

## Reference in Breaking News

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### Abstract

*Reference is a crucial tool for news writers and journalists to convey information to their readers effectively and how they can be used in the construction of news stories. It also explores the ways in which reference can be used to create coherence, accuracy, and clarity in breaking news reports.*

*This research focuses on the concept of reference and its various types. Reference is a fundamental concept in linguistics and communication, as it enables speakers to refer to entities in the world and convey meaning to their listeners. This study explores the different types of reference.*

**Keywords:** Reference, Breaking news, Coherence

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## Chapter One

### 1.1 Introduction

The concept of reference plays a crucial role in effective communication, particularly in the realm of news reporting. Reference refers to the way in which speakers or writers use language to refer to entities in the world and convey meaning to their audience. There are different types of reference, including endophoric, anaphoric, cataphoric, lexical, exophoric, comparative and bridging, deictic reference and non-deictic reference each with its unique characteristics and functions. In the context of breaking news, the use of reference is especially critical, as journalists and news writers must convey information quickly, accurately, and clearly to their readers.

### 1.2 Aims of the study

- 1- To explore the concept of reference and its different types.
- 2- To examine the ways in which reference is realized in various languages and how it can be used to convey meaning and create coherence in discourse.
- 3- To investigate the role of reference in the context of breaking news and how it can be leveraged to effectively communicate breaking news to readers.

- 4- To examine the use of reference in breaking news reporting, including the strategies employed by journalists and news writers to create coherence, accuracy, and clarity in news stories.
- 5- To provide insights into the effective use of reference in breaking news writing and identify best practices for news writers and journalists to follow when reporting on breaking news.

Overall, this study aims to contribute to our understanding of the complexities of reference in language and its role in effective communication in the context of breaking news.

## Chapter Two

### 2.1 Definitions of Reference

**Reference** is the particular kind of grammatical cohesion that has the semantic feature of definiteness or specificity. Reference is a term which indicates the relation of identity between grammatical units, such as a pronoun refers to a noun (Crystal 2008:407).

**Reference** refers to the situation where the identity of an item can be retrieved from either within or outside the text.

### 2.2 Main Patterns of Reference

#### 2.2.1 Endophoric reference

Endophoric reference is a type of reference that relies on linguistic cues within the text or discourse itself. This can include anaphoric reference, which refers back to something previously mentioned in the text or discourse, or cataphoric reference, which refers forward to something that will be mentioned later in the text or discourse. In addition, lexical reference involves using a specific word or phrase to refer to a specific entity or concept within the text or discourse (Andrew Radford, etal,2016).

##### 2.2.1.1 Anaphoric reference

Anaphoric reference is a type of endophoric reference where a word or phrase refers back to another word or phrase used earlier in a text. In the following example, from a review of the book *He's Just Not That Into You: The No-excuses to Understanding Guys* (Behrendt and Tuccillo 2004). Examples of anaphoric reference are shown in italics in the text. The identity of the and it are retrieved by reference to an earlier mentioned item (the name of the book) in the text:

It seems everyone's read that self-help book: Gerg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo's *He's Just Not That Into You*... First in the US, then all over the world, women became converts to *the* book's tough-love message. When *it* was published late last year, Oprah sang its

praises, tearful women called *it* ‘the Bible’, and others declared *it* had changed their lives forever (Cooper 2005: S38).

Once the title of the book has been mentioned, the author assumes that the reader will be able to work out what she is referring to in her use of ‘it’ further on in the text. Equally, she assumes the reader will know ‘which book’ she is referring to when she says ‘the book’s tough-love message’. If a reader not sure what is being referred to, they will typically read back in the text to find the answer (Paltridge, 2018: 115).

### 2.2.1.2 Cataphoric reference

Cataphoric reference is a type of endophoric reference that describes an item which refers forward to another word or phrase which is used later in the text. In the following example, from the same extract, the identity of the italicized item follows, rather than precedes, the reference item. It is thus an example of cataphoric, rather than anaphoric, reference:

It seems everyone’s read *that* self-help book; Gerg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo’s *He’s Just Not That Into You*. (ibid.)

In this case, the reader knows the item being referred to is yet to come in the next and reads forward to find the meaning of ‘that’ (Paltridge, 2018: 116).

### 2.2.1.3 Lexical reference

Lexical reference is a type of endophoric reference in which a specific word or phrase is used to refer to something within the text or discourse. This can include nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs that refer to specific entities or concepts that have been previously introduced or will be introduced later in the text or discourse. Lexical reference is an important tool for creating coherence and cohesion in text or discourse, as it helps to establish connections between different parts of the text and to make it easier for readers or listeners to understand the intended meaning (Andrew Radford, etal, 2009).

