, said about four hours after the 7.6-magnitude quake that the tsunami danger had “largely passed”.</b>”</p> <p>2-“<b>Authorities in Japan were still assessing the extent of the damage and people needed to prepare for more tremors, the Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, said.</b>”</p> <p>3- “<b>The NHK broad caster had issued warnings urging people to evacuate quickly to higher ground and to beware of aftershocks and further tsunamis.</b>”</p>
<b>Article 2</b>	<p>1-“<b>Japanese public broadcaster NHK TV initially warned that torrents of water could reach as high as five metres and people were evacuated to sports halls, schools and other public buildings.</b>”</p> <p>2-“<b>British prime minister Rishi Sunak said the UK stood ready to support Japan and that “British nationals in the affected areas should follow the advice of the Japanese authorities.”</b>”</p> <p>3-“<b>The US president, Joe Biden, said in a statement that his administration was in touch with Japanese officials and “ready to provide any necessary assistance for the Japanese people.</b>”</p>
<b>Article 3</b>	<p>1-“<b>Japan lifted all tsunami warnings after waves at least1.2 metres (four feet) high hit the town of Wajima and a series of smaller tsunamis were reported elsewhere.</b>”</p> <p>2-“<b>Japan experiences hundreds of earthquakes every year and the vast majority cause no damage.</b>”</p> <p>3-“<b>The number of earthquakes in the Noto peninsula region has been steadily increasing since 2018, a Japanese government report said last year.</b>”</p>

*Table 10:* Example of “Content Words” in the Three News Articles

### 3.1.5. Situationality

Two types of situations are identified in the articles: “situation monitoring” and “situation management”. While the first consists of describing an occurrence with total objectivity, the second entails subjectivity to influence and impact the intention of the producer in the articles. Here are some instances:

	Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
<b>Situation monitoring</b>	-“Footage broadcast by NHK appeared to show buildings collapsing in Ishikawa. More than 36,000 households lost power in Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, according to the utilities provider Hokuriku Electric Power.”	-“In Wajima city, fires were still burning at 7am local time on Tuesday and the fire department reports more than 100 homes and other buildings have been completely destroyed. At least 15 of the dead were in Wajima city, the Kyodo news agency said.”	-“The regional government announced Wednesday that 62 people had been confirmed dead and more than 300 injured, 20 of them seriously.”
<b>Situation management</b>	-“Hokuriku’s Shika plant in Ishikawa, which was the closest to the quake’s location, had already halted its two reactors for a regular inspection before the quake and experienced no impact from it, the agency said.”	-“The US president, Joe Biden, said in a statement that his administration was in touch with Japanese officials and “ready to provide any necessary assistance for the Japanese people.”	-“Toshitaka Katada, a University of Tokyo professor specialising in disasters, said people were prepared because the area had been hit by quakes in recent years. They had evacuation plans and emergency supplies in stock.”

*Table 11: “Types of Situations” in the Three News Articles*

The authors made proof of objectivity when they presented the necessary information about the quake and its circumstances (what, when, where, how, who, and why), whereas they manifested subjectivity as they quoted some saying which belongs to authorities like the US president Biden and the British prime minister Rishi Sunak who expressed their support to the Japanese people.

### 3.1.6. Intertextuality

Instances of article 1 were clearly identified in article 2 and in article 3 which also contains instances from article 2 as the authors needed to constantly consult the previous text in order to produce a new one. Accordingly, the intertextuality of the three selected articles is exhibited. Here are some examples:

Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
-“The quake, which is estimated to have been magnitude 7.6, struck the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture on the main central island of Honshu...”	-“The quakes, the largest of which had a magnitude of 7.6 at a shallow depth of 10km, struck on the west coast of Japan’s main island...”	-“The powerful quake – which the JMA measured at 7.6 – was one of more than 400 to shake the region through Wednesday morning, the agency said.”
-“In Wajima city, close to the epicentre, people were reported to have been buried beneath the rubble of houses that collapsed. A large fire in the city engulfed a row of houses, with people being evacuated in the dark.”	-“In Wajima city, fires were still burning at 7am local time on Tuesday and the fire department reports more than 100 homes and other buildings have been completely destroyed.”	-“Japan lifted all tsunami warnings after waves at least 1.2 metres (four feet) high hit the town of Wajima and a series of smaller tsunamis were reported elsewhere.”
-“A government spokesperson, Hayashi Yoshimasa, said people should prepare for possible further quakes and that the Japan Self-Defense Forces were being readied for deployment to help with rescue and recovery efforts.”	-“Japan’s prime minister has said the country is facing a “battle against time” to rescue those affected by a series of major earthquakes which reportedly killed at least 55 people...”	-“Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors as authorities warned of landslides and heavy rain after a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people.”

*Table 12: “Intertextuality” of the Three News Articles*

### 3.2. The Degrees of Manifestation of the Standards of Textuality

The degrees of the presence of each standard are briefed in the succeeding table within the three articles to summarize the results of the textual analysis:

Article	Cohesion	Coherence	intentionality	Acceptability	informativity	situationality	intertextuality
Article 1	Regular	Consistent	present	High	frequent	common	constant
Article 2	regular	Consistent	present	High	frequent	Common	Constant

<b>Article 3</b>	Regular	Consistent	present	High	frequent	Common	Constant
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**Table 13:** The Degrees of the Standards' Manifestations in the Articles

The degrees of the presence of the seven standards of textuality in the three selected articles are exhibited in the table above. Noticeably, a similar high degree of exploitation of the textuality criteria is demonstrated with “cohesion” being held regular linking the texts’ words together, “coherence” consistently present across the ideas, a present informative intentionality with a high receiver acceptability, a frequent informativity throughout the articles’ segments, a common situation shared and stuck to, as well as a constant remarkable intertextuality. To sum up, the results show a persistent devotion for a proper usage of the integrity of the textuality dimensions in the three selected articles.

