

A Linguistic Analysis of Metadiscourse Markers in Some English and Arabic News Articles on the Russia– Ukraine Crisis: Hedges and Boosters as Two Examples

تحليل لغوي لعلامات ما فوق الخطاب في بعض مقالات الأخبار الإنجليزية و العربية حول
الأزمة الروسية – الأوكرانية: أدوات التحوط و التعزيز كنموذجين

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ملخص الدراسة

شهد النصف الأول من عام ٢٠٢٢ الحرب الروسية – الأوكرانية التي اندلعت في اوكرانيا حيث شنت القوات الروسية هجوما عنيفاً أثار العديد من الآراء حول طبيعته و احتل عناوين الصحف العالمية. و من هنا فإن هذه الدراسة الموسومة (تحليل لغوي لعلامات ما فوق الخطاب في بعض مقالات الأخبار الإنجليزية و العربية حول الأزمة الروسية – الأوكرانية: أدوات التحوط و التعزيز كنموذجين) تهدف إلى تحليل لغة بعض الصحف العربية و الإنجليزية المختارة و تبحث التنوعات المتوقعة في أساليب الكتابة و الفئة المستهدفة من القراء و منظور العامة حول الأزمة الروسية – الأوكرانية و تتناول بالتحليل أساليب التحوط و التعزيز كأدوات لغوية تميز و تعزز الكتابة الصحفية. تتناول أيضا هذه الدراسة التغير الذي طرأ في أساليب و طرق نقل المعلومات للقراء بحيث تضمن تفاعلهم مع الكاتب من خلال مصادر ما فوق الخطاب المتمثلة في أدوات التحوط و التعزيز. تتبع هذه الدراسة الاطار النظري لهايلاند (1998a ، 1998b ، 2004 ، 2005) و ساليجر ماير (١٩٩٤) ، و تتناول دور هذه الأدوات في الما فوق الخطاب من خلال فحص إحدى عشر مقالة عربية و انجليزية اشتملت على ٤٩٣٢ كلمة ، إضافة إلى تحليل كمي لعدد من الجمل المختارة من عينة الدراسة و التي تحتوي على أدوات التحوط و التعزيز. أما اسئلة الدراسة فهي كالتالي: (١) ماهي الوظائف اللغوية لأدوات التحوط و التعزيز داخل سياق الأخبار السياسية؟ (٢) و ما هي دوافع الكتاب لاستخدام مثل هذه الأدوات؟ (٣) ما هو دور هذه

الأدوات في رسم الكتابة الصحفية لبعض الكتاب من مختلف الخلفيات الثقافية و اللغوية و السياسية؟ و طرحت هذه الدراسة بعض مهام أدوات ما فوق الخطاب المتمثلة هنا في أدوات التحوط و التعزيز و التي تؤثر بدورها على آليات طرح المعلومات و نقل أفكار و آراء و اتجاهات الكتاب. و اقترحت الدراسة تقسيم الكتابة الصحفية السياسية إلى نوعين: الكتابة الصحفية الجدلية و الكتابة الصحفية التقريرية، و يختلف معدل استخدام أدوات التحوط و التعزيز في كل نوع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: أدوات التعزيز، أدوات التحوط المعرفية، أدوات التحوط، ما فوق الخطاب، المعاني، مصادر متفاعلة، مصادر تفاعلية.

Abstract

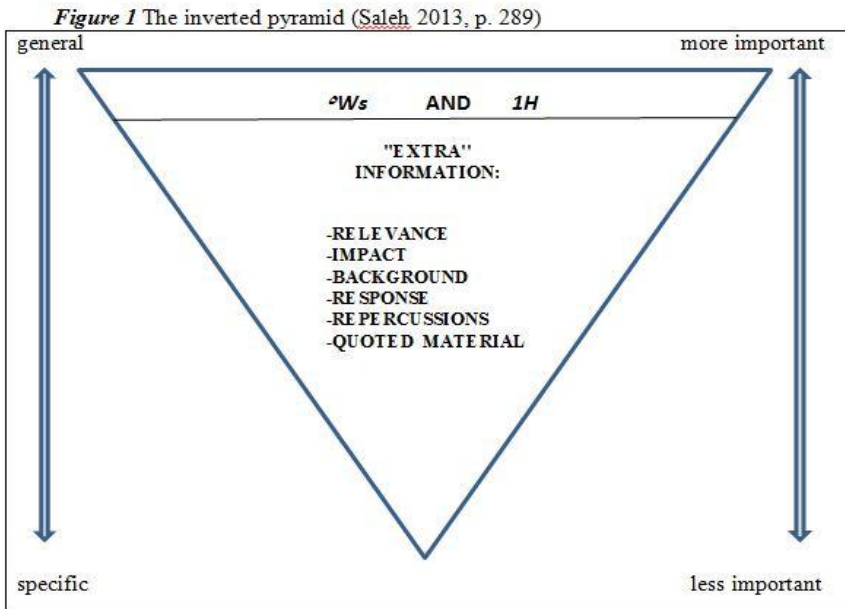
The first half of 2022 has witnessed the Russia- Ukraine war raging on in Ukraine. The nature of the Russian military attack has raised conflicting views and has made headlines of political news articles worldwide. The present study analyses the language of some selected Arabic and English news articles which handled the war and investigates the anticipated variations of the writing styles, the intended audience and the public perspectives by tackling hedges and boosters as two linguistic devices characterizing journalistic writing. The focus here is on the type of change in the way knowledge is presented to the readers to enhance writers-readers interaction through the use of hedges and boosters as two metadiscourse resources. The study adopts the theoretical framework of Hyland (1998a & b, 2004 and 2005) and Salager-Meyer (1994) and examines the metadiscourse functions of the two resources in a corpus of 11 English and Arabic articles with a total number of 4932 words. A number

of sentences which contain hedges and boosters are analysed quantitatively. The following research questions are addressed: (1) what are the functions of hedges and boosters in political news discourse? (2) what are the writers' motivations for using hedges and boosters? (3) in what way does the employment of hedges and boosters influence the journalistic writing style of writers from different cultural, linguistic and political backgrounds? The study has put forward the potential roles of the metadiscourse resources of hedges and boosters in knowledge production and in the performance of writers' attitudes and viewpoints. The study suggests that there are two types of political journalistic writing: Argumentative Journalistic Writing (AJW) and Reporting Journalistic Writing (RJW). The study concludes that the distribution and frequency of hedges and boosters are different in the two types of political news writing.

Keywords: boosters; epistemic hedges; hedges; metadiscourse; propositions; interactive resources; interactional resources

1. Introduction

According to Saleh (2013), news articles, contrary to thought pieces, stimulate a deeper understanding of people involved in the potential pieces. News articles are mainly concerned with: (1) how people get affected by what is written, (2) the way people are actually affected and (3) how long the written pieces induce effect. Other variables, such as the seriousness of the issue and the mentality of the participants, are also focused on (p. 226). A news article has the structure of an inverted pyramid in the sense that it starts with telling people the most important news, taking them to the details, then back to the serious issues. Saleh (2013) argues that what induce the proposed structure of the inverted pyramid (figure 1) are serious events such as wars and new inventions.



In the above figure, the 5 *Ws* refer to who, what, where, when and why; the 1 *H* refers to how questions. In the inverted pyramid, answers to these questions are first presented to the readers in the summary sections, followed by all relevant details. Though literature on metadiscourse resources is restricted to the distributions of hedges and boosters in academic research writing, the present study assumes that the writing genre of political news discourse also exhibits boosters and hedges as two main metadiscourse resources.

In 2013, the Ukrainian president Yankukovych rejected the trade agreement with the European Union in favour of uniting with Russia, The Ukrainian parliament insisted on carrying out the European Union (UE) agreement and this led to the bloody Ukrainian revolution. Following an agreement between the Ukrainian president and the opposition leaders, the president left the capital city Kyiv and the parliament called for ousting him. Yekelchyk (2015, p. 25) discussed some issues on the nature of Ukraine–Russia Crisis. Regarding the question on whether Ukraine was part of Russia, Yekelchyk argued that from 1945 to 1991, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. Both the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic were two parts of the republics in the federation. Historians agree that Russia was basically part of

Ukraine. Due to imperialist expansion, Russia controlled Ukraine. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine and Russia split from the Soviet federation. This was followed by a late acknowledgement of Ukraine's identity.

According to Kuzio (2015, pp.2-3), Putin's invasion of Ukraine was evidence of his imperialism and proved his willingness to rebuild a union. The soviet culture has continuously affected Ukrainian economic and political identity. In 1990s, Ukrainians faced a sudden economic depression followed by the emergence of post-Soviet state that was described as hostile and greedy. In 1991, some Soviet Ukrainians chose Europe and reject allies with president Yushchenk's Russia: a situation that most elite Ukrainians refused. In 2013, Moscow and Brussels asked president Yanukovych to choose between the EU Association Agreement and Commonwealth of Independent States Customs Union. But most of Ukrainians desired for the impossible return to the USSR. In 2014, Ukrainian foreign trade re-orientated to the UE. The Russian military intervention in Ukraine was actually the starting point of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis in the first half of 2022: a crisis which still makes headlines of newspapers worldwide.

The present study investigates how writers, from three different linguistic backgrounds and ideological inclinations: Americans, British and Egyptians, manipulate linguistic devices in presenting their views on the Russia- Ukraine

crisis. It also aims to stress the way language sustains coherence, persuasion and intelligibility of written texts (this idea was discussed earlier by Malinowski (1923), cited in Hyland 2005, p. 39). Hyland (2005, p. 52) argues that self-mention (e.g. the use of first person pronouns and possessive adjectives), attitude markers (e.g. devices which express emotions and reactions), boosters (e.g. devices which confirm attitudes) and hedges (e.g. devices which show uncertainty) are all engagement markers attracting the attention of all participants in the discourse. The present study is limited to hedges and boosters, which are, for Hyland (1998a, p. 350), two linguistic and communicative strategies employed to either increase or reduce intensity of statements. Accordingly, the main objective of the present study is to discuss the role of hedges and boosters, as two linguistic devices of metadiscourse functions, in enhancing the attitudes and ideas of the news articles' writers and the way their views are presented to the readers. As hedges and boosters are two fundamental linguistic tools used to show attitudes and views, and there is no enough literature on their use in political discourse compared to research articles, the study investigates their distributions and linguistic functions in a different corpus (i.e. political news article genre) in Arabic and English. The present study has the following objectives:

1. To highlight the role of hedges and boosters in shaping the writing style of news discourse
2. To find out the parts of the thought piece where writers of political news articles use hedges and boosters, and how this can be accounted for;
3. To examine the similarities and/or differences between writers of different cultural backgrounds when handling the same topic;
4. To support the following major claim of the present study: journalistic writing, similar to academic and scientific writing, employ hedges and boosters to mirror personal evaluations and attitudes.

2. Statement of the problem

The present study aims at stressing the language role, as discussed earlier by Malinowski (1923), in making texts look coherent, persuasive and intelligible to the readers who, along with the writers, form one community. Almost a majority of research papers on the distributions and frequencies of hedges and boosters takes academic and medical articles as their corpus: for example, Salager-Meyer (1994, 1997), Hyland (1998), Mkhitarian and Tumanyan (2015), Yu and Wen (2022) among others. Though writing news articles requires

high level of accuracy and brevity especially when handling serious issues (such as revolutions, natural disasters, political conflicts and wars), political news genre, which is the focus of the present study, has not gained enough attention in the literature on the employment of hedges and boosters.

3. literature Review

Yaganeh, Heravi and Sawari (2014) compared the use of hedges and boosters as two meta-discourse markers in Iran and United States newspapers. Articles written before and after the presidential elections in Iran were collected and ANOVA (i.e. a variation test on a sample of population) was conducted to investigate the way hedges and boosters were used as two distinctive types of interactional resources in the two newspapers. The study concluded that the two newspapers are totally different regarding the frequency and the number of hedges and boosters. More hedges were found in the American newspaper compared to its Iranian counterpart. More boosters, on the other hand, were calculated in the Iranian newspaper compared to its American counterpart. These results reflected the Iranians' confidence with the outcome of the elections.

Hidayati and Dallyono (2015) conducted a study on the distributions and the pragmatic roles of hedges and boosters used by three ministers when discussing the rise of fuel prices. The study followed Hyland's (1998 a &b) theories for

classifying the roles and types of hedges and boosters in the speeches of the ministers and suggested two functions of hedges that were not listed in Hyland (1998): (1) avoiding any reference to responsibility and (2) expressing plans. The study concluded that politicians used hedges to eliminate the impact of rising fuel price whereas boosters supported politicians' announcement of the government's plan to offer a financial programme for people in need.

