

Local Coherence in Crime News Reports A Centring Analysis of Arabic and English Crime News Reports

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Abstract

The present study examines and focuses on the relation between anaphora resolution and local coherence. The adopted approach is the knowledge-based approach which reduces the size of antecedent set through relying on the available linguistic knowledge. Centring theory is one class which models the relationship among discourse participants' focus of attention, choice of referring expressions, and perceived coherence. Crime news reports are examined as a form of communication to explicate its coherence and meaning interpretation.

Key words: *coherence, local coherence, centring theory, anaphora, anaphora resolution, focus of attention, news discourse*

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ملخص

ترتكز الدراسة الحالية على توضيح مفهوم حل الإحالة (anaphora resolution) وعلاقته بمفهوم التماسك الدلالي بين الجمل (local coherence) ، واتبعت الدراسة النهج البحثي ذو الإعتماد المعرفي والذي يقوم على تقليص حجم المرجعيات (السابقات) (antecedent) اعتماداً على المعرفة اللغوية المتاحة. وتهتم نظرية التمحوّر (الإرتكاز) (centring theory) بوضع نموذج للعلاقة بين كل من محور إهتمام المشاركين بالخطاب، والتعبيرات المرجعية المختارة بالخطاب وبالتالي التماسك الدلالي بين الجمل. تقوم الدراسة بتحليل خطاب التقارير الإخبارية الخاصة بالجرائم كشكل من أشكال التواصل بغرض توضيح مدى التماسك وتأثيره على تفسير المعنى المراد من التقرير الإخباري.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الإلتحام (الإتساق) المنطقي، الإلتحام (الإتساق) المنطقي بين الجمل، نظرية التمحوّر (الإرتكاز)، حل الإحالة، محور الإهتمام، الخطاب الإخباري

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1- Introductory:

One aspect of discourse that has been investigated widely is discourse coherence: 'the way by which passages can be formed as a discourse.' (Wang & Guo, 2014, p. 460). Centering theory (Grosz, Joshi, and Weinstein, 1983, 1988) attempts to relate focus of attention, choice of referring expressions, and perceived coherence of utterances within a discourse segment. It is argued that "certain entities mentioned in an utterance were more central than others. Consequently, these centres greatly influence the speaker's usage and choice of the referring expressions. Coherence, on the other hand, is the product of "the compatibility between centering properties of an utterance and choice of referring expressions." (Grosz, Joshi & Weinstein, 1995. P. 4).

The present study adopts the semantic approach to the investigation of local coherence, i.e. discourse relatedness and connection at the level of sentence-to-sentence transition. Centering theory is the framework that models the degree of local coherence in crime news reports.

2- Background:

2-1- Coherence:

2-1-1- Approaches to Discourse Coherence:

Discourse is not a mere sequence of grammatical sentences. Rather, "successive contributions must be linked together by a recognizable flow of interpretive relationships." (Stojnic, Stone & Lepore, 2017, p.533). Coherence is one of the most significant constitutive dimensions of discourse; the other is cohesion. It refers

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to "the conceptual and semantic dimension of text and the integration of individual conceptual segments into an integrated whole." (Zikanova et al., 2015, p.3). The establishment of coherence is vital and central for discourse interpretation. It results from the interaction of language participants (speaker/listener – writer/reader) and the text (spoken or written).

Linguists hold two views of discourse: discourse as a static product and discourse as a dynamic process. Consequently, the concept of coherence has been investigated and approached in parallel with the appointed view of discourse as is outlined in table (1) below. Examples of linguists adopting the coherence-as-product approach include Danes (1974), Halliday and Hasan (1976), Van Dijk (1977), Fries (1983) and Mann and Thompson (1987). According to Halliday & Hasan, the text has a texture, which can be provided by both cohesion and register.

	Discourse-as-static product view of coherence	Discourse-as-process view of coherence
Focus of study	How coherence relations are linguistically realized on the surface of discourse – "all the linguistic devices used to connect different parts in a discourse" (Wang & Guo, 2014, p.464)	Non-linguistic factors that affect and contribute to the achievement of coherence such as the context, the intentional structure of discourse, inferences, communicative functions, to name just a few.
Perspective of study	Semantic: Coherence is a linguistic phenomenon that is visible and text-based. The study of coherence is descriptive, not explanatory.	Pragmatic & Psychological: Coherence is a dynamic process that emerges of non-linguistic factors.

Table (1): Coherence-as-product vs. Coherence-as-process Approach

Coherence is a property that emerges if the text is consistent in terms of cohesion and context: "it is coherent with respect to the context of situation and therefore consistent in register; and it is coherent with respect to itself, and therefore, cohesive." (Halliday & Hasan, 1976, p.23).

For van Dijk (1977), coherence is represented at two levels: linear or sequential coherence and global coherence. The former refers to "coherence relations holding between propositions expressed by composite sentence and sequences of those sentences." (p. 95). The latter, global coherence, relates to the overall discourse level. Both levels of coherence contribute to the semantic representation of discourse (i.e. the macrostructure of discourse).

According to Mann & Thompson (1987), a text is made up of multiple functional units which can be further divided into smaller ones. Such functional units are related and arranged by various rhetorical relations. "The so formed structure reflects the inner functional structure of the whole text and the subjective rhetorical arrangement of the author." (Wang & Guo, 2014, p.461). Coherence is realized by the unity and consistency holding between the rhetorical relations.

Danes (1974) and Fries (1983) relate discourse coherence to the thematic progression of discourse. In other words, the continuity and unity of themes that are discussed in a discourse guarantees the continuity of cohesive relations. This, in turn, affects the coherence of discourse.

The pragmatic perspective, on the other hand, is adopted by linguists as Widdowson (1978) and de Beaugrande & Dressler (1981), to name just a few. For Widdowson (1978), coherence is explained in terms of illocutionary acts, "which propositions, not always overtly linked, are being used to perform." (p. 28). De Beaugrande & Dressler (1981), regard coherence as one of the seven standards of textuality. In their view, coherence "concerns the ways in which the components of the textual world, i.e. the configuration

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of concepts and relations which underline the surface text, are mutually accessible and relevant." (p.4)

2-1-2- Cohesion & Coherence: An Overview

Cohesion and coherence are two constitutive interrelated properties of discourse. Coherence is a discourse property that emerges through the communication process as participants strive to derive meanings and achieve their specific communicative intentions. Thus, coherence can be decoded as "interpretative perception of semantic unity and purposefulness derived from a text, which encompasses conceptual connectedness, evaluative and dialogical consistency and textual relatedness." (Dontcheva-Novartilova, 2012, p.10).

The aspect of 'textual relatedness' is closely associated with and greatly accomplished by the concept of cohesion. The primary distinctive point between cohesion and coherence is that the former is a property of the text, whereas the latter pertains to discourse. Therefore, Cohesion is a textual property that fosters coherence.

Cohesion is the result of overt linguistic mechanisms (lexical and grammatical) to set up links between the parts of the text as well as between the text and its context. According to Halliday & Hasan (1976), cohesion comprises FOUR CATEGORIES of GRAMMATICAL COHESIVE TIES and TWO CATEGORIES of LEXICAL COHESION (fig.1). It provides texture to discourse and expresses continuity and integration between one part of the discourse and another. However, the existence of cohesive devices solely within discourse does not guarantee the *coherence* of discourse. In other words, sentences can be well-connected grammatically and lexically, but they express no coherence.

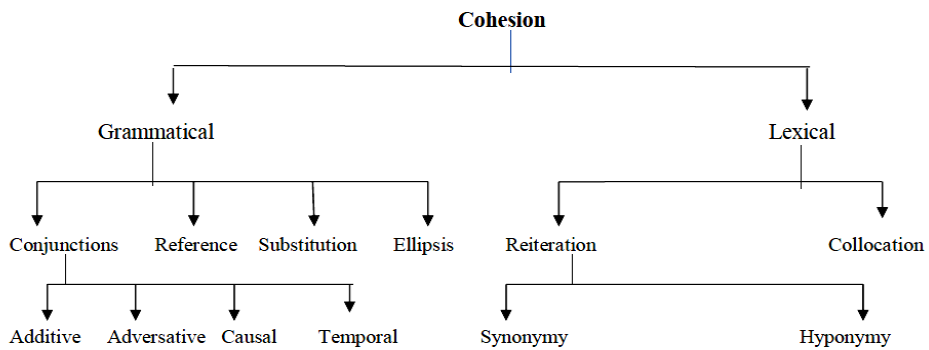


Figure (1): Halliday & Hasan's Taxonomy of Cohesive Ties

Coherence, on the other hand, is "the main principle of organization... assumed to account for the underlying functional connectedness." (Crystal, 1985, p.53). It stems from factors such as the language users' knowledge of the world, the drawn inferences, and the assumptions they make. Reinhart (1980) argues that coherence comprises *three* elements: **Connectedness**, **Consistency**, and **Relevance**. Connectedness means that sentences are interconnected semantically and grammatically. Consistency relates to "the fact that there is no contradiction between the propositions expressed by these sentences." (Wang & Guo, 2014, p.464). Relevance means that there should be a connection between the text and the context.

2-2- Attentional State of Discourse:

Attentional state is an abstraction of the focus of attention of discourse participants, which is a component and property of discourse essential for its production and processing. Focus means "the set containing exactly those concepts available for anaphoric or other definite reference at a point in a text." (Hirst, 1981, p. 85). It contains information about the objects, properties, relations and discourse intentions that are salient at any given point. In other words, focus of attention is "that knowledge which is relevant at a given point in a text for comprehension of the text." (Ibid., p.88). Salience denotes entities that are prominent in the discourse model or

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situation and affect processing and comprehension of discourse. In other words, participants keep in their working memory a model of the evolving context/situation. (Grosz et al., 1995; Lascarides & Asher, 2007). However, due to our limited working memory, attention is drawn to the most salient elements of the situation. Therefore, attention is selective: "it facilitates selection of information most relevant to making behavioral decisions." (Myachykov & Tomlin, 2015, p.11). Consequently, selection among stimuli results in selection among responses.

Entities are brought into the focus of attention either because "they have been mentioned explicitly ... or because they became salient in the process of producing or comprehending the utterances in the segment." (Grosz & Sidner, 1986, p.179). It briefs information from previous utterances to process subsequent utterances.

Attentional state of discourse is either locally or globally realized. The former case refers to the utterances within a single discourse segment, i.e. the relations of salience between neighboring utterances. It serves to constrain the interpretation and realization of referring expressions.

Multiple studies (e.g. Mac Whinney, 1977) suggest that the attention state of discourse entities affect sentence organization. In other words, salient entities tend to occupy prominent sentential roles. Primed referents are more likely to become the starting point or the subject of the subject of the sentence. (Myachykov & Tomlin, 2015, p. 12). Also, prominent referents help participants to predict the aboutness (topic) of successive utterances and, hence, affect the local coherence of discourse.

Reference to salient entities varies. It has been shown that "highly focused entities, such as sentence topics, tend to be realized with less marked forms (e.g. pronouns and ellipses), whereas non-focused entities tend to be realized with more marked forms (e.g. definite descriptions)." (Gordon et al., 1993, p. 316). Thus, discourse processing and understanding are based on decisions made by

language users about not only salience and attentional state of referents but also about the reference and anaphora.

