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The Typology and Semantic Functions of Reporting Verbs in Online Editorials of Philippine Newspapers

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ABSTRACT
The purpose of this study is to examine and determine the typology and the semantic functions of the reporting verbs used in the editorial sections of five Philippine online newspapers. Quantitative analysis was assumed in procuring the frequency counts and percentages of the data to be analyzed while qualitative analysis was applied in analyzing and categorizing the typology and semantic characteristics of the reporting verbs. The corpus of the study involved online editorial sections of five Philippine newspapers. Reporting verbs were highlighted or marked each time they appeared in every reporting sentence from the online editorials. Manual tallying was employed in obtaining the frequencies. Afterwards, the reporting verbs underwent examination and categorization for its typology and semantic characteristics. Findings show that the reporting verbs discovered from the online editorial sections were divided into five semantic categories. These categories were as follows: communication verbs, mental verbs, activity verbs, causative verbs, and verbs of aspect. Also, most of the reporting verbs found were from the communication category. As regards the typology, results show that all online editorial sections from the five Philippine online newspapers employed and examined used a significant deal of reporting verbs which were considered as public in reporting information.

Keywords: typology, reporting verb, editorial, semantic functions.

INTRODUCTION

Some written genres that display persuasion with simplicity and straightforward language are newspaper editorials. Though characterized with simplicity, it can be clinched that it is a column of opinion where strong words dominate. Before an issue can be formulated into an opinion which an editor can effectively argue, he or she must have a complete understanding of the issue and must have serious exertion in researching about it (Guidelines for Editorials, 2018). Bergler (1992) believes that the discourses of other people are reported through verbs of reporting. For instance, when an editor cites another view or comment of a person for a presented issue, he or she uses reporting verbs in order to state the message. Also, Kwon et al. (2018) points out that in order for writers to obtain an effective combination and integration of their sources, the use of reporting verbs (e.g., argue, find, show, think) is linguistically vital to be incorporated into their text. Moreover, a writer is allowed to give an expression of his or her evaluation on a reported issue through reporting verbs (Thompson and Ye, 1991 as cited in Ruminda, 2016). In this case, reporting verbs are used in news editorials in order to

effectively express opinions and claims by the editors. Although, it is important to note that according to Guidelines for Editorials (2018), a polite and reasonable tone is a must when the need for disagreement comes. Thus, editorial writers possess both great power and responsibility for they can be influential through their opinions and policies.

This paper purposes to analyze and to determine the typology and the semantic functions of the reporting verbs used in the editorial sections of five (5) Philippine online newspapers. The research objectives are the following:

1. to determine the typology of reporting verbs found in the editorial sections of the five Philippine online newspapers
2. to analyze and categorize the reporting verbs on account of its semantic functions

Apparently, meaning is the language feature which is the most noticeable because effective communication occurs when language is complemented by it. However, meaning is the feature to be examined which apparently possesses the greatest vagueness since the stages of comprehension with the use of a fluent language regarding communicative ability results to principles and knowledge being felt with minimal awareness. As a recurrent outcome of the merging of most words into sentence meanings through rules, they can perhaps be interpreted in numerous ways when they are investigated thoroughly. When investigated thoroughly, distinct perceptions of most words are discovered (Ladusaw, 2018). Quirk et al. (1985) annotates that we deal with semantics when we survey meaning. He indicates that in terms of importance, semantics has equality with lexicology which deals with the study of words.

> Questions of 'semantics' are an important part of the study of linguistic structure. They encompass several different investigations: how each language provides words and idioms for fundamental concepts and ideas (lexical semantics), how the parts of a sentence are integrated into the basis for understanding its meaning (compositional semantics), and how our assessment of what someone means on a particular occasion depends not only on what is actually said but also on aspects of the context of its saying and an assessment of the information and beliefs we share with the speaker (Ladusaw, 2018, para. 2).

