

## EVIDENTIALITY IN PHILIPPINE ENGLISH AND FILIPINO NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS

DANILO T. DAYAG

*De La Salle University-Manila*

*This study examined the phenomenon of evidentiality in Filipino and Philippine English newspaper editorials. It aimed to (1) describe the sources of information or data (evidentials) found in Philippine English and Filipino newspaper, and (2) identify the strategies employed by these editorials in arranging the sources of information (evidentials) vis-à-vis the discourse structure of the texts. Data were taken from a one-month issue each of the three leading English-medium newspapers and of the three major morning tabloids circulated in the Philippines, or a total of 180 editorials (90 Philippine English and 90 Filipino editorials).*

*The study found that Philippine English and Filipino newspaper editorials have more similarities to one another than differences. They are similar on the aspect of frequent use of more non-visual type of direct evidence than the visual type. On indirect evidentials, there is a widespread use of inferentials in newspaper editorials in both languages, compared to presumptives, perhaps in keeping with the interpretative and evaluative nature of editorials. A difference, however, can be noted in the use of mediated evidence (quotatives), namely, that, while it topped the list of mediated evidentials in editorials in both languages, reported speech is used more extensively in Philippine English editorials than in their Filipino counterpart. In addition, direct quotation is not fully exploited by Filipino editorials, in contrast to the Philippine English texts. Second, there is no predictable pattern in terms of the discourse position of evidentials in the Philippine newspaper editorials in that they can show up in any part of an editorial – beginning, middle or end part.*

### 1. Introduction

One of the critical issues in contrastive rhetoric involves the use of evidence. On this, Kaplan (2001) observes that there are cross-cultural underpinnings of what count as evidence and what types of data may be used to support a claim in an argumentative text. This observation stems from a number of studies on writing across languages and cultures. For example, studies by Matalene (1985) and Tsao (1983) (cited in Connor, 1996) have shown that Chinese students writing in English make constant reference to history and

tradition and rely heavily on quotations, allusion, and proverbs. This has been interpreted as reflective of the Chinese rhetorical tradition which values canonical writings and allusion to historical figures and de-emphasizes personal opinions and ideas, in keeping with Confucian teachings.

In a study on editorializing in Philippine English, Dayag (2004) found that across English-language broadsheets of general circulation in the Philippines, there were more propositions counted as Claim than Data. While that may be of value in characterizing written argumentation in this nativized variety of English, perhaps another way of approaching the issue of data in argumentative texts such as newspaper editorials, would be to describe the types of information source in these texts. It is this aspect of the issue that the study would like to address. Taking a slightly different tack, however, the study focused on editorials in both L1 (Filipino) and L2 (Philippine English).

This study then attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What are the sources of information or data (evidence) found in Philippine English and Filipino newspaper editorials?
2. How are these sources classified?
3. How do Philippine English and Filipino editorials compare in terms of presenting evidence in newspaper editorials?
4. How are the sources of information (evidentials) in the editorials arranged vis-à-vis the discourse structure of the texts?

## 2. Conceptual Framework

The study was based on the notion of evidentiality, a semantic qualificational category. According to Chafe (1986, p. 262) (cited in Mushin, 2001), there are two ways of looking at evidential semantics: broad and narrow. The broad view includes the following elements: (1) a specification of the *source* of information, (2) a specification of the *degree of precision or truth* or *appropriateness of a category or label*, (3) a specification of the *probability of the truth*, and (4) a specification of the *expectations concerning* the probability of a statement (Dendale & Tasmowski, 2001, p. 343; emphasis in the original). The narrow definition, however, “restricts evidential meaning to specification of types of source of information and says little else about the epistemological relationship of the information to the speaker” (Mushin, 2001, p. 18).

Being exploratory, the present study was limited to the narrow approach to evidentiality, i.e. the sources of data or information in newspaper editorials in both Philippine English and Filipino. It did not therefore touch on epistemic modals which, in certain languages like English, normally mark the reliability of a speaker’s knowledge or a speaker’s attitude towards knowledge.