### 2.2.2 Exophoric reference

Exophoric reference looks outside the text to the situation in which the text occurs for the identity of the item being referred to. The following example from illustrates this. Both speakers clearly know what book is being referred to in this conversation (Paltridge, 2018: 116).

Customer: What kind of book would *you* say *this* is?

Where would you put *it* on *your* bookshelves?

### 2.2.3 Homophoric reference

Homophoric reference is where the identity of the item can be retrieved by reference to cultural knowledge, in general, rather than the

specific context of the text. An example of this, again from the review of *He's Just Not That Into You*, follows:

First in the US, then all over the world, women became converts to the book's tough-love message. (ibid.)

This is different from the final use of 'the' in this sentence. To answer 'which book' we know it is the one being discussed in the text. We know, however, from our cultural knowledge 'which' United States and 'which' world are being referred to in the text (Paltridge, 2018: 116).

#### **2.2.4 Comparative and bridging reference**

Further types of reference include comparative and bridging reference. With comparative reference, 'the identity of the presumed item is retrieved not because it has already been mentioned or will be mentioned in the text, but because an item with which it is being compared has been mentioned' (Eggsins 2004: 35). 'Others' and 'opposite' in the following extracts are examples of this:

When it was published late last year, Oprah sang its praises, tearful women called it 'the Bible', and others declared it had changed their lives forever.

The book assumes all men are confident, or that if they really like a girl, they'll overcome their shy-ness. The opposite is true. (Cooper 2005: S38)

These are a little more complex than the other kinds of reference just described. The author proceeds, however, on the assumption that we will know 'which' people and that we will know 'which' opposite she is referring to.

A bridging reference (Martin 1992, Martin and Rose 2007) is where an item refers to something that has to be inferentially derived from the text or situation; that is, something that has to be presumed indirectly. In the following example we are not told which 'blokes' Stuart is referring to. The author presumes that we can indirectly derive this:

Stuart agrees. 'I was hopeless', he says with a laugh. 'I'm just not one of those blokes that finds approaching women easy.' (Cooper 2005: S38).

#### **2.2.5 Deictic reference and non-deictic reference**

Deictic reference and non-deictic reference are two types of reference in language. Here are definitions of according to "An Introduction to Discourse Analysis", 2009 by James Paul Gee:

Deictic reference: "Deictic expressions are ones that point to features of the context of the utterance, such as the location of the speaker, the location of the listener, the time of the utterance, and so forth. The meaning of a deictic expression can only be understood with reference to

the context in which it is used. Examples of deictic expressions include pronouns like "I" and "you," as well as spatial and temporal adverbs like "here," "there," "now," and "then." The meaning of these expressions depends on the context of the utterance, and can change depending on the perspective of the speaker and the listener.

Non-deictic reference: "non-deictic expressions are those that do not point to features of the context of the utterance, but rather rely on shared cultural knowledge to convey meaning. The meaning of a non-deictic expression is not dependent on the context of the utterance, but rather on the cultural knowledge shared by the speaker and the listener." Examples of non-deictic expressions include idioms, metaphors, and cultural references. Unlike deictic expressions, the meaning of non-deictic expressions is not directly tied to the context of the utterance, but rather relies on the cultural background of the speaker and the listener to convey meaning. Each of these forms of reference makes a contribution to the texture of a text and the ways in which we interpret the text as we read it. The same is true of the relationship between vocabulary items in the text; that is, lexical cohesion, the subject of the next section of this chapter.

## **2.3 Cohesion and Texture**

### **2.3.1 Texture of a text**

Hasan (1989a,1989b) discusses two crucial attributes of texts and which are important for the analysis of discourse. These are unity of structure and unity of texture. Unity of structure refers to patterns which combine together to create information structure, focus and flow in a text, including the schematic structure of the text.

### **2.3.2 Unity of texture**

Unity of texture refers to the way in which resources such as patterns of cohesion create both cohesive and coherent texts. Texture results where there are language items that tie meanings together in the text as well as tie meanings in the text to the social context in which the text occurs. An example of this is where the meaning of items that refer outside of the text, such as 'it' and 'that', can be derived from the social context in which the text is located.

Texture, then, is a result of the interaction of these kinds of features (Halliday 2009b). In her chapter 'The texture of a text', Hasan (1989b: 71) describes texture as being 'a matter of meaning relations'. A crucial notion in this discussion is that of a *tie* which connects the meanings of words to each other as well as to the world outside the text. The basis for cohesion, and in turn texture, thus, is semantic. It is both explicit and implicit and is based in the ways in which the meanings of

items are tied in a semantic relationship to each other. The interpretation of these items is found by reference to some other item, or source, within or outside the text. In the following sentence, for example, I use my knowledge of the text and the context in which it is located to work out what ‘it’ (in this case, gravy) is referring to in the text:

Waiter: Where would you like *it* sir?

Customer: Just a little on the meat thanks.

### 2.3.3 Cohesion

Cohesion refers to the relationship between items in a text such as words, phrases and clauses and other items such as pronouns, nouns and conjunctions. This includes the relationship between words and pronouns that refer to that word (reference items). It also includes words that commonly co-occur in texts (collocation) and the relationship between words with similar, related and different meanings (lexical cohesion). Cohesion also considers semantic relationships between clauses and the ways this is expressed through the use of conjunctions. A further aspect of cohesion is the way in which words such as ‘one’ and ‘do’ are used to substitute for other words in a text (substitution) and the ways in which words or phrases are left out, or ellipsed, from a text (ellipsis). All of this contributes to the unity of texture of a text and helps to make the text cohesive.

## Chapter Three

### 3.1 Breaking news

Breaking news refers to current events or situations that are developing rapidly and require immediate attention or action. This type of news is often unexpected and can include events such as natural disasters, political upheavals, significant accidents, sports or major crime incidents. Breaking news is usually communicated through various media channels such as television, radio, newspapers, or social media, and is often accompanied by live updates and expert analysis. The purpose of breaking news is to inform the public of the latest developments and help people make informed decisions in response to the situation.

### 3.2 Data

In this section we will investigate at some samples of breaking news and how reference is used in it.

### 3.3 Analysis

In these five different breaking news there is more than one type of reference and each breaking news may contain more than one type of breaking news.

**Text (1) "Arizona-based sheriff group promotes members with ties to white nationalism. The Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association has formally embraced some of its more radical members by promoting them into leadership positions. The public-facing change comes at a time of growth for the organization as it seeks to further expand its influence and ideology across the U.S."**

#### Discussion

In the news above there was anaphoric reference, the pronoun "them" is anaphoric because it refers to an antecedent that was introduced earlier in the discourse which is "Sheriffs and Peace Officers". There is a second example in the news above, the pronoun "it" is also anaphoric because it refers to an antecedent that introduced earlier in the discourse which is "organization".

**Text (2) "The England striker reacts to becoming the all-time top goalscorer for his country, thanking those he believes helped him achieve the dream. "Thanks for making this dream a reality" he said. Harry Kane thanks fans after becoming England men's top goalscorer."**

#### Discussion

In the news above there was cataphoric reference, the pronoun "he" is cataphoric because it refers to an antecedent that was introduced later in the discourse which is "Harry Kane".

**Text (3) "Thank you for your service, Jet k-9. After five and a half years of dedicated service to the community, K-9 Jet is hanging up his tracking harness and retiring. Jet will remain in the care of his handler, Officer Lauren Olson, and her family."**

#### Discussion

'k-9' is a homophoric reference to a dog named Jet. The meaning of the reference is not dependent on the specific context in which it is used, but rather on the cultural knowledge shared by the speaker and the listener. There is also a cataphoric reference by the first pronoun "his" which refers to harness, and the second pronoun "his" which refers to officer Lauren Olson, while the pronoun "her" is an anaphoric reference which refers to officer Lauren Olson.

**Text (4) "Texas man has been arrested in connection to a cold case murder in 2007. Charles Kessinger, 38, was charged with robbery and first-degree in the killing of 53-year-old James Johansen, who was last**

seen in Fairlea, West Virginia on 13 June 2007. At the time he went missing, Johansen had been in the process of selling his vehicle and purchasing a new car. He had planned to travel to Ohio to buy a new car but never made it to the state and was reported missing by family and friends, West Virginia authorities said at the time. No developments happened in the investigation until September 2021, when his body was found in the Muddy Creek Mountain area in Greenbrier County, WHSV reported. The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office and the West Virginia State Police (WVSP) determined that the remains belonged to Johansen later last year."

#### **Discussion**

In the news above there are examples of deictic expressions for deictic reference include pronoun like "he" as well as spatial and temporal deixis like "September and 2007" which refers to the time and "Ohio" which refers to the place.

**Text (5) "Wayne Rooney has doubts Arsenal can handle 'pressure' as he tips Manchester City to win Premier League title race. He said: "I was frustrated, actually, because I was on the bench for that game. I wanted to start the game and I didn't," Rooney, who represented Everton either side of a magnificent 13-year career with Manchester United, recently told CNN Sport's Patrick Snell. "It felt a bit strange at first, but it was an incredible feeling to score for your boyhood club and your first Premier League goal, but also with it being the winning goal against Arsenal ... best team in the country at the time. It was crazy but it's certainly one of my highlights and best moments, and a goal which I'll never forget."**

#### **Discussion**

In the news above there was cataphoric reference, the pronoun "I" which was repeated four times is cataphoric because it refers to an antecedent that was introduced later in the discourse which is "Rooney". In the second paragraph of the news, the pronoun "it" refers to the feeling that the speaker experienced when he scored for his boyhood club. Then the pronoun "it" refers to the goal that the speaker scored for his boyhood club, which was also his first Premier League goal, and the winning goal against Arsenal.

### **3.4 Result**

In this research, we can see the importance of using types of reference in breaking news, where the function of the reference is to attract the reader's attention to the news, and the use of these types of references is either through expressions of person such as the *pronouns I*,



*he, she, it, they*, etc., and also expressions of time such as *months, dates* and *years*, or expressions of place, such as *there* and *here*, and the names of *cities* or *countries*.

Table 1. Occurrence of reference in breaking news

Breaking news	Reference	Type of reference
Arizona-based sheriff group promotes members with ties to white nationalism.	Them It	Anaphoric reference
The England striker reacts to becoming the all-time top goalscorer for his country, thanking those he believes helped him achieve the dream.	He	Cataphoric reference
Thank you for your service, k-9 Jet.	Dog His Her	Homophoric reference Cataphoric reference Anaphoric reference
A Texas man has been arrested in connection to a cold case murder in 2007.	He, September, 2021, Ohio	Deictic reference
Wayne Rooney has doubts Arsenal can handle ‘pressure’ as he tips Manchester City to win Premier League title race.	I, it	Cataphoric Reference

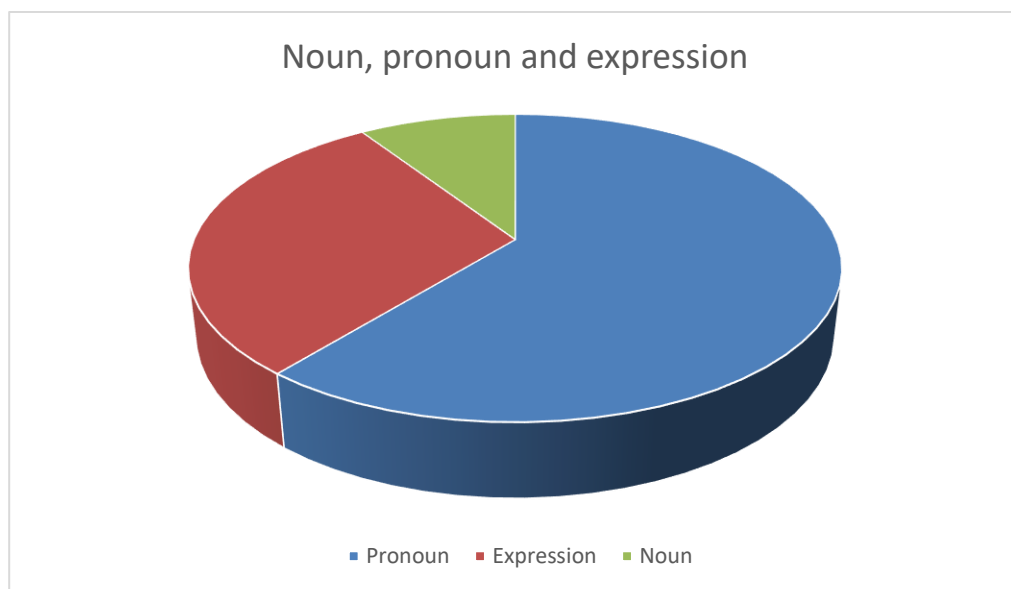


Figure 1. Occurrence of reference in breaking news

### 3.5 Conclusions

In conclusion, this research has explored the concept of reference and its various types, including anaphoric, cataphoric, exophoric, and deictic reference. It has also examined the ways in which reference is realized in various languages and how it can be used to convey meaning and create coherence in discourse. Furthermore, this study has investigated the role of reference in breaking news reporting and how it can be leveraged to effectively communicate breaking news to readers.

The findings of this research suggest that reference plays a critical role in effective communication, particularly in the context of breaking news. Journalists and news writers must use reference strategically to convey information quickly, accurately, and clearly to their readers. The study has identified various strategies used by journalists to create coherence, accuracy, and clarity in news stories, such as using anaphoric reference to link information across sentences or paragraphs and deictic reference to locate events in time and space.

Overall, this research has provided insights into the effective use of reference in breaking news writing and identified best practices for news writers and journalists to follow when reporting on breaking news. The findings of this study are relevant not only to those working in the field of communication but also to anyone interested in the complexities of language use and the role of reference in effective communication.

### 3.6 Recommendations

- 1- Study the types of reference and their functions in different types of texts, including news articles, to gain a comprehensive understanding of how reference is used to convey information.
- 2- Analyze the use of reference in breaking news stories to identify patterns and strategies used by journalists to provide timely and accurate information to their readers.
- 3- Investigate the impact of reference on readers' comprehension and interpretation of breaking news stories, and how it influences their perception of the events being reported.

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