Al-Ghoweri and Al Kayed (2019) conducted a study on the frequencies of hedges and boosters in economic articles written in English and Jordanian Arabic. Data were selected from *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Alrai* and *Alghad* respectively. Examples of hedges and boosters were extracted from the selected economic texts and analysed quantitatively. The study concluded that language plays a significant role in using hedges and boosters as two linguistic devices, and modal auxiliaries and approximates are frequently used in English articles whereas amplifiers are more prominent in the Arabic economic articles.

Shafqat, Memon and Akhtar (2019) conducted a comparative study on the use of hedges in the culture sections of Pakistani and European English culture news articles. The study investigated the interactional metadiscourse that clarifies how writers present their views in the culture sections and how they react towards the content. Shafqat et al. collected their data from DAWN, a Pakistani English newspaper, and

the BBC, an English newspaper. 32 articles were collected from each newspaper. Data were analysed by AntConc software for text analysis to calculate the number and frequency of hedges. The study concluded that hedges were used in the two newspapers despite the variation in their occurrences. Pakistani newspaper employed more epistemic adjectives compared to the BBC, which exhibited more lexical verbs and epistemic adverbs.

4. Research Hypothesis

The term metadiscourse refers to the actual and practical use of language in written and oral texts where writers/speakers attempt to attract their addressee's reception of their attitudes. Hedges and boosters are two types of epistemic modality with metadiscoursal features. The study hypothesises that writers of political news discourse, similar to academics, show higher use of hedges and boosters which are the main types of epistemic modality. Though hedges and boosters are basic techniques in academic discourses (Rounds 1982&Salager-Meyer 1991 among others), the present research hypothesizes that a news article has a structural design similar to project research papers, and is composed of (following Salager-Meyer 1994, p. 153) an introduction, a detailed account on a given topic, and a comment section. A main feature of academic writing is its dependency on reinforcing propositional information to help the writer

present his opinion to the readers. Hyland (1998a, p. 6) argues that scientific hedges are a means of representing claims and communicating new knowledge to the readers. Hedges also help writers "express a perspective on their statements, present unproven claims with caution and enter into a dialogue with audience". The present study assumes that news articles that handle Russia-Ukraine war are of two types: the first type explains what is going on and narrates actual events; this type of political news discourse is referred to here as *Reporting Journalistic Writing (RJW)*. The other type comments on daily and current news of the Russia-Ukraine war from the perspectives of the writers of news articles, and this type is referred to as *Argumentative Journalistic Writing (AJW)*. In academic writing Hyland (2005, p. 38) refers to the two types as *propositional* and *non-propositional content* respectively. Classification of the two types of metadiscourse investigated in the present study is given in the following table:

Table 1 Types of metadiscourse

-	Type	Function
1	Reporting Journalistic Writing (RJW) = textual Non-evaluative Interactive	Explaining matters in the world (e.g. definitions, illustrations, procedures, listing ...)

2	Argumentative Journalistic Writing (AJW) = interpersonal <i>Evaluative</i> <i>Interactional</i>	Commenting on matters in the world (e.g. writers' views, personal perspectives, judgements ...)
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The idea of dividing the interaction resources into *interactive* and *interactional* is discussed in detail by Sinclair (1981), Thompson & Thetela (1995) and Thompson (2001) among others.

5. Theoretical Framework

According to Hyland (2005, p. 37), metadiscourse is a term that encompasses self-reflective expressions which handle interactional meanings in a given text. These expressions also help writers present their views and get involved with their readers as members of one community. Based on this definition, Hyland proposes the following main features of metadiscourse: First, it differs from the propositional dimensions or the communicative content of discourse as metadiscourse involves items which organise the text and reflect writers' views and attitudes. As writers' main concern is to make their texts readable, comprehensible and appreciated by readers, the way a text is composed is of high priority. Second, metadiscourse reflects writers- readers'

interaction which is necessary for a better communication. Textual devices are described as metadiscourse which relates statements to the target readers. The distinctions between internal and external relations, proposed by Hyland (2005, p. 45), are the third feature of metadiscourse. For example, connective items can either work within the text (internal) or connect activities outside it (external).

Following the theoretical framework adopted here, which is that of Hyland (1998a, b) and (2005), there are two main metadiscourse resources that characterise any communication: *interactive* and *interactional*. With interactive metadiscourse, the focus is on the way ideas are organized and listed in such a way that makes the text appear as a coherent/unified whole. Interactional metadiscourse, on the other hand, involves the use of different linguistic devices to attract readers' attention to the writer's ideas, views and attitudes. Though Hyland (2005) rejects separating the textual function of the metadiscourse from its interpersonal one, the present study argues against this idea and stresses the validity of the separation and gives news articles discourse as an evidence since this writing genre is a mere reflection of disparities and controversies which arise among writers when discussing issues like wars, invasions, conflicts, etc. The present study is restricted to the investigation of the role of hedges and boosters as two metadiscourse markers of the interactional resource type: a type which involves readers in

the text (Hyland 2005, p. 49). The following taxonomy is taken as the model of analysis adopted here:

Table 2 Hedges and boosters as interactional resources (Hyland 2005, p. 49)

Category	Function	Examples
Interactional	Involve the reader in the text	
Hedges	Withhold commitment & open dialogue	might, possible, about, perhaps
Boosters	Emphasise certainty or close dialogue	In fact, it is clear that, definitely

Hyland (2005) argues that hedges and boosters reflect how writers believe about what they say and how they address their audience. They also communicate ideas as well as writers' attitudes towards their readers by highlighting language role in showing positions and views and in presenting how writers persuade their audience of their claims to gain social acceptance for their contributions to knowledge (p. 352). Hyland adds that hedges and boosters prove that any claim can be negated when writers are familiar with norms of negatable arguments. By employing hedges and boosters, claims are accepted and the balance between presenting information and evaluating it is achieved. The proper use of hedges and boosters allow writers to consider problematic research topics, form questions, handle their

tools of inquiry and present discussions and conclusions to their readers. When hedges and boosters are employed in a given discourse, they induce varied rhetorical effects. Hence, writers' commitment to the text and obligation to the readers become evident (Hyland 2005, p. 53).

5.1 Metadiscourse features and writer–reader interaction

Metadiscourse is defined as a self-reflective language tool that refers to the text, the writer and the reader. It views writing as a social practice/engagement which reflects the way writers present themselves to the readers and the propositional content of texts. It also refers to the devices used by writers to organise the text, attract their readers and express their attitudes towards both what they write and who will read their texts (Hyland 2004, pp. 156–7). The metadiscourse features of the text, which reflect writers–readers interactions, are also discussed in Hyland (2005, p. 38). She described the materials which discuss what goes on in the world as *propositional*, whereas those comment on a propositional matter in the discourse as *non-propositional*. This idea is illustrated by Hyland's example from a newspaper column:

- 'Political correctness' is a tired old expression, not used much

nowadays by anybody but the *Daily Mail*, which employs it as a weapon with which to castigate the left.

In the above example, the columnist used the evaluative expression 'Political correctness' as actual manifestation of the discourse in real world, and anaphorically described this expression as (a tired old expression). To provide a discourse based reading, the columnist also used 'it'.

5.1.1 Hedges as metadiscoursal devices

Salager-Meyer (1994) investigated the use of hedges in academic writing and defined hedges as understatements that reflect a sense of indecision and hesitancy and present sentences, which are inherently refutable, to the readers in an acceptable manner that facilitates ratification at the expense of negation. In other words, hedging strategies help authors present their ideas and reduce the risk of being vague in their acts of communication. Salager-Meyer suggested that hedges allow researchers to be freely approached and interpreted and help them create a certain space in a certain research area for themselves. Hedges are mainly employed as personal linguistic devices that reflect writers' views and claims rather than to prove precision of claims. The following hedging taxonomy is proposed by Salager-Meyer (pp. 154-55) and will be adopted as the basis of data analysis in section 7 of the present study:

Table 3 Hedging taxonomy

-	Category	Sub-category	Example(s)
1	Shields	a. modal verbs expressing possibility	<i>may- might</i>
		b. semi-auxiliaries/plausibility shields	<i>to appear- to seem</i>
		c. Probability adverbs	<i>likely- probably</i>
		d. epistemic verbs stating that a hypothesis or a proposition is true	<i>to speculate- to suggest</i>
2	Approximators	a. adaptors/rounders of quantity	<i>Approximately</i>
		b. adaptors/rounders of degree	<i>roughly- somewhat- quite</i>
		c. adaptors/rounders of frequency	<i>Often</i>
		d. adaptors/rounders of time	<i>Occasionally</i>
3	Expressions of personal doubt/direct involvement	-	<i>to our knowledge-I believe</i>
4			<i>-extremely</i>

	Emotionally charged intensifiers to reflect author's reactions		<i>interesting</i> <i>-extremely difficult</i> - <i>dishearteningly weak</i> - <i>dishearteningly vague</i> <i>-of particular importance</i> <i>-particularly encouraging</i> <i>-unexpectedly surprising</i> <i>-surprisingly weak</i>
5	Compound hedges/string of 2, 3 or 4	a. double hedges	- <i>It may suggest that</i> - <i>It could be suggested that</i>
b. treble hedges		- <i>It would seem likely that</i> - <i>It seems</i>	

	hedges		<i>reasonable to assume</i>
		c. quadruple hedges	- <i>It would seem somewhat unlikely that</i>

Hedges play essential role in writing as they signal the writer's opinion about the negatability of his/her propositions. They present the way writers attempt to convince their readers with their statements by moving between grounds and claims to disguise uncertainty (Hyland 1998, p. 7). In the literature, hedges are referred to as compromisers, downtoners, weakeners, downgraders, softeners, backgrounding terms and pragmatic devices. In writing, as suggested by Hyland (1998, p. 9), hedges have organisational roles by virtue of organising the discourse statuses between the speaker and what he/she says. She also suggested that hedges represent writers' opinions, not facts as they show how a certain proposition is weak so that a low degree of certainty is attributed to it; examples of hedging expressions are given below (p. 351):

- our results suggest.....
- such experiments may....
- experiments in the laboratory may ...
- .- low temperature episodes usually.....

Hyland also argued that in academic writing, hedges are a source of challenge for researchers who are threatened by novel claims. Hedges also allow readers to dispute knowledge by showing that a statement is proposed as a result of reasoning only (p. 353). Yule (2010) defined hedges as the expressions that reflect a speaker's uncertainty about what he/she is saying. Phrases such as *kind of* and *sort of* are examples of hedges related to the maxim of quality. When speakers do not have evidence for their claims, they may use some of the following expressions at the beginning of their talk (Yule 2010, p. 148):

- As far as I know
- Now, correct me if I am wrong, but...
- I'm not absolutely sure, but...

In his introduction to *Metadiscourse: Exploring interaction in writing*, Hyland (2005, p. 3) described hedges such as *to some degree*, *to some extent* etc. as discourse features and forms of text commentaries that present how writers influence their readers' perception of texts. Hedges are also a type of validity markers, which show how a writer is committed to the truth of a text (p. 32). As linguistic devices, hedges are used when writers wish to deny any commitment to a certain idea, so a proposition is the product of reasoning rather than an evidence-based knowledge (p. 53).

5.1.2 Hedging and epistemic modality

Epistemic modality refers to the writer's ability to give his readers a clear vision of his ideas and attitudes, and, at the same time, offers other possible interpretations. Coats (1987, p. 112) described epistemic modality as a mere representation of certainty/uncertainty of propositions conveyed by writers/speakers. Hyland (1998b, p. 353) described hedges as a type of epistemic modality that leaves the door open for readers to dispute the reasoning of certain statements, rather than stresses certain knowledge. Hyland (1998a, p.3) argued that hedging is part of, and a mere representation of epistemic modality. Coates (1987), cited in Hyland (1998a, p. 2) defined epistemic modality as focusing on what the speaker assumes about possibilities and whether the speaker trusts or doubts the truth of the proposition. Lyons (1977, p. 797), cited in Hyland (1998a, p. 2) also argued that "any utterance in which the speaker explicitly qualifies his commitment to the truth of the proposition expressed by the sentence he utters is an epistemically modal, or the sentence is modalized. The first type of hedges is lexical items which are linguistic tools manipulated to implicitly represent attitudes towards a certain proposition. Examples of these tools are:

- Epistemic adjectives
- Epistemic adverbs
- Lexical verbs
- Prosody
- Tag questions
- Verbal fillers

- Words like *perhaps, maybe*, etc. - Hesitation markers

These linguistic forms are used to weaken the strength of an utterance. Another type of hedges encountered in scientific writing is the statements which draw on limitations of the results, difficulties and short comings of findings (Hyland 1998a, p. 4). If-clauses and contrastive markers such as 'although-clauses' are also examples of hedges. For Hyland (1998a, p. 5), statements such as *surprisingly, it is terrifying to think that.., the results clearly show*, function as commentary on propositional content, and can be used to express the writer's feelings about a topic or underline his conviction of the truth. So hedges present an idea or proposition as a personal opinion, not a fact. Lexical and grammatical items are epistemically used as hedges to signal uncertainty.