2-3- Anaphora:

It is the device of making an abbreviated reference to some entity (or entities) in the expectation that the perceiver of the discourse will be able to disabbreviate the reference and thereby determine the identity of the entity. Anaphora consists of *the anaphor* (i.e. the referring expression) and *the antecedent* (i.e. the entity to which the anaphor refers).

Resolution is the process of decoding and deciding on what the antecedent (referent) of an anaphor is. This entails that the antecedent exists in the participants' consciousness/memory: "mentioning a concept, even implicitly, puts it on stage, from where it slowly retreats into the wings unless mentioned again. Concepts can be referenced anaphorically when and only when they are on stage." (Hirst, 1981, p. 8)

There are two types of anaphora: *Identity Reference Anaphora* (IRA) and *Identity of Sense Anaphora* (ISA). In the former sense, the anaphor and the antecedent are the same as in the following example:

- Ross made a gherkin sandwich and ate **it**. (Hirst, 1981a, p.28).

The anaphor 'it' refers back to the referent 'a gherkin sandwich'. Both are the same.

ISA, on the other hand, does not denote the same entity. It refers to an entity of a similar description as in the following example:

- The man who gave his paycheck to his wife was wiser than the man who gave **it** to his mistress.

'It' is an anaphor that refers back not to the first man's paycheck, but to the other man's paycheck. Both paychecks are of a similar description.

In terms of the form of realization, anaphora is classified into three types:

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- a) Pronominal anaphora: it is realized by anaphoric pronouns such as personal pronouns.
- b) Nominal anaphora: it relates to anaphors (a pronoun, a definite noun phrase, or a proper noun) refers back to a non-pronominal antecedent.
- c) Definite noun phrase anaphora (Lexical noun phrase anaphora): this emerges when a definite description or proper names syntactically refer to definite noun phrases representing the same concept or semantically close concept as in the example below:
- Computational linguists from many different countries attended the tutorial. **The participants** found it hard to cope with the speed of the presentation. (Mitkov & Street, 1999, p.3)
'Computational linguists' is the antecedent. 'The participants' is a definite noun phrase representing semantically close concept.
- d) Zero anaphora: this emerges when the anaphoric pronoun is omitted.

Likewise, anaphora is classified according to the location of anaphors and antecedents into: *intrasentential*, i.e. both the antecedent and the anaphor exist in the same sentence, and *intersentential*, i.e. the antecedent and the anaphor are present in two different sentences.

Discourse anaphora is related to and affects the attentional state of the interlocutors. It is regarded as

A procedure for the recall of some item of information previously placed in discourse memory and already bearing a minimal level of attention activation. It is essentially a procedure for the orientation of the interlocutor's attention, which has as essential function the maintenance of the high level of activation which characterizes a discourse representation already assumed to be the subject of an attention of focus by the interlocutor at the point of utterance. (Cornish, 2006, p.632)

2-3-1- Anaphora in Arabic:

There are several anaphora devices in Arabic. However, most widespread type is pronominal reference. The pronominal anaphors are frequent in Arabic language including the following categories: personal pronouns, demonstratives, and relative pronouns.

There are two context-independent forms of personal pronouns in Arabic: *isolated (independent) pronouns* (table 2) and *affixed pronouns*. Affixed pronouns are attached to their governor. They vary according to verb aspect (perfective vs. imperfective), as outlined in tables (3) & (4) below, and case (subjective vs. objective). Perfective verbs are completed actions, whereas imperfective verbs denote actions that still go on.

Verbal subject affixed pronouns (table 3) are suffixes attached to the verb and conjugated as the subject. With imperfective verbs (table 4), on the other hand, affixed pronouns are mainly prefixes, but there are also suffixes.

Person (pers.)	Gender (GR)	Number		
		Singular (sg.)	Dual	Plural (pl.)
1 st person	Masculine (m.)/Feminine (f.)	أنا /'anā/ (I)	نحن /naḥnu/(We)	نحن /naḥnu/ (We)
2 nd person	m.	أنت /'anta/ (You)	أنتما /'antumā/ (Both of you)	أنتم /antum/ (You)
	f.	أنت /'anti/ (You)		
3 rd person	m.	هو /huwa/ (He)	هما /humā/ (Both of them)	هم /hum/ (They)
	f.	هي /hiya/ (She)		هنّ /hunna/ (They)

Table (2): Arabic Isolated Personal Pronouns

Person (pers.)	Gender (GR)	Number		
		Singular (sg.)	Dual	Plural (pl.)
1 st person	m. / f.	تـ /-tu/ (verb-I)	-----	نا /-nā/ (verb-we)
2 nd person	m.	تـ /-ta/ (verb-you)	نُما /-tumā/ (verb-you)	نمّ /-tum/ /-tumū/ (verb-you)
	f.	تـ /-ti/ (verb-you)		ننّ /-tunna/ (verb-you)
3 rd person	m.	ـ /-a/ (verb-he)	اـ /-ā/ (verb-both of them)	وا /-ū/ (verb-they)
	f.	تـ /-at/ (verb-she)	تا /-atā/ (verb-both of them)	نّ /-nna/ (verb-they)

Table (3): Arabic Verbal Subject Affixed Pronouns (Perfectives)

Pronoun reference resolution is determined by multiple factors, one of which is salience of the referent. The salience linguistic factors in Arabic are summarized in (table 5).

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Person (pers.)	Gender (GR)	Number		
		Singular (sg.)	Dual	Plural (pl.)
1 st person	m. / f.	أ- /ʔ-/ e.g. أَلْعَبُ /ʔalʿab/ (I play)	-----	ن- /na-/ e.g. نَلْعَبُ /nalʿab/ (We play)
2 nd person	m.	ت- /ta-/ e.g. تَلْعَبُ /talʿab/ (You play)	ا- /ta- -ā/ e.g. تَلْعَبَا /talʿabā/ (Both of you play)	وا- /ta- -ū/ e.g. تَلْعَبُوا /talʿabū/ (You play)
	f.	تي- /ta- -bī/ e.g. تَلْعَبِي /talʿabī/ (You play)		نن- /ta- nna/ e.g. تَلْعَبْنَ /talʿabnna/ (You play)
3 rd person	m.	ي- /ya-/ e.g. يَلْعَبُ /yalʿab/ (He plays)	يا- /ya- -ā/ e.g. يَلْعَبُوا /yalʿabā/ (They play)	واي- /ya- -ū/ e.g. يَلْعَبُوا /yalʿabū/ (They play)
	f.	ت- /ta-/ e.g. تَلْعَبُ /talʿab/ (She plays)	ا- /ta- -ā/ e.g. تَلْعَبَا /talʿabā/ (You play)	نن- /ta- -nna/ e.g. تَلْعَبْنَ /talʿabnna/ (You play)

Table (4): Verbal Subject Affixed Pronouns
(Imperfectives)

Salience factor	Description
Definiteness	Defined NPs are preferred to those undefined
Topic	The subjects of the current and/or precedent sentences are more favored
Recency	The closest antecedents are the most salient
Proper nouns	They are more salient than common nouns
Sentence pattern	The pattern gives privilege to candidates figuring in some models of sentences

Table (5): Salience Linguistic Factors in Arabic
(Source: Bouzid et al.)

2-4- News Discourse:

News discourse is a form of communication where the journalist is the sender of the message and the implied reader is the receiver. Its main goal is to inform readers about relevant and newsworthy events and affairs. Likewise, it intends that all readers get the same meaning and that the reader's derived meaning is the same as the newspaper's intended meaning. Therefore, coherence is an essential attribute that is assigned by the readers: it is a property derived from "the sentential structures and interpretations of surrounding, usually preceding, sentences in the same text." (van Dijk, 1988a, p. 11). The meaning or

reference of entities (words) in one sentence of the text is assigned by the meaning of previous sentences.

News discourse expresses topics that can be understood and drawn from the propositions expressed in the respective sentences of the text. The thematic realization of news discourse follows the top-down principle, i.e. "discourse is organized so that the most important relevant information is put in the prominent position, both in the text as a whole and in the sentence." (van Dijk, 1988b, p.43). Thus, important information is expressed first, followed by the reintroduction of lower-level details.

Organization of topics is conducted within specification rules, i.e. "high-level, abstract information is specified so that for overall events or actions, detailed descriptions are given as to the identity and properties of participants, conditions, components, and consequences of actions." (Ibid., p.44). Specification takes place in cycles so as to facilitate reading strategies.

News information is expressed in categories that follow a special ordering as briefly summarized below:

1- Headline and Lead: both precede the actual news item. Their function is to express in a summarized way the major topic of the text.

2- Episode: this category subsumes:

a) **Background** of the events: it follows Main Events section.

c) **Main events and Context:** they provide information about the current main topic of the news. Context is different from background in that "background has a more comprehensive, structural, or historical nature." It deals with "nonrecent past history of actual situations and their events." (van Dijk, 1988b, p. 54).

c) **Consequences:** this category discusses the potential results of the discussed news event. Its function is to provide causal coherence to news events and clarify their worthiness.

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d) **Verbal Reactions:** this category follows Episode. It consists of the comments and opinions of the participants in the news event or prominent official person.

e) **Comment:** this section expresses the opinions and evaluations of the journalist or the newspaper itself. It consists of two subcategories: *Evaluation* and *Expectation*. The former "features evaluative opinions about the actual news events." The latter "formulates possible political or other consequences of the actual events and situations." (van dijk, 1988b, p. 56).

2-4-1- Crime News Discourse:

Crime stories constitute a large category of newspaper stories: they constitute the fourth largest category after sports, general interests and business. The media highlight the unique, the sensational, and the extreme. Besides, the focus tends to be on stories that impact a large number of readers. News reports on crime continue attracting readers' attention even though they only differ in details about time, place, or victims.

The category to which the portrayed crime belongs plays an essential role in attracting readers' focus of attention. There are four categories of crime reports as summarized below:

- 1) Personal competence and sensibility: It includes "ingenious, vicious, and audacious crimes – of deceptions that trick the close scrutiny of diligent customs inspectors, of the most bloody murders, of big heists in broad daylight." (Katz, 1987, p.50). What makes these crime reports newsworthy is their portrayal of the criminals as having exceptional ingenuity and dare. For instance, crime news on armed robberies by children, women, or the elderly "challenge out stereotypes not simply about crime but about the capabilities associated with those age and sex statuses." (Ibid., p.51).
- 2) Collective integrity: it includes crimes that take place in, or are related to, large establishments that are central to the collective identity of the region, for instance, the crimes occurring in

"contemporary centers of goodness" (Ibid., p.52). One subcategory is the crimes where personal identity of the victim probably makes the crime a symbolic challenge to collective integrity

- 3) Moralized political conflicts: they portray incidents committed for political reasons. Examples include hijacking of an airplane or harming victims by terrorists. They highlight not only the cruelty of the offender, "but also they simulate the reader's recognition of their concerns." (Ibid.)
- 4) White-collar crime: the newsworthiness of this category stems from two reasons: the size of the booty involved in the crime and the defendant's legitimate power or wealth.