According to Biber et al. (1999), the words that chiefly carry meaning are lexical words. In his classification of lexical words, verbs are among his four main classes. It can be inferred that studying reporting verbs are a good source of investigating meaning because one of the characteristics of lexical verbs of Biber et al. (1999) are semantics. Semantically speaking, the role of lexical verbs is to make the connection recognized within the participants in an action, process, or state and refer to actions, process, or states (Biber et al., 1999). Ruminda (2016) points out that there are no differences between the role of a reporting verb with the roles of other verbs because it also acts as a verb in an organization of a sentence. However, the difference lies in the feature of meaning since a reporting verb informs. In this case, to understand the sentence in a profounder sense would mean to investigate the semantic behavior of the verb to be able to discover what kind of verb it is. Therefore, discovering its semantic behavior would lead to categorizing it semantically.

Literature Review

Analysis of reporting verbs in academic discourse and papers)

Likewise, several studies have been done previously for reporting verbs to be investigated. In academic discourse, these are the ones who formerly used reporting verbs to conduct a study to investigate their categories "(Malcolm 1987; Shaw 1992; Thompson and Ye 1991; Thomas and Hawes 1994; Hyland 1999). Likewise, how reporting verbs apply tense were conducted by (Oster 1981; Een 1982; Hanania & Akhtar 1985; Malcolm 1987; Swales 1990; Shaw 1992" as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p.24).

As Thompson and Ye's (1991) ground-breaking study shows, the choice of reporting verb is a key feature which enables the writer to position their work in relation to that of other members of the discipline. Thompson and Ye distinguished three categories of reporting verbs according to the process they perform: textual verbs, in which there is an obligatory element of verbal expression (e.g., state, write); mental verbs, which refer to mental processes (e.g., think, believe); and research verbs, which refer to processes that are part of research activity (e.g., find, demonstrate) (Thompson & Ye, 1991 as cited in Yeganeh & Boghayeri, 2015, p. 585).

Reporting verbs have been explored in different corpora usually explored in academic papers such as student's essays, thesis, and dissertations. Newspaper articles also have been used as corpus for research studies. According to Nkansah (2013) as cited in Ruminda (2016), in a reporting clause, the features that has the utmost significance are reporting verbs and, in most sentences, that report, these verbs frequently appear. Bergler (1992) conducted a study on reported speech to investigate it through evidence, incorporating the Wall Street Journal newspaper.

> The correct lexical semantics can however not simply be looked up in a dictionary; extensive corpus analysis on a corpus of real data of the appropriate kind (i.e., newspaper articles for the analysis of newspaper articles) has to determine the actual usage of a reporting verb in that context (Bergler, 1992, p. 10).

Usage of news articles as corpus

Bergler (1992) utilized a rich corpora of news articles and gave value to this type of corpus to serve the purpose of her study. Similarly, newspaper reports were used by Yamashita (1998) as corpus to investigate the distinctions of discourse representation. One of the purposes of his paper is to explain how the significance of news sources which are from Japanese and American newspaper reports is related in a number of ways to the representing verbs chosen (Yamashita, 1998). The reporting verbs, mental, manner- of -speaking, and speech act verbs were the divisions of the representing verbs categorized by him. He believes that represented discourse is indistinctively evaluated with the presence of reporting verbs. Comparing the reporting verbs to the speech act verbs, manner- of -speaking verbs, and mental verbs, he made it a highlight that Japanese and American newspaper reports are more dominated by reporting verbs (Yamashita, 1998 as cited in Nkansah, 2013). A recent study which investigates reporting verbs to recognize their semantic categories was of Ruminda (2016) who used newspaper articles as corpora. However, Ruminda (2016) stresses that a relative number of researchers do a study using news articles for discussing reporting verbs and another key point is the analyzation of the semantic categories of the reporting verbs has not been touched by research yet. Likewise, diving to a more particular instrument to study would be the utilization of newspaper editorials. Using these as corpora to explore reporting verbs are still evolving in the research world.

Theoretical Framework

There will be two theoretical frameworks which will be consulted and used in order to investigate the types and semantic functions of the reporting verbs in this research. In particular, the theories of Biber et al. (2002) and Quirk et al. (1985) will be used in the investigation.

