

Cite as: Bednarek, M. (2016). 'Inventory of linguistic devices constructing newsworthiness', available at www.newsvaluesanalysis.com.

Inventory of linguistic devices that often construct newsworthiness in English-language news (general guide to the analysis, as further discussed in Chapter 4 of Bednarek & Caple 2017)

News value	Linguistic Device	Examples
<i>Consonance</i> ([stereo]typical)	References to stereotypical attributes or preconceptions	<i>Drug addict parents gave 23-month-old son methadone 'like Calpol'; Most broody mothers see having a child as a wonderful gift from God; ... another eventful Australia Day, which most Australians enjoyed in the best way they knew how – laying under the sun on a white-sand beach or enjoying a barbecue with friends and family.</i>
	Assessments of expectedness/typicality	<i>a man whose love of luxury and lavish parties is legendary; ...as dire Diaz campaign ends in typical style</i>
	Similarity with past	<i>...as the US came to terms with yet another mass shooting; America is once again torn apart by race and police power</i>
	Explicit references to general knowledge/traditions	<i>In keeping with the Germans' well-known love of beer</i>
<i>Eliteness</i> (of high status or fame)	Various high status markers, including	
	role labels	<i>U.S. District Court Judge Scott Skavdahl; Professor Roger Stone; Snohomish county fire district 21 chief; celebrity chef Jamie Oliver; Abba legend Björn Ulvaeus</i>
	status-indicating adjectives	<i>the prestigious Man Booker prize; the city's top cop; a senior World Bank executive; a key federal government minister; long-term industry observers; well-placed government sources;</i>
	recognised names	<i>Hillary Clinton; Abba; the Olympics; the Oscars; Harvard university; the World Health Organisation</i>
	descriptions of achievement/fame	<i>Ronnie Barker of the Two Ronnies fame; two people who were selling millions of records a year; The Norwegian entertainer was also very popular in neighbouring countries</i>
	use by news actors/sources of specialised/technical terminology, high-status accent or sociolect [esp. in broadcast news]	N/A

<i>Impact</i> (having significant effects or consequences)	Assessments of significance	<i>a potentially momentous day;</i> <i>in a historic legal case;</i> <i>a crucial annual conference</i>
	Representation of actual or non-actual significant/relevant consequences, including abstract, material or mental effects	<i>note that will stun the world;</i> <i>leaving scenes of destruction;</i> <i>Millions of Australian homes and businesses could be hit with bigger phone and internet bills;</i> <i>thousands of people may be massacred</i>
<i>Negativity/Positivity</i> (negative/positive)	References to negative/positive emotion and attitude	<i>concerns about even remote chances of Ebola exposure;</i> <i>fury as primary head takes week off in term to fly to Caribbean;</i> <i>a move that has outraged local politicians;</i> <i>amid signs of panic;</i> <i>'First hydrogen bomb test' condemned;</i> <i>Pale but smiling, former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati recounted Tuesday how disbelief turned to joy;</i> <i>Baltimore residents celebrate charges in Gray case</i>
	Negative/positive evaluative language	<i>Corbyn's shambolic reshuffle;</i> <i>a violent thug who had no interest in Islam;</i> <i>shoddy financial advice;</i> <i>the brilliant astrophysicist;</i> <i>the perfect end to another eventful Australia Day</i>
	Negative/positive lexis	<i>Boy, 8, one of 3 killed in bombings at Boston Marathon; scores wounded;</i> <i>Western black rhino declared extinct;</i> <i>Flint residents protest high bills for 'poison' water;</i> <i>13 migrants drown as boat capsizes off Malaysia;</i> <i>Nigeria has been declared officially free of Ebola;</i> <i>Teens chase kidnapping suspect on bikes, save 5-year-old girl;</i> <i>... a baby with HIV is deemed cured</i>
	Descriptions of negative (e.g. norm-breaking) or positive behaviour	<i>Hospitals don't have enough beds, and there aren't enough ambulances;</i> <i>Treasurer Joe Hockey has broken his promise to balance the budget by 2019;</i> <i>[Canadian Prime Minister] Trudeau, who last year unveiled a cabinet with an equal number of men and women "because it's 2015"</i>