Crime reports are characterized by simplification of phrasing. In other words, they are marked by brevity and restriction of possible inherent meanings in the story in order not to strain the attention span of the audience. Moreover, crime news deals with binary opposition, i.e. the crimes are presented in a context to show the guilty party versus the innocent party clearly.

3- Objectives:

The present study attempts to:

- 1- Explore and model local coherence in the discourse of crime news reports through the analysis of intersentential pronominal anaphora using centring theory.
- 2- Explore the correlation between centring and the different forms of pronominal reference in crime news reports. In other words, explore what referring expressions are chosen frequently for the anaphor in both Arabic and English languages.
- 3- Detect general/different interlingual tendencies across this particular discourse genre in two different languages: Arabic and English.
- 4- Explore the management strategies of topics in crime news reports.

4- Data:

The data assigned for the analysis consists of eight crime news reports extracted from Egyptian and American newspapers. The reports are written in Arabic and English languages.

5- Theoretical Framework: Centring Theory (CT)

Grosz, Joshi, and Weinstein (1983) proposed the phenomenon of *centring* of discourse, i.e. certain entities in an utterance were more central than others and "this property imposed constraints on a speaker's use of different types of referring expressions." (Grosz et al., 1995, p.4). This, in turn, affected the coherence of the discourse.

3-1- Background:

Centring theory (henceforth CT) relates focus of attention, choice of referring expressions, and perceived coherence of utterances within a discourse segment. It can be traced back to the theory of discourse structure developed by Grosz and Sidner (1986) (henceforth G&S). G&S argue that discourse comprises three components:

- 1) **Linguistic structure:** "discourses divide into constituent discourse segments; an embedding relationship may hold between two segments." (Ibid.).
- 2) **Intentional structure:** it is the participants' intentions expressed within the discourse segments and the overall discourse and the relations holding between those intentions.
- 3) **Attentional state:** it projects the participants' focus of attention at any given point in the discourse. It depends on "the intentional structure and on properties of the utterances in the linguistic structure." (Ibid., p.5).

3-2- Preliminaries of CT:

sto coherence at a local level. Discourse segments exhibit varying degrees of coherence which arises as a result of variation of 'aboutness' (i.e. the attentional state). Change of attentional state, in turn, results from variation in expression (i.e. linguistic structure):

"different types of referring expressions and different syntactic forms make different inference demands on a hearer or a reader." (Grosz et al., 1995, p.7).

One of the tasks a hearer must perform in processing a discourse is to identify the referents of noun phrases in the discourse... A hearer's determination of noun phrase reference involves some process of inference... Hence,... the resource demands of this inference process are affected by *the form of expression* of the noun phrase. (Ibid., p.9).

Two basic claims are formulated. The first claim is about local coherence: "discourse segments in which successive utterances keep mentioning the same discourse entities are 'more coherent' than discourse segments in which different entities are mentioned." (Poesio et al., 2000, p.3). The other claim concerns 'local salience': "the discourse entities 'realized' by an utterance... are *ranked*: ... that in each utterance some discourse entities are more salient than others." (Ibid.).

In CT, Discourse segment (DS) consists of successive utterances. An utterance (U) means "the uttering of sequence of words at a certain point in the discourse." (Grosz et al., 1995, p.9). Each utterance contains *centers*. They are discourse constructs and semantic entities that "serve to link that utterance to other utterances in the discourse segment which contains it." (Ibid.).

Discourse processing entails continuous renewal of the local attentional state or local focus. Thus, each U contains a set of Forward-Looking centers (C_f) which are discourse entities evoked by the utterance (U). Likewise, every utterance, except the segment initial utterance, is assigned a single Backward-Looking center (C_b). It is the entity that refers back to a special member of (C_f) in the preceding utterance (U_{i-1}): the one that (U_{i-1}) most centrally concerns (i.e. the topic of (U_{i-1})). Therefore, C_b is localized, i.e. its determination is from the set of C_f s of the directly previous utterance.

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Local focus also contains information about the relative prominence, ranking, of C_f s. "The most highly ranked C_f realized by an utterance (when one exists) is called the 'Preferred Center' (C_p)."
(Poesio et al., 2000, p.4). C_p serves to predict which one of the set of C_f (U_i , DS) is likely to be the backward-looking center C_b (U_{i+1} , DS). Thus, "the local focus gets updated after every UTTERANCE: in this update the current C_f s are replaced by new ones, and the C_b changes as well." (Ibid.)

3-3- CT claims, constraints & rules:

The most significant underlying claim of CT is that "to the extent a discourse adheres to centring constraints, its coherence will increase and the inference load placed upon the hearer will decrease." (Grosz et al., 1995, p.12).

CT proposes *THREE constraints*, briefly outlined below:

Constraint 1: A unique C_b :

Each U_n has exactly one C_b

Constraint 2: Realization relation:

Every element of C_f (U_i , DS) must be realized in U

In other words, "an utterance U realizes a center C if C is an element of the situation described by U , or C is the semantic interpretation of some subpart of U ." (Walker et al. , p.3). According to Grosz et al. (1995), there are two ways of entity realization in U : direct realization and indirect realization. The former is when a noun phrase in the utterance refers to that entity. Indirect realization, on the other hand, is when one of the noun phrases in the utterance is an associative reference to one of the C_f s. An example is the noun phrase 'the door' in the second utterance below:

U1: *John* walked towards *the house*. C_f : {John, the house} C_b : \emptyset

U2: *The door* was open. C_f : {the door}, C_b : {the house}

The centers 'John' and 'the house' are directly realized in U1. Likewise, 'The door' is directly realized in U2. However, 'the house' is also indirectly realized in U2 as it is referred to by the associative reference 'the door'. It refers to "an object which was not mentioned

before, but is somewhat related to an object that already has", i.e. 'the house', (Poesio et al., 2000, p.9).

Constraint 3:

Cb (U_i), the backward-looking center of utterance
U, is the highest ranked element of Cf (U_{i-1}) that is
realized in U.

In other words, "the ranking of the forward-looking centers, C_{fs} , determines from the elements that are realized in the next utterance which of them will be the Cb for the utterance." (Poesio et al., 2000. P.9).

The ranking of C_f elements is determined by several factors, and they may not be the same for all languages. They include surface order of realization, information status to mention a few. However, grammatical function is the most significant factor (i.e. entities being in subject position are more highly ranked than those in object positions, which, in turn, re ranked higher than other constructions).

CT proposes *TWO rules*: *Center realization rule* and *Transition rule*.

Rule 1: Center Realization

If any element of $C_f (U_n)$ is realized by a pronoun in
U $n+1$ then the $C_b (U_{n+1})$ must be realized by a
pronoun also. (Grosz et al., 1995, p.16)

The pronominal reference to C_b signals the receiver that the discourse is about the same topic or focus of attention. "Rule 1 does not preclude using pronouns for other entities so long as the C_b is realized with a pronoun." (Ibid.). However, there will be a single C_b determined on the basis of pronominalization and subject position.

Example:

U1: **Susan** gave Betsy a pet hamster.

Cf: {Susan, Betsy, a pet hamster} Cp: {Susan} Cb: \emptyset (an initial utterance)

U2: **She** reminded her that such hamsters were quite shy.

Cf: {she, her, such hamsters} Cp: {Susan} Cb: {she}

Although there are two pronouns in U2, only is the pronoun 'she' a C_b for the utterance because of its subject position as well.

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Rule 2: Transition

Sequences of continuation are preferred over sequences of retaining; and sequences of retaining are to be preferred over sequences of shifting. (Grosz et al., 1995, p.17)

As stated above, transition between successive utterances within a discourse segment lies into three states (fig. 2). Continuation of center and production of smooth transitions to a new center ensures local coherence.

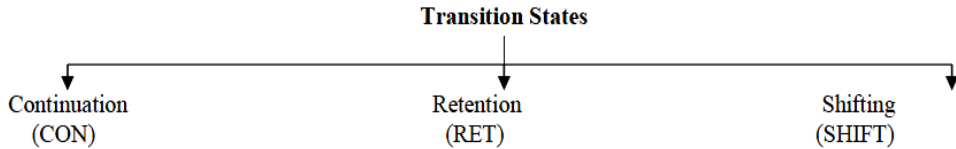


Figure (2): Transition States between Utterances

The typology is based on TWO factors: first, whether the backward-looking center (C_b) is the same from U_{i-1} to U_i , and, second, whether this discourse entity is the same as the preferred center (C_p) of U_i (Table 6).

	$C_b(U_i) = C_b(U_{i-1})$ OR $C_b(U_{i-1}) = [?]$	$C_b(U_i) \neq C_b(U_{i-1})$
$C_b(U_i) = C_p(U_i)$	CONTINUE	SMOOTH-SHIFT
$C_b(U_i) \neq C_p(U_i)$	RETAIN	ROUGH-SHIFT

Table (6): Centring Transition States

4- Method of Analysis:

The data is analyzed following the coming steps:

1) The data is segmented into utterances. The utterance, the minimum unit of analysis, is the sentence. However, if the sentence is a complex sentence, then the unit of analysis is the definite clause. In other words, it is segmented into main clause and subordinate clause. Noun clauses and relative clauses are ignored if they introduce new centers, but they do not update the topic. This segmentation method is

found more appropriate for news discourse. The grammatical analysis of news discourse has revealed multiple properties of the employed grammatical structure. News discourse tends to have "long, complex sentences; many nominalizations ...; and formal jargon." (van Dijk, 1988a, p.10).

2) The centers of each utterance (the entities that regulate the information in the utterance) are assigned as forward-looking centers (C_f), backward-looking center (C_b). Also, the preferred center (C_P), the highly ranked member of C_f , is determined.

3) The transition relation between each two consecutive utterances is assigned based on the transition relation across pairs of utterances. Consequently, the degree of local coherence is determined as the transition state is an indicator of the change of the attentional state from one utterance to another. It should be noted that deciding on the transition relation (i.e. Continuation, Retention, or Shifting) is also related to drawn inferences about the change of entity and the change of 'aboutness' or topic of the discourse segment (DS).

4) A comparison is conducted between Arabic and English texts to elucidate differences in ranking, salience, presentation of discourse, and how the degree of local coherence is influenced by these factors.

5- Analysis:

5-1- Arabic crime news report:

"عامل في المطابع الأميرية يحاول قتل رئيس مجلس إدارته صباح أمس" ('āmil fī al-maṭābī' al-amīriyah yuḥāwil qatl ra'īs maḡlis idāratihā ṣabāḥ 'ams) (A

(A worker in government press attempts to kill its Chairman yesterday morning)

5-1-1- Summary:

The news article is published in the Egyptian newspaper "Al-Ahram" on 4th of December 1967. It reports the attempted killing of the chairman of the governmental press on the hands of one of its workers. The text is divided into 12 discourse segments with a total of 47 utterances.