Given the above focus, Plungian’s (2001) taxonomy was very valuable in classifying evidentials in the editorials. In his view, evidence may be of two types: direct and indirect. Included in the first are the visual and non-visual

types. Paraphrasing Plungian (2001), visual evidence is the evidential type that requires that the speaker observe the described situation directly, the term “observed” referring to the visual sense. Non-visual evidence, by contrast, is the type in which “the speaker has perceived P [the described situation] directly, but not visually...” (Plungian, 2001, p. 351). Non-visual type of direct evidence is further classified into sensoric and endophoric, the former encompassing “all remaining human senses and corresponds to a ‘default’ perception...” and the latter referring to “situations where visual (as well as any sensoric) perception is not possible at all, i.e. when unobservable things are described, such as one’s own intentions, desires, or other inner states (both mental and physical)...” (Plungian, 2001, p. 351).

Indirect evidence, on the other hand, consists of reflected evidence and mediated evidence. Reflected evidence, in turn, is comprised of inferentials and presumptives. Inferentials occur when “the speaker has (directly) observed another situation which s/he interprets as pointing towards P [the described situation]...” (Plungian, 2001, p. 352). Presumptives are those in which “the speaker simply knows something which suggests that P [the described situation] is probable...” (Plungian, 2001, p. 352). The second type of indirect evidence – mediated evidence – primarily takes the form of quotatives, i.e. information which the speaker got from other persons (Plungian, 2001, p. 352). Following De Haan (2001), quotatives are further classified into four sub-types, namely, direct quotations, reported speech, second-hand information, and information considered common knowledge.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 The Data

Data were taken from a one-month issue (September 21–October 19, 2002) of each of the three leading English-medium newspapers and of the three major morning tabloids circulated in the Philippines, or a total of 180 editorials (90 Philippine English and 90 Filipino editorials). The Philippine English editorials came from the following broadsheets: *Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI)*, *Philippine Star (PS)*, and *The Manila Times (TMT)*. Data for Filipino were taken from the following morning tabloids: *Abante (Ab)*, *Kabayan (Kab)*, and *Ang Pilipino Star Ngayon (APSN)*. These newspapers were selected based on daily circulation figures reported in the *2000 Philippine Media Factbook. Manila Bulletin*, one of the top five broadsheets in terms of readership, was not a source of data since it had been found that its editorials are innocuous, i.e. they hardly take a stand or make a claim on current issues (Dayag, 2004). The choice of morning tabloids as sources of data for Filipino was due to the unavailability of Filipino-language broadsheets in the market.

### 3.2 Analysis and Coding

The framework for analyzing the data basically adopted the framework described in Section 2 (Conceptual Framework). However, in keeping with the nature of the newspaper editorials investigated and for ease of coding the evidentials in these texts, certain modifications have been made on definitions of the types of evidentials. For one thing, the definition of the non-visual type of direct evidence has been expanded to include a recount of current or recent events reported in the newspaper under consideration, which is the principal source of information in the editorials, as exemplified by Extract 1. (N.B. In all the excerpts that follow numbers preceding sentences represent their sequence in the texts.)

Extract 1:

*(1) Military authorities have blamed the Abu Sayyaf for the explosion that killed two Filipino civilians and an American soldier in Zamboanga City last Wednesday. (2) The blast was the most audacious action so far attributed to the Abu Sayyaf after its flamboyant spokesperson, Abu Sabaya, was reported killed by special forces last June in a fight off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte. (3) The bombing followed a call by Abu Sayyaf leader, Khadaffy Janjalani, on "all believers in the oneness of Allah" to attack both foreign and domestic enemies of Islam and their property. (4) Stratfor, a US – based think tank, interpreted the attack as a signal that the new Abu Sayyaf leadership is redefining the group into a militant Islamic organization instead of engaging in kidnap – for – ransom activities. (5) The strike could also signal further attacks on military targets and US troops taking part in the military exercises with Filipino troops, as part of the Abu Sayyaf's efforts to reinvent itself as the core of Islamic fundamentalism in the country, it said. (PDI-10/5)*

Second, the scope of quotatives in the form of second-hand information has been extended to include statistical data or figures, e.g. survey results. Below is an example.

