

## Additional examples of linguistic devices that construct newsworthiness

Additional examples for some news values and selected linguistic devices are listed below. Because of space constraints these were not included in either Bednarek & Caple (2017, *The Discourse of News Values*, OUP) or in the ‘inventory of linguistic devices’ (www.newsvaluesanalysis.com), although a few are mentioned in Bednarek & Caple (2012, *News Discourse*, Bloomsbury). The examples come from authentic English-language news items.

### Eliteness

- Role labels: *Washington Senator Maria Cantwell; Queensland Premier Anna Bligh; Commonwealth Bank CEO Ralph Norris; The Bridge star Sofia Helin; terrorism analysts; public service insiders; the embattled coal mogul; Swedish celebrities; the pop idols.*
- Recognised names: *Donald Trump; Carrie Fisher*
- Descriptions of achievement/fame: *thrust the band into the international spotlight.*
- ...

### Impact

- Representation of actual or non-actual significant/relevant consequences (effects):  
*Triathletes **reduce city traffic to an Australian crawl**;*  
*US landslide **death toll rises to eight**;*  
*... a wall of mud and debris **completely destroyed** a small riverside neighbourhood;*  
***At least 10 people were killed** Wednesday **when** a bus carrying state prisoners skidded off an icy highway overpass in West Texas, slid down an embankment and collided with a passing train;*  
*Passengers **face sticker shock** as airfares soar;*  
*... **leaving** ... **people dead** in their cars;*  
***It could lead to** actions against employees who deliberately infect others...*
- ...

### Negativity

- Negative/positive evaluative language: *‘It’s completely **unacceptable**’; **terrible** news; **dangerous** convicts; **vicious** attack; ‘...is **nothing but a joke**’; a **squalid** farm; the **evil** unfolded; **sex predator** Paul Bernardo; **dolphin slaughter**; It all looks good to **some jihadi wannabe**; A **violent lout** did a jig outside court; **Hooligans** cause more than \$25,000 in damage; Leader’s **gaffe** during Australian election campaign; a **dangerous** and potentially open-ended war...*
- Negative/positive lexis:
  - damage and detriments (*damaged, destruction, road closures, crippled the government, battered image*);
  - crime and terrorism (*were arrested, detain, charge, suspect, convicted killer, murder, offence, crime, victims, crime scene, theft, kidnap her children, lure, abduct and rape, plotted to kill; Boko Haram, ISIS, threat level*);
  - injury, disease, and death (*injured, bleeding heavily, deadly, deaths*);
  - opposition and division (*controversy, row, critics, opposition, rift, divisions, tensions, condemn, criticise, excoriate, recrimination, blame, accusing each other of, have lashed out at, has defended, strongly disagreed with, caught in the middle of a collision between, came under fire from, revolt, riot police and demonstrators, clashed with, confrontation, unrest, uproar*);
  - war/conflict (*war, attack, came under attack*)
- ...

## Personalisation

- References to ‘ordinary’ people, their emotions, experiences:  
*Friends said they were **devastated**;*  
***Sad** and **angry** ..., the marchers **mourned** the dead;*  
***tearful** relatives;*  
***weeping** survivors;*  
*I was scared for my life,” ... “I kept yelling at him to stop and that he was going to kill me.”*
- ...

## Superlativeness

- Intensifiers:  
*a **stark** warning;*  
***ferocious** storm;*  
*the **fierce** war between Qantas Airways and Virgin Australia;*  
*houses that are **completely** collapsed;*  
*countries suffering **badly** from austerity;*  
*the damage includes **the virtually complete** destruction of the fishery value of the Mzymta River*
- Quantifiers:  
*‘a bruising **four-year** airline price war’;*  
*a **tenfold** increase in reports to its hotline;*  
*... infecting **as many as 20,000** people;*  
*a **major** eruption;*  
*the next **big** battle-ground;*  
*There is **great** disappointment and anger;*  
*... **huge** quantities of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana*
- Intensified lexis:  
***wrecking** families and their fortunes;*  
*note that will **stun** the world;*  
*[cars] were **smashed** together...*  
*The Ebola outbreak **sweeping** through West Africa;*  
*Wildfires **ravage** remote Montana Indian reservation;*  
*Protesters ... **vandalised** a dozen vehicles;*  
*healthcare workers in West Africa hit by the **epidemic**;*  
*his Wall Street **dash** to raise half a billion dollars;*  
*Di’s **terror**;*  
*missing after **blaze** destroys Maryland mansion;*  
*Most villagers have abandoned their homes in **panic** after the violence*
- Metaphor and simile:  
*paedophile **nightmare**;*  
*the next big **battle-ground** for the supermarket giants;*  
*... a sprawling drug **empire**;*  
*an **army** of volunteers;*  
*a **flood** of complaints;*

- Metaphor and simile (continued):  
*a brown **wall** of water;*  
*our Queens Park was **like a raging river**;*  
*Thunderstorms that looked **like the apocalypse***
- Comparison:  
*The Ebola outbreak sweeping through West Africa will get significantly **worse**;*  
*... **higher than** at any time since the rating system was introduced in 2003;*  
*... **the worst of the worst**;*  
*... **the nation's most shocking** child abuse case;*  
*the **most violent** type;*  
*the **country's most ideologically dangerous** convicts;*  
*water was **so strong that** cars were stacked on top of each other;*  
*this one has just **maxed out every other flood**;*  
*... **unparalleled in history**.*
- ...

### Timeliness

- Temporal references: *just a few minutes ago; over the next 24 hours; later today*
- Present and present perfect:  
*... residents **have described** the horrific moments...;*  
*DAVID Cameron **is preparing** new anti-terrorism measures;*  
*Small island nations, ... **are already experiencing** "extreme effects" from global warming.*
- Change/newness:  
*Helius Energy **unveils new plans** for biomass plant in Southampton;*  
*... in a **fresh** attempt to tackle what it says is a steep rise in reports of extreme images online;*  
*SOMALI and African Union forces have launched a **fresh** offensive...;*  
*Nigeria has confirmed a **fresh** case of Ebola... ;*  
*Helius Energy unveils **new** plans for biomass plant in Southampton;*  
*MH370 hunt gets **new** map as searchers say 'we'll find it';*  
*a shock **new** poll;*  
*DAVID Cameron is preparing **new** anti-terrorism measures...;*  
*... by calling **for the first time** for statehood to be considered for the restive east of the former Soviet state;*  
*... gave the campaign for independence a narrow lead **for the first time**;*  
*... **the first time** the militant group had taken to the air.*
- ...

### Unexpectedness

- References to surprise/expectations: ***shocked** residents*
- ...