5.2 Boosters as metadiscoursal devices

The other type of linguistic devices examined here is *Boosters* which are defined as expressions that help writers confidently say what they believe to be true and confirm certain propositions. By employing boosters, writers also show solidarity and engagement with readers; some examples are: *surely, fortunately, obviously, highly* etc. As authoritative devices, boosters confirm propositions and writers' views and, at the same time, allow very limited space for readers to negotiate and question convictions (Hyland 1998a, pp. 350-

4). By employing boosters, claims and attitudes are supported, certainty is expressed and all alternatives are cancelled. Hyland (2005, pp.52–3) defined boosters as metadiscoursal features that are employed when writers need to close down other possible interpretations, eliminate differing views and ascertain what they offer. So writers use boosters to narrow diverse interpretations and replace alternatives with one single affirmative attitude. What boosters actually aim at is helping writers show solidarity with addresses, thematize their attitudes and highlight their own perspectives. Following are some examples (p. 69):

- a. It seems pretty clear that c. But I am strongly inclined to suspect that
- b. I cannot doubt that d. We must believe that

6. Specimen profile and methodology

As the present study focuses on only one type of news discourse (i.e. political news articles), the size of the selected corpus is small and is composed of seven English articles selected from the American newspaper, *The New York Times* (five articles) that was established in New York in 1851, and *Reutter* (two articles), one of the most famous news agencies established in London in 1851. The corpus also includes four Arabic news articles drawn from *المصري اليوم* *Al Masry Alyoum* (*The Egyptian Today*), one of the popular

Egyptian newspapers established in Egypt in 2004. Summary of the selected corpus is displayed in the following table:

Table 4 Specimen Data

-	Source	Language	Article Title	Date	N. of words
1	<i>The New York Times</i>	English	<i>Preventing This War</i> What might have done it?	March 7, 2022	981
2	<i>The New York Times</i>	English	Zelensky says Russia has failed to honor cease-fire agreements	March 7, 2022	205
3	<i>The New York Times</i>	English	As Russia Retreats, a Question Lingers: Who Counts as a Collaborator?	Sept. 22, 2022	296
4	<i>The New York Times</i>	English	a Defiant Address, Zelensky, 'Russia	t. Sept. 22, 2022	185

			ould Pay for s War		
5	<i>The New York Times</i>	English	Russia releases 215 fighters, including Mariupol commanders, in a prisoner exchange.	Sept. 21, 2022	214
6	reuters.com	English	Ukraine acknowledges Russian gains in Bakhmut; Moscow arrests U.S. reporter	March 30, 2023	836
7	reuters.com	English	Recalling Bucha deaths, Zelenskiy describes 'horrific' year in Kyiv region	March 30, 2023	295
8	<i>Al Masry Alyoum</i>	Arabic	المنظور الأمريكي لروسيا	April 17,	433

	(<i>The Egyptian Today</i>)		(The American Perspective on Russia)	2021	
9	<i>Al Masry Alyoum</i> (<i>The Egyptian Today</i>)	Arabic	حرب روسيا وأوكرانيا.. أى امتحان ينتظرنا؟ Russia-Ukraine War.. Which Challenge Awaits Us?	October 14, 2022	718
10	<i>Al Masry Alyoum</i> (<i>The Egyptian Today</i>)	Arabic	في ذكرى الغزو.. كيف يمكن للتاريخ الروسي وعلم النفس تفسير الأزمة في أوكرانيا؟ In Memory of the Invasion..How Could the Russian History and Psychology	February 24, 2023	525

			Explain the Crisis in Ukraine?		
1	<i>Al Masry Alyoum</i> (<i>The Egyptian Today</i>)	Arabic	«سنة أولى حرب أوكرانيا».. كيف ضربت صواريخ بوتين والناتو اقتصاديات العالم؟ First year of Ukrain's War.. How did Putin and NATO Missiles Hit the World's Economies?	Februar y 28, 2023	244
					Total N. 4932

As illustrated by the above table, some articles that were published on the same date are selected in order to see how different aspects of the Russia-Ukraine crisis were discussed on daily basis and from different perspectives. The 11 news articles were selected to build the corpus of the study as they represent a sample of the political news journalism written in

English and Arabic. The corpus are analysed quantitatively and qualitatively. The study carries out a manual analysis and the frequency of hedges and boosters are manually counted to ensure a higher reliability of the proposed analysis. Since the main objective of the study is to find out which articles are more hedged, and which are more boosted, the total number of words as well as the number hedges and boosters in each article are counted. The qualitative data analysis focuses on highlighting how international news, which makes headlines, is handled and presented in English and Arabic and what potential implications on the intended audience are. In the analysis section of this paper, the complete sentences which contain hedges and boosters are extracted, the total number of words in each article (Arabic and English) and the number of hedges and boosters are calculated and manually analysed. Results are displayed in tables.

7. Data Analysis

Before embarking on the analysis of selected data, it is mandatory to distinguish between hedging (e.g. example a below) and other linguistic structures such as modifying adjectival phrases (e.g. example b below):

- a. It is *certain* that these results show
- b. *Certain* items were analysed

(Serholt 2012, p. 11)

In this section, data are analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively (following the theoretical framework of Salager-Meyer 1994 and Hyland 1998a &b and 2005) and remarks about the differences/similarities between handling news on Ukraine-Russia war in America, England and Egypt are drawn.

7.1 Article (1):

Table 5 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the American news article n. 1

Article (1) Preventing This War: What might have done it? (981 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges	17	1-what <u>might</u> have done it? 2-invaders <u>would have</u> easily won..... 3- the invasion <u>would not</u> be allowed to stand..... 4- Putin's aggression toward Ukraine <u>should have been more likely</u> than Hussein's takeover of Kuwait 5- a western coalition <u>could have</u> sent troops to Ukraine..... 6- <u>can</u> keep war at bay 7- such a showdown <u>would have</u> carried big risks..... 8- any country with a nuclear weapon <u>could</u>

		<p><u>simply</u>.....</p> <p>9- they <u>merely</u> pleaded that.....</p> <p>10- <u>and</u> threatened <u>relatively</u> modest.....</p> <p>11- future wars <u>may become</u> more likely.....</p> <p>12- this new isolationism <u>probably won't</u> disappear.....</p> <p>13- the U.S is <u>unlikely to be</u></p> <p>14- but they <u>could not</u> fathom the alternative.....</p> <p>15- but the horrible reality of the war <u>may yet</u> alter global politics in ways that <u>could</u> discourage future aggression.....</p> <p>16- it <u>would be</u> deeply ironic</p> <p>17- what we <u>may see</u> is the emergence of a powerful.....</p>
Boosters	8	<p>1- <u>let's start</u> with the past.....</p> <p>2- there are <u>certainly</u> differences.....</p> <p>3- other differences <u>suggest that</u>.....</p> <p>4- <u>accurately analysed</u> by U.S intelligence agencies.....</p> <p>5- these factors <u>make it possible</u> to envision.....</p> <p>6- He who wants peace <u>must prepare</u> for</p>

		war..... 7- <u>And of course</u> the lack of a military response..... 8- It is <u>striking that</u>
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In article 1, the American writer is actually questioning the nature and motivation of the Russian attack against the Ukrainians. However, he prefers to offer possibilities followed by his own evaluations of the situation at hand. The writer here has also drawn a comparison between two leaders: Saddam Hussein and Vladimir Putin. Being an American citizen, the writer has overused hedges expressions to implicitly express his attitude which denounces Putin's attack against Ukraine, accusing European countries of defending their own relations with America at the expense of taking actions against their own interests. What the writer means in his written piece is more than what he is actually saying. When referring to past events, boosters are used as the speculations around these events have now been turned into stated facts. However, the door is open for discussing the current Russian-Ukrainian situation, so hedges are pragmatically used as a shield and a polite strategy that alleviate face threatening acts as suggested by Brown and Levinson (1987).

7.2 Article (2):

Table 6 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the American news article n. 2

Article (2) Zelensky says Russia has failed to honor cease-fire agreements (205 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges	3	1- they <u>can only</u> make..... 2- Mr. Zelensky <u>asked</u> how many other families have died 3- there <u>would be</u> humanitarian corridors.....
Boosters	6	1- Zelensky <u>says</u> Russia has failed..... 2- Zelensky of Ukraine <u>expressed outrage</u> over what he said was the failure of 3- he <u>said</u> was the failure of 4- he <u>said</u> in a speech released overnight. He said that there would be no forgiveness for..... 5- But I also <u>know that</u> there..... 6- We will <u>punish everyone</u> who committed atrocities in this war," he <u>said</u>

In article 2, the number of boosters outweighs that of hedges as the writer is reporting on the evacuation measures

taken in Ukraine. He reported what the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said to express his outrage over Russia's negligence of the cease-fire agreements. What is assumed here is that the writer's overuse of boosters, when reporting other's comments and views on factual events, is also a way of avoiding responsibility and involvement in the discussion. Certainty of propositions (ascribed to a third party in this written piece) reflects the actual devastating conditions of the evacuated Ukrainians.

7.3 Article (3):

Table 7 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the American news article n. 3

Article (3) <i>As Russia Retreats, a Question Lingers: Who Counts as a Collaborator?</i> (296 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges	1	1- she <u>would be</u>
Boosters	5	1- If she <u>agreed</u> 2- I <u>refused</u> 3- she <u>said</u> 4- Ms. Overedna <u>said</u> 5- Besides, she <u>said</u>

Article 3 implicitly criticises the occupational plans of the Russian Army by giving two examples of two school teachers

who were asked to teach in Russian: Ms. Mandryka, an Ukrainian school principal has strictly refused to teach in Russian and described that act as a crime; Ms. Overedna decided to accept that plan to get money for her family and to see her children in school. The writer ends his article with an unanswered question on the collaborators who might have helped the Russian Army control the city of Izium. The certain identities of the two teachers are declared (their stands are confirmed by the boosters expressions) compared to the uncertain identities of the collaborators (hedges expressions and questions end the article). The writer here has used two main types of hedges discussed in the theoretical framework section of the study: questions and lexical items.

7.4 Article (4):

Table 8 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the American news article n. 4

Article (4) In a Defiant Address, Zelensky Says, 'Russia Should Pay for This War' (185 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges	2	1- U.N. member states who <u>would say</u> now 2- <u>if he could</u> interrupt my speech
Boosters	7	1- President Volodymyr Zelensky <u>outlined</u> what he <u>called</u> Ukraine's "formula" for peace.....

		<p>2- we <u>demand</u> just punishment.....</p> <p>3- he <u>said</u> in his address.....</p> <p>4- <u>Pointedly</u> refusing to say the name of Russia's president.....</p> <p>5- Mr. Zelensky <u>said that</u> there was "only one entity among.....</p> <p>6- He <u>said that</u> Ukraine "will not let this entity prevail over us.....</p> <p>7- Mr. Zelensky reiterated several of those requests — <u>most urgently</u>.....</p>
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In article 4, the writer reports the Ukrainian president's call for more support to his peace plans and for denouncing the Russian's invasion. Though the Ukrainian president refused to say the name of the Russian president, the writer has written it. However, when the Ukrainian president has implicitly referred to the United States of America, the writer did not mention it. It is assumed that the writer can show his attitudes to his readers by either expressing a proposition or leaving it unexpressed. Readers are given a chance to think and to perceive the writer's views and attitudes. As illustrated by the above table, boosting expressions are used when reporting on past events that have been confirmed, whereas hedges are linked to expected, but uncertain, action plans; that's why the number of boosters outweighs that of hedges

in this article. Lexical items (i.e. verbs) and if-clauses are two types of hedges listed in table 8.