Extract 2:

*(2) Sa 2003, ang budget para sa SUCs ay P16.8 bilyon lamang. (3) Sa halagang ito, mapupunta sa University of the Philippines Diliman campus ang P4.3 bilyon. (4) At ang matitira ay paghabati-hatian ng 111 institusyon. (Kab-10/12)*

(In 2003, the budget for SUCs is only P16.8 billion. Of this amount, P4.3 billion will go to the University of the Philippines Diliman campus. And the balance will be divided among 111 institutions.)

Finally, no inter-rater/-coder was employed to counter-check the coding of data in terms of evidentials. The absence of an independent inter-rater/-coder is a limitation of the study.

### **3.3 Research Procedure**

The research procedure consisted of the following steps: (1) Collection of newspaper editorials, (2) Chunking the editorials into sentences, the unit of analysis; (3) Coding the evidentials in terms of type and arrangement, following Plugian's (2001) taxonomy, as modified, as described in Section 3.2; and (4) Comparison between Philippine English and Filipino editorials to arrive at features common to editorials in both languages and the differences as well.

## **4. Results and Discussion**

This section of the paper reports the results of the study. Central to this section is the frequency of occurrence of the two evidential types (direct and indirect) and their subtypes.

### **4.1 Direct Evidence in Newspaper Editorials**

Table 1 shows data representing types of direct evidence in the newspaper editorials included in the study.

**Table 1. Frequency of Types of Direct Evidence in Newspaper Editorials**

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Visual</b>	<b>Non-Visual</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1. Philippine English			
<i>Philippine Daily Inquirer</i>	7	142	149
<i>Philippine Star</i>	0	186	186
<i>The Manila Times</i>	10	280	290
	<b>17</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Total (Philippine English)</b>	<b>(2.72%)</b>	<b>(97.28%)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
2. Filipino			
<i>Abante</i>	0	51	51
<i>Kabayan</i>	0	131	131
<i>Pilipino Star Ngayon</i>	12	162	174
	<b>12</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>356</b>
<b>Total (Filipino)</b>	<b>(3.37%)</b>	<b>(96.63%)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
	<b>29</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>981</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(2.96%)</b>	<b>(97.04%)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

As shown in Table 1, the Philippine English editorials used the non-visual type of direct evidence more extensively than the visual type, accounting for less than 98% of the frequency of direct evidentials in the Philippine English corpus. The same pattern can be seen across the three Philippine English broadsheets. With regard to Filipino newspaper editorials, the use of non-visual direct evidence was pervasive. Looking closely at the aggregate figures in Table 1, we see the same regularity, with only around 3% of the total number of direct evidentials classified as the visual type compared to the 97% counted as non-visual.

The above finding does not seem to come as a surprise considering the expanded definition of the non-visual type of direct evidence adopted in this study (see Section 3.2). Indeed, since most newspaper editorials comment or take a stand on current issues, the usual strategy is to begin by recounting or narrating a news story. Sometimes, the recount is given in what appears to be an objective, unbiased and straightforward manner, such as the extract below:

Extract 3:

(1) *Another bomb went off in Zamboanga City last night, even as authorities were investigating the explosion that killed at least three persons and wounded about 25 others Wednesday night. (2) The first bomb went off several meters away from the headquarters of the military's Southern Command, in a karaoke bar known to be frequented by Philippine soldiers*

*and American Green Berets who are undertaking humanitarian missions in nearby Basilan province. (3) Among the dead were an American commando and the rider of a motorcycle that had carried the bomb...*

(PS-10/4)

The above excerpt narrates an event as it happened. The editorial continues to give a recount of the event and then proceeds to make a claim on the current issue. The Filipino sample likewise exhibited the same strategy such as can be seen in the following excerpt:

Extract 4:

*(1) Kabapon ay binisita ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ang mga prominenteng Chinese business tycoons sa bansa. (2) Halos araw-araw yata ay dinadagsa ng mga bisita ang Pangulo sa kanyang residensya. (3) Medyo nagkakaiba-iba lang ng intensyon ang kanyang mga bisita. (4) At dahil mga negosyante ang palace visitors kabapon, asaban na natin na negosyo at ekonomiya ang kanilang nagiging agenda. (5) Nagbigay naman ng kanilang 'vote of confidence' ang mga Taipans, katawagan sa Chinese businessmen.... (Ab/9-21)*

(Yesterday President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo visited prominent Chinese businessmen of the country. It seems the President is visited everyday at her residence. The intentions of the visitors only vary. And because yesterday's visitors are businessmen, we expect that their agenda is business and economy. Meanwhile, the taipans, which is what the Chinese businessmen are called, gave their 'vote of confidence'....)

At other times, the recount of a recent event is interspersed with an expression that conveys the author's evaluation, albeit subtle, of the topic of the discourse. The following excerpt exemplifies this.

Extract 5:

*...(9) These journalists grew up during the heyday of Che Guevara, Mao Zedong, and Jose Maria Sison. (10) That they have not stopped believing in an ideology that very clearly is empty, testifies to the enduring attraction of reductionism. (11) Marxism, Leninism, and Maoism have a compelling simplicity. (12) There are exploiters and exploited. (13) The exploited are more numerous. (14) In time, they will overcome their exploiters in a revolution. (15) This is the iron logic of history... (PS/10-11)*

The above extract not only reports a news story but also comments on the evils of communism, the ideology being referred to, by describing it as “very clearly...empty,” thus communicating the writer’s attitude. Similarly, as illustrated by the following extract, newspaper editorials in Filipino, while recounting a news story (a non-visual type of indirect evidence) expresses the writer’s position on the issue.

Extract 6:

*... (13) Isa sa mga katiwaliang lumulutang sa kasulukuyan ay ang scandal sa Public Estates Authority (PEA) kaugnay nang magarbang kalsada na ipinangalan sa ama ni Mrs. Arroyo. (14) Umaalingasaw ang umano’y overpriced na Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. (PDMB) na nagkakahalaga ng P600 milyon. (15) Maraming nakakaladkad na pangalan at ipinag-utos na ni Mrs. Arroyo ang pag-iimbestiga sa nasabing scam. (16) Ang Presidential Anti-Graft Commission ang mag-iimbestiga rito. (17) Naglutangan ang samu’t saring akusasyon sa mga opisyal ng PEA. (18) Talamak ang katiwalian sa PEA na sa kabila ng paghabanta ng Presidente ay hindi naman pala natitinag.... (APSN/10-2)*

(...One of the anomalies emerging at the moment is the scandal in the Public Estates Authority involving the expensive road named after Mrs. Arroyo’s father. The allegedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) which costs P600 million stinks. Many names have been dragged and Mrs. Arroyo has already ordered an investigation into the said scam. The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission will conduct the investigation. Various accusations have been put forward against PEA officials. Despite warnings issued by the President, the deep-rooted corruption in the PEA is not being resolved, after all....)

The last sentence in the above excerpt (18) conveys the writer’s evaluation of the problem, namely, the endemic corruption in the graft-ridden Public Estates Authority.

#### 4.2 Indirect Evidence in Newspaper Editorials

Two types of indirect evidence were found in the corpus of newspaper editorials, namely, reflected evidence and mediated evidence. These are described and exemplified below.

#### 4.2.1 Reflected Evidence

Data involving reflected evidence are shown in Table 2. Here, two types of reflected evidence are given, namely, inferentials and presumptives. The table indicates that presumptives are outnumbered by inferentials in newspaper editorials in both languages. In addition, the pervasiveness of inferentials appears to cut across newspapers in both languages, thus this is a strategy shared by editorials in both languages.