5-1-2- Analysis:

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1) Main Headline:

Discourse Segment 1 (DS1):

"عامل في المطابع الأميرية يحاول قتل رئيس مجلس إدارتها صباح أمس"
(‘āmil fī al-maṭābi‘ al-amīriyah yuḥāwil qatl ra’īs maḡlis idāratihā ṣabāḥ ’ams) (A worker in government press attempts to kill its Chairman yesterday morning)

The main headline segment consists of one utterance. It is a simple declarative active statement. Its function is to bring the basic elementary facts of the crime into the reader's mind: the offender (عامل ‘āmil) (a worker), the victim (Chairman of Governmental press), and the time of the crime (صباح أمس ṣabāḥ ’ams) (yesterday morning).

Utterance 1 (U₁): "عامل في المطابع الأميرية يحاول قتل رئيس مجلس إدارته صباح أمس" (‘āmil fī al-maṭābi‘ al-amīriyah yuḥāwil qatl ra’īs maḡlis idāratihā ṣabāḥ ’ams) (A worker in government press attempts to kill its Chairman yesterday morning)

C_{fl}: { عامل (‘āmil) (a worker), قتل رئيس مجلس إدارتها (qatl ra’īs maḡlis idāratihā) (to kill its Chairman), المطابع الأميرية (al-maṭābi‘ al-amīriyah) (government press), صباح أمس (ṣabāḥ ’ams) (yesterday morning) }
C_{b1}: Ø C_{p1}: عامل (‘āmil) (a worker)
Transition: Ø

There is no C_b since this is the initial utterance of the text. Likewise, there is no transition. The focus is on the worker as the real doer of the action of attempting to kill the victim.

2) Superheadline:

DS2: "تربص له في فناء المبنى ثم تقدم نحوه بسكين وطعنه في الكتف"
(tarabaṣa lahu fī finā’ al-mabnā ṭumma taqaddama naḥwahu wa ṭ’anahu fī al-katif) (was in the lookout for him in the building courtyard . Then, approached towards him with a knife and stabbed him in the shoulder)

The segment consists of two utterances. It mentions the circumstances of the crime: who committed it besides where and how

it was committed. In other words, utterances 2&3 provide specification of the fact denoted in the main headline.

U₂ a. " تربص له في فناء المبنى " (tarabaṣa lahu fī finā' al-mabnā) (Ø was in the lookout for him in the building courtyard)

C_f: {a [he], hu [him], finā' al-mabnā [the building courtyard]}
C_b: عامل ('āmil) (a worker) C_p: عامل ('āmil) (a worker)
Transition: CONT

U_{2a} establishes 'the worker' as both the C_b and the most highly ranked C_f.

b. " ثم تقدم نحوه بسكين وطعنه في الكتف " tumma taqaddama naḥwahu wa ṭ'anahu bisikkīn fī al-katīf" (Then, approached towards him with a knife and stabbed him in the shoulder)

C_f: {a [he/worker], hu [him/chairman], سكين sikkīn [a knife], الكتف al-katīf [the shoulder]}
C_b: عامل ('āmil) (a worker) C_p: عامل ('āmil) (a worker)
Transition: CONT

In U_{2b} the subject is implicit. It is identified by the verbal subject affixed pronoun (َ a).

In U_{2b} the worker continues as the C_b. The focus in both utterances is still on the offender (i.e. the worker).

3) Lead:

DS3: " رفض رئيس المجلس التصديق على تغيير ورديته، فخرج العامل من مكتبه ليشاهد مسرحية سفاح رغم أنه ثم يقرر أن يحاول قتله في الصباح "

(rafāḍa ra'īs al-mağlis al-taṣdīq 'alā tağyīr wardiyatahu, faḥarağa al-'āmil min maktabahu liyušāhid masraḥīyat saffāḥ rağma 'anifah tumma yuqarir 'an yuḥāwila qatlahu fī al-ṣabāḥ) (The chairman refused to approve of changing his shift, so the worker left his office and watched ' saffāḥ rağma 'anifah' play. Then, [he/the worker] made up his mind to kill him in the morning)

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The lead consists of two short and precise statements. Its function is to restate the basic information related to the crime. It highlights the reason for committing the crime to arouse the reader's curiosity: the chairman's disapproval of changing the timing of the worker's shift. Therefore, the focus is on the victim and the offender.

U₄ a. رفض رئيس المجلس التصديق على تغيير ورديته (rafada ra'īs al-mağlis al-taşdīq 'alā tağyīr wardiyatahu) (The chairman refused to approve of changing his shift)

C_f: {تغيير ورديته (The chairman), التصديق (to approve of), تغيير ورديته (changing his shift)}
C_b: Ø C_p: رئيس المجلس (The chairman)
Transition: Zero transition

U_{4a} has no C_b as it is the initial utterance of the segment. The attentional state is directed towards the chairman (the offended) and his role in the crime report.

b. فخرج العامل من مكتبه ليشاهد مسرحية سفاح رغم أنه (faḥarağa al-'āmil min maktabahu liyušāhid masraḥīyat saffāḥ rağma 'anifah) (so the worker left his office and watched ' saffāḥ rağma 'anifah' play)

C_f: {العامل (the worker), مسرحية سفاح رغم أنه (play), مكتبه (his office)}
C_b: Ø C_p: the worker
Transition: RET

c. ثم يقرر أن يحاول قتله في الصباح (tumma yuqarir 'an yuḥāwila qatlahu fī al-ṣabāḥ) (Then, [he/the worker] made up his mind to kill him in the morning)

C_f: {y- (he/the worker), qatlahu (to kill him), الصباح (the morning)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

In U_{4c} the subject is implicit (Zero subject). It is denoted by the verbal affixed subject pronoun (y-) which refers back to the worker. U₄ functions as the consequence of the cause mentioned in U₃.

4) Main Event:

DS4: حاول عامل بالمطابع الأميرية ببولااق قتل السيد علي سلطان رئيس مجلس الإدارة صباح أمس ... هاجمه أمام الموظفين والعمال، أثناء مروره في الورش، وطعنه بسكين في كتفه ثم فر هارباً، ولكن قبض عليه في شارع المطبعة الأهلية ...

ḥāwala ‘āmil bilmaṭābi‘ al-amīriyah bibūlāq qatl al-sayyid ‘alī sulṭān ra’īs maḡlis al- idārah ṣabāḥ ’ams... hāgamahu ’amām al-muwazzaf īn wa al-‘ummāl, ’atnā’ murūrih fī al-wiraš, wa ṭa’anahu bisikkīn fī katifih ṭumma farra hāriban, wa lākin qubiḍa ‘alayhi fī šāri‘ al-maṭba‘a al-’ahliyyah

A worker in the governmental press in Bulaq attempted the killing of Mr. Ali Sultan the chairman yesterday morning... He attacked him in front of the employees and the workers while he was walking past the workshops and stabbed him with a knife in his shoulder. Then, he escaped, but he was arrested in Al-Matbaah Al-Ahliya street.

U5: حاول عامل بالمطابع الأميرية ببولااق قتل السيد علي سلطان رئيس مجلس الإدارة صباح أمس (A worker in the governmental press in Bulaq attempted the y morning)

C_f: {عامل (a worker), قتل (the killing), السيد علي سلطان رئيس مجلس الإدارة (Mr. Ali Sultan the chairman)}

C_b: Ø C_p: a worker

Transition: Ø

U6: a. هاجمه أمام الموظفين والعمال (He attacked him in front of the employees and the workers)

C_f: {a (he/ the worker), هاجمه (Mr. Ali Sultan the Chairman), الموظفين والعمال (the employees and the workers)}

C_b: the worker C_p: the worker

Transition: CONT

b. أثناء مروره في الورش (while he was walking past the workshops)

C_f: {ه (the chairman), الورش (the workshops)}

C_b: the chairman C_p: the chairman

Transition: SMOOTH-SHIFT

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c. وطعنه بسكين في كتفه (and stabbed him with a knife in his shoulder)

C_f: {a (he / the worker), ° (him/the chairman), سكين (a knife), كتفه (his shoulder)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U_{6c} is connected to U_{6a}, the independent clause. Therefore, the transition type is 'Continue' since C_{bc} = C_{ba} and C_{bc} = C_{pc}.

U₇: a. ثم فر هارباً (Then, he escaped)

C_f: {a (he/ the worker)} C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CON

b. ولكن قبض عليه في شارع المطبعة الأهلية (but he was arrested in Al-Matbaah Al-Ahliya street)

C_f: {° (the worker), في شارع المطبعة الأهلية (Al-Matbaah Al-Ahliya street)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

In U_{7b}, the passive statement, the subject is omitted and implied to refer to the worker. The affixed pronoun (°) is attached to the preposition (على) and is conjugated as object of preposition. The object of preposition is ranked higher. The sentence is in the perfect tense passive voice where the focus is not on the actor. The focus is on the receiver of the action, that is, the worker.

DS4 is primarily about a specific discourse participant, namely, the offender (i.e. the worker), and the activities performed by him. Therefore, it is placed in the 'subject' position to indicate the topic role. The whole segment continues talking about him.

5) Context

DS5: الجريمة وقعت في التاسعة والنصف من صباح أمس... غادر رئيس مجلس الإدارة مكتبه للمرور على الورش، وكان يصحبه عدد من مديري هذه الورش ومجموعة من الموظفين... وعندما وصل إلى الفناء، اقترب منه أحد العمال... ولم يكن يبدو عليه أى إرتباك، ثم فاجأه بطعنة سكين في كتفه سقط بعدها رئيس مجلس الإدارة على الأرض والدماء تنزف منه.

al-ġarīma waqa‘at fī al-tāsi‘ah wa al-niṣf min ṣabāḥ ’ams...
ġādar ra’īs maġlis al-’idārah maktabahu lilmurūr ‘alā al-
wiraš, wa kāna yaṣḥabhu ‘adad min mudirī hādihī al-wiraš
wa maġmū‘ah min al-muwazẓafīn... wa ‘indamā waṣala ’ilā
al-finā’, ’iqtaraba minhu ’aḥad al-‘ummāl... wa lam yakun
yabdū ‘alayihī ayy ’irtibāk, ṭumma fāġa’ahu biṭa‘nat sikkīn
fī katifih saqaṭa ba’dahā ra’īs maġlis al-’idārah ‘alā al-’arḍ
wa al-dimā’ tanzif minhū.