7.5 Article (5):

Table 9 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the American news article n. 5

Article (5) <i>Russia releases 215 fighters, including Mariupol commanders, in a prisoner exchange</i> (214 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges	Zero	Null
Boosters	4	1- Andriy Yermak, a top adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, <u>confirmed</u> late Wednesday that..... 2- Medvechuk had been arrested after going into hiding while awaiting trial at the start of the war and charged with treason, <u>according to Ukrainian officials</u> 3- <u>The result</u> : our heroes are free 4- who <u>had already given</u>

This article is a typical example of a news report where the identity of the writer completely disappears in favour of listing major events of the Russian-Ukraine crisis. Four boosting expressions are used to inform the readers about the secure release of the 200 commanders, described as heroes, and the arresting of Medvechuk, a well-known businessman and a close friend of the Russian president. In this article, boosters are: *confirmed, according to, the result, had already given.*

Table 10 Summary of the Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in American news articles

-	Articl e (1)	Articl e (2)	Articl e (3)	Articl e (4)	Articl e (5)	Tota l
n. of words	981	205	296	185	214	1881
Hedges	17	3	1	2	0	23
Booste rs	8	6	5	7	4	30

As illustrated by table 10, American writers tend to be more emphatic when writing news on main events and updates on the Russian-Ukraine crisis

7.6 Article (6):

Table 11 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the British news article n. 6

Article (6) <i>Ukraine acknowledges Russian gains in Bakhmut; Moscow arrests U.S. reporter</i> (836 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges		<p>1- A month ago, Kyiv <u>seemed likely to</u> abandon the city</p> <p>2- soldiers on both sides <u>are believed to</u> have died</p> <p>3- The arrest of the U.S. reporter Gershkovich <u>could have an impact on</u> Russian diplomacy</p> <p>4- Asked at a briefing if the arrest <u>could provoke</u> a response</p>
Boosters		<p>1- Ukraine <u>acknowledges</u> Russian gains in Bakhmut</p> <p>2- Ukraine <u>said</u> on Thursday Russian forces had made some gains</p> <p>3- <u>The newspaper denied</u> the allegations and demanded the immediate release of its "trusted and dedicated reporter".</p> <p>4- A U.S. <u>diplomatic source</u> <u>said</u> the embassy had not been informed about the incident</p>

	<p>5- Ukraine has been on the defensive for nearly five months <u>but says</u> it is planning a counteroffensive soon</p> <p>6- the General Staff of the <u>Ukrainian armed forces</u> said in an overnight report</p> <p>7- The Institute for the Study of War think <u>tank</u> said Russian troops and Wagner mercenaries had captured territory</p> <p>8- Russian forces <u>have been advancing</u> slowly</p> <p>9- but has <u>since decided</u> to stay</p> <p>10- Hanna Malyar said in a social media post that losses were inevitable</p> <p>11- Moscow, <u>which</u> says it sent</p> <p>12- <u>Kyiv</u> says it will fight on until all Russian troops are driven from its land</p> <p>13- "The Wall Street Journal <u>vehemently denies</u> the allegations</p> <p>14- We stand in solidarity with Evan and his family," <u>the newspaper</u> said</p> <p>15- <u>The FSB</u> said in a statement it had arrested Gershkovich in the Urals industrial city of Yekaterinburg</p> <p>16- Kremlin spokesman <u>Dmitry Peskov</u> said he understood Gershkovich</p> <p>17- The U.S. State....., advises U.S. citizens not to go to Russia because of says</p>
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	 there should depart..... 18- Andrei Soldatov,, <u>said on social media that.....</u>
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In article 6, the British news investigates the anticipated clash between Russia and the USA following the arresting of an American journalist who was accused of spying for the United States. The article also reports the losses in the Ukrainian city of Kyiv due to the Russian attack and the counter strike that Ukraine prepares. The second part of the article takes the reader to another Ukrainian city, Bakhmut, which it describes as 'the site of the bloodiest battle in Europe since World War Two'. The article ends with reporting what was said by the military spokespersons from the Russian and Ukrainian sides. What is remarkable here is the mixing between hedges and boosters: four hedges are detected when the writer speculates about the anticipated outcomes of the political events, questioning about what might happen if the American news reporter is not released, and whether the residents of Kyiv will leave the city. The number of boosters (18 boosting expressions) outweighs that of hedges as the article is basically stating actual events and the writer leaves the door open for his readers to judge, conclude and take side.

7.7 Article (7):

Table 12 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the American news article n. 5

Article (7) Recalling Bucha deaths, Zelenskiy describes 'horrific' year in Kyiv region (295 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges	1	1- that <u>could not be imagined</u>
Boosters	3	1- Ukraine's president <u>said on</u> Thursday the past year had been "the most horrific"..... 2- <u>Ukraine says</u> Russian troops committed large-scale atrocities. Russia denies the allegations..... 3- <u>showing heavily damaged</u> buildings.....

Article 7, similar to 6, includes a list of successive and accelerated events, supported by numbers and statistics: *number of civilians' death toll is 1, 137 and 461 killed in Bucha*. The article includes 295 words, large number of words for past tense verbs, present perfect verbs, past perfect verbs, past passive constructions are detected: *said, recaptured, committed, has become, wrote, have become, marched on, brought death, damaged building, had been*

destroyed, included, lined up on, compiled by, put, liberated from, killed in, invaded, were halted outside, pulled back. The study assumes here that the lexical items which are verbs conjugated in different tenses are boosting expressions used by the writer to confirm actions which have already taken place.

Table 13 Summary of the Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in British news articles

	Article (6)	Article (7)	Total
-			
n. of words	836	295	1131
Hedges	4	1	5
Boosters	17	3	20

Similar to the American writers, British journalists also prefer to be more definite when they report daily news and updates on the Russian-Ukraine war.

- A note on hedges and boosters in Arabic news articles

Before embarking on the analysis of the Arabic news articles, the following assumptions are put forward: (1) hedging behaviour in Arabic news writing requires some discourse- marked structures; (2) The Arabic assumes that the Arabic data can be analyzed in terms of verb tenses and passive structures; (3) Arab writers are more competent in

hedging correctly than their American and British counterparts. Accordingly, the following types of hedges proposed by Salager-Meyer (1994, p. 154) and listed in section 5.1.1 of the present study are detected in the Arabic data.

a. Shields: modal verbs (e.g. to seem, to appear), probability adverbs (e.g. likely, probably), epistemic verbs (e.g. to suggest, to speculate)

b. Approximators: adaptors of quantity, degree, frequency and time (e.g., *somewhat, approximately, roughly, often*)

c. Phrases such as: *it is my view that.., to my knowledge....., I believe that.....*

7.8 Article (8):

Table 14 Frequency rates for hedges & boosters in the Egyptian news article n. 8

<i>Article (8) The American Perspective on المنظور الأمريكي لروسيا Russia</i>		
(433 words)		
	Number	Complete sentence/ hedges & boosters underlined
Hedges	7	<p>١- <u>هل يمكن</u> أن يسفر التوتر القائم حالياً على الحدود، بين روسيا وأوكرانيا، عن حرب يشارك فيها حلف الناتو لصالح أوكرانيا Could the current border tension between Russia and Ukraine result in a war with NATO stands for Ukraine?.....</p> <p>2- <u>وهل تعتبر</u> العقوبات المتتالية التي تطبقها واشنطن بحق موسكو دليلاً على</p>

		<p>تناقض فعلي بين الدولتين.....</p> <p>Are the successive penalties that Washington applies to Moscow considered an evidence for actual contradiction between the two states.....</p> <p>٣- <u>ولا يمكن أن نتصور أن يكون الصراع العدائي بين أمريكا والصين هو نفس ما يحكم علاقة الأمريكان بالروس.....</u></p> <p>It is not possible to imagine the hostile conflict between America and China as similar to that governing Americans- Russians relation.....</p> <p>4- <u>وليس من المستبعد في مرحلة تالية أن يكون للروس دور ملموس في صراع أوروبا الغربية وأمريكا ضد الصين.....</u></p> <p>It is not inconceivable that Russians could possibly have, at a later stage, a significant role in West Europe- America conflict against China.....</p> <p>5- <u>ولا يمكن اعتبار روسيا بأي حال دولة مناوئة للسياسة الأمريكية.....</u></p> <p>Russia cannot be considered an opponent of the American policy.....</p> <p>6- <u>ولعل هذا يجيب عن سؤال: لماذا لا تقوم روسيا بإمداد سوريا بالوقود.....</u></p> <p>This might answer the question: why would not Russia supply fuel to Syria</p> <p>7- <u>ولماذا تترك إيران تقاسى الأمرين وهي تجوب البحار بناقلاتها النفطية.....</u></p> <p>Why does it let Iran suffers as it roams the seas</p>
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		with its oil tanks?
Boosters	3	<p>١- <u>أعتقد أن</u> الولايات المتحدة لن تتورط بشكل مباشر في أي نزاع مسلح بين روسيا وأوكرانيا.....</p> <p>I think that the United States would not get directly involved in any armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine.....</p> <p>٢- <u>في الحقيقة</u>، أنه بسقوط الاتحاد السوفيتي وغروب شمس الشيوعية زالت الأسباب التي تمنع الروس من الانضمام إلى حلف الناتو!.....</p> <p>As a matter of fact, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the decline of Communism, Russians can now join NATO.....</p> <p>٣- <u>نعم لأن</u> روسيا بدون الشيوعية هي جزء من العالم الغربي الأبيض.....</p> <p>Yes, as without Communism, Russia is part of the white western world.....</p>

The article is composed of some questions and speculations on the anticipated Russia-Ukraine war, and the possibility of the American intervention in that war. These questions were followed by the writer's own points of view which rule out that intervention. The writer then asserts that Russia can now, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the decline of Communism, join the NATO, since, without Communism, Russia is part of the eastern white world. The article ends with other speculations, possibilities, and guesses. The number of hedges here outweighs that of boosters as questions and queries are left unanswered. In this

article, hedges are said to alleviate the effect of presenting disappointing news to the readers. Hyland (2005) refers to hedges used in these cases as *cautious expressions* and argues that they stress writers' honesty and frankness, allowing them to retain ethos and credibility. The overuse of hedges reflects the writers' desire to alleviate the impact of devastating news. This type of journalistic writing is not reporting events; it is actually inviting readers to participate and perceive the ideas it proposes. The study refers to this type as Argumentative Journalistic Writing (AJW).

7.9 Article (9):

Table 15 Frequency rates for verb tenses in article n.

9

Article (9)			
<i>حرب روسيا و اوكرانيا... أي امتحان ينتظرنا؟</i>			
Russia- Ukraine War... Which Challenge Awaits us?			
(718 words)			
–	Present (simple– progressive– passive)	Past (simple– progressive– passive)	Future
١	تقترب من أن تصبح..... is close to becoming.....	كانت تشي..... was spying.....	لما ستسفر عنه رحى الحرب.... to what the war results in.
٢	وقد تنتهي	كتلك التي تحملتها واشنطن في	مما ستسفر عنه الحرب الدائرة اليوم.

	It might come to an end.....	أفغانستان such as that endured by Washington in Afghanistan...	what the raging war results in....
٣	وما يذهب إليه بعض المراقبين..... and to what some observers believe in.....	بدا الصراع على أشده بين القطبين... War between the two powers seems to be at its peak....	الأمر لن يستمر على هذا الحال.... the situation will not remain like that.....
٤	تعمق مأساة البشر..... Deepens human tragedy....	أدت إلى تفكك الاتحاد السوفيتي السابق..... led to the collapse of the previous Soviet Union.....	ستجد الدول المساندة لروسيا..... will find the countries which support Russia.....
٥	تبلغنا بنهاية مرحلة من التاريخ البشري..... brings us to the end of a page in human history	كل المعطيات.... كشفت..... all evidence revealed	فالحرب الروسية في أوكرانيا ستكون طويلة..... Russian war in Ukraine will be long lasting
٦	وهنا يكمن الخوف والخطر..... and here are fear and danger....	مشروع عُدد خصيصاً لمحاربتها..... a project that was set particularly to fight it.....	سيكون ذلك مرهوناً باستمرار.... this will always be contingent.....
٧	ويجل اليأس..... despair reveals.....	الأمر تعدى الأمن القومي..... It is not just the	سيكون من الغرب..... will be from the

		national security.....	West....
٨	قد لا يكون التحليل النظري هنا معبراً The theoretical perspective might not be meaningful here.....	فالتطرف الغربي.. دفع روسيا إلى... Western extremism... has driven Russia into.....	
٩	لكنه بلا شك يقدم قراءة مستندة إلى الوقائع..... But it is undoubtedly presenting an evidence-based reading.....	طغى فيها التطرف الوطني الروسي Russian National extremism has pumped into it.....	
١٠	إذ لا ينتظر من روسيا مثلاً أن تقبل بالهزيمة..... as Russia is not expected to accept defeat.....	وبدأ الأمر مع شبه جزيرة القرم.... it started with the Crimean Peninsula.....	
١١	وهذه الأخيرة تدرك ذلك..... and the laterrealizes that.....	كان لرئيس ... دورٌ The president of..... had a role.....	
١٢	والأمر لا يقف عند هذا الحد.....	أبدت الآلة الإعلامية الغربية.....	