**Table 2. Frequency of Types of Reflected Evidence in Newspaper Editorials**

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Inferentials</b>	<b>Presumptives</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>1. Philippine English</b>			
<i>Philippine Daily Inquirer</i>	265	18	283
<i>Philippine Star</i>	242	17	259
<i>The Manila Times</i>	337	12	349
	<b>844</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>891</b>
<b>Total (Philippine English)</b>	<b>(94.72%)</b>	<b>(5.28%)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
<b>2. Filipino</b>			
<i>Abante</i>	409	0	395
<i>Kabayan</i>	250	4	254
<i>Pilipino Star Ngayon</i>	372	7	379
	<b>1031</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1042</b>
<b>Total (Filipino)</b>	<b>(98.94%)</b>	<b>(1.06%)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
	<b>1875</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1933</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(97.00%)</b>	<b>(3.00%)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

So pervasive was the use of inferentials that in a number of newspaper editorials, all of the sentences were counted as inferentials, an example of which is the September 30 editorial of *Abante*, which is excerpted below:

Extract 7:

- (1) *Wala talagang patutunguhang maganda ang ating bansa kung puro pulitika na lamang ang nasa utak ng mga namumuno sa gobyerno. (2) Sa halip kasi na nakatutok nang husto sa mga proyekto at programang makatutulong at kapaki-pakinabang sa mamamayan ay nababahiran ito ng pulitika. (3) Nawawala ang sinseridad na mapaunlad ang bayan dahil laging may nakapailalim na interes sa bawat hakbang na gawain. (4) Gaya ng mga nangyayari ngayon. (5) Malayo pa ang eleksyon na gaganapin sa 2004 ay mangong na ang pamumulitika. (6) May mga*

*grupong ngayon pa lamang ay kumikilos na upang isulong ang kandidatura ng mga napepisiul nilang 'mamanukin' sa eleksyon. (7) Ang ibang pulitiko ay balata na kundi man lantaran na ang pagpaparamdam sa mga tao para sa nalalapit nilang pagtakebo....*

(The country will not go anywhere if all that is in the minds of our government leaders is politics. Instead of focusing on projects and programs that are helpful and useful to the people, these are colored by politics. The sincerity to develop the country is gone because every step that is taken is vested with self-interest.

Like what is going now. The 2004 election is far away, but already there is talk about politicking. This early there are groups who are working to push the candidacy of their chosen bets in the election. Other politicians are openly sending feelers to the people about their impending participation in the election....)

The editorial in which the above extract appeared consisted of 15 sentences which all counted as inferentials because the entire text dealt with the speaker's interpretation of the situation in the country, namely, excessive politicking in government.

In terms of the position of inferentials in the newspaper editorials, there did not seem to be a fixed part in the texts where inferentials showed more often. In the following excerpt (from the September 24 issue of *Philippine Star*), for instance, the text started with an inferential and then moved on to recount a recent event, classified as a non-visual type of direct evidence.

#### Extract 8:

*(1) Why is it that Malacañang can't seem to let go of officials without making such a painful mess? (2) Consider what happened to Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. on his way out of his cabinet post as head of the Department of Foreign Affairs. (3) Consider how Malacañang handled the departure of Raul Roco from the Department of Education. (4) You could almost hear a sigh of relief from the Palace when Rene Bañez quit the Bureau of Internal Revenue. (5) And now consider the conflicting statements about Anthony Abad, administrator of the National Food Authority....*

In other editorials, such as the one in which the following extract appeared, inferentials showed up in the same paragraph where a non-visual evidential was found.

Extract 9:

*(1) Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was the country's top general when the Estrada administration successfully waged its "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000. (2) Precisely, for that reason, he shouldn't be calling the shots in the on-again, off-again peace talks with communist insurgents.... (PDI/10-14)*

In the above extract sentence (1) counts as non-visual evidential. The paragraph immediately shifts to an inferential (sentence 2). Part of the reason for considering sentence (2) an inferential is its interpretative and evaluative character, marked by the sentence adverbial "precisely" and the modal "shouldn't."

#### 4.2.2 Mediated Evidence in Newspaper Editorials

In the newspaper editorials considered for the study, mediated evidence – the second type of indirect evidence – took the form of quotatives. Table 3 shows the types of quotatives used and summarizes the frequency of occurrence of each.