<i>Personalisation</i> (having a personal/human face)	References to ‘ordinary’ people, their emotions, experiences	<i>Mike’s devastated owner; Charissa Benjamin and her Serbian husband; ‘It was pretty bloody scary’, But one of his victims sobbed; Deborah said afterwards: ‘My sentence has only just begun’</i>
	Use by news actors/sources of ‘everyday’ spoken language, accent, sociolect [esp. in broadcast news]	N/A
<i>Proximity</i> (geographically or culturally near)	Explicit references to place or nationality near the target community	<i>A federal judge in the District of Columbia...; A skeleton found beneath a Leicester car park...; A Texas father caught a man sexually assaulting his 4-year-old daughter; Australian nurse in Ebola scare;</i>
	References to the nation/community via deictics, generic place references, adjectives	<i>Homegrown terrorist Mohamed Elomar pledges to bring the horror here; a potential attack on the nation’s capital and the country’s highest office</i>
	Inclusive first person plural pronouns	<i>Red alert over the plot to attack our nation’s leaders Is this the end of our local newsagents?</i>
	Use by news actors/sources of [geographical] accent/dialect [esp. in broadcast news]	N/A
	Cultural references	<i>Teenager takes his great-grandmother to prom; Soldiers’ farewell haka footage goes viral</i>
<i>Superlativeness</i> (of high intensity/large scope) [continues onto next page]	Intensifiers	<i>The Ebola outbreak [...] will get significantly worse; A sensational corruption inquiry has concluded...; The US government says it is “deeply concerned” by reports that...</i>
	Quantifiers	<i>hundreds who flew with an infected nurse; the country’s two-week-old political crisis; a tragedy of epic proportions; a ... \$356 million loss</i>
	Intensified lexis	<i>U.S. forces hammered ISIS fighting positions, vehicles and buildings; Robbers smash display cases; Police seek motive in Idaho shooting rampage that killed 3; they were petrified</i>
	Metaphor and simile	<i>...country towns in northern NSW are battling a tsunami of crime; a June wildfire that ... ripped through as if the land had been doused with gasoline</i>
	Comparison	<i>Foxtons’ stock price was rising faster than the cost of a Mayfair penthouse; Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie’s wedding was so secret Jolie’s father Jon Voight did not know it had taken place; ...around 5,000 more suicides in Europe and North America; ... the largest drug ring in Detroit history; ... one of the world’s most prolific serial killers; ... 2014 surpassed 2010 as the warmest year;</i>

<i>Superlativeness</i> contd.	Repetition	...with building after building flattened or punctured by shells
	Lexis of growth	The volume of email cloaked in encryption technology is rising ; ...adding to a growing list of healthcare workers in West Africa hit by the epidemic; It had sheer scale, scope, the length and the breadth of the evil unfolded;
	Only/just/alone/already + time/distance or related lexis	Already this year 64 clandestine ice labs have been busted and dismantled; almost a hundred foreigners ... were arrested in one raid alone
<i>Timeliness</i> (recent, ongoing, about to happen, new, current, seasonal)	Temporal references	A terrorist attack...is now regarded as “likely”; Labour will today offer; yesterday’s flash flooding
	Present and present perfect	it is testing our emergency resources; INDONESIA’S Justice Ministry is about to isolate...; rescuers have been trying to pluck survivors
	Implicit time references through lexis (e.g. <i>ongoing, under way, begin</i>)	A murder investigation is under way in Dublin; Search ongoing for missing Victoria woman Karen Chetcuti
	References to:	
	current trends	“selfie” — the smartphone self-portrait — has been declared word of the year for 2013
	seasonality	... as Public Health England urged people to keep their homes well heated this winter;
	change/newness	In an unexpected development ; Bowser says change from GLBT to LGTB is ‘in keeping with the mainstream vocabulary.’; Mint 1969 Shelby GT500 found under 40 years of dust; EU leaders pick new top diplomats
<i>Unexpectedness</i> (unexpected)	Evaluations of unexpectedness	one of the strangest scandals; an unusual case in a city where prosecutions of police for excessive [sic] are rare
	References to surprise/expectations	shock at North Cottesloe quiz night; people just really can’t believe it
	Comparisons that indicate unusuality	Sydney’s wettest August in 16 years ; the first time since 1958 ; I’ve lived in Toowoomba for 20 years and I’ve never seen anything like that
	References to unusual happenings	British man survives 15-storey plummet ; German MPs considering a return to typewriters to combat spy activity ; Queensland woman fights off kangaroo with backpack