(The crime took place at half past nine yesterday morning... The chairman left his office to pass past the workshops. A number of workshop managers and a group of employees were accompanying him. When he arrived at the courtyard, one of the workers approached him and he did not seem to be confused. Then, he surprised him with a knife stab in his shoulder after which the chairman fell down on the ground and he was bleeding)

Context is a category that signals the actual situation and it consists of concrete news events (van Dijk, 1988b, p.54). The focus of attention is on the chairman (the victim) and the way he was attacked by the offender (the worker)

U₈: الجريمة وقعت في التاسعة والنصف من صباح أمس (The crime took place at half past nine yesterday morning)

C_f: {الجريمة (the crime), التاسعة والنصف (half past nine), صباح أمس (yesterday morning)}

C_b: Ø C_p: the crime

Transition: ZERO

U₉: غادر رئيس مجلس الإدارة مكتبه للمرور على الورش (The chairman left his office to pass past the workshops)

C_f: {رئيس مجلس الإدارة (the chairman), مكتبه (his office), الورش (the workshops)}

C_b: Ø C_p: the chairman

Transition: NULL

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U₁₀: وكان يصحبه عدد من مديري هذه الورش ومجموعة من الموظفين (A number of workshop managers and a group of employees were accompanying him)

C_f: {عدد من مديري هذه الورش ومجموعة من الموظفين (A number of workshop managers and a group of employees), هـ (him/ the chairman)}

C_b: Ø C_p: A number of workshop managers and a group of employees

Transition: NULL

U₁₁: a. وعندما وصل إلى الفناء (When he arrived at the courtyard)

C_f: {الفناء (the courtyard), هـ (he/the chairman)}

C_b: the chairman C_p: the chairman

Transition: CONT

The subject is the affixed verbal pronoun (a) and it is implied to refer to the chairman based on the context.

b. اقترب منه أحد العمال (one of the workers approached him)

C_f: {أحد العمال (one of the workers), هـ (him/ the chairman)}

C_b: the chairman C_p: one of the workers

Transition: RET

c. ولم يكن يبدو عليه أى إرتباك (and he did not seem to be confused)

C_f: {إرتباك (confusion), هـ (he/ one of the workers)}

C_b: one of the workers C_p: one of the workers

Transition: SMOOTH-SHIFT

U₁₂: ثم فاجأه بطعنة سكين في كتفه (Then, he surprised him with a knife stab in his shoulder)

C_f: {كتفه (his shoulder), هـ (him/ the chairman), طعنة سكين (a knife stab), هـ (a (he/the worker))}

C_b: one of the workers C_p: one of the workers

Transition: CONT

U₁₃: a. سقط بعدها رئيس مجلس الإدارة على الأرض (after which the chairman fell down on the ground)

C_F: {رئيس مجلس الإدارة (the chairman), الأرض (the ground)}
C_b: the chairman C_p: the chairman
Transition: SMOOTH-SHIFT

b. والدماء تنزف منه (and he was bleeding)

C_F: {الدماء (blood), • (him/ the chairman)}
C_b: the chairman C_p: blood
Transition:RET

6) Consequences:

DS6: حدث كل هذا في ثوان قليلة، وسيطر الذهول على جميع الواقفين الذين ظلوا في أماكنهم واجمين... وتركوا المتهم يجرى هارباً دون أن يعترض أحد طريقه، وهو بصرخ ملوحاً بالسكين في يده، ولكن سرعان ما أفاق الجميع، وطاردوا العامل، حتى أمكنهم القبض عليه في شارع المطبعة الأهلية.

ḥadaṭa kull hāda fī ṭawānin qalīlah, wa saiṭara al-ḍuhūl ‘alā ḡamī ‘ al-wāqifīn alladīna ḡallū fī ‘amākinihum wāgimīn... wa tarakū al-muttaham yaḡrī hāriban dūna ‘an ya‘tarīḍ ṭarīqahu ‘aḥad, wa huwwa yaṣruḥ mullawihan bi al-sikkīn fī yadihi, wa lākin sur‘āna mā ‘afāqa al-ḡamī‘, wa ṭaradū al-‘āmil, ḥata ‘amkanahum al-qabḍ ‘alayhi fī šārī‘ al-maṭba‘ al-‘ahliyyah.

(All happened in a few seconds. The speechless spectators were astonished. They let the accused run away without stopping him as he was screaming and waving with a knife. However, everyone came back to senses soon, and they chased the worker until they succeeded in arresting him in (Al-Matbaaah Al-Ahliya) street)

The focus in the segment is on the effect of the worker's sudden attack on the witnesses and how they reacted to it. Therefore, the principal participants are the spectators and the worker, i.e. the accused.

U₁₄: حدث كل هذا في ثوان قليلة (All happened in a few seconds)

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C_f: {ثوان قليلة (a few seconds), كل هذا (all)}
C_b: Ø C_p: all Transition: ZERO

U₁₅: وسيطر الدهول على جميع الواقفين الذين ظلوا في أماكنهم واجمين (The speechless spectators were astonished)

C_f: {الدهول (astonishment), جميع الواقفين (all the spectators)}
C_b: Ø C_p: astonishment Transition: NULL

U₁₆: a. وتركوا المتهم يجرى هارباً دون أن يعترض أحد طريقه (They let the accused run away without stopping him)

C_f: {المتهم (the accused), وا- (they/the spectators)}
C_b: الواقفين (spectators) C_p: spectators
Transition: CONT

The affixed verbal subject pronoun (وا-) (ū) refers back to the spectators. The implied subject is (هم) (hum).

b. وهو بصرخ ملوحاً بالسكين فى يده (as he was screaming and waving with a knife)

C_f: {يده (his hand), السكين (the knife), هو (the accused)}
C_b: the accused C_p: the accused
Transition: SMOOTH-SHIFT

U₁₇: a. ولكن سرعان ما أفاق الجميع (However, everyone came back to senses soon)

C_f: {الجميع (the spectators)}
C_b: the spectators C_p: the spectators
Transition: CONT

U_{17a} is connected to the independent clause U_{16a}. The noun phrase (الجميع) (everyone) denotes the same referent (الواقفين) (the spectators).

b. وطاردوا العامل (and they chased the worker)

C_f: {وا- (the spectators), العامل (the worker/the accused)}
 C_b: the spectators C_p: the spectators
 Transition: CONT

c. حتى أمكنهم القبض عليه في شارع المطبعة الأهلية (until they succeeded in arresting him in (Al-Matbaaah Al-Ahliya) street)

C_f: {هم (hum), القبض (to arrest), ه (him/the worker), شارع المطبعة الأهلية ((Al-Matbaaah Al-Ahliya) street)}
 C_b: the spectators C_p: the spectators
 Transition: CONT

DS7: وعندما أبلغت الشرطة، كان أول من حضر إلى مكان الحادث المقدم وفتحني شافعي يمامة مأمور قسم بولاق والرائد عبد الوهاب الملاح والنقيب حلمي الفقي، الذين اشتركوا في مطاردة المتهم والقبض عليه، واتضح أن اسمه (سيد عبد الحميد سعد أحمد (١٩ سنة)).

ثم لحق بهم اللواء زكي علاج نائب مدير الأمن والعقيد سامي أسعد مدير المباحث والمقدم علي حلمي رئيس المباحث والرائد لطفي الشافعي مفتش المباحث والملازم أول أيمن جبر.

wa 'indamā 'ubliḡat al-šurṭah, kanā 'awwal man ḥaḍar 'ilā makān al-ḥādīt al-muqaddim fathī šāfī yamāmah ma'mūr qism būlāq wa al-rā'id 'abd al-wahhāb al-mallāḥ wa al-naqīb ḥilmī al-fiqqī, alladīna 'ištarakū fī muṭāradat al-muttaham wa al-qabḍ 'alayhi, wa 'itaḍaḥa 'anna 'ismahu (sayid 'abd al-ḥamīd sa'd 'ahmad (19 sanah).

tumma laḥaqa bihim al-liwā' zakī 'ilāḡ nā'ib mudīr al-'amn wa al-'aqīd sāmī 'as'ad mudīr al-mabāḥit wa al-muqqadim 'alī ḥilmī ra'īs al-mabāḥit wa al-inrā'id luṭfī al-šāfī'ī muffatiš al-mabāḥit wa al-mulāzim 'awwal 'ayman ḡabr.

When the police was reported, the first to come to the crime scene was Lieutenant Fathi Shafi Yamama commissioner of Bulaq police office, Major Abdel Wahhab Al-Mallah, and Captain Helmi Al-Feqqi, who took part in chasing and arresting the accused. It became known that his name was (Sayed Abdel Hamid Saad Ahmad (19 years).

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Then, Lieutenant Zaki Ilag Security Vice Chief Officer, Colonel Sami Asaad Investigation Chief Officer, and Lieutenant Colonel Ali Helmi, Investigation Inspector Colonel Lotfi Al Shafey, and Lieutenant Ayman Gabr followed them.

The focus of the segment is on the consequences of the main events in relation to the police. Therefore, the main participants are police officers who attended to the crime scene and investigated the crime.

U₁₈: a. وعندما أبلغت الشرطة (When the police was reported)

C_f: {الشرطة (the police)} C_b: Ø C_p: the police
Transition: ZERO

b. كان أول من حضر إلى مكان الحادث المقدم فتحي شافعي يمامة مأمور قسم بولاق والرائد عبد الوهاب الملاح والنقيب حلمي الفقى، الذين اشتركوا في مطاردة المتهم والقبض عليه (the first to come to the crime scene was Lieutenant Fathi Shafi Yamama commissioner of Bulaq police office, Major Abdel Wahhab Al-Mallah, and Captain Helmi Al-Feqqi, who took part in chasing and arresting the accused)

C_f: {المقدم فتحي شافعي يمامة مأمور قسم بولاق والرائد عبد الوهاب الملاح والنقيب (the first to come) و حلمي الفقى}
C_b: الشرطة (the police) C_p: الشرطة (the police)
Transition: CONT

The utterance starts with the verb كان (kāna) which is the copula in the nominal sentence. The insertion of كان changes the ranking of the forward-looking centers of the statement. In other words, كان is followed by a noun and a predicate. The predicate is more important information than the noun.

Also, C_b for U_{18b} is الشرطة (the police) because it is indirectly realized in the utterance though the mention of certain police members who represent the police.

U₁₉: (It became known أن اسمه (سيد عبد الحميد سعد أحمد (١٩ سنة)) that his name was (Sayed Abdel Hamid Saad Ahmad (19 years))

C_F: {اسمه , سيد عبد الحميد سعد أحمد} (his name)
C_b: the accused C_p: the accused
Transition: SMOOTH-SHIFT

U₁₉: ثم لحق بهم اللواء زكي علاج نائب مدير الأمن والعقيد سامي أسعد مدير المباحث والمقدم علي حلمي رئيس المباحث والرائد لطفي الشافعي مفتش المباحث والملازم أول (Then, Lieutenant Zaki Ilag Security Vice Chief Officer, Colonel Sami Asaad Investigation Chief Officer, and Lieutenant Colonel Ali Helmi, Investigation Inspector Colonel Lotfi Al Shafey, and Lieutenant Ayman Gabr followed them.

C_F: {الملازم أول أيمن جبر , الرائد لطفي الشافعي , المقدم علي حلمي , العقيد سامي أسعد , اللواء زكي علاج} هم (Lieutenant Fathi Shafi Yamama, Major Abdel Wahhab Al-Mallah... etc.)
C_b: the police (Lieutenant Fathi Shafi Yamama, Major Abdel Wahhab Al-Mallah ... etc.) C_p: the police (Lieutenant Zaki Ilag ... etc.)
Transition: SMOOTH-SHIFT

7) History:

DS8: في التحقيق لم ينكر العامل جريمته، بل إعترف بها وقال إنه غير نادم عليها... قال إنه كان يعمل بالوردية الليلية، وكان المفروض أن ينتقل إلى الوردية النهارية منذ ... هذا الشهر، ولكن النقل لم يتم فتقدم بشكوى إلى رئيس أقسام الطباعة، وكان مصيرها الإهمال، بل والإصرار على الرفض.

fī al-taḥqīq lam yunkir al-‘āmil ḡarīmatahu, bal ’i‘tarafa bihā wa qāla ’innahu ḡair nādīm ‘alayhā... qāla ’innahu kāna ya‘mal bi al-wardiyyah al-lailiyyah, wa kāna al-mafrūḍ ’an yantaqil ’ilā al-wardiyyah al-nahāriyyah munḍu ... hādā ašahr, wa lākin al-naql lam yatim fataqddama bi šakwā ’ilā ra’īs ’aqsām al-tibā‘ah, wa kāna mašīruhā al-’ihmāl, bal wa al-’iṣrār ’alā al-rafd.