**Table 3. Frequency of Types of Mediated Evidence (Quotatives) in Newspaper Editorials**

Newspaper	Direct Quotation	Reported Speech	Second-Hand Information	Common Knowledge	TOTAL
1. Philippine English					
<i>Philippine Daily Inquirer</i>	38	82	25	8	153
<i>Philippine Star</i>	0	13	14	0	27
<i>The Manila Times</i>	18	32	11	1	62
<b>Total (Philippine English)</b>	<b>56 (23.14%)</b>	<b>127 (52.48%)</b>	<b>50 (20.66%)</b>	<b>9 (3.72%)</b>	<b>242 (100%)</b>
2. Filipino					
<i>Abante</i>	0	4	7	2	13
<i>Kabayan</i>	10	20	18	15	63
<i>Pilipino Star Ngayon</i>	1	26	15	13	55
<b>Total (Filipino)</b>	<b>11 (8.40%)</b>	<b>50 (38.17%)</b>	<b>40 (30.53%)</b>	<b>30 (22.90%)</b>	<b>131 (100%)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67 (17.96%)</b>	<b>177 (47.45%)</b>	<b>90 (24.13%)</b>	<b>39 (10.46%)</b>	<b>373 (100%)</b>

As shown in Table 3, in terms of overall frequency of occurrence of quotatives, reported speech topped the list, followed by second-hand information, direct quotation, and common knowledge, in that order. Comparing the two languages, however, slight deviations from this ranking may be noticed in that the order for Philippine English is reported speech-direct quotation-second hand information-common knowledge, in contrast to the reported speech-second hand information-common knowledge-direct quotation order for Filipino. In addition, while reported speech accounted for a little more than 50% of the total number of mediated evidentials in Philippine English editorials, this type of mediated evidentials was not as pervasive in the Filipino counterpart, accounting for less than 40% of the total.

Here is an excerpt from a Philippine English editorial that opened with reported speech:

Extract 10:

(1) *Gen. Roy Kyamko, the commander of Solcom, complains that the media are "unbalanced" in their reporting of the campaign against terrorists.*

(2) *According to him, to read or hear the news, the terrorists have the upper hand.* (3) *Ka Roger, the spokesperson of the CPP/NPA, gets more play in the newspapers than, say, General Benjamin Defensor, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces.* (TMT/10-11)

The same editorial proceeded with a series of inferentials interspersed with non-visuals. Like the other editorials in Philippine English, the above editorial codes reported speech by an appropriate reporting verb such as “complains” and a phrasal preposition like “according to.”

In the following extract from a Filipino editorial, Filipino clitics such as “daw” and adverb “umano” (allegedly) as well as the phrasal preposition “ayon kay” (according to), all mark reported speech.

Extract 11:

(1) *Kailangan daw humingi ng tawad ang Pilipinas sa Malaysia dahil sa mabilis na pag-aakusa na ni-rape nila ang isang 13-anyos na Pilipina, sabi ni Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.* (2) *Ang ni-rape na pinangalanang “Angelica” ay hindi naman umano Pinay kundi isang Malaysian.* (3) *Ang ama nito ay isang Malaysian at ang ina ay isang Pilipina na matagal nang naninirahan sa Malaysia.* (4) *Ayon kay Mahathir, masakit ang pagkaka-akusa sa kanila at hindi raw dapat nagpadalus-dalos sa pagbibigay ng konklusyon ang Pilipinas isang bagay na maaring pagmulan nang hindi pagkakaunawaan ng dalawang bansa.* (APSN/10-17)

(The Philippines should issue an apology to Malaysia for the former’s accusation that a 13-year-old Filipina had been raped, according to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. It turned out that the rape victim who had been given the name “Angelica” is not a Filipina, after all, but a Malaysian. Her father is a Malaysian and her mother a Filipina who has lived in Malaysia for a long time. According to Mahathir, the accusation against them is hurtful and the Philippines should not have jumped into a conclusion, something that might result in a misunderstanding between the two countries.)