	it is not just that.....	the western mass media declared.....	
١٣	الدول الغربية... لا تود هزيمة موسكو..... western countries do not want to defeat Moscow.....	رأى بعض المحللين some analysts said that.....	
١٤	يخرجها من المنافسة في حدها الأدنى..... eliminates it from competition to the minimum.....	لم يتحققا بشكلهما النهائي بعد..... were not achieved with their final forms.....	
١٥	تريد لها هزيمة..... wants it be defeated.....	وكلما طالت..... the longer it lasted.....	
١٦	تجعلها makes it.....	ضمن الغرب..... the west guaranteed	
١٧	تراجع it retreats.....	لو لم تنتصر..... if it did not win.....	
١٨	لتصبح شريكا فاعلا..... to become a positive partner.....	طالت الحرب..... the war was long lasted...	
١٩	تضع الولايات المتحدة، دول الاتحاد الأوروبي، رهينة لديها	وعانت أوروبا and Europe	

 The United states take the European Union countries as hostages....	suffered.....	
٢٠	مثلما تدفع روسيا نحو تكلفة عسكرية as it leads Russia to pay a military cost.....	ودمرت أوكرانيا بالكامل..... it totally destroyed Ukraine.....	
٢١	و تعطلها عن and takes it away from.....	ما بقي منها..... what remained of it.....	
٢٢	خاصة أنها تلعب اليوم في فضاءها الأمامي as it messes today with its front space.....	فعلته في العراق..... it did in Iraq.....	
٢٣	وهذا الأمر تعيه روسيا..... Russia realizes that matter...		
٢٤	تكرر نفس أخطائها..... repeats its same mistakes...		
٢٥	الغرب يدفع روسيا نحو		

	الحرب.... the west pushes Russia towards war.....		
٢٦	يزداد تعمقا..... it is deepened.....		
٢٧	يأتي ضمن تحقيق مشروع الغرب... it is part of achieving the western project.....		
٢٨	لا تملك خيارًا آخر.... it has no other option		
٢٩	لا ينتظر أن ... it is not expected that....		
٣٠	روسيا وأوكرانيا لا تريدان..... neither Russia nor Ukraine wishes to.....		
٣١	يُنظر إليها من الغرب..... is looked upon by the west..		
٣٢	يساند أوكرانيا عسكريًا..... provides Ukraine		

	with military support.....		
٣٣	وينظر إليها الشرق is looked upon by the east...		
٣٤	ولهذا يكتفى بدعمها..... that is why it only provides support....		
٣٥	الأمر لن يستمر..... it is not going to last...		
٣٦	تجنب العالم كله..... saves the whole world....		
٣٧	مهما يكن..... whatever it is.....		
٣٨	وذلك ما يريد this is what he wants.....		
٣٩	أو تحقق..... or achieves.....		
٤٠	تسعى إليه aspires for it.....		
41	وهذا ما يرفضه الغرب..... and this is what the		

	west rejects.....	
42	ولا يتمناه..... and does not wish it.....	
43	تنتظرنا جميعا..... waits for all of us.....	
44	تثبت مدى همجية..... proves the extent of barbarism.....	

Table 16 Summary of the Frequency rates for verb tenses in article n. 9

Present tense verbs	Past tense verbs	Future tense verbs	Total number
44	22	7	69 verbs

To analyse the language of this article, the number of verbs are manually counted and classified, according to the tense, into present (simple and progressive), past (simple and progressive) and future. This article presents a different type of journalistic writing as the writer starts with a list of queries in a form of questions, followed by answers which are a group of affirmative sentences that contain present tense (stating facts and descriptions of the current situation) and

future tense verbs (predicting the future of the conflict). The writer analyses the situation and provides some facts to support his analysis and offers some speculations as reflected by the title of the article which questions the future of the war. The article presents the writer's views supported by a reading of the history of the two countries. Hedges expressions (presented as interrogative structures) are followed by boosting expressions (presented as affirmative sentences). The present study refers to this type of writing as Argumentative-Reporting Journalistic Writing (ARJW). A question is given to attract the attention of readers and leave the door open for discussion, and then answers are offered and supported by evidence to convince the readers of the views presented by the writer. The study assumes that structures which indicate present, past and future events are examples of boosting expressions that reflect certainty. Accordingly, the number of boosting expressions in this article outweighs that of hedges.

7.10 Article (10):

Table 17 Frequency rates for verb tenses in article n. 10

Article (10)			
في ذكرى الغزو.. كيف يمكن للتاريخ الروسي وعلم النفس تفسير الأزمة في أوكرانيا؟ In Memory of the Invasion.. How Could the Russian History and Psychology Explain the Crisis in Ukraine? (525 words)			
-	Present (simple–progressive– passive– negative)	Past (simple– progressive– passive–negative)	Future
١	marks يصادف	left خلف	will سيتفاوض negotiate
٢	goals in minds يتردد	did not لم تشهدها witness	will aspire to سيرغب
٣	there exists يوجد	did not stop لم تقف	
٤	represents تمثل	but it شملت included	
٥	includes تشمل	was كانت ترفضه rejecting it	
٦	it is possible that يمكن انه	دخل joined	
٧	accelerates يتصاعد	تتابعت sequenced	
٨	says يقول	توسعت	

			expanded	
9	blame	يلومون	announced	اعلنت
10	but he views	لكنه يرى	comprised	ضم
11	to be	ان يكون	listed it	اوردتها
12	he views	يرى	استعرض reviewed	
13	represents	يشكل	اشار pointed	
14	does not exist	لا يوجد	لم يتم الحديث عنها was not talked about	
15	does not exist	لا يوجد	ذكر mentioned	
16	does not represent	لا يشكل	ذكر mentioned	
17	hides	يخفي	ذكر mentioned	
18	faces it	تواجهها	تواجد was there	
19	count on	يعولون على	saw	رأى
20	might fulfill	قد يفي		ما كان

			what was	
21	he views	يرى	attracted	لفت
22	forces	يجبر	pointed	اشار
23	that makes it possible	التي يمكن	mentioned	ذكر
24	leads	ان تؤدي	confirmed that	أكدت انه

Table 18 Summary of the Frequency rates for verb tenses in article n. 10

Present tense verbs	Past tense verbs	Future tense verbs	Total number
24	24	2	50 verbs

The article opens with the writer's comments on the Russian-Ukraine war a year after it raged on in February 2022. The writer is listing some events that took place and are now considered stated facts in the conflict between the two counties. In that part of the article, past tense verbs are excessively used and hedges expressions which state uncertainty are not encountered. The second part of the article is a summary of a report written by Paul Kolbe in Harvard Business Review, giving more details on the crisis in

Ukraine and the Russian president's readiness for war. The writer restates the ideas of Kolbe's report in a series of structures with present tense verbs that describe the current situation. In the final part of the article, the writer again gives his readers his own vision and reading of future events and future tense verbs are used. Table 17 illustrates the division of the three main verb tenses in the three parts of article 10.

7.11 Article (11):

Table 19 Frequency rates for verb tenses in article n.

11

<i>Article (11)</i>			
«سنة أولى حرب أوكرانيا».. كيف ضربت صواريخ بوتين والناطو اقتصاديات العالم؟			
First year of Ukrain's War.... How did Putin and NATO Missiles Hit the World's Economies? (244 words)			
-	Present (simple- progressive- passive- negative)	Past (simple- progressive- passive-negative)	Future
١	حتى تحيا امريكا so America lives	said قال	سيكون الاقتصاد economy will be.....
٢	accelerates تتصاعد	was كانت	ستكون بالغة الخطورة will be extremely dangerous.....
3		came جاءت	ستدفع العالم

			will lead the world into...
٤		left خلفت	
٥		illustrated اوضح	
٦		affected اثرت	
٧		led to ادت	
٨		resulted in نتج	
٩		added اضاف	
10		completed اكملت	
11		raised رفعت	
12		weakened اضعفت	
13		pointed اشار	
14		caused تسبب	
15		خلق created	
16		warned حذر	
17		lasted استمرت	
18		he assured الى that	
19		he believed أن that	
20		زعزعت الحرب the war destabilized	

Table 20 Summary of the Frequency rates for verb tenses in article n. 11

Present tense verbs	Past tense verbs	Future tense verbs	Total number
2	20	3	25 verbs

In article 11, the writer is presenting the issue raised by an Egyptian research economist who commented on how the economy has suffered one year after the outbreak of the Russian-Ukraine crisis. The negative impacts of the crisis were reflected by excessive use of past tense (i.e. *affected*, *خلفت left*, *اضعفت weakened*, *حذر warned* etc.). Hedges were not detected in this article as the situation is analysed retrospectively when these impacts have already become facts witnessed and recognised by the readers. Accordingly, past tense verbs are over used here.

Having examined the occurrence of interactional metadiscourse markers in news articles, written and published in three different countries (e.g. America, England and Egypt), it is argued that hedges and boosters are used differently as indicated by their distribution as metadiscourse markers in the selected articles. This is due to variation in the norms of each country's culture, background and history. This idea is also justified by looking at each country's wars. It

is a well-known fact that America and the Russian Empire were part of the Allied Powers during the First World War in 1914 and the war ended in 1918 with their victory. In 1939, the USA and the USSR were part of the Allies during the Second World War. Added to these wars are: Gulf War 1990, War in Afghanistan 2001, and the Iraq War in 2003 (<https://www.gettysburgflag.com/history-of-american-wars>). Based on the analysis of the selected corpus, the study offers the following concluding remarks:

1. Political news writing is of two types: one that offers political arguments similar to those used by people in their daily interactions and writers build rapport with their readers through excessive use of hedges expressions within this written communication; this type is referred to as Argumentative Journalistic Writing (AJW). The other type is based on reporting past, current and future events where writers' views are not part of the written piece and boosting expressions are mostly employed; this type is referred to here as Reporting Journalistic Writing (RJW).
2. Hedges and boosters are two metadiscourse markers of the interactional resource type which involves readers in the text
3. Lexical and grammatical items are epistemically used as hedges to signal uncertainty
4. Hedges and boosters, which are two types of metadiscourse signals, are argued to highlight political journalistic writing.

5. In academic writing, hedges and boosters help researchers be freely advanced and understood, hence locate themselves in certain research area. In political news writing, on the other hand, hedges and boosters help writers of different backgrounds show their authorial identities.

6- Hedges are a type of *cautious expressions* that alleviate the effect of presenting disappointing news to the readers.

7- The study detected a remarkable overuse of boosting expressions in the Arabic articles compared to the English ones.

8- Arab writers did not overuse hedges when writing on past and present events, whereas American and British writers both used hedges less frequently.

9- Following the analysis of the selected date, it is argued here that Hyland's (1998a & b, 2004 and 2005) perspectives on the use of hedges and boosters in academic writing are said to be applicable to political news writing. The present study argues that the use of the two metadiscourse devices in the political news writing genre presents the information on the Russian- Ukraine war as newsworthy and hence, relates it to the public concerns.

Conclusion

The present paper carried out a cross-cultural study on the use of hedges and boosters in a sample of American, British and Egyptian political news articles. The study concluded that

hedges are interpersonal markers that reflect the cultural background of news writers that controlled the employment of the two linguistic devices in the political discourse. The study has attempted to find out which types of epistemic modality that was highly used in news articles. It concluded that boosters were highly used in Arabic news articles contrary to the English ones.

The study investigated the use of hedges and boosters in a number of articles discussing Russia- Ukraine Crisis. It aimed at revealing the attitudes of writers of different backgrounds towards the international crisis of Russia-Ukraine War. The paper aimed at examining how writers use both hedges, to place themselves away from their claims and signal uncertainty, and boosters to signal involvement, commitment and certainty toward their views on an international crisis. To explore how hedges and boosters are language and discipline specific, a corpus of 11 articles on Russia-Ukraine war was compiled to form the data of the study. The study compared Arabic news articles corpus of four articles, with a total number of 1920 words with a similar sized corpus of English news articles (7 articles composed of 3012 words). The differences detected among the study population are attributed to an overemphasis on the classification of the political journalistic writing into Argumentative Journalistic Writing (AJW) and Reporting Journalistic Writing (RJW) as suggested in this study. The differences can also be accounted

for in terms of the distinct differences in the cultural identity exemplified in the corpus. Investigating the way writers manipulate linguistic expressions on (un)certainity when reporting news on war, the study concludes that writers construct their political views in such a way that reflects how they are actually influenced by the cultural conventions of their background. Writers of political news articles usually resort to hedges and boosters in conveying their views and attitudes towards serious news.

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Appendix A

Selected English News Articles

Article 1: (981 words)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/07/briefing/russia-ukraine-war-us-involvement.html>

Preventing This War

What might have done it?