There are seven categories into which a lexical verb is divided semantically (Biber et al., 2002 as cited in Ruminda, 2016). According to Biber et al. (1999), the seven largely important semantic domains are:

1. Activity verbs- these verbs have the main role of representing actions and events; along with the semantic role of the agent, a subject can be assumed since they have the facility to be in connection with choice
   Examples: *run, give, move* (Biber et al. 2002 as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p. 23)
2. Communication Verbs- these verbs can be subcategorized distinctly under activity verbs; activities that incorporate communication such as speaking and writing are assumed by these verbs
   Examples: *say, shout, ask* (Biber et al. 2002 as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p. 23)
3. Mental Verbs- these verbs have a broad variety of actions and conditions which humans experience, but physical action and movement are absent and inessential. Oftentimes, the semantic role of the recipient is assumed by the subject. Along with perception and receipt of communication, meanings of cognition and emotion are involved.
   Example: *think, know, decide* (Biber et al. 2002 as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p. 23)
4. Verbs of facilitation or causation- these verbs show the outcome that activities in a new condition take place brought about by some person or an entity that is non-living. After the verb phrase, which has the role to report the reinforced action, verbs of facilitation or causative verbs oftentimes have either a nominalized direct object or complement clause nearby them. The examples are as follows:
   Causative verbs with nominalized direct objects:
   a. Example A: "Still other rules *cause* the deletion of elements from the structure" (Biber et al., 1999, p. 363).
   b. Example B: "This information *enables* the formulation of precise questions" (Biber et al., 1999, p. 363).

   Causative verbs with following complement clauses:
   a. Example A: "What *caused* you to be ill?" (Biber et al., 1999, p. 363)
   b. Example B: "This would *help* protect Jaguar from fluctuations in the dollar" (Biber et al., 1999, p. 363).

According to Biber et al. (2002) as cited in Ruminda (2016), the remaining lexical verbs have the following denotations and examples:

1. Verbs of occurrence- these verbs do not need an actor to have occurring events reported
   Examples: *become, grow, change* (Biber et al., 2002 as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p. 23)
2. Verbs of existence or relationship- these verbs deal with what occurs between beings or subjects and thus, either report on their condition of existence or sensible relationship
   Examples: *appear, seem, contain* (Biber et al., 2002 as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p. 23)
3. Verbs of aspect- these verbs give a description of how a state of an activity or an event develops
   Examples: *keep, begin, start* (Biber et al. 2002 as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p. 23)

The other theoretical framework that will be used is the one from Quirk et al. (1985). According to this framework, there are two classes which comprise of major and minor divisions of verbs.

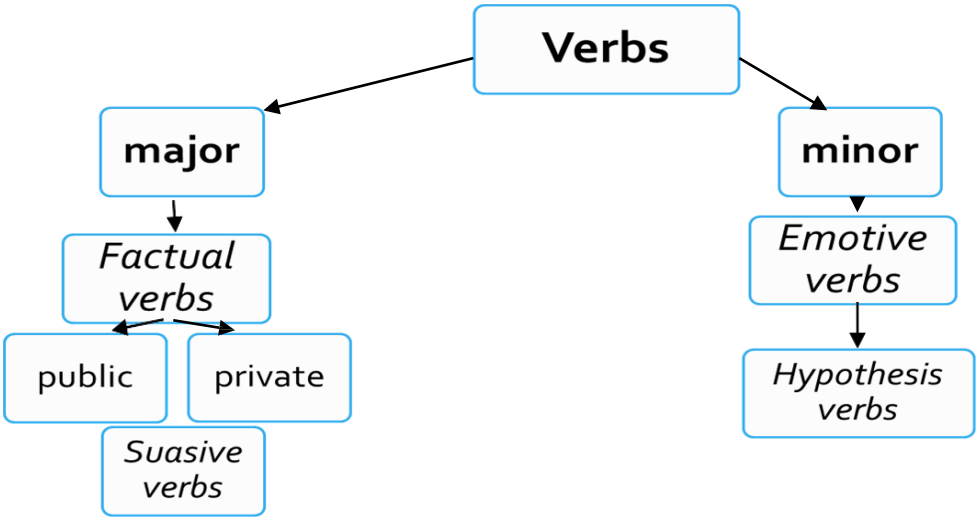


Figure 1. Framework of major and minor verbs

The definitions and examples of the two verb classes are as follows:

1. Major class
   a. Factual verbs are verbs which are associated with the expression of speech acts concerned with statement. This type is subdivided into *public* (speech act verbs introducing indirect statement, e.g. *agree, say, claim*) and *private* (factual verbs expresses intellectual states such as belief and intellectual acts such as discovery, e.g. *believe, imagine*)
   b. Suasive verbs are verbs which are associated with directives, e.g. *suggest.*
2. Minor class
   a. Emotive verbs, e.g. *regret, marvel, rejoice, wonder*
   b. Hypothesis verbs, e.g. *wish, suppose*

   (Quirk et al., 1985, as cited in Ruminda, 2016, p. 23)

METHOD

This study uses the online news editorial sections of five Philippine newspapers as corpus. The names of the newspapers are as follows: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard, The Manila Times, and The Philippine Star.

Philippine Daily Inquirer- This newspaper took its lead in the country that led to it being the favored newspaper of all ages in all different areas in the country. Also, having been awarded and cited more than 500 times, this is considered to be the national broadsheet which is the most awarded. A solid commitment to social responsibility and an assumed participation in different socio-civic agenda reflect their goal of being a catalyst for social revival (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2018).

Manila Bulletin- Published in the Philippines, this is considered to be the second oldest newspaper; whereas, in the Far East it is considered to be the second oldest English newspaper. In the past years, it has been present and active in advertisement publication of shipping companies being known first as a shipping journal. Through the years, it has

assumed the publishing of news reports and stories that give inspiration that involve Filipinos of all ages (Manila Bulletin, 2016.).

Manila Standard- This newspaper has publications daily in the country and ever since it started in the year 1987 of February, it is continually being spread nationwide. The trademark of this newspaper are stories marked by completeness, clarity, and dynamism (Philippine Daily Newspapers, n.d.).

The Manila Times- Continuing its publications, this newspaper has been hailed the oldest Philippine newspaper which has been a part of the abundant history of the nation for 106 years. On October 11, 1898, this newspaper was made known in the streets of the country (Philippine Daily Newspapers, n.d.).

The Philippine Star- Journalists Max Soliven, Betty Go-Belmonte and Art Borjal instituted this newspaper on July 28, 1986. To inspire and to inform the Filipino people are among the overall mission of the Philippine star. This mission has been constantly sought after because truth and fairness are always being preserved (Philippine Daily Newspapers, n.d.).

The data were gathered from 20 (twenty) online news editorials from each of the Philippine newspaper and the issues were from January 2018 to April 2018. In every reporting sentence in the online editorial sections, the reporting verbs were highlighted or marked.

Quantitative analysis was applied as the data has been quantified and analyzed through frequency counts employing manual means and the use of percentage interpretation. Moreover, qualitative analysis was used as the data underwent examination of its typology and semantic categories. The data gathered underwent categorization based on the theory of Biber et al. (2002). Afterwards, the explanation by Quirk et al. (1985) regarding the public or private meaning of verbs was applied to investigate the categorized reporting verbs.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings, the quantitative and qualitative data analyses, and the discussion of the outcomes from the investigation of the reporting verbs found in the online editorials.

Table 1. The number of reporting verbs discovered in online editorials of Philippine newspapers

	Number of Editorials	Number of Reporting Verbs Found
Philippine Daily Inquirer	20	29
Manila Standard	20	30
Manila Bulletin	20	19
The Manila Times	20	30
The Philippine Star	20	24

Table 1 shows number of editorials examined for each Philippine online newspaper and the quantity of reporting verbs discovered.

Table 2. Specifications of reporting verbs

Philippine Online Newspapers	Reporting Verbs
Philippine Daily Inquirer	say, accuse, agree, announce, assume, capture, commend, conclude, decline, describe, disagree, encourage, estimate, indicate, observe, outline, pledge,

	post, present, propose, prove, release, remind, respond, suggest, urge, warn, wish, wonder
Manila Standard	say, add, agree, apologize, claim, consider, decide, declare, deny, focus, feature, exhort, encourage, interpret, investigate, list, maintain, note, point, point out, post, present, propose, prove, reach, release, respond, suggest, warn, weigh
Manila Bulletin	say, advise, announce, argue, blame, confirm, encourage, list, maintain, note, point out, propose, prove, recommend, state, suppose, vow, wish, declare
The Manila Times	say, admit, apologize, blame, complain, criticize, defy, direct, disclose, estimate, expect, explain, investigate, issue, make clear, note, observe, offer, point out, present, propose, promise, prove, quote, refuse, release, remind, reply, suggest, wonder
The Philippine Star	stress, acknowledge, add, argue, assure, blame, call, claim, complain, consider, decide, declare, estimate, focus, hope, point, release, remind, state, suppose, urge, vow, warn, wonder

Table 2 indicates the specific reporting verbs found in the editorial sections of each online newspaper.