### **Conclusion**

The present chapter has introduced the findings of the study. An analysis of three selected news articles retrieved from the online newspaper *The Guardian* has been carried out through Qualitative Content Analysis. Seven criteria have been the core of the analysis: cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality taking based on De Beaugrande and Dressler’s (1981) Model of Textuality.

# *Discussion of the Findings*

## **Introduction**

This chapter is dedicated to discuss the findings achieved through the analysis of the selected news articles retrieved from the online website of the newspaper *The Guardian*. The discussion executes De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality. Moreover, it is important to mention that the chapter intends to put forth answers for the research questions presented in the General Introduction about the presence of the criteria of textuality in the news texts as well as the role of their utilization in media articles and to verify the validity of the outlined hypotheses. Accordingly, the first section of the chapter deals with the discussion of the standards of textuality explored in the articles, while the succeeding section discusses the importance of the use of these standards in the news articles genre.

### **4.1. Discussion of the Standards of Textuality in the Selected News Articles**

In an effort to address the first research question, which is about the standards of textuality employed in the news articles, Qualitative Content Analysis was made use of with the intention of shedding light on the effectiveness and clarity of the news texts.

#### **4.1.1. Cohesion**

The analysis' findings revealed that a total of sixty-seven (70) cohesive devices have been identified in article 1. Following that, in article 2, forty-five (45) standards have been identified. Ultimately, article 3 contains fifty-three (53) standards. In light of this, it is clear that the most commonly used cohesive device in the three selected news article is "junctions". Through "junctions", the authors gave the news articles a well-structured aspect stressing the engagement with the receivers while facilitating their understanding.

In the first place, we observe that in article 1 the journalist kept the number of “recurrence”, “partial recurrence”, “parallelism”, “paraphrase”, and “pro-forms” controlled. Whereas, “junction” was the dominating device comprising 38 occurrences of the totality of the devices. Consequently, the article’s informativity rises because the “pro-forms” instances are brief and approximately all the references are close to the referred expressions. This is exemplified in the following extracts:

*1-...before the quake and experienced no impact from it, the agency said.*

*2-A Tokyo resident visiting her hometown of Takaoka...*

In the first example, the pronoun ‘it’ refers back to the word ‘quake’ which helps elucidating and reducing the form of the text while keeping the gap between the pro-form and the referred word short. Similarly, in the second example, the possessive pronoun ‘her’ refers back to the expression ‘A Tokyo resident’ maintaining a short gap.

The number of “ellipsis” employed in this article may pose temporal obstacles to the reader to interpret the text due to its limitedness. Therefore, that rate is considered reduced which renounces clearness instead of enhancing efficiency. Concerning “junction”, the dominant type is “conjunction” which is the most commonly used type. Therefore, the use of junctives helped improving the text’s structure and enhancing the reader’s understanding. For example:

*3-The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which had warned of possible tsunamis along 190 miles of coast, said about four hours after the 7.6-magnitude quake that the tsunami danger had “largely passed”.*

**4-** *The Japanese airline ANA turned back planes headed to airports in Toyama and Ishikawa, while Japan Airlines cancelled most of its services to Niigata and Ishikawa regions. Authorities said one of Ishikawa's airports was closed.*

Concerning the third extract, the journalist employed the conjunction 'after' in order to link the two clauses for an understandable meaning. Equally for the fourth instance, the writer utilized both 'while' and 'and' to connect the ideas of the sentence and establish a clear structural organization of the text. In addition, the writer utilized both 'while' and 'and' to connect the ideas of the sentence.

In the second place, the usage of "recurrence", "partial recurrence" "parallelism" and "paraphrase" in article 2 was held regulated while "ellipsis" was identified once, similarly to article 1, which is again considered diminished for a clear and effortless understanding of the text. As De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) state, when there is no balance established in the use of "ellipsis", the text's clearness repudiates. Regarding "junction", similarly to article 1, it was primarily deployed in the text. Hence, since the "recurrence" instances are managed, the article's informativeness surges, and nearly all the gaps between the references and the referred expressions are short. This is noted in the following extracts:

**1-** *A woman in her fifties was confirmed dead in Nanao city...*

**2-** *... residents of coastal areas were being told not to return to their homes, despite tsunami warnings being lifted.*

For the second article, in the first and the second examples, the journalist used the pro-forms 'her' and 'their' which are clearly close to the words they refer to. Therefore, the

possessive pronoun ‘her’ replaces the term ‘woman’, and ‘their’ refers back to the expression ‘residents of coastal areas’.

In regard with the limited utilization of “ellipsis” in this article, the readers may consume time and energy trying to understand clearly the shared information. Similarly to article 1, “junctives” were primarily used stressing on “conjunctions to produce a well organized text effortlessly understood (see table 3 page 33). The writer deployed the conjunction ‘and’ different times that links the elements of the sentence for a good interpretation of the situation. Moreover, he also used subordination including that of cause with the signal phrase ‘due to’, modality ‘could’ and contrast ‘despite’, in addition to the conjunction ‘but’.

In the last position, article 3’s deployment of “recurrence”, “parallelism”, “paraphrase”, and “ellipsis” is minimized comparing to the first article, and similarly to the second article, “partial recurrence” remained unexploited. “Junction” was correspondingly predominant, notably “conjunction”. Nevertheless, the informativity of the article increases as the referred expressions are close to the references (see table 4 page 34). The journalist utilized in the first and the second examples the pro-forms and the referred words gap is similar to the first two articles short gap including ‘they’ which replaces the term ‘people’ and ‘it’ that refers back to the expression ‘a massive 9.0- magnitude undersea quake’.