Direct quotations, which ranked second in Philippine English editorials and fourth in Filipino editorials in terms of frequency of occurrence, may be exemplified by the following extract:

Extract 12:

... (11) *"We shall increase penalties on failures to provide information on a timely and accurate basis to strengthen the resolve of listed firms to fully disclose materials needed by the market to make informed judgment," he said with a touch of irony.... (TMT/9-24)*

It should also be noted in Table 3 that two newspapers, *Philippine Star* and *Abante*, did not use a single direct quotation during the 30-day period, perhaps an indication of the limited use of this strategy in Philippine English and Filipino editorials. It could also mean that Philippine newspapers would rather use other effective strategies such as reported speech and second-hand information than direct quotations. Whether that option lends credibility to claims made by Philippine newspaper editorials remains a question and is beyond the scope of the present study.

Second-hand information, which came in second in Filipino editorials and third in Philippine English, may take the form of statistical data such as the information contained in the extract below:

Extract 13:

*(16) The entire boulevard is 5.5 – km long. (17) JDLC built only 2.3 km, covering both ends. (18) And how do the costs compare? (19) D.M. Wenceslao built a 1.8 – km section for P102 million or P86,000 per linear meter. (20) SM built 1.4 km at a cost of P77 million or P54,000 per linear meter. (21) And how much did JDLC bill the government for the 2.3 km that it built? (22) A total of P699 million or P302,000 per linear meter – almost six times what SM charged. (23) The same pattern of overpricing can be seen in the construction of bridges with SM charging the PEA P522,000 per linear meter, another contractor P1.1 million, and JDLC P1.9 million. (PDI/10-2)*

Finally, in all instances of mediated evidentials (quotatives) in both Philippine English and Filipino editorials, their position in the texts cannot be said to follow a fixed, predictable pattern. For example, Extract 11 above appeared as the introductory paragraph of the relevant editorial in the tabloid *Ang Pilipino Star Ngayon*, Extract 12 in the middle of *The Manila Times* editorial, and Extract 13 towards the end of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* editorial in which it showed up.

## 5. Some Insights

The following are some insights from the study.

First, it appears that in terms of the use of evidentials in Philippine newspapers, Philippine English and Filipino newspaper editorials have more similarities to one another than differences. They are similar on the aspect of frequent use of more non-visual type of direct evidence than the visual type. On indirect evidentials, there is a widespread use of inferentials in newspaper editorials in both languages, compared to presumptives, perhaps in keeping with the interpretative and evaluative nature of editorials, at least in the six newspapers covered by the present study. A difference, however, can be noted in the use of mediated evidence (quotatives) in the newspaper editorials in question. For example, while it topped the list of mediated evidentials in editorials in both languages, reported speech is used more extensively in Philippine English editorials than in their Filipino counterpart. In addition, direct quotation is not fully exploited by Filipino editorials, in contrast to the Philippine English texts.

Second, there is no predictable pattern in terms of the discourse position of evidentials in the Philippine newspaper editorials. That is, they can show up in any part of an editorial – beginning, middle or end part. Perhaps adherence to one's style may partly explain this strategy, although that is pure speculation considering that the study did not investigate the aspect of style.

These strategies – the use of certain evidential types over others and the lack of regularity in the discourse position of evidentials – adopted by both Philippine English and Filipino editorials, may speak of rhetorical conventions shared by both. A plausible explanation involves the influence of English (L2) on writing in L1 (Filipino). Casual observation, for instance, points to the widespread use of English in journalism classes in Philippine universities and colleges, where conventions in L1 writing may also be taught. The explicit teaching of L1 conventions in classes may partly account for the similarities between Philippine English and Filipino editorials. But whether this is a case of transfer of strategies from L1 to L2 may be a subject of a future study that will investigate more extensive data collected over time.

In addition, a more principled data collection procedure is recommended to control for discourse topic and other variables such as length of texts that may affect the analysis of data.

Lastly, since the study described here did not have the benefit of cross-checking by independent interraters, it is recommended that future studies along the same line employ such a technique. This is to ensure greater reliability.

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