Table 3. Frequency table

Reporting Verbs	Frequency
Say	124
Give	36
Believe	25
Show	23
Tell	22
Expect, Find, Think	20
Call, Report	19
Ask, Issue	18
Add, Declare	17
Hope, Order	16
Claim	15
Suppose	13
Consider, Deny, Offer, Point out	12
Decide, Refuse, Speak	11
Note	10
Announce, Argue, Confirm, Insist, Observe, Promise, Prove,	9
Accuse, Admit, Blame, Complain, Describe, Focus, Maintain, Reach, Stress, Wonder	7
Encourage, Release, Warn	6
Agree, Conclude, Direct, Invite, Justify, Point, Propose, State, Urge, Vow	5
Acknowledge, Assure, Disclose, Present, Quote, Remind, Suggest	4
Apologize, Estimate, Investigate, List, Make/Made the comment, Post, Respond, Reveal, Wish	2
Advice, Assure, Capture, Commend,	1

Reporting Verbs	Frequency
Criticize, Decline, Defy, Disagree, Exhort, Feature, Indicate, Interpret, Make clear, Outline, Pledge, Recommend, Reply, Weigh	
Affirm, Alert, Appeal, Back up, Bristle, Call on, Caution, Concede, Condemn, Congratulate, Demonstrate, Doubt, Echo, Elaborate, Illustrate, Imagine, Impose, Interject, Laud, Make similar assertion, Marvel, Oppose, Persuade, Praise, Predict, Reason, Regret, Rejoice, Roll out, Sentence, Threaten,	0

Table 3 presents the number of occurrences in concern with the frequency count of how many times each reporting verb occurred in all one hundred (100) online news editorials. As observed in Table 3, the reporting verb which is the most commonly and frequently used in online news editorials is say. When utterance is being conversed by a speaker, the most unmarked reporting verb *say* does not show which view or side does the speaker stand on (Ruminda, 2016).

To find out the semantic categories of the reporting verbs discovered, the semantic classification presented by Biber et al. (2002) as cited in Ruminda (2016) were applied to classify the reporting verbs. The five categories were then discovered: *communication verbs*, *mental verbs*, *activity verbs*, *causative verbs*, and *verbs of occurrence*.

Table 4. The semantic categories of the reporting verbs discovered

Semantic Categories	PDI	MB	TMT	MS	TPS
Communication verbs	18	13	17	15	14
Mental verbs	4	3	6	4	7
Activity verbs	5	2	5	9	2
Causative verbs	2	0	2	1	1
Verbs of Occurrence	0	1	0	1	0

Table 4 displays the number of reporting verbs found in the online editorials with respect to their semantic categories. The following acronyms of the Philippine online newspapers are as follows: Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), Manila Bulletin (MB), The Manila Times (TMT), Manila Standard (MS), and The Philippine Star (TPS).

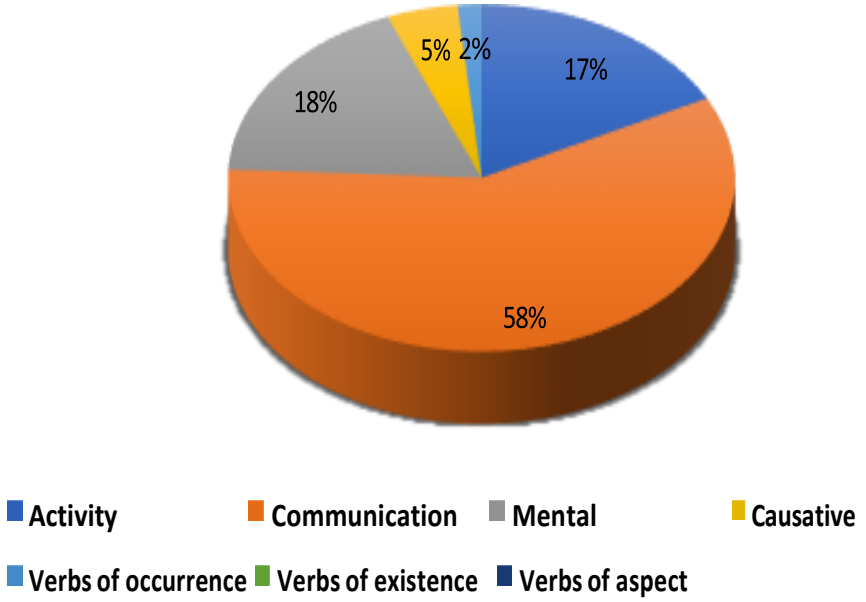


Figure 2. Overall percentages of the semantic categories of the reporting verbs

Along with Table 4, Figure 2 illustrates the most significant and the least significant semantic categories of all the reporting verbs discovered from all the five online newspaper editorials consulted. It reveals that the communication category took a little more than half of the reporting verbs discovered from the online news editorials. It can be inferred that editors of the five online newspaper editorials seemed to convey, express, and point out their opinions, views, and comments to a particular or current issue through a more communicative way. However, the mental and activity categories of the reporting verbs discovered from the online news editorials were only about one-fourth of the communication category. In this case, it can be assumed that editorial writers still maintain a strong stance with their opinions rather than use mental verbs which lean more on the emotions. On the one hand, the least significant use of activity verbs denotes the reported events and actions are of mostly second-hand information and thus, editorial writers are mostly not the agents of action.

Furthermore, to examine the types of the reporting verbs, this research used the division of public and private verbs of Quirk et al. (1985).

Table 5: Public and private verb division of reporting verbs found

Online News Media	Types of Reporting Verbs	
	Public	Private
Philippine Daily Inquirer	24	5
Manila Standard Today	26	4
Manila Bulletin	16	3
The Manila Times	25	5
The Philippine Star	17	7

Analysis and Discussion of the Semantic Categories and Typology of Reporting Verbs

This research purposed to analyze and determine the semantic categories of the reporting verbs used in the editorial sections of five (5) Philippine online newspapers and to examine and classify the reporting verbs according to its public or private typology. The following discussion presents the analysis of the five semantic categories discovered and the analysis of the typologies of the reporting verbs used.

Communication Verbs

The communication verbs italicized below were used in the online news editorials and they were used as reporting verbs. The examples are as follows:

> Example 1: "Leaders of the House have *declared* they can amend the Constitution by themselves in a Constituent Assembly (Con-Ass) via a vote of more than three-fourths of the members of Congress" (Casayuran & Terrazola, 2018, para. 2).

The reporting verb *declared* means "to say something officially or publicly" ("Declare", 2018). From the meaning of the word, speech is used for something to be said in an official or public way. The subject *Leaders of the House* from the extracted statement above have made an official declaration about the amendment of the Constitution. Thus, the reporting verb is featured as a communication verb. In the sentence from example 1, the featured communication verb is classified to the public type of verbs because it can be said publicly and be received publicly.

> Example 2: "The DOTr also *announced* that it has awarded contracts for the supply of spare parts needed by MRT3, but many of those will arrive in the next three months" (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2018, para. 13).

In this example, the reporting verb is the word *announced*. This word means "to tell people something officially, especially about a decision, plans, etc." ("Announce", 2018). Indicated in sentence 2, *DOTr* is the department in the Philippines responsible for stating authorized information regarding parts of transportation vehicles such as MRT3. From the meaning of the word, the piece of information must be presented through a verbal way. Accordingly, the reporting verb is featured as a communication verb. In this sentence, the featured communication verb is classified to the public type of verbs because it is usually at a public place when an information is announced. The following table shows the communication verbs discovered in online news editorials.

Table 6: Communication Verbs in Online News Editorials

Online News Editorial	Communication Verbs
PDI	Say, describe, indicate, remind, