
Contents

Acknowledgements	xi
1 Introduction: the importance of language in the news	1
2 The social construction of news	10
<i>Bias or representation</i>	10
<i>News values</i>	12
<i>Stereotypes</i>	17
<i>Social and economic factors in news selection</i>	19
3 Language and representation	25
<i>The linguistic background</i>	26
<i>Anthropological linguistics: language, culture and thought</i>	28
<i>Functional linguistics, variation, social semiotic</i>	32
<i>Social semiotic in news discourse: an example</i>	38
<i>Discourse and the reader</i>	41
4 Conversation and consensus	46
<i>The 'public idiom' and the formation of consensus</i>	46
<i>Consensus and contradiction</i>	48
<i>Categorization and conversation</i>	54
<i>Oral models in the Press</i>	59
5 Analytic tools: critical linguistics	66
<i>Linguistic tools</i>	68
<i>Transitivity</i>	70
<i>Some syntactic transformations of the clause</i>	76
<i>Lexical structure</i>	80
<i>Interpersonal elements: modality</i>	85
<i>Interpersonal elements: speech acts</i>	87

6 Discrimination in discourse: gender and power	91
<i>Personalization</i>	91
<i>Discrimination</i>	93
<i>Discrimination and power</i>	105
7 Terms of abuse and of endearment	110
<i>Rambo and the mad dog</i>	112
<i>Postscript</i>	119
8 Attitudes to power	120
<i>Ideological roles of the Press</i>	120
<i>The dominance of the status quo: hospital patients as powerless</i>	124
<i>Law and order</i>	134
9 A Press scare: the salmonella-in-eggs affair	146
<i>Press hysteria</i>	146
<i>Participants</i>	151
<i>Chronology</i>	153
<i>Some aspects of hysterical style</i>	160
10 The salmonella-in-eggs affair: Pandora's box	170
<i>What am I?</i>	170
<i>Pandora's box: generating and equating new instances</i>	174
<i>'What am I?' revisited</i>	178
<i>Closing Pandora's box: what are you going to do about it?</i>	181
<i>Blame the housewife</i>	186
<i>The persistence of paradigms</i>	202
11 Leading the people: editorial authority	208
12 Conclusion: prospects for critical news analysis	222
Notes	235
Index	251