By David Leonhardt

March 7, 2022

Was there any way to prevent the horrific war in Ukraine? Recent history offers at least a partial answer, and it's one that is also relevant to the future of global stability. But let's start with the past: In the summer of 1990, the autocratic leader of a country with a powerful military decided to take over a weaker neighbor. If the armed conflict had remained between only those two countries, the invaders would have easily won. Instead, an international military coalition, led by the United States, quickly came together. Its leaders declared that the invasion would not be allowed to stand, because one country could not simply annex another. Within months, the invaders had been defeated. There are certainly differences between Saddam Hussein's Iraq in 1990 and Vladimir Putin's

Russia in 2022. Some of those differences make Russia harder to confront, especially its nuclear arsenal. But other differences suggest that Putin's aggression toward Ukraine should have been *more* likely than Hussein's takeover of Kuwait to inspire an international military coalition. For one thing, the Iraqi invasion was shockingly swift. It began in the middle of the night, and Iraq controlled Kuwait within 48 hours. Putin's invasion, by contrast, required months of buildup, accurately analyzed by U.S. intelligence agencies, giving the world enough notice at least to try to prevent it. Second, Kuwait is a small authoritarian emirate, representing few grand political ideals, in a war-torn region. Ukraine is a democracy of more than 40 million people, on what was a largely peaceful continent home to major democracies. These factors make it possible to envision a very different series of events over the past few weeks. Once Putin's mobilization inside Russia began, a Western coalition could have sent troops to Ukraine. "He who wants peace must prepare for war," Evelyn Farkas, a Pentagon official in the Obama administration, wrote in January, calling for a 1990-style coalition. "Only a balance of military power — a deterrent force and the political will to match — can keep war at bay"

"Putin is someone who responds to brute force," Ian Brzezinski of the Atlantic Council told The Times before the invasion. Yes, such a showdown would have carried big risks.

Confronting a nuclear power is not easy. But there is a long history of successfully doing so, dating to the Cold War. (Otherwise, any country with a nuclear weapon could simply annex any country without one.) And of course the lack of a military response also carried big risks — which have now turned into terrible costs. Thousands of Ukrainians and Russians have died. More than two million Ukrainians have fled their homes. Cities are being destroyed and nuclear plants attacked.

Given all of this, it's striking that Western allies gave so little consideration to a bolder attempt to stop Putin. They merely pleaded with him not to invade and threatened relatively modest economic sanctions (which have since become more aggressive). He scoffed at them. The meekness of the initial Western response stems from two recent realities: the European Union's wishful pacifism and the U.S.'s failed belligerence. Together, they created a power vacuum that Putin exploited. If that vacuum remains — if today's democracies are unable to mount coalitions like the one that defeated Hussein — future wars may become more likely.

Two problems

The American part of this story will be familiar to many readers. The U.S. has spent much of the past two decades fighting wars it did not need to fight. It continued a war in Afghanistan long after Osama bin Laden was gone and

invaded Iraq long after Hussein was contained. Both decisions turned into tragic failures that “undermined the world’s confidence in American intentions and competence,” as my colleague Damien Cave has written. The two wars also affected U.S. politics. Many Americans grew wary of foreign intervention. Public opinion has become so dovish that not one prominent U.S. politician called for defending Ukraine with troops. It was a rare example of bipartisan consensus in a polarized country. This new isolationism probably won’t disappear anytime soon. For both better and worse, the U.S. is unlikely to be the world’s police officer in the coming decades.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, in Brussels last week. Credit... Yves Herman/Reuters

The obvious candidate to share the burden of democratic leadership is Western Europe. The region is both large

enough and rich enough, as Substack’s Matthew Yglesias has noted. Yet it has so far refused to do so. The E.U.’s economic output is similar to that of both the U.S. and China — but China spends 50 percent more on its military than the E.U. does, while the U.S. spends three times more. Military spending isn’t the only issue. Western Europe still had enough combined military strength to alter the balance of power between Russia and Ukraine. But the E.U. never seemed to consider sending troops to Ukraine as a deterrent. European leaders have spent so long deferring to the U.S., effectively outsourcing protection of their own continent, that they could not fathom the alternative. Putin, as a result, assumed that Ukraine was his for the taking. It was a modern-day version of appeasement. Since the invasion, European leaders have shown signs of shifting their approach. They have sent arms to Ukraine, and Germany and Denmark have announced more military spending. All of it was too late to prevent war in Ukraine. But the horrible reality of the war may yet alter global politics in ways that could discourage future aggression. “So far in the geopolitical landscape, you’ve had one passive actor, which is Europe,” Fareed Zakaria told The Times’s Ezra Klein. “It would be deeply ironic, if the result of what Vladimir Putin has done has been to arouse the sleeping giant of Europe.” “If we get lucky,” Zakaria said, “what we may see is the emergence of a powerful, strategically minded, national security-minded

Europe that is willing to defend the liberal order, which is a huge shift in international politics.”

Article 2: (205 words)

Zelensky says Russia has failed to honor cease-fire agreements



Marc Santora

March 7, 2022, 3:04 a.m.

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/03/07/world/ukraine-russia-war#zelensky-says-russia-has-failed-to-honor-cess-fire-agreements>



A scene along the route of the funeral procession for a sergeant in Ukraine's National Army, who was killed fighting Russian forces, in the town of Yavoriv on Sunday. Credit...Ivor Prickett for The New York Times

LVIV, Ukraine — As one attempt after another to evacuate people from towns and cities failed, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine expressed outrage over what he said was the failure of Russia to honor limited cease-fire agreements. “Instead of humanitarian corridors, they can only make bloody ones,” he said in a speech released overnight. He said that there would be no forgiveness for the Russian soldiers that fired a mortar that killed civilians as they were trying to evacuate Iprin, a town on the outskirts of Kyiv. The attack was witnessed by a New York Times team, including the photojournalist Lynsey Addario, a security adviser and Andriy Dubchak, a freelance journalist who filmed the scene. Mr. Zelensky asked how many other families have died such senseless deaths since the war started. “I am grateful to every Ukrainian who stays to defend our cities,” he said. “But I also know that there are people who really need to get out. Who cannot stay. And we heard the promise that there would be humanitarian corridors. But there are no humanitarian corridors.”

“We will punish everyone who committed atrocities in this war,” he said. “There will be no quiet place on this earth for you. Except for the grave.”

Article 3: (296 words)***As Russia Retreats, a Question Lingers: Who Counts as a Collaborator?***

By Andrew E. Kramer and Maria Varenikova
Photographs by
Nicole Tung

Sept. 22, 2022

Updated 1:36 a.m. ET

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/22/world/europe/ukraine-collaborators-russia.html>



A Ukrainian soldier questioned and checked the identification document of a resident on a patrol looking for suspected collaborators, in Iziium on Sunday.

IZIUM, Ukraine — Russian officials came to Ina Mandryka with a simple proposition: If she agreed to open her school in a town in occupied territory, and teach in Russian, she would be promoted from deputy principal to principal. For Ms. Mandryka, it was an easy choice. “I refused,” she said. “To teach the Russian

curriculum is a crime.” The school, with its classrooms festooned in colorful pictures of giraffes and bears, remained closed. Iryna Overedna, a second-grade teacher in the city of Iziun, made a different choice. “The teacher in me thought, ‘The children should be in school,’” Ms. Overedna said. Besides, she said, she needed a salary to feed her family. She traveled to Kursk, in southwestern Russia, to study the new curriculum. As Ukrainian troops forced the Russian Army into a chaotic retreat in Ukraine’s northeast this month, they reclaimed towns and villages that had been under occupation for more than five months. In doing so, they inherited a legal and ethical quandary that involves some thorny judgments: Who in the towns had collaborated with the Russians when they were in control?

Article 4: (185 words)

In a Defiant Address, Zelensky Says, ‘Russia Should Pay for This War

By Alan Yuhas

Sept. 21, 2022

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/21/world/zelensky-russia-war.html>



In a recorded speech delivered to the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine criticized countries that have tried to avoid antagonizing Russia. Credit...Dave Sanders for The New York Times

In a defiant address to the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, President Volodymyr Zelensky outlined what he called Ukraine’s “formula” for peace, calling for nations to give more support to his military and to punish Russia on the international stage. “A crime has been committed against Ukraine, and we demand just punishment,” he said in his address, a prerecorded video that required an Assembly vote to allow. Pointedly refusing to say the name of Russia’s president, Vladimir V. Putin, Mr. Zelensky said that there was “only one entity among all U.N. member states who would say now, if he could interrupt my speech, that he is happy with this war.” He said that Ukraine “will not let this

entity prevail over us, even though it's the largest state in the world.” Mr. Zelensky has for months pleaded for aid from the world in phone calls with presidents, videos to lawmakers and on social media. Speaking in English, Mr. Zelensky reiterated several of those requests — most urgently, a call for continued arms and ammunition as Ukraine wages two campaigns to reclaim territory that Russia had taken.

Article 5: (214 words)

Russia releases 215 fighters, including Mariupol commanders, in a prisoner exchange.



By Michael Schwartz

- Published Sept. 21, 2022 Updated Sept. 22, 2022, 4:44 a.m. ET

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/21/world/europe/russia-ukraine-mariupol-azov-prisoners.html>



Ukrainian soldiers took shelter inside the ruined Azovstal steel plant during the 80-day siege in Mariupol in May. Credit...Dmytro Kozatsky/Azov Special Forces Regiment of the Ukrainian National Guard Press Office

The Ukrainian authorities have secured the release of the commanders of the Azov Battalion, whose defense of Mariupol from within a sprawling steel plant turned them into celebrities throughout Ukraine and made them a valuable prize for the Kremlin when they surrendered to Russian forces in May after an 80-day siege. Andriy Yermak, a top adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, confirmed late Wednesday that the commander of the Azov Battalion, Lt. Col. Denis Prokopenko, and his deputy, Captain Svyatoslav Palamar, were among 215 Ukrainian

prisoners of war who were released in a prisoner swap, making it the largest such exchange since the start of the war. To free them, the Ukrainians gave up their own valuable prize: Viktor Medvechuk, a Ukrainian businessman and politician, who is a close friend of Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin. Mr. Medvechuk had been arrested after going into hiding while awaiting trial at the start of the war and charged with treason, according to Ukrainian officials. For the Ukrainians, it was a price worth paying. "President Volodymyr Zelensky gave a clear order to return our heroes. The result: our heroes are free," Mr. Yermak said in a statement Wednesday evening. "We exchanged 200 of our heroes for Medvechuk, who had already given all the testimony he could."

Article 6 (836 words)

<https://www.reuters.com/world/ukraine-sees-russian-progress-eastern-frontline-city-bakhmut-2023-03-29/>

Ukraine acknowledges Russian gains in Bakhmut; Moscow arrests U.S. reporter

By Pavel Polityuk

March 30, 2023 1:42 PM

KYIV, March 30 (Reuters) - Ukraine said on Thursday Russian forces had made some gains inside the eastern battlefield city of Bakhmut, but at a heavy price in lives lost that has blunted Moscow's offensive as Ukraine prepares a counterstrike of its own. In a potential escalation of Moscow's

diplomatic feud with Washington, Russia's FSB security service arrested an American reporter for The Wall Street Journal, Evan Gershkovich, on suspicion of spying for the United States. The newspaper denied the allegations and demanded the immediate release of its "trusted and dedicated reporter". There was no immediate response from Washington. A U.S. diplomatic source said the embassy had not been informed about the incident and was seeking information from the Russian authorities. The small mining city of Bakhmut has been the site of the bloodiest battle in Europe since World War Two as Russian forces have sought their first victory since mid-2022 in a huge winter assault. Ukraine has been on the defensive for nearly five months but says it is planning a counteroffensive soon. "Enemy forces had a degree of success in their actions aimed at storming the city of Bakhmut," the General Staff of the Ukrainian armed forces said in an overnight report. "Our defenders are holding the city and are repelling numerous enemy attacks." The report gave no details of the Russian gains. The Institute for the Study of War think tank said Russian troops and Wagner mercenaries had captured territory in the south and southwest of the city over the past two days, and Wagner had occupied a metal plant in its north this week. Russian forces have been advancing slowly inside Bakhmut in intense street fighting for weeks. A month ago, Kyiv seemed likely to abandon the city

but has since decided to stay and fight for it, hoping to break the attacking force. Deputy defence minister Hanna Malyar said in a social media post that losses were inevitable, but "the enemy's losses are many times greater". Serhiy Cherevatyi, a Ukrainian military spokesperson, told national television: "Bakhmut remains the epicenter of military activity...It's still constantly 'hot' there." As winter has turned to spring, the pressing question is how much longer Russia can sustain its offensive, and when or if Ukraine will strike back. Ukrainian and Western officials point to signs that Russia's campaign is flagging. The number of daily Russian attacks on the front line reported by Ukraine's general staff has declined almost by half over the past four weeks. Russia's invasion has destroyed Ukrainian cities and set millions of refugees to flight. Tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and soldiers on both sides are believed to have died. Moscow, which says it sent troops because its neighbour posed a security threat, has vowed to press on fighting at least until it controls all the territory of eastern provinces, among five it claims to have annexed. Kyiv says it will fight on until all Russian troops are driven from its land.