In the investigation, the worker did not deny his crime. Rather, he confessed it and said that he did not regret it. He said that he used to work in the night shift, and he was supposed to move to the day shift since the --- that month. However, the transfer was not done. Therefore, he filed a complaint to the head of printing department, and its destiny was neglect and insistence on neglect.

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This history section restates the previous events that happened prior to committing the crime. They are narrated from the accused's viewpoint. The accused explains the motif that urged him to commit the crime.

U₂₀: في التحقيق لم ينكر العامل جريمته (In the investigation, the worker did not deny his crime)

C_f: {العامل (the worker), جريمته (his crime)}
C_b: Ø C_p: the worker
Transition: ZERO

U₂₁: بل إترف بها (Rather, he confessed it)

C_f: {a (he/the worker), ها (it/the crime)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U₂₂: وقال إنه غير نادم عليها (and said that he did not regret it)

C_f: {a (he/the worker), ه (he/the worker)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

The particle أن (that) is used after the verb قال (said) to introduce direct speech in Arabic language. The particle إن is followed by a subordinate clause consisting of a subject (ه (he)) and a verb (كان), which is hidden, but implied.

U₂₃: a. قال إنه كان يعمل بالوردية الليلية (He said that he used to work in the night shift)

C_f: {a (he/the worker)} C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

b. وكان المفروض أن ينتقل إلى الوردية النهارية منذ ... هذا الشهر (and it was supposed to move to the day shift since the --- that month)

C_f: {ya- (he/the worker), الوردية النهارية (the day shift)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

c. ولكن النقل لم يتم. (However, the transfer was not done)

C_f: {النقل (the transfer)} C_b: Ø C_p: the transfer
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₂₄: (Therefore, he filed a complaint to the head of printing department) ورئيس أقسام الطباعة يشكوى إلى رئيس أقسام الطباعة

C_f: {a (he/the worker), شكوى (a complaint), رئيس أقسام الطباعة (the head of printing department)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: RET

U₂₅: (and its destiny was neglect and insistence on neglect) وكان مصيرها الإهمال، بل والإصرار على الرفض

C_f: {الإهمال (neglect), مصيرها (its destiny)}
C_b: الشكوى (the complaint) C_p: الإهمال (neglect)
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

8) History/Verbal Reaction

DS9: وقال المتهم: "لما لم أجد حلاً لهذا الموضوع توجهت إلى مقابلة رئيس مجلس الإدارة أثناء ... أول أمس للتعلم إليه ولكنني قبل أن ألق بـ كلمة واحدة كان رئيس أقسام الطباعة قد سبقني وكلمه قبلي وفوجئت برئيس الهيئة يصرخ في وجهي."

wa qāla al-muttaham: "lammā lam 'ağid ḥallan lihādā al-mauḍū' tawwagaht 'ilā muqābalat ra'īs mağlis al-'idāra 'atnā' ... 'awwal 'ams liltazzalum 'ilayhi wa lākinanī qabl 'ann 'alfāza bikalima wāḥidah kāna ra'īs 'aqṣām al-ṭibā'ah qad sabaqanī wa kallamahu qablī wa fūgi't bira'īs al-hay'ah yaşruḥ fi wağhī."

The accused said: "when I did not find a solution to this issue, I headed for meeting the chairman during ... the

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day before yesterday to complain to him. However, before I uttered a single word, the head of the printing department had gone and talked to him before me. I was surprised by the chairman as he was shouting at my face."

DS9 consists of a direct quote said by one of the news participants, namely, the accused. He continues narrating the previous events that preceded the main event. The previous events are told from the point of view of the accused and function as explaining the reason and motif for the accused to commit the crime.

U₂₆: وقال المتهم (The accused said)

C_f: {المتهم (the accused)} C_b: Ø C_p: the accused/the worker
Transition: ZERO

U₂₇: a. لما لم أجد حلاً لهذا الموضوع (when I did not find a solution to this issue)

C_f: {a (I/the accused), حلاً (a solution)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

b. توجهت إلى مقابلة رئيس مجلس الإدارة أثناء ... أول أمس للتعلم إليه (I headed for meeting the chairman during ... the day before yesterday to complain to him)

C_f: {I/the accused), مقابلة رئيس مجلس الإدارة (meeting the chairman)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

c1. ولكنني قبل أن أُلْفِظ بكلمة واحدة (However, before I uttered a single word)

C_f: {a (I/the worker), كلمة واحدة (a single word)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

c2. كان رئيس أقسام الطباعة قد سبقني وكلمه قبلي. (the head of the printing department had gone and talked to him before me)

C_f: { رئيس أقسام الطباعة (the head of the printing department), ني (me/the worker), ه (him/the chairman) }
C_b: the worker C_p: the head of the printing department
Transition: RET

U₂₈: وفوجئت برئيس الهيئة يصرخ في وجهي (I was surprised by the chairman as he was shouting at my face)

C_f: { رئيس الهيئة (the chairman), ت (I/the worker) }
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

DS10: وذهبت إلى المنزل وأنا في حالة غير طبيعية وحاولت أن أسرى عن نفسي فدخلت إلى مسرح الجمهورية وشاهدت مسرحية (سفاح رغم أنفه) ، وبعد خروجي فكرت (أنه) لابد أن أقابل رئيس الهيئة صباح أمس بعد أن أكون قد إستغرقت في النوم وأنسى ما حدث أول أمس.

wa dahabtu 'ilā al-manzil wa 'anā fi ḥāllah ġair ṭabī'iyah wa ḥāwaltu 'anna 'usarrī 'an nafsī fadaḥaltu 'ilā masraḥ al-ġumhūriya wa šāhadtū maraḥiyyat (saffāḥ raġma 'anfihi), wa ba'da ḥurūġī fakkartu lā budda 'an 'uqābil ra'īs al-hai'a ṣabāḥ 'ams ba'da 'ann 'akūnna qad 'istaġraqtu fī al-naum wa 'ansā mā ḥadaṭa 'awwal 'ams.

I went home in an abnormal state and I attempted to please myself, so I went into Al-Gumhuriya theatre and watched (Saffah Raghm Anfihi) play. After I had come out, I thought I should meet the chairman yesterday morning after I immerse into sleep and forget what happened the day before yesterday.

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U₂₉: وذهبت إلى المنزل (I went home)

C_f: {ت (I/the worker), المنزل (home)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U₃₀: وأنا في حالة غير طبيعية (in an abnormal state)

C_f: {أنا (I/the worker), حالة غير طبيعية (an abnormal state)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U₃₁: a. (وحاولت أن أسرى عن نفسي) وحاولت أن أسرى عن نفسي

C_f: {ت (I/the worker)} C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

b. (so I went into Al-Gumhuriya theatre)

C_f: {ت (I/the worker), مسرح الجمهورية (Al-Gumhuriya theatre)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

c. (and watched (Saffah Raghm Anfih) play)

C_f: {ت (I/the worker), مسرحية (سفاح رغام أنفه) ((Saffah Raghm Anfih) play)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U₃₂: a. وبعد خروجي (After I had come out)

C_f: {خروجي (I had come out), the worker} C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

b. فكرت (أنه) لا بد أن أقابل رئيس الهيئة صباح أمس بعد أن أكون قد إستغرقت في النوم وأنسى ما حدث أول أمس yesterday morning after I immerse into sleep and forget what happened the day before yesterday)

C_f: {ت (I/the worker)} C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

DS11: صباح أمس توجهت إلى المطابع وعندما شاهدت السيد على سلطان أثناء مروره حاولت مكالمته ولكنه رفض ونهرني فأخرجت السكين ولا أدري ما حدث بعد ذلك ... وجريت بعد ذلك إلى الخارج خشية أن يعتدى على أحد من الموظفين أو العمال حتى جاء رجال الشرطة وضبطوني في الشارع ... وأضاف أنه إشتري السكين لتقطيع البرتقال ولم يقصد قتله.

ṣabāḥ 'ams tawġġahtu 'ilā al-sayyid 'alī sultān 'atnā' murūriḥ ḥāwaltu ... wa lākinnahu rafaḍa wa naharanī fa'aḥraġtu al-sikkīn wa lā 'adrī mā ḥadaṭa ba'da ḍālik ... wa garaytu ba'da ḍālik 'ilā al-ḥāriġ ḥašyat 'ann ya'tadī 'alayya 'aḥad min al-muwazẓafīn 'aw al-'ummāl ḥattā ḡā' riġāl al-šurṭa wa ḍabaṭūnī fī al-šārī' ... wa 'aḍāfa 'innahu 'ištārā al-sikkīn litaqtī' al-burtuqāl wa lam yaqṣud qatlah.

Yesterday morning I headed for the printing house. When I saw Mr. Ali Sultan during his passing, I tried to talk to him, but he refused and scolded me. Therefore, I took the knife out and I do not know what happened afterwards... Afterwards, I ran away fearing that one of the employees or the workers would assault me until the policemen arrived and arrested me in the street ... He added that he had bought the knife to cut the oranges and he did not mean to kill him.

The accused continues the narration of the previous events that precede the main event of the attempted killing of the chairman. He tells the incidents from his viewpoint.

U₃₃: صباح أمس توجهت إلى المطابع (Yesterday morning I headed for the printing house)

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C_f: {I/the worker), المطابع (the printing house)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U₃₄: a. وعندما شاهدت السيد على سلطان أثناء مروره (When I saw Mr. Ali Sultan during his passing)

C_f: {I/the worker), السيد على سلطان (Mr. Ali Sultan), مروره (his passing)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

b. حاولت مكالمته (I tried to talk to him)

C_f: {I/the worker), مكالمته (talk to him)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

c. ولكنه رفض ونهرني (but he refused and scolded me)

C_f: {a (he/the chairman), ني (me/ the worker)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the chairman
Transition: RET

U₃₅: فأخرجت السكين (Therefore, I took the knife out)

C_f: {I/the worker), السكين (the knife)}
C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U₃₆: ولا أدري ما حدث بعد ذلك (and I do not know what happened afterwards)

C_f: {a (I/the worker)} C_b: the worker C_p: the worker
Transition: CONT

U37: a. وجريت بعد ذلك إلى الخارج خشية أن يعتدى على أحد من الموظفين أو العمال (Afterwards, I ran away fearing that one of the employees or the workers would assault me)

Cf: {I/the worker), أحد (one), الموظفون أو العمال (the employees or the workers)}

Cb: the worker Cp: the worker

Transition: CONT

b. حتى جاء رجال الشرطة وضبطوني في الشارع (until the policemen arrived and arrested me in the street)

Cf: {الشارع (the street), ي (me/the worker), رجال الشرطة (the policemen)}

Cb: the worker Cp: the policemen

Transition: RET

U38: (He added that he had bought the knife to cut the oranges) وأضاف أنه إشتري السكين لتقطيع البرتقال

Cf: {a (he/the worker), السكين (the knife), البرتقال (the oranges)}

Cb: the worker Cp: the worker

Transition: CONT

U39: (and he did not mean to kill him) ولم يقصد قتله

Cf: {ي(he/the worker), قتله (kill him)}

Cb: the worker Cp: the worker

Transition: CONT

9) History & Consequences:

DS12: المتهم يعمل منذ ٥ سنوات بالمطبعة ومرتبته الشهري لا يتجاوز خمسة جنيهاً وله (...) أخوه ووالده كان يعمل في المطابع قبل ذلك ومات منذ عامين وكان مرتبه ٤٥ جنيهاً في الشهر. وقد نقل المجنى عليه (٥٠ سنة) إلى مستشفى بولاق وقال عند سؤاله أنه (لا) يعرف سبب تعدي المتهم عليه. وجاء في تقرير المستشفى أن الجرح نافذ بالتجويف (...) حالته ليست خطيرة وتولى التحقيق الأستاذ أنطون باسيلي وكيل أول النيابة.

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al-muttaham ya'mal mundu 5 sanawāt bilmaṭba'ah wa murattabahu al-šahrī lā yatagāwaz ḥamsat ḡunaihāt wa lahu (...) iḥwa wa wālidahu kana ya'mal fī al-maṭābi' qabl dālik wa māta mundu 'amayn wa kana murattabahu 45 ḡunaihan fī al-šahr. wa qad nuqila al-maḡnīy 'alaihi (50 sana) 'ilā mustašfā Būlāq wa qāla 'inda su'ālihi 'annahu lā ya'rif sabab ta'addī al-muttaham 'alayhi. wa ḡā'a fī taqrīr al-mustašfā 'anna la-gurḥ nāfiḍ biltaḡwif (...) ḥālatahu laisat ḥatira wa tawalā al-taḥqīq al-'ustād 'anṭun basilī wakīl 'awwal al-niyāba.

The accused has been working in the printing house for 5 years. His monthly salary does not exceed five pounds. He has (...) siblings. His father used to work in the printing house. He died two years ago. His salary was 45 pounds per month. The victim (50 years) was transported to Bulaq hospital. When asked, he said that he did not know the reason for the accused to assault him. It was reported in the hospital report that the cut is piercing the (...) cavity ... his state is not dangerous. Anton Basili, government commissioner, undertook the investigation.

U₄₀: المطبعة (the printing house) المتهم يعمل منذ 5 سنوات (The accused has been working in the printing house for 5 years)

C_f: {المتهم (the accused), 5 سنوات (5 years), المطبعة (the printing house)}

C_b: the accused (the worker) C_p: the accused

Transition: CONT

U₄₁: ومرتبه الشهرى لا يتجاوز خمسة جنيهات (His monthly salary does not exceed five pounds)

C_f: {مرتبه الشهرى (his monthly salary), خمسة جنيهات (five pounds)}

C_b: Ø C_p: monthly salary

Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₄₂: (His father used to work in the printing house) ووالده كان يعمل في المطابع قبل ذلك

C_f: {المطابع (the printing house), والده (his father)}
C_b: Ø C_p: his father
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₄₃: (He died two years ago) ومات منذ عامين

C_f: {a (he/the father)}
C_b: the father C_p: the father
Transition: CONT

U₄₄: (His salary was 45 pounds per month) وكان مرتبه ٤٥ جنيهًا في الشهر

C_f: {45 جنيهًا في الشهر (45 pounds per month), مرتبه (his salary)}
C_b: Ø C_p: the salary
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₄₅: (The victim (50 years) was transported to Bulaq hospital) وقد نقل المجنى عليه (٥٠ سنة) إلى مستشفى بولاق

C_f: {المجنى عليه (the victim), مستشفى بولاق (Bulaq hospital)}
C_b: Ø C_p: the victim
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₄₆: a. (he said when he was asked) وقال عند سؤاله

C_f: {a (he/the victim)}
C_b: the victim C_p: the victim
Transition: CONT

b. (that that he did not know the reason for the accused to assault him) أنه (لا) يعرف سبب تعدى المتهم عليه

C_f: {hu (he/the victim), سبب (the reason)}
C_b: the victim C_p: the victim
Transition: CONT

U₄₇: (that the cut is piercing the (...) cavity ... his state is not dangerous) أن الجرح نافذ بالتجويف (...)

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C_f: {الجرح (the cut), التجويف (... cavity)}

C_b: Ø C_p: the cut

Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₄₈: وتولى التحقيق الأستاذ أنطون باسيلي وكيل أول النيابة (Anton Basili, government commissioner, undertook the investigation)

C_f: {التحقيق (the investigation)}

C_b: Ø C_p: Anton Basili

Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

5-1-3- Findings:

DS1 through DS3, i.e. the headline and the lead, contribute largely to the coherence of the text, "as they communicate the main event and position the event in a particular context." (Jancarikova, 2017.p.111). They are closely linked through the continuation or retention of the mention of the main participants. Consequently, the reader makes inferences about the main topic and sets the expectations of the following information. Each discourse segment begins with a new center of focusing attention. DS4 through DS11 focus on different sides of the crime, namely, the accused (the worker), the victim (the chairman), the witnesses, and the police. Each is presented differently in accordance with their role in the crime.

Each participant is introduced to the discourse using an indefinite/definite

FOUR WOMEN SLASHED IN BROADWAY CROWD

Anton Karasincke, Arrested for
Crime, Reported by the Police to
Have Made a Confession.

A "slasher" made his appearance in the downtown section of the city to-day, shortly after the noon hour, and cut four women with a knife inflicting ugly, although not dangerous, wounds. The man made his escape in the crowds which lined the downtown streets, but later in the afternoon Abigail de Jongh, one of the women slashed, pointed out to the police a man whom she said had brushed by her at the time she was cut. When the policeman attempted to arrest this man he made a struggle and it took the combined efforts of two policemen to subdue him.

The arrest was made at Wall Street and Broadway, and the man was taken to the Greenwich Street police station. At the police station the prisoner refused to make any statement, and was taken to Police Headquarters in a patrol wagon. Later he described himself as Antoni Karasincki, of 137 East 15th Street, a machinist, and confessed, the police reported, to having made the attacks on the four women.

All the attacks took place on Broadway, one near Liberty Street, two at Broadway and Wall Street, and another near Exchange Place.

Scores of persons were walking along the street when Irene Riley, thirty-two years of age, of 783 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, screamed and fell to the sidewalk. Several men ran to her assistance and carried her into the office of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, at Liberty Street, where an ambulance surgeon from Volunteer Hospital found that she had been cut with a knife.

A few minutes later Abigail de Jongh, thirty-two, of 1949 Grand Concourse, The Bronx, reported to the police that she, too, had been slashed, but had not been aware of it until she reached the Baltimore & Ohio office and was informed that a young woman had been cut.

Miss Edith Fox, of 497 Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn, was also slashed while walking on Broadway near Wall Street. She received a wound across the right side of her face and was attended at the Broad Street Hospital. A few moments later Miss Florence Rogers, a stenographer living at 2137 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, was stabbed in the left shoulder.

noun phrase. When the same participant is mentioned in the subsequent utterances, the proper personal pronoun (3rd person sing/pl) is employed anaphorically. This pronoun functions as the unique backward-looking center of the utterance. It is chosen from the list of forward-looking centers of the preceding utterance. However, it is worth noting that the pronoun is implicit and is represented by the affixed verbal pronoun specific for the Arabic language. Thus, Rule 1 is fulfilled. In each segment, the subsequent utterances continue discussing the same referent. The use of retentions assists in producing smoother transition to a new center. Therefore, Continuations > Retentions > Smooth-shift > Rough-shift. Local coherence is maintained throughout the specified segments as the repetition of the mention of the same referent within successive utterances heightens the effect and emphasizes particular features of the participants.

However, the final segment of the news report, namely DS12, is less coherent the preceding ones. This is due to "different degrees of continuity in which the discourse is about." (Grosz et al., 1995, p.7). Rough-shifts > Continuations or Retentions. The segment shifts focus from discussing the accused (in U₃₉) to discussing his salary (U₄₀). The focus suddenly shifts to discussing the father of the accused (U₄₁ – U₄₃). Then, there is a sudden mention of the victim and the seriousness of his cut (U₄₄ – U₄₆). The last utterance mentions a new center of focus, which is the police investigation.

5-2- English crime news report: (Four Women Slashed in Broadway Crowd)

5-2-1- Summary:

The crime news report is published in New York (The Evening Post) on November 2, 1917. The crime newsworthiness stems from its belonging to collective integrity category. It reports the unusual crime committed by a man against women: the man slashes women in the public streets and at different subsequent times. The text is divided into 8 discourse segments with a total of 15 utterances.

5-2-2- Analysis:

1) **Headline:**

DS1: Four Women Slashed in Broadway Crowd

The headline consists of a brief passive statement. The focus of attention is on the entity in the subject position, i.e. four women. The reader infers that they are the victims of the crime. The doer of the action is not mentioned. This arouses the reader's attention and gets encouraged to continue reading the report.

U₁: Four Women Slashed in Broadway Crowd

<p>C_f: {four women, Broadway crowd} C_b: Ø C_p: four women Transition: NULL</p>

There is no C_b as this is the initial utterance. it is expected for the report to continue talking about the victims.

2) **Lead:**

DS2: Antonie Karasinoke, arrested for crime, reported by the police to have made a confession.

The lead consists of one passive statement. The focus is on the subject as the doer of the action of the slashing: the reader infers that the proper noun stands for the offender. The lead is short and precise.

U₂: Antonie Karasinoke, arrested for crime, reported by the police to have made a confession

<p>C_f: {Antonie Karasinoke, the police, a confession} C_b: Ø C_p: Antonie Karasinoke Transition: NULL</p>

3) **Main Event:**

DS3: A "slasher" made his appearance in the downtown section of the city to-day, shortly after the noon hour, and cut four women with a knife inflicting ugly, although not dangerous, wounds. The man made his escape in the crowds which lined the downtown streets, but later in the

afternoon Abigall de Jongh, one of the women slashed, pointed out to the police a man whom she said had brushed by her at the time she was cut. When the policeman attempted to arrest this man he made a struggle and it took the combined efforts of two policemen to subdue him.

U₃: A "slasher" made his appearance in the downtown section of the city to-day, shortly after the noon hour, and cut four women with a knife inflicting ugly although not dangerous, wounds.

C_f: {a slasher, his appearance, four women, the downtown section}
C_b: Ø C_p: a slasher
Transition: NULL

U₄: a. The man made his escape in the crowds which lined the downtown streets

C_f: {the man, his escape, the crowds}
C_b: a slasher C_p: the man
Transition: CONT

The definite noun phrase (NP), the man, denotes the same highest ranked entity of U₃, namely, the slasher. The employment of this definite conveys further information. By bringing it to the reader's attention, the reader draws additional inferences: the reader matches this definite noun phrase with the indefinite noun phrase that is mentioned in the preceding utterance, i.e. a slasher. Thus, the reader concludes that both noun phrases refer to the same referent. In addition, the gender of the offender is revealed.

b. but later in the afternoon Abigall de Jongh, one of the women slashed, pointed out to the police a man whom she said had brushed by her at the time she was cut.

C_f: {Abigall de Jongh, the police, a man}
C_b: Ø C_p: Abigall de Jongh
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₅: a. when the policeman attempted to arrest this man

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C_f: {the policeman, this man}
C_b: a man C_p: the policeman
Transition: RET

b. he made a struggle

C_f: {he (the man), a struggle}
C_b: a man C_p: the man
Transition: CONT

c. and it took the combined efforts of two policemen to subdue him

C_f: {the combined efforts, two men, him (the man)}
C_b: the man C_p: the combined efforts
Transition: RET

4) Consequences:

DS4: The arrest was made at Wall Street and Broadway, and the man was taken to the Greenwich Street police station. At the police station the prisoner refused to make any statement, and was taken to Police Headquarters in a patrol wagon. Later he described himself as Antoni Karasineki, of 137 East 15th Street, a machinist, and confessed, the police reported, to having made the attacks on the four women.

U₆: a. the arrest was made at Wall Street and Broadway

C_f: {the arrest, Wall Street and Broadway}
C_b: Ø C_p: the arrest
Transition: NULL

b. and the man was taken to the Greenwich Street police station

C_f: {the man, the Greenwich Street police station}
C_b: Ø C_p: the man
Transition: RET

U₇: a. the prisoner refused to make any statement

C_f: {the prisoner, statement}
C_b: the man (the offender) C_p: the prisoner
Transition: CONT

The use of the definite NP 'the prisoner' is inferred to be referring back to the definite NP 'the man', in U_{7b}. 'The prisoner' is used to denote the man's current state after the arrest.

b. and was taken to Police Headquarters in a patrol wagon

C_f: {null subject (the prisoner), police headquarters, a patrol wagon}
C_f: the prisoner C_p: the prisoner
Transition: CONT

U₈: a. he described himself as Antoni Karasineki, of 137 East 15th Street, a machinist

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C_f: {he (the prisoner)} C_b: the prisoner C_p: the prisoner
Transition: CONT

b. and confessed, the police reported, to having made the attacks on the four women

C_f: {null subject (the prisoner), the attacks, the four women}
C_b: the prisoner C_p: the prisoner
Transition: CONT

5) Context:

DS5: All the attacks took place on Broadway, one near Liberty Street, two at Broadway and Wall Street, and another near Exchange Place.

In DS5, the reader's attention is drawn to an important aspect of the slashing repeated crimes, that is, their location. The segment consists of one active utterance, where the focus is on the subject.

U₉: a. all the attacks took place on Broadway

C_f: {all the attacks, Broadway}
C_b: ∅ C_p: all the attacks
Transition: NULL

b. one near Liberty Street,

C_f: {one, two, another}
C_b: all the attacks C_p: one
Transition: RET

c. two at Broadway and Wall Street,

C_f: {one, two, another}
C_b: all the attacks C_p: two
Transition: RET

d. and another near Exchange Place

C_f: {one, two, another}
C_b: all the attacks C_p: another
Transition: RET

U₉ contains one definite clause in addition to three embedded ones. The subject in each embedded clause, the locus of attention and the highest ranked entity, refers back to the main subject, which is 'all the attacks'. Therefore, the entity 'all the attacks' is 'indirectly realized' in the subsequent clauses.

DS6: Scores of persons were walking along the street when Irene Riley, thirty-two years of age, of 763 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, screamed and fell to the sidewalk. Several men ran to her assistance and carried her into the offices of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, at Liberty Street, where an ambulance surgeon from Volunteer Hospital found that she had been cut, with a knife.

U₁₀: a. Scores of persons were walking along the street

C_f: {scores of persons, the stret}
C_b: Ø C_p: scores of persons
Transition: NULL

b. when Irene Riley, thirty-two years of age, of 763 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, screamed and fell to the sidewalk

C_f: {Irene Riley, the sidewalk}
C_b: Ø C_p: Irene Riley
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

U₁₁: a. several men ran to her assistance and carried her into the offices of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, at Liberty Street

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C_f: {several men, her (Irene Riley), the offices of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad}
C_b: Irene Riley C_p: several men
Transition: RET

b. where an ambulance surgeon from Volunteer Hospital found that she had been cut, with a knife.

C_f: {an ambulance surgeon, she, a knife}
C_b: Irene Riley C_p: ambulance surgeon
Transition: RET

DS7: A few- minutes later Abigail de Jongh, thirty-two, of 1049. Grand Concourse, The Bronx, reported to the police that she, too, had been slashed, but had not been aware of it until she reached the Baltimore & Ohio offices and was informed that a young woman had been cut.

U₁₂: Abigail de Jongh, thirty-two, of 1049. Grand Concourse, The Bronx, reported to the police ...

C_f: {Abigail de Jongh, the police}
C_b: Ø C_p: Abigail de Jongh
Transition: NULL

DS8: Miss Edith Fox, of 497 Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn, was also slashed while walking on Broadway near Wall Street. She received a wound across the right side of her face and was attended at the Broad Street Hospital. A few moments later Miss Florence Rogers, a stenographer living at 2137 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, was stabbed in the left shoulder.

U₁₃: a. Miss Edith Fox, of 497 Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn, was also slashed

C_f: {Miss Edith Fox}
C_b: Ø C_p: Miss Edith Fox
Transition: NULL

b. while walking on Broadway near Wall Street

C_f: {zero subject, Broadway, Wall Street}
C_b: she (Miss Edith) C_p: Edith Fox
Transition: CONT

U₁₄: a. she received a wound across the right side of her face

C_f: {she, a wound, the right side, her face}
C_b: Miss Edith Fox C_p: Miss Edith Fox
Transition: CONT

b. and was attended at the Broad Street Hospital

C_f: {zero subject, the Broad Street Hospital}
C_b: Miss Edith Fox C_p: Miss Edith Fox
Transition: CONT

U₁₅: A few moments later Miss Florence Rogers, a stenographer living at 2137 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, was stabbed in the left shoulder

C_f: {Miss Florence Rogers, the left shoulder}
C_b: Ø C_p: Miss Florence Rogers
Transition: ROUGH-SHIFT

5-2-3- Findings:

The headline and the lead summarize the story of the crime report through focusing the reader's attention on the subject noun phrases: 'four women' in the headline and 'Antoni Karasinoke' in the lead. The reader infers the main participants in the crime, namely, the victims and the offender. However, introducing the victims in the headline serves to arouse the reader's curiosity to continue reading to know the details. The lead heightens the dramatic effect as the reader knows that the offender is male.

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The most important information comes at the beginning utterance of each discourse segment, which is then followed by one or more specific utterances. In the eight discourse segments, the subsequent utterances either continue or retain the mention of the entity mentioned in the initial utterance. However, although the same discourse topic is continued, reference to previously mentioned entity is not implemented through using the appropriate personal pronouns. Different noun phrases to refer to the same entity in subsequent utterances are used (as in DS4). This violates Rule 1 of centring theory. The implied reader is urged to exert extra effort to infer the reference relying on the context and the discussed topic. In other discourse segments, human-reference third person pronouns are employed to create a logical link between the propositions. Each utterance has precisely a single C_b , which refers back to the highest ranked entity of the directly preceding utterance. Thus, local coherence is engendered.

One of the obvious remarks in the English news report is the tendency to have long, complex sentences. Likewise, " Sentence syntax expresses the semantic roles of participants in an event by word order, relational functions (subject, object), or the use of active or passive forms." (van Dijk, news analysis, p.11).

5-3- Results:

The application of centring theory to crime news reports in Arabic and English has revealed certain points of similarity and differences between the two languages. Besides, it has shown certain features of crime news reports as a form of written discourse.

The focus and salience of the discourse entities is determined by their grammatical role: entities in subject position are more salient in the reader's attentional state than direct or indirect objects which, in turn, are higher ranked than objects of prepositions and so forth. Therefore, they are easily processed.

The pronominal system in both languages is different. English is a pro-drop language (also known as a zero-pronoun or null pronoun language). In other words, the pronoun is not explicitly mentioned as it can be pragmatically inferred. The personal pronouns in the Arabic pronominal system, on the other hand, need not be explicitly mentioned. However, they can appear as overt attached personal pronouns. Thus, the inference load in English to deduce the proper referent is heavier than in Arabic language.

Another remark is the interplay between the linguistic structure and the attentional state of the discourse. "The linguistic expressions convey information about the discourse structure; conversely, the discourse structure constraints the interpretation of expressions (and hence affects what a speaker says and how a hearer will interpret what is said)." (Grosz & Sidner, 1986, p. 177). The attentional state, in turn, changes according to which objects are salient at each point in the discourse.

This accounts for the flow of information in discourse generally and crime news reports specifically. The discourse of crime news reports is not a group of isolated sentences. Rather, the comprehension of such discourse type entails the analysis of the sequences of sentences and "the interpretation of surrounding, usually preceding, sentences in the same text." (van Dijk, news analysis, p.11). Thus, this aspect of local coherence plays a significant role in discourse processing and comprehension.

The processing of discourse information renders easier when writers continue or retain the mention of the same referent in subsequent utterances through applying the pronominal system of the language. Intersentential pronominal reference tends to refer to the most salient entities in the discourse. Shifts to new topics are marked by mention of new discourse entities (Rule 2). This technique renews the implied reader's focus at each point of the discourse. Consequently, the analysis of crime news discourse has shown that recurring salient entities, namely, the victim (s), the offender (s), the witness (es), and the police, which are referred to using human-

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reference third person pronouns. This feature of crime news discourse is also closely tied to maintaining 'authorial neutrality', also known as 'the ethic of objectivity', of the discourse producer.

Related to the previously mentioned remark, the preference for continuation is marked by the employment of either regular pronouns or definite noun phrases in both languages. However, in English, null pronouns mark continuation as well. As per retention, it is signaled by regular pronouns and they mark a slight change of topic.

6- Conclusion:

The present study is an attempt to apply centring theory devised by Grosz et al. (1995) to the analysis and investigation of intersentential pronominal anaphoric reference as a means of achieving local coherence. The paper concentrates on a discourse genre, that is, the discourse of crime news report. Likewise, the investigation extends to clarifying distinctive points of resemblance or difference between two languages, namely, Arabic and English in terms of anaphora.

Discourse anaphora is a means through which some entity of information, which is "previously placed in discourse memory and already bearing a minimal of attention activation", is recalled. (Cornish, 2006, p. 632). The interlocutor's attention and activation of information is both oriented and maintained through the discourse anaphoric reference. Therefore, one primary approach to anaphora resolution is how referring expressions interact with the attentional state (Grosz 1977, Grosz & Sidner 1986).

The analysis has shed light on some noteworthy unsolved issues in centring theory that need further exploration. An instantiation is duality: the computation of the backward-looking center of an utterance can be affected when the subject of the preceding utterance is dual, i.e. referring to two entities. In the analysis, they have been treated as an instance of indirectly realized entities. Another issue is

how the computation of forward-looking and backward-looking centers are affected by inverted or fronted phrases.

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