The usage of “ellipsis” was not balanced with just one utilizing analogously to article 2 making its clarity slightly minimized which might cause the readers to invest more time and energy to clearly interpret the texts’ ideas. In addition, “junction” is prevalently applied in the article in the same way as article 1 and 2; however, the leading sub-type was “subordination”

contrary to the first two articles' styles which were dominated by "conjunction". So, thanks to its moderate use, the journalist enables the readers to understand and interpret without difficulty the article. That is noted in table 4 page 34.

In essence, the analysis of the three selected articles exhibits that they all attain cohesion through "junction" as it was leadingly identified. Therefore, the articles are well-structured and organized to guide the receivers' understanding and interpretation of the texts' ideas. In addition, their balanced utilization enables the three texts to maintain their informativeness. Furthermore, the controlled use of "recurrence", "partial recurrence" (in article 1 and 2), "parallelism", "paraphrase" and "pro-forms" in the news texts are clearly relevant and the readers' interpretation is facilitated. Although "partial recurrence" was left unexploited in article 3, the article's clarity and linkage is maintained due to the appropriate use of the aforementioned devices. Concerning "ellipsis", its use was minimized in the three selected articles. Consequently, the readers may invest more time and energy to understand and interpret the news stories. According to the theoretical framework of this research, the adequate use of ellipsis is decided by the context of the text's central topic in order to avoid reducing the content's clarity.

#### **4.1.2. Coherence**

Regarding this component, the three selected articles' segments have presented linked ideas with their core one exhibiting pertinent "determinacy" since the ideas were actively spread where every idea of a segment is enriched by the former one. Furthermore, As indicated by De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), when a producer of a text avoids 'ambiguity' by providing words which refer to the same central topic, it ensures a coherent

production since the integrity of meanings determine the same “sense”. Therefore, if the persistence of “non-determinacy” elicits “ambiguity”, then the absence of “non-determinacy” stimulates precision and clarity and this is applied for all the chosen news articles.

The main concept of the articles turns around the “quake”, and all the information related to it including its location, time, the magnitude, causes and consequences. Accordingly, as De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) indicate, the news texts make perfect “sense” due to the continuation of the ideas presented in the articles’ segments where each idea is enhanced through a prior one. In this case, the underlined incidences and others refer back to the main texts’ central ideas in a consecutive way avoiding any ambiguity which can hinder the overall comprehension of the text as well as highlighting the texts acceptance and clarity. Subsequently, the successively activated ideas are connected to each other by a “strength of linkage” which ensures a correct logical progression of ideas, and it consists of three different levels: “determinate knowledge” including pivotal information central to the texts’ topics, “typical knowledge” including expected information, and “accidental knowledge” including insignificant trivial information. In the articles, “determinate knowledge” and “typical knowledge” have been identified but not “accidental knowledge”. In addition, “determinate knowledge” was utilized more prominently (see table 5 page 35). Thus, due to the fact that the articles’ progression of ideas deals with “determinate knowledge” and “typical knowledge” only, the texts are evaluated to be highly informative and relevant as they provide new and central information related to the main topic. Accordingly, as mentioned in the Literature Review and keeping with De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981), since the “strength of linkage” between the news texts’ relates on “determinate knowledge” and “typical knowledge”, then it is fair to say that the articles logical progression of ideas is highly strong and consistent.

### **4.1.3. Intentionality and Acceptability**

The nature of the corpus of the study is newspaper articles, so the authors' purpose of informing has to be clearly identified which was the case of all the selected articles. New information about the quake, its conditions, and outcomes are effectively clear given that as discovered previously with the element of "coherence" that "determinate knowledge", level of information was prominently used providing information linked straightaway to "the quake".

Moreover, it is worth mentioning that each Grice's maxim was detected in the three articles as well. Hence, it is justifiable to infer that the articles consist of prevalent information abstaining from excessive details (maxim of quantity), reinforce with authentic evidence the provided information (maxim of quality), offer a logical progression of ideas avoiding straying from the principal idea of the texts (maxim of relation), and exploit straightforward and direct language absent of ambiguity and obscurity (maxim of manner), as noted by De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) (see table 7 page 40).

As delved into "cohesion" and "coherence, the articles conform accurately to those textuality standards. As a result, it is reasonable to suggest that the articles are communicative and helpful for the readers as they are not only grammatically correct, but also they assist the reader to better imagine the real situation in which the text is produced which raises the understanding and comprehension of the texts. To sum up, as the authors' succeeded to maintain their intention to produce cohesive and coherent texts, the news articles are acceptable.

#### **4.1.4. Informativity**

This element is about the degree to which the authors' information captivates and impresses the receiver. As noted in the Literature Review, there are three orders of informativity. The analysis demonstrates that the first and second orders of informativity have been deployed in the articles, while the third order went untapped enriching the articles with significant and new information. Therefore, the articles contain central and relevant information directly related to the main texts' topics (see table 9 page 42).

Furthermore, the first order informativity is primarily used in the articles; therefore, they do not include the third order informativity because as asserted by De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) when the first two levels of informativity are employed, the third level is left untouched which is confirmed in the analysis of the three news articles. Although the articles are dominated by the first order informativity and not the second order informativity which entails that they include less capturing and unpredictable information, the overall clarity is uninfluenced particularly taking into account that the use of "content words" in the articles is abundant facilitating the focus on the general context and enhancing a better mental conceptualization and emotions' engagement.

#### **4.1.5. Situationality**

The analysis of the selected articles' situationality revealed that two types of situations exist in the articles: "situation monitoring" and "situation management". The "situation monitoring" type was the most common type. Therefore, the authors intended to make "the quake" as the focus of the articles without trying to guide much or influence the readers of

their intention especially that, as shown before, their intention to “inform” is clearly spotted (see table 11 page 44).