'STAND IN SOLIDARITY'

The arrest of the U.S. reporter Gershkovich could have an impact on Russian diplomacy with the United States, and deepen Moscow's isolation by frightening off more of the few foreign journalists who remain. He is the highest profile

American arrested by Russia since basketball star Brittney Griner, who was caught arriving in Moscow with cannabis oil a week before the invasion of Ukraine and freed in a prisoner swap ten months later. "The Wall Street Journal vehemently denies the allegations from the FSB and seeks the immediate release of our trusted and dedicated reporter, Evan Gershkovich. We stand in solidarity with Evan and his family," the newspaper said. The FSB said in a statement it had arrested Gershkovich in the Urals industrial city of Yekaterinburg, "suspected of spying in the interests of the American government". It accused him of illegally gathering information about "one of the enterprises of Russia's military-industrial complex", which it did not identify. It provided no evidence. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he understood Gershkovich had been "caught red-handed". Asked at a briefing if the arrest could provoke a response from Washington towards Russian journalists, he said: "We hope there will be no such thing, and there shouldn't." The U.S. State Department's travel guidance, last updated in February this year, advises U.S. citizens not to go to Russia because of the danger of arbitrary arrest, and says those living or travelling there should depart immediately. Moscow has effectively outlawed all independent Russian news outlets since the start of the war but has continued to accredit some foreign reporters. Journalism has become sharply limited by

laws that impose long sentences for any public criticism of the war, which Russia refers to as a "special military operation". Andrei Soldatov, an author and expert on Russia's security agencies who is outside the country, said on social media that Gershkovich was no spy, and his arrest was "a frontal attack on all foreign correspondents who still work in Russia. And it means that the FSB is off the leash."

Article 7 (295 words)

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/recalling-bucha-deaths-zelenskiy-describes-horrific-year-kyiv-region-2023-03-30>

March 30, 2023 12:30 PM

Recalling Bucha deaths, Zelenskiy describes 'horrific' year in Kyiv region

By Olena Harmash

KYIV, March 30 (Reuters) – Ukraine's president said on Thursday the past year had been "the most horrific" in the lives of many residents of the Kyiv region, where Russian troops are accused of committing war crimes before withdrawing a year ago. The Ukrainian military recaptured the small towns of Irpin and Bucha outside the capital, Kyiv, in late March last year. International investigators are now collecting evidence in Irpin, Bucha and other places where Ukraine says Russian troops committed large-scale atrocities. Russia denies the allegations. "For many residents of the Kyiv region, the past year has become the most horrific in their

entire lives. And the liberation of the Kyiv region has become a symbol of the fact that Ukraine will be able to win this war," President Volodymyr Zelenskiy wrote in English on the Telegram messaging app. "Events that could not be imagined in the 21st century have become a reality in the satellite cities of Kyiv – Bucha and Irpin. Russian troops marched on the Ukrainian capital from the north and brought death and destruction." Zelenskiy wrote his Telegram post under video footage showing heavily damaged buildings and vehicles that had been destroyed in Bucha and Irpin. The video also included interviews with survivors recalling their experiences during the occupation, and footage of corpses lined up on the ground in black body bags. The video, compiled by the Ukrainian fundraising initiative UNITED24, put the civilian death toll in areas of the Kyiv region liberated from Russian forces at 1,137, including 461 killed in Bucha alone. The Russian forces that invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 last year were halted outside the capital and later pulled back, but the Kyiv region is still frequently the target of missile and drone strikes as battles rage elsewhere.

Appendix B

Selected Arabic News Articles

Article 8 (433 words)

<https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/2312644>

المنظور الأمريكي لروسيا

أسامة غريب

السبت ١٧-٠٤-٢٠٢١ ٠٨:٢٠

هل يمكن أن يسفر التوتر القائم حاليًا على الحدود، بين روسيا وأوكرانيا، عن حرب يشارك فيها حلف الناتو لصالح أوكرانيا، الراغبة في الالتحاق بالحلف، لولا الفيتو الروسي؟. وهل تعتبر العقوبات المتتالية التي تطبقها واشنطن بحق موسكو دليلًا على تناقض فعلي بين الدولتين، مثل ذلك القائم بين الأمريكان وبين الصينيين؟. أعتقد أن الولايات المتحدة لن تتورط بشكل مباشر في أي نزاع مسلح بين روسيا وأوكرانيا، لأسباب بعضها واضح ومعروف، وبعضها لا تدركه الأذهان بسهولة. ولا تجوز الإجابة عن أسئلة بحجم الموقف الأمريكي من روسيا، قبل معرفة صورة العدو السابق الذي قوضوا امبراطوريته بفعل الحرب الباردة التي خاضوها ضده، وقبل إدراك صورة روسيا في المنظور الأمريكي. في الحقيقة، أنه بسقوط الاتحاد السوفيتي وغروب شمس الشيوعية زالت الأسباب التي تمنع الروس من الانضمام إلى حلف الناتو!.. نعم لأن روسيا بدون الشيوعية هي جزء من العالم الغربي الأبيض في مواجهة السود والصفير، ولا يمكن أن نتصور أن يكون الصراع العدائي بين أمريكا والصين هو نفس ما يحكم علاقة الأمريكان بالروس، والأمر لا يتعلق بخيارات الرئيس الأمريكي السابق دونالد ترامب، الذي عمل على شيطنة الصين، بينما كانت علاقته طيبة للغاية بروسيا بوتين، وإنما هو توجه أمريكي استراتيجي بصرف النظر عن الرئيس. وليس من المستبعد في مرحلة تالية أن يكون للروس دور ملموس في صراع أوروبا الغربية وأمريكا ضد الصين. ما الذي يمنع إذًا أمريكا من أن تقبل روسيا في المنظومة الغربية وتتخذها حليفًا صريحًا مثلها مثل بريطانيا وألمانيا وإيطاليا وإسرائيل، ومن ثم تنضوي تحت الهيمنة والقرار الأمريكي بالكامل؟، خاصة أن هذا يمثل حلمًا روسيًا، وإن كانوا يتجنبون البوح به. الذي يمنع هذا في

حقيقة الأمر هو الفساد الضارب أطنابه في روسيا، وكذلك الديمقراطية الغائبة والشفافية المنعدمة.. ويوم تتحول روسيا إلى الديمقراطية بآلياتها المعروفة، كما هو الحال في أوروبا الغربية وأمريكا، فإنها ستكون حليفًا كامل العضوية. ولا يمكن اعتبار روسيا بأى حال دولة مناوئة للسياسة الأمريكية أو مناصرة للدول الضعيفة، كما كان الحال في العصر السوفيتي، فروسيا هي حليف أساسي لإسرائيل، كما أنها أول من يطبق العقوبات الأمريكية ضد إيران، على العكس من الصين التي ما زالت تستورد البترول الإيراني، وقد وقعت اتفاق شراكة استراتيجية مع إيران، مع نيتها استثمار مبلغ ٢٨٠ مليار دولار في التنقيب عن النفط والغاز وبناء المصافي في إيران. ولعل هذا يجيب عن سؤال: لماذا لا تقوم روسيا بإمداد سوريا بالوقود رغم الأزمة الخانقة التي جعلت طوابير السيارات في دمشق تمتد بلا نهاية؟، ولماذا تترك إيران تقاسى الأمرين وهي تجوب البحار بناقلاتها النفطية لتوصيل الوقود إلى سوريا؟.. الإجابة هي أن روسيا ليست حليفًا لسوريا أو لإيران، لكنها حليف لإسرائيل، والدور الذي تقوم به في سوريا هو تكملة للدور الأمريكي، ورغبة الأمريكيان في النأي بجنودهم بعيدًا عن مناطق الخطر يعوضه التواجد الروسى الكثيف.. ومازال بوتين في انتظار مزيد من التكاليفات التي سيعهد بها بايدن للأصدقاء الروس!

Article 9 (718 words)

<https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/2714166>

حرب روسيا وأوكرانيا.. أى امتحان ينتظرنا؟

خالد عمر بن ققه

الجمعة ١٤-١٠-٢٠٢٢ ١٤:١٠

الحرب الروسية في أوكرانيا منذ اشتعالها في ٢٤ فبراير ٢٠٢٢ كانت تشي بتحولها إلى حرب إقليمية وصراع بين قطبين، لكنها اليوم تقترب من أن تصبح عالمية لجهة مشاركة عدة أطراف فيها، وقد تنتهى بإبادة جزء كبير من سكان كوكبنا، بما في ذلك الكائنات غير البشرية. وما يذهب إليه بعض المراقبين والخبراء ليس حالاً من التهويل أو التخويف أو حتى التوقع السيئ لما ستسفر عنه رحى الحرب الدائرة، وإنما هو إقرار ووصف وتعمق في فهم الحرب من حيث نتائجها وتبعاتها، ليس فقط لكونها حرباً عبثية تعمق مأساة البشر نتيجة «التطرف الوطنى» وصراع القطبين الأمريكى والروسى في الفضاء الأوروبى، وإنما لكونها تبلغنا بنهاية مرحلة من التاريخ

البشرى وبداية أخرى.. وهنا يكمن الخوف والخطر ويحل اليأس. قد لا يكون التحليل النظرى هنا معبراً حقيقة عن الصراع العسكرى والدفاع عن الوجود أو الأرض، لكنه بلا شك يقدم قراءة مستندة إلى الوقائع على الأرض، ومنها صراع القوة.. إذ لا ينتظر من روسيا مثلاً أن تقبل بالهزيمة، لا من أوكرانيا منفردة، ولا حتى من حلف الناتو بزعامة الولايات المتحدة، وهذه الأخيرة ومعها دول الاتحاد الأوروبى وبعض دول العالم المؤثرة فى صناعة الأحداث والقرارات تدرك ذلك، والأمر لا يقف عند هذا الحد، ذلك أن الدول الغربية المعادية لروسيا بمن فيها الولايات المتحدة لا تود هزيمة موسكو بشكل يخرجها من المنافسة فى حدها الأدنى، وإنما تريد لها هزيمة تجعلها تتراجع عن مشروع عودتها لقيادة العالم أو مقاسمته أو حتى مساندة الصين لتصبح شريكا فاعلا على مستوى قيادة العالم فى المستقبل المنظور، انطلاقاً مما ستسفر عنه الحرب الدائرة اليوم. وفى إطار صراع القوة من أجل القيادة، تضع الولايات المتحدة، دول الاتحاد الأوروبى، رهينة لديها على مستوى الأمن والاقتصاد، خاصة فى مجال الطاقة، مثلما تدفع روسيا نحو تكلفة عسكرية كنتلك التى تحملتها واشنطن فى أفغانستان خلال السنوات الماضية، وبذلك تعطلها عن تحقيق مشروعها «التوفقى».. ناهيك عن الحيلولة دون استقرارها، خاصة أنها تلعب اليوم فى فضاءها الأمامى عبر أوكرانيا، وهذا الأمر تعيه روسيا، وليس جديداً بالنسبة لها منذ خمسينيات القرن الماضى حين بدا الصراع على أشده بين القطبين، والسؤال هنا: كيف لروسيا اليوم أن تكرر نفس أخطائها التى أدت إلى تفكك الاتحاد السوفيتى السابق؟. كل المعطيات خلال السنوات الست الماضية كشفت عن أن الغرب يدفع روسيا نحو الحرب، ضمن مشروع عُدد خصيصاً لمحاربتها داخل فضاءها الحيوى، حتى إن الأمر تعدى الأمن القومى إلى الأمن الوطنى بشكل مباشر، فالتطرف الغربى بقيادة الولايات المتحدة هو الذى دفع روسيا إلى التشدد فى تعاملها مع جيرانها لدرجة طغى فيها التطرف الوطنى الروسى على صناعة القرار، وبدأ الأمر مع شبه جزيرة القرم، وها هو اليوم يزداد تعمقا فى أوكرانيا، وقد كان لرئيس هذه الأخيرة «فولوديمير زيلينسكى» دورٌ فى تنفيذ أجندة الغرب ودعمه اليوم اقتصادياً ولوجستياً وعسكرياً، والذى هو ظاهره «حماية أوكرانيا» وباطنه «تقزيم روسيا»، يأتى ضمن تحقيق مشروع الغرب وليس نصرةً لأوكرانيا، وإن أبدت الآلة الإعلامية الغربية غير ذلك.