#### **4.1.6. Intertextuality**

As seen in the articles, the general concept is shared and the events are directly related to one another. Ultimately, the readers’ engagement with an article enhances because they can relate it to a previous one which is the circumstance of the selected news articles where article 2 is linked to article 1 and article 3 relates to article 1 and article 2 (see table 12 page 45). As illustrated in the table, instances from the articles are clearly related to each other meaning that the readers’ active involvement and grasp of the articles rise. For instance, article 1’s first example information about the magnitude of the quake is found in article 2 as well as article 3. Furthermore, the three articles present information about ‘*Wajima city*’, a location close to the epicentre reporting how the situation has been evolving as noticed in the second examples of each article. Moreover, the third example about the rescue and its operations is also exhibited in the three articles.

### **4.2. The Relevance of the Standards of Textuality in the Selected Online News Articles**

After responding to the present research’s first question about the standards of textuality employed in the selected news article from the English newspaper *The Guardian* and the most frequently applied components, this section is concerned with addressing the second research question about the importance of the exploitation of the standards of textuality in the digital media news discourse.

### 4.2.1. Cohesion

It is notable that the utilization of the cohesive devices possesses a major role in connecting the segments of the digital news texts. In one aspect, even though the employment of “recurrence”, “partial recurrence”, “parallelism”, “paraphrase”, and “ellipsis” is managed, their application contributes to distinguish and emphasize on key elements. Thus, this would be helpful to the reader in understanding the central subject of the news articles. Relying on the three articles provided, the journalists, for example, emphasize on the term “earthquake” which is considered the overall subject in the news texts. Moreover, thanks to the deployment of these devices in digital news texts, especially paraphrasing and parallelism, the information is clearer, evident, and non-repetitive, that is to say, readers are able to understand the news items easily without being bored while reading the text, due to this the journalists attempt to avoid ambiguity. Therefore, the opportunities of the audience to understand and interpret the information accurately increase. Concerning junctives, their usage is frequently employed, as it is shown in the findings, due to their vital role in organizing the sections of the news texts and improving the structure of the piece of writing in order to be comprehensible for the audience. In reference to the given three articles, the frequent use of ‘junction’ demonstrates that journalists strongly emphasize on them to be the prominent cohesive device to maintain “cohesion” in the news text. For instance, the employment of “pro-forms” is obvious, especially “pronouns” as it is mentioned in previous examples. Yet, the use of the cohesive devices should be balanced in the text that it is crucial to avoid their excessive usage.

It is discussed in an investigation about how ‘controversy’ is presented in the news report, that ‘cohesive connections’ can be formed among the occurrences in a particular report

in addition to the continuing occurrences of the news reporting, when ‘controversies’ are utilized by news writers. A proposal provided by ‘research on narrative structure’ states that journalists utilize noun phrases individually or they make it unique from one situation to another in order to present fresh news, eventually the ‘anaphoric references’ are employed reverting to them (Cramer, 2011). However, unlike Cramer (2011), our results provide another aspect of “cohesion” which relies on the manifestation of its devices which are: “recurrence”, “partial recurrence”, “parallelism”, “paraphrasing”, “ellipsis”, “pro-forms” and “junction” to gain a deeper insight on the way the elements of a text are well linked together in order to form effective pieces of writings communicating information to the audience.

#### **4.2.2. Coherence**

Like cohesion, coherence exerts a crucial role in linking ideas of a newspaper text to each other. Accordingly, due to the persistence of ‘determinacy’ in the three digital news articles, it provides clarity and accuracy which can aid the audience to interpret and understand the news texts without ambiguity or uncertainty. Since the meanings in the entire articles include the same sense, it facilitates the reader’s identification of the central subject, and it forms a consistent news text. Furthermore, the employment of the two levels of the activated ideas including ‘determinate knowledge’ and ‘typical knowledge’ comprise a strong impact on the reader’s recognition of the key elements discussed in the news articles, so that it makes it easier to comprehend the transmitted information and then build a coherent piece of writing . For more clarification, as it is provided in the three digital news texts, in order to achieve keeping the news articles connected, accurate and coherent, the journalists depended upon the usage of the ‘determinate knowledge’ specifically, like the given information in

article 1 “The quake, which is estimated to have been magnitude 7.6, struck the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture...” which is related straightaway to the central subject “quake in Japan”. In addition to the ‘typical knowledge’ generally, as the statement in article 2, ‘Bullet trains and flights in and out of the region were all suspended Tuesday morning’, that provides an information to the key concept ‘quake in Japan’ which still concerns the focus of the article, but not directly connected to it.

Hajimia (2018) relies on a previous study that is done by Kholani (2012), which demonstrates, according to the given investigation, that the existing kinds of connections highlight the way the elements of a piece of writing are linked not only in terms of form, but also through the deep meanings, messages and the linkage of ideas that the text is intended to convey. Hence, the broad employment of the ‘discourse markers’ in news texts is because of their significance in connecting occurrences to be clearly conveyed, in this manner, misunderstanding is going to be eliminated. In accordance with Ventola (1999), coherence is perceived as a circumstantially established connection which is related to explanatory situations in written works. He adds, in a conference paper, that the piece of writing’s coherence depends on both the role of the producer and the readers in clarifying the way the written work is relevant to the situation. Therefore, while Ventola’s (1999) work stresses both the role of the producer and the receiver in establishing coherence, our work highlights the producer’s role reflected on the piece of writing to achieve coherence making it the unique focus of our evaluation.

### **4.2.3. Intentionality and Informativity**

“Intentionality” and “informativity” are worthy of consideration as two interconnected

standards. In this manner within a given text, it is clear that intentionality is linked to informativity as the author's intention in writing the news texts is considered informative. For instance, in the three news articles provided, it is understandable that the journalists' intention was to "inform" about the "earthquake in Japan". In addition, it is clear that the authors' intention, in those news texts, is exposed to be truthful, evident and informative due to the identification of all the fourth maxims including quality, quantity, relation, and manner, as it is the case in the following statement "The regional government announced Wednesday that 62 people had been confirmed dead and more than 300 injured, 20 of them seriously" (article 3). This statement demonstrates the intention of the journalist in terms of the maxim of 'quantity', which emphasizes on providing only the needed information that serves the aim of the central subject "quake in Japan" without adding any detailed news which does not serve the focus of the article. Simultaneously, both "intentionality" and "informativity" have a significant impact on the audience when interpreting the news texts. Hence, the author's aim is necessary to be obvious, clear, brief, and certain in order to assist the reader to understand the intention of the news article which is the case of the three selected texts.

"Informativity" holds the same significance as intentionality; thus, it should be clear, accurate, and reliable so that it would attract the audience's attention and keep their engagement when reading the content of the digital news article. As an illustration, accomplishing informativity in the given three news texts is achieved through the two significant orders of informativity, including the first and the second orders. Concerning the first one, the information "The regional government announced...20 of them seriously", in article 3, is indicated to be appropriate and connected to the key concept of the news article "quake in Japan". For the second one, the statement "The magnitude 9 quake of 2011

triggered a tsunami that took approximately 30 minutes before it hit the coastline” in article 1 brings news to the readers that they do not expect to be stated in those news articles. In the book *Translation as Text*, Neubert and Shreve (1992) explain that the setting of a particular discourse can be considered as ‘context’ in which the shift of the news happens. They add that writings are perceived as ‘informative’, only when the information and the comprehension provided is new for the audience which aligns with our results.

Regarding the dimension of “intentionality”, an analysis conducted in media discourse on articles which address current issues exposed “intentionality” as being linked to its cognitive arrangement of words; that is to say, the element strategies which resolve the issue that manifests the central communicative goal of that type. Therefore, it is possible that the intention is expressed both directly and indirectly in the primary stances of the problem feature articles, including ‘headline’, ‘subtitle’, and ‘lead’. However, a regular clarification is provided in the procedure of the linguistic skill enhancement, in addition to the deployment of language exchange methods to captivate the interest of the audience and an attempt to convince the validity of the point of view (Karpilovitch, 2018). While Karpilovitch (2018) reviewed “intentionality” in terms of cognition and linguistic skill procedure, our research provides a detailed analysis of the articles segments “intentionality” relying on Grice’s four maxims (quantity, quality, relation, and manner) which provide a comprehensible examination of the news stories’ intention for a trustworthy and informative communication.

#### **4.2.4. Acceptability**

Acceptability encourages the reader to be engaged by providing them with credible and

valuable information. Moreover, acceptability creates trustworthiness between the audience and the article, due to its clarity, well-structured segments, the linkage of ideas, in addition to the certainty and the informativeness of the news texts. In the three given news articles, the vital role of acceptability was identified, so that the readers hold the accessibility for an understanding and reliable input.

Hajimia (2018), in her work on “A corpus-based analysis on the functions of discourse markers used in Malaysian online newspaper articles”, claims that the comprehension of diverse structures and roles of usage of an unprecedented classification is considered necessary for understanding the identical signification which is part of the classification. So, the ‘discourse marker’ can cause uncertainty of the piece of writing when its structure is incorrect. The wrong usage of the elements makes the piece of writing artificial; it may be not acceptable, in addition to the expansion of the communication failures (Hajimia, 2018, as cited in Sun w., 2013). He adds that a text is to be suitable, genuine, and efficient for communication, when the writer utilizes the ‘discourse markers’ in a manner that the audience will predict and accept the text. Therefore, it is crucial that the employment of the ‘discourse marker’ to be valid in order to make the text original, and to be acceptable by the readers, so that it results in an effective exchange.

#### **4.2.5. Situationality**

Situationality has an essential role in assisting the reader to understand the news texts, relying on the specific circumstances which occurred at that present time. Thus the audience would have a better grasping of the full meaning of the text. For instance, in the given three articles, the journalists provide an expanded explanation about the background and the setting

of the “earthquake in Japan” considering it as the main emphasis in the news articles. In this manner, with the aim of ensuring situationality in the three digital news texts, the news items are provided in terms of two situations, including ‘situation monitoring’ and ‘situation management’. Regarding the first type, the journalist, like in article 1, provided the following information “Footage broadcast... Hokuriku Electric Power” which presents a factual event about the effects of the central subject of the article “quake in Japan”. For the second type, as in article 2, the statement “The US president... for the Japanese people” involves information which influences the journalist’s goal about the situation. Moreover, since situationality provides broader information, it has a significant role in improving reliability, so that the readers receive accurate and comprehensible information.

The reader’s understanding of the text differs depending on the situation. In this manner, ‘Situational understanding’ emphasizes on the integration of an input which is directly articulated (Kintsch, 1988). Thus, due to situational understanding of a piece of writing, it is helpful for the audience to create a connection between the elements of the situation which work together in order to make sense to the whole text. Moreover, there is what is called ‘situational interest’ which is viewed as the effect of features in a given academic setting in a particular instant which attracts people’s attention. Therefore, the environment can elicit situational interest unexpectedly, so, it has generally a slight influence on a person’s learning and virtues when he is unfamiliar with a given field.

A crucial insight is shown that in “Textuality mediated world”, the comprehension of language can be through valuable notions in order to analyze the way language use varies and changes in different situations. One significant concept is ‘texts are always situated’; that is to say, it is about texts that are in areas which offer potentialities and restrictions about the

elements that are possible to be transcribed (Barton & Lee, 2013). Another concept is ‘affordances’ that highlights the emphasis of individuals is not on the inherent characteristics of a particular item, yet it is about what is valuable for people in a given circumstance to be considered, in the case they possess specific aims (Barton & Lee, 2013 as cited in Gibson, 1977; 1986).