روسيا اليوم فى حربها ضد أوكرانيا لا تملك خياراً آخر، وإن رأى بعض المحللين أنه فى مقدورها تجتنب ذلك، لذا لا ينتظر أن تضع تلك الحرب أوزارها قريباً، ليس لأن روسيا وأوكرانيا لا تريدان الجنوح للسلم، وإنما لأن المشروع الغربى المتمثل فى تقزيم روسيا من جهة، والمشروع الأمريكى فى

جعل الاتحاد الأوروبي مجرد محمية من جهة أخرى لم يتحققا بشكلهما النهائي بعد. من ناحية أخرى، فإن الحرب الروسية في أوكرانيا يُنظر إليها من الغرب بعصبية الحرب العالمية الثانية لجهة وجود تكتل يساند أوكرانيا عسكريًا حتى لو كانت النتيجة التضحية بها، وينظر إليها الشرق، خاصة الصين والهند، باعتبارها حربًا للصراع حول القطبية والقيادة، ولهذا يكتفى بدعمها على مستوى المبادئ والمواقف، غير أن الأمر لن يستمر على تلك الحال، إذ ستجد الدول المساندة لروسيا أو حتى المحايدة مجبرة على مساعدة روسيا ماديا ولوجستيا، حتى تجنب العالم كله خطر حرب نووية. مهما يكن، فالحرب الروسية في أوكرانيا ستكون طويلة.. وكلما طال، ضمن الغرب تقزيم روسيا.. وذلك ما يريده، لكن هل سيؤدي ذلك بالرئيس فلاديمير بوتين إلى استعمال السلاح النووي؟ سيكون ذلك مرهونًا باستمرار تفوق روسيا في هذه الحرب حتى لو لم تنتصر عسكريا بشكل كامل أو تحقق كل ما تسعى إليه.. المهم بالنسبة لها انتصار مبادئها ومواقفها وتثبيت مكانتها عالميا، وهذا ما يرفضه الغرب ولا يتمناه حتى لو طال الحرب لسنوات، وعانت أوروبا الولايات من البرد والجوع المقبلين، ودمرت أوكرانيا بالكامل.. وتلك أيام صعبة محملة بامتحان عسير وبمعاناة شديدة تنتظرنا جميعا، علينا التحضير لها من الآن.. وخوفنا في هذه الحرب أو ما بقي منها سيكون من الغرب، خاصة الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، وتجارب التاريخ الماضية تثبت مدى همجية وتوحش أمريكا في حروبها.. والشاهد القريب ما فعلته في العراق وأفغانستان، وقبلهما استعمالها السلاح النووي ضد اليابانيين في الحرب العالمية الثانية.

Article 10: (525 words)

<https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/2827091>

في ذكرى الغزو.. كيف يمكن للتاريخ الروسي وعلم النفس تفسير الأزمة في أوكرانيا؟

الجمعة ٢٤-٠٢-٢٠٢٣ ٢٢:٣٨

كتب: عمر علاء

يصادف اليوم الذكرى الأولى لاندلاع الحرب الروسية الأوكرانية، ذلك الصراع الذي خلف عشرات الآلاف من القتلى وكوارث إنسانية لم تشهدها أوروبا منذ الحرب العالمية الثانية، لكن تبعات الحرب لم تقف عند القارة العجوز فقط بل شملت مختلف دول العالم من تبعات الحرب اقتصاديًا على كافة دول العالم، وبين هذا وذاك يتردد التساؤل في المجتمع الدولي حول أسباب

الحرب الروسية - الأوكرانية. يوجد عدد من الأسباب المعلنة لتلك الحرب، متمثلة في رغبة جمهوريتي لوهانسك ودونيتسك في الاستقلال، الأمر الذي دائما ما كانت ترفضه حكومة كييف، لكن باعتراف روسيا باستقلال الجمهوريتين في ٢١ فبراير، دخل الصراع بين موسكو وكييف مرحلة أخرى، ومع شن روسيا للهجوم في ٢٤ فبراير ٢٠٢٢، تتابعت الأحداث فلم تقتصر المعارك في الجمهوريتين الواقعتين في إقليم دونباس لكن توسعت سيطرة روسيا على الجنوب الشرقي لأوكرانيا، وعدد من المناطق في شرق البلاد، وفي سبتمبر ٢٠٢٢، أعلنت روسيا ضم أربع مقاطعات لها هم خيرسون وزابوريجيا ودونيتسك ولوهانسك، في خطوة أحادية الجانب، في تكرار لسيناريو ضم شبه جزيرة القرم ٢٠١٤. تلك الرواية المحكية، لكن تفسيرات ودوافع الحرب، أوردتها تقرير لجامعة هارفارد الأمريكية، استعرض رأي بول كولبي، وهو مدير مشروع الذكاء في مركز بيلفر للعلوم والشؤون الدولية التابع لكلية هارفارد كينيدي، عن الأزمة في أوكرانيا، وعن الرئيس الروسي فلاديمير بوتين ودوافعه، وعن شعور الروس حيال غزو محتمل، وذكر كولبي: أن الحرب تمثل تهديداً للأمن العالمي، يمكن أن يتصاعد بسهولة وهناك أيضاً التأثير الاقتصادي - اضطراب هائل في أسواق الطاقة العالمية، ليس فقط تدفق الغاز والنفط إلى أوروبا، ولكن في تفاقم التضخم. وحول دوافع روسيا للحرب ذكر التقرير أن للرئيس بوتين أسباب كامنة، وتشمل التاريخ وعلم النفس وشعور الروس بالمظلومية التاريخية تجاه الغرب كونهم المتسببين في انهيار الاتحاد السوفيتي، ويقول كولبي «فلاديمير بوتين، ضابط سابق في المخابرات السوفيتية (KGB)، وتواجت في ألمانيا الشرقية أثناء انهيار جدار برلين وأثناء انهيار الاتحاد السوفيتي، رأى كل ما كان مخلصاً له ينهار من حوله»، ولفت إلى أن كثير من الروس يلومون الغرب على ذلك، كما أشار التقرير إلى أن الشعب الروسي يرى أن حلف الناتو يشكل تهديد لهم وليس لحفظ الامن في القارة الأوروبية. لكن في المقابل ذكر كولبي أن الشعب الروسي غير متحمس بشكل كبير لخوض الحرب تجاه أوكرانيا، قائلاً: أحد العوامل التي لم يتم الحديث عنها كثيراً في هذه الأزمة هو شعور الشعب الروسي حيال الحرب، مشيراً إلى استطلاعات الرأي الأخيرة التي أكدت أنه لا يوجد صخب لخوض حرب اختيارية مع أوكرانيا، خاصة أنه لا يوجد تهديد من الناتو ضد روسيا، أوكرانيا بالتأكيد لا تشكل أي تهديد، مرجحاً أن العدوان الروسي على أوكرانيا يخفي العديد من المشكلات المحلية التي تواجهها موسكو مثل سوء إدارة أزمة فيروس كورونا والاقتصاد المتعثر تحت العقوبات، مشيراً إلى أن متخذى القرار في روسيا يعملون على اصطفاف الرأي العام خلف بوتين في وقت الأزمة، لكن

التقرير أشار إلى أن استمرار الحسائر، قد يعني بداية نهاية نظام بوتين. وحول إمكانية الجلوس على طاولة المفاوضات بين موسكو وكييف، يرى كولبي أن الرئيس الروسي فيلاديمير بوتين سيتفاوض يوماً ما مع الجانب الأوكراني لإنهاء الحرب، لكنه يرى «أن بوتين سيرغب في التفاوض من موقع قوة، وقد يعتقد أن احتلال أجزاء من أوكرانيا أو أن يكون في وضع يجبر فيه الناس على التكيف مع إرادته، هي تلك القوة». مضيفاً أنه من الواضح أن من مصلحة الجميع إيجاد مجموعة من الاتفاقيات التي يمكن أن تؤدي إلى استقرار دائم في أوروبا على مدى العقود المقبلة.

Article 11 (244 words)

<https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/2830304>

«سنة أولى حرب أوكرانيا».. كيف ضربت صواريخ بوتين والناو اقتصاديات العالم؟

الثلاثاء ٢٨-٠٢-٢٠٢٣

٢٠:٠٥ كتب: أمانى إبراهيم

قال الدكتور السيد خضر الباحث الاقتصادي، إن اقتصاديات العالم عانت العديد من الصراعات التجارية وعدم وضوح الرؤية جراء تداعيات أزمة كورونا، ثم جاءت حرب أوكرانيا بداية ٢٠٢٢ وخلقت توترات وصراعات سياسية عالمية. وأوضح: «تلك الحرب الشرسة أثرت ليس فقط على الاقتصاديات العالمية ولكن أدت إلى دخول العديد من دول العالم في صراعات سياسية واقتصادية نتج عنها خسائر بمليارات الدولارات»

«أمريكا المستفيد الأكبر»

وأضاف «خضر» في تصريحات خاصة لـ«المصري اليوم» أن العمليات العسكرية الروسية في أوكرانيا، التي أكملت عامها الأول، رفعت أسعار الطاقة، ما أضعف إنفاق الأسر وكذلك الأعمال التجارية خاصة في أوروبا. وأشار إلى أن الحلل في سلاسل الإمداد والتوريد والتوزيع، تسبب في نقص الغذاء والضروريات الأخرى، وخلق أزمات في الأسواق العالمية. وحذر من خطورة نشوب حروب أخرى سواء بين الصين وتايوان أو في منطقة الشرق الأوسط، مشدداً على أن الولايات المتحدة هي المستفيد الأكبر من تعظيم تلك الصراعات، لتدمير قوة الدول السياسية والاقتصادية، حتى تحيا أمريكا على جثث تلك البلاد واقتصادها.

غلاء وتضخم أعلى إذا استمرت الحرب

وتابع: «مع استمرار تداعيات الحرب في أوكرانيا، سيكون الاقتصاد العالمي أبرز ضحايا تلك الحرب المخيفة، سواء على مستوى تكلفة وهلاك البشرية والعواقب والتقلبات الاقتصادية التي ستكون بالغة الخطورة على العديد من المؤشرات الاقتصادية». ولفت إلى احتمالية استمرار الغلاء عالميا وكذلك ارتفاع معدلات التضخم واستمرار الفيدرالي الأمريكي في سياسات رفع سعر الفائدة. ورأى أن الحرب الأوكرانية الروسية ستدفع العالم إلى إعادة النظر في المنظومة الاقتصادية والسياسية العالمية، إذ زعزعت الحرب أساسات الاقتصاد في أغلب دول العالم، وسط أزمات مرعبة تتصاعد في الأمن الغذائي وأمن الطاقة للعالم أجمع.

Appendix C

List of hedges based on Hyland (2005, pp. 222–23)

About	Estimate	Likely	Should
Almost	Estimated	Mainly	Sometimes
Apparent	Fairly	May	Somewhat
Apparently	Feel	Maybe	Suggest
Appear	Feels	Might	Suggested
Appeared	Felt	Mostly	Suggests
Appears	Frequentl	Often	Suppose
Approximatel	y	On the	Supposed
y	From my	whole	Supposes
Argue	perspectiv	Ought	Suspect
Argued	e	Perhaps	Suspects
Argues	From our	Plausible	Tend to
Around	perspectiv	Plausibly	Tended to
Assumed	e	Possible	Tends to
Assume	From this	Possibly	To my
Broadly	perspectiv	Postulate	knowledge
Certain	e	Postulated	Typical

amount	Generally	Postulates	Typically
Certain	Guess	Presumabl	Uncertain
extent	Indicate	e	Uncertainl
Certain level	Indicated	Presumabl	y
Claim	In general	y	Unclear
Claimed	In most	Probable	Unclearly
Claims	cases	Probably	Usually
Could	In most	Quite	Would
Couldn't	instances	Rather x	Wouldn't
Doubt	In my	Relatively	
Doubtful	opinion	Roughly	
essentially	In my	seems	
	view		
	In this		
	view		
	In our		
	opinion		
	In our		
	view		
	Largely		

Appendix D

List of boosters based on Hyland (2005, pp. 221–22)

Actually	Evident	Proved
Always	Evidently	Proves
Believe	Find	Realize
Believed	Finds	Realized
Believes	Found	Realizes
Beyond doubt	In fact	Really
Certain	Incontestable	Show
Certainly	Incontestably	Showed
Clear	Incontrovertible	Shown
Clearly	Incontrovertibly	Shows
Conclusively	Indeed	Sure
Decidedly	Indisputable	Surely
Definite	Indisputably	Think
Definitely	Know	Thinks
Demonstrate	Known	Thought
Demonstrates	Must	Truly
Demonstrated	Never	True
Doubtless	No doubt	Undeniable
Establish	Obvious	Undeniably
Established	Obviously	Undisputedly
establishes	Of course	Undoubtedly
	Prove	Without doubt