#### **4.2.6. Intertextuality**

As for intertextuality, the connection between digital news texts while ensuring the maintenance of the fundamental notion and occurrences holds a crucial significance in enriching the audience’s involvement. It also aids the readers relating one news text to prior information from different other news articles which share the same concept and general idea. For instance, the standard of intertextuality is attained in the three news texts (see table 12 page 45), in which the data provided in each news article is related to the other news articles keeping the central idea of the three news texts that is ‘the magnitude of the quake in Japan’. Therefore, the receivers can have an enhanced understanding when grasping the information from diverse sources, in addition to the reliability which it adds to the digital news articles.

The aim of the concept of intertextuality is to interpret the connection within piece of writings (De Beaugrande & Dressler 1981). Therefore, relying on Ventola’s (1999) contribution, as intertextuality is viewed at the level of conferences, it considers more the link between the texts of the writers and the other pieces of writing from where they took references to their individual writings. He also states that the purpose of intertextuality is the way the elements of the piece of writings are transmitted in contextual settings, in addition to other written texts and the possible procedures at the time where it occurs.

## Conclusion

The chapter at hand has discussed the findings of the study to present responses for the research questions. It includes two sections. In the first section of the chapter, the presence of the seven standards of textuality (cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality) was discussed relying of De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality in the three selected news articles retrieved from the English newspaper *The Guardian*. In the second section, subsequent discussion on the significance of the seven standards of textuality in media discourse was established as an attempt to answer the second research question.

# *General Conclusion*

The current research was an attempt to explore the textuality of three selected online news texts. As mentioned earlier, the broad aim of the investigation was to analyze the exhibition of seven standards of textuality in the chosen newspaper articles retrieved from *The Guardian*. In the first place, the study targeted the evaluation of the use of the seven components of textuality utilized in the news. Following this, it focused on the implication of these criteria in the process of the news stories communication. The research rested on De Beaugrande and Dressler's (1981) Model of Textuality developed in their book *Introduction to Text Linguistics*.

In the light of Qualitative Content Analysis, we have explored three (3) news articles' titles, subtitles, and texts. De Beaugrande and Dressler's framework has been implemented with the aim to attain the objectives of the investigation based on seven (7) dimensions. First, "cohesion" devices have been identified including 'recurrence', 'partial recurrence', 'parallelism', 'paraphrase', 'ellipsis', 'pro-forms', and 'junction'. Then, "coherence" has been assessed considering the "continuity of senses" in the texts and the "spreading activation" of the same segments of information connected by three levels of "strength of linkage". After that, "intentionality" has been analyzed to uncover the texts' purpose entailing the authors' intention in writing the news stories which has been demonstrated within Grice's four maxims (quantity, quality, relation, and manner). "Informativity" and "acceptability" are the other standards which have been detected to explore the extent to which the articles share original and significant information including "three orders of informativity" and how the elements of "cohesion" and "coherence" both create an acceptable text. Succeeding this, "situationality" has been determined to situate the context or the focus of the texts produced considering two aspects: situation monitoring and situation management. Finally, "intertextuality" has been

explored shedding light on the interrelation of the selected articles, and how it added efficacy to the meaning of the articles.

With reference to the implication of the Results and Discussion chapters, it was established that the integrity of the dimensions of textuality were manifested in the three selected articles. In addition, the news texts share the same most common cohesive device which was “junction”, notably ‘conjunction’, to achieve “cohesion”. This clearly proves that the news stories are communicative and clear. The authors varied in the degree of utilization of the cohesive devices; however, their correct usage enabled the texts to be informative enough, well-structured, and effective to the readers to effortlessly interpret them. Furthermore, the articles were coherent due to their similar segments which provide the reader with related pieces of information stressing on the fulfilment of ‘determinacy’ and to exclude any sort of ‘ambiguity’. Moreover, “intentionality” and “acceptability” permitted the texts to maintain the informative intention effectively given that the texts were newspaper texts and manage to validate the texts giving it the appropriate aspects and notions to be accepted by the receivers. Furthermore, “informativity”, “situationality”, and “intertextuality” enabled the news stories to provide fresh and relevant news, to sustain meaning and focus on the context in which the texts are produced, and to accentuate the interconnectedness between the articles. Accordingly, this yields to the affirmation of the first hypothesis indicating that the integrity of the seven standards of textuality has been exploited.

The significance of the seven standards of textuality in the selected digital news media has also been concluded. In this manner, cohesion comprised a crucial role in relating and arranging the parts of the digital news articles; however, it was necessary that its usage remains moderate. Furthermore, the usage of coherence aimed at connecting the ideas of the

digital news articles which facilitated the reader's recognition of the main theme in the news texts. Also, both intentionality and informativity went together in order to captivate the readers' interest by providing information, relying on the journalist's intention. In addition, acceptability comprised an essential function for making digital news articles acceptable by the readers. For situationality, it provided broader news about the focus of the digital news articles in those present circumstances, so that it resulted in accurate information for readers. Finally, intertextuality ensured the readers' engagement and linking recent digital news texts to previous ones which improved the audience's comprehension. Consequently, the second hypothesis is also affirmed which claims that the effective utilization of the standards of textuality increases the communicativeness of The Guardian's online news stories, increases English text understanding for EFL learners, and raises media literacy.

It is necessary to mention that the study encountered some limitations related to the sample size, mainly. As a first limitation, the sample size selected is considered small due to some time constraints making it difficult for generalizing. Furthermore, the second limitation considers the time space. The current articles are considered insufficient to account for new and contemporal writing trends and changes that authors adopt while writing their texts which need recent studies to evaluate them.

For this reason, further studies are suggested to enlarge the sample size for more scope for generalizations. Moreover, the present study has examined three English online news texts and considering other English language materials would make the study more credible to reflect upon online news texts as potential authentic teaching materials in EFL teaching.

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# *Appendices*

# *Appendix A*

## *News Article 1*

## ***Japan orders people to evacuate after 7.6-magnitude quake hits west coast***

Gavin Blair in Tokyo and agencies on Mon 1 Jan 2024 20.27 GMT

### **Major tsunami warnings downgraded but residents in coastal areas told not to return to homes**

A powerful earthquake has struck central Japan's western coastline, triggering waves over a metre high and prompting tsunami alerts and warnings for people to evacuate.

The quake, which is estimated to have been magnitude 7.6, struck the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture on the main central island of Honshu at about 4.10pm local time (07.10 GMT). It knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes and disrupted flights and rail services.

Officials in Ishikawa prefecture confirmed four fatalities early Tuesday, according to the Kyodo news agency. In Wajima city, close to the epicentre, people were reported to have been buried beneath the rubble of houses that collapsed. A large fire in the city engulfed a row of houses, with people being evacuated in the dark. Local hospitals reported a number of injured people arriving for treatment, though damaged roads were hampering the transport of patients.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said dozens of quakes of at least magnitude 3.5 hit the region between 4pm and 7.30pm. The JMA initially issued a major tsunami warning for Ishikawa and lower-level tsunami warnings or advisories for the rest of Honshu, as well as the northernmost of Japan's main islands, Hokkaido. The warning was downgraded to a regular tsunami several hours later, meaning the waters could still reach up to 3 metres (10 feet).

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which had warned of possible tsunamis along 190 miles of coast, said about four hours after the 7.6-magnitude quake that the tsunami danger had "largely passed".

Authorities in Japan were still assessing the extent of the damage and people needed to prepare for more tremors, the Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, said.

“Residents need to stay on alert for further possible quakes and I urge people in areas where tsunamis are expected to evacuate as soon as possible,” he said. Buildings shook 190 miles (300km) away in Tokyo.

The NHK broadcaster had issued warnings urging people to evacuate quickly to higher ground and to beware of aftershocks and further tsunamis.

A Tokyo resident visiting her hometown of Takaoka, a city directly south of the worst-affected Noto peninsula, for the new year holiday, said: “We’re not that close to the coast so tsunamis are not a worry but the aftershocks just keep coming and shaking the whole house, it’s terrifying.”

A government spokesperson, Hayashi Yoshimasa, said people should prepare for possible further quakes and that the Japan Self-Defense Forces were being readied for deployment to help with rescue and recovery efforts.

Footage broadcast by NHK appeared to show buildings collapsing in Ishikawa. More than 36,000 households lost power in Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, according to the utilities provider Hokuriku Electric Power.

High-speed rail services to Ishikawa have been suspended while the telecoms operators SoftBank and KDDI reported phone and internet service disruptions in Ishikawa and Niigata prefectures, according to their websites.

The Japanese airline ANA turned back planes headed to airports in Toyama and Ishikawa, while Japan Airlines cancelled most of its services to Niigata and Ishikawa regions. Authorities said one of Ishikawa’s airports was closed.

Japan has strict construction regulations intended to ensure buildings can withstand strong earthquakes and routinely holds emergency drills to prepare for a major jolt.

Earthquakes that strike off the Sea of Japan coast are known to cause tsunamis that can reach the shore in less than 10 minutes, faster than those on the Pacific coast. The magnitude 9 quake of 2011 triggered a tsunami that took approximately 30 minutes before it hit the coastline.

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority said no irregularities had been reported at nuclear power plants along the Sea of Japan, including five active reactors at Kansai Electric Power's Ohi and Takahama plants in Fukui prefecture. There are 22 reactors at six facilities spread across the affected coastline.

Hokuriku's Shika plant in Ishikawa, which was the closest to the quake's location, had already halted its two reactors for a regular inspection before the quake and experienced no impact from it, the agency said.

Japan is one of the most quake-prone country on the planet. A huge earthquake and tsunami that struck the north-east of the country on 11 March 2011 killed 18,000 people. The disaster devastated towns and triggered nuclear meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Nearly all of Japan's nuclear power plants have been mothballed since the disaster.

*Reuters and Agence France-Presse contributed to this report*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/01/japan-issues-major-tsunami-warning-for-coastal-prefecture-after-7.6-magnitude-earthquake#:~:text=Japan%20orders%20people%20to%20evacuate%20after%207.6%2Dmagnitude%20quake%20hits%20west%20coast,-This%20article%20is&text=A%20powerful%20earthquake%20has%20struck,warnings%20for%20people%20to%20evacuate>.

# *Appendix B*

## *News Article 2*

## ***Japan earthquakes: 'battle against time' to find those trapped under rubble as death toll rises***

Gavin Blair in Tokyo on mon 1 Jan 2024 21.18 GMT

**The quakes, the largest of which had a magnitude of 7.6, have left 55 dead and led to tsunami warnings which were later lifted**

Japan's prime minister has said the country is facing a "battle against time" to rescue those affected by a series of major earthquakes which reportedly killed at least 55 people, injured dozens and sparked fires that destroyed homes.

Police and local authorities early on Tuesday reported cases of bodies being pulled from the rubble of collapsed buildings while others remained trapped.

"We must rescue them as quickly as possible, especially those who are trapped under collapsed structures," Fumio Kishida said during an emergency disaster meeting.

One thousand army personnel have been dispatched to the worst-hit area in the country's relatively remote Noto peninsula, but rescue operations have been hindered by badly damaged and blocked roads and one of the area's airports has been forced to close due to runway cracks.

In Wajima city, fires were still burning at 7am local time on Tuesday and the fire department reports more than 100 homes and other buildings have been completely destroyed. At least 15 of the dead were in Wajima city, the the Kyodo news agency said.

The worst-affected area was around the Asachi-dori street, a district popular with visitors and known for its many wooden buildings. The cause and casualty numbers were currently unclear.

The quakes, the largest of which had a magnitude of 7.6 at a shallow depth of 10km, struck on the west coast of Japan's main island on Monday and shook buildings in Tokyo, around 300km away.

The epicentre of the quake was on the peninsula, which protrudes into the Sea of Japan, and the loss of life and injuries have been concentrated there. A woman in her fifties was confirmed dead in Nanao city, where more than 30 people were taken to hospital. Other residents of the area were reported to have been found unconscious or believed to be trapped under rubble or missing.

Aftershocks could slam the affected areas over the next few days, the meteorological agency said, and residents of coastal areas were being told not to return to their homes, despite tsunami warnings being lifted.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK TV initially warned that torrents of water could reach as high as five metres and people were evacuated to sports halls, schools and other public buildings.

Bullet trains and flights in and out of the region were all suspended Tuesday morning. Section of major highways remained closed and water supplies were cut due to burst pipes in some areas, according to NHK. Mobile phone networks in the region were also damaged but service was gradually being restored.

British prime minister Rishi Sunak said the UK stood ready to support Japan and that "British nationals in the affected areas should follow the advice of the Japanese authorities."

The US president, Joe Biden, said in a statement that his administration was in touch with Japanese officials and "ready to provide any necessary assistance for the Japanese people."

Japan is the most quake-prone nation in the world but a tsunami warning of the magnitude of Monday's had not been issued since a major quake and tsunami struck the north-east of the country on 11 March 2011, killing 18,000 people. The disaster devastated towns and triggered nuclear meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Nearly all of Japan's nuclear power plants have been mothballed since the disaster.

Nuclear regulators said no rises in radiation levels were detected at the monitoring posts in the region, and no abnormalities had been detected at the more than 20 reactors situated along the nearby coastline.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/02/japan-earthquakes-tsunami-alert-dropped-but-residents-told-not-to-return-to-homes>

# *Appendix C*

## *News Article 3*

## ***Japan earthquake: death toll rises to 62 amid warnings of landslides and aftershocks***

Guardian staff and agencies on Wed 3 Jan 2024 02.55 GMT

### **Ishikawa and its Noto peninsula, one of the worst affected areas, has been hit by more than 100 aftershocks**

Japanese rescuers were scrambling to search for survivors as authorities warned of landslides and heavy rain after a powerful earthquake that killed at least 62 people.

The 7.5-magnitude quake on Monday that rattled Ishikawa prefecture on the main island of Honshu triggered tsunami waves more than a metre high, sparked a major fire and tore apart roads.

The prefecture's Noto peninsula was most severely hit, with several hundred buildings ravaged by fire and houses flattened in several towns, including Wajima and Suzu. Satellite before-and-after images released on Wednesday gave some idea of the scale of destruction.

The regional government announced Wednesday that 62 people had been confirmed dead and more than 300 injured, 20 of them seriously.

The toll was expected to climb as rescuers battled aftershocks and poor weather to comb through rubble.

More than 31,800 people were in shelters, the government said. Japanese media reports said tens of thousands of homes had been destroyed.

"More than 40 hours have passed since the disaster. We have received a lot of information about people in need of rescue and there are people waiting for help," prime minister Fumio Kishida said on Wednesday after an emergency taskforce meeting.

"Rescue efforts are being made by the local authorities, police, firefighters and other operational units, while the number of personnel and rescue dogs is enhanced.

"However, we ask you to remain fully mindful that we are in a race against time and to continue to do your utmost to save lives, putting people's lives first," Kishida said.

The operation was given extra urgency as the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) issued a heavy rain warning in the area.

“Be on the lookout for landslides until the evening of Wednesday,” the agency said.

In the coastal city of Suzu, mayor Masuhiro Izumiya said there were “almost no houses standing”.

“About 90% of the houses [in the town] are completely or almost completely destroyed ... the situation is really catastrophic,” he said, according to broadcaster TBS.

A woman at a shelter in the town of Shika told TV Asahi that she “hasn’t been able to sleep” due to aftershocks. “I’ve been scared because we don’t know when the next quake will hit,” she said.

Nearly 34,000 households were still without power in Ishikawa prefecture, the local utility said. Many cities were without running water.

Shinkansen bullet trains and highways have resumed operations after several thousand people were stranded, some for almost 24 hours.

The powerful quake – which the JMA measured at 7.6 – was one of more than 400 to shake the region through Wednesday morning, the agency said.

Despite climbing casualty numbers, the prompt public warnings, relayed on broadcasts and phones, and the quick response from the general public and officials appeared to have limited some of the damage.

Toshitaka Katada, a University of Tokyo professor specialising in disasters, said people were prepared because the area had been hit by quakes in recent years. They had evacuation plans and emergency supplies in stock.

“There are probably no people on Earth who are as disaster-ready as the Japanese,” he said.

Japan lifted all tsunami warnings after waves at least 1.2 metres (four feet) high hit the town of Wajima and a series of smaller tsunamis were reported elsewhere.

Japan experiences hundreds of earthquakes every year and the vast majority cause no damage.

The number of earthquakes in the Noto peninsula region has been steadily increasing since 2018, a Japanese government report said last year.

The country is haunted by a massive 9.0-magnitude undersea quake off northeastern Japan in 2011, which triggered a tsunami that left about 18,500 people dead or missing. It also swamped the Fukushima atomic plant, causing one of the world's worst nuclear disasters.

*Associated Press and Agence France-Presse contributed to this report*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/03/japan-earthquake-death-toll-emergency-warnings-landslide-aftershock-ishikawa#:~:text=5%20months%20old-.Japan%20earthquake%3A%20death%20toll%20rises%20to%2062,warnings%20of%20landslides%20and%20aftershocks&text=Japanese%20rescuers%20were%20scrambling%20to,kill%20at%20least%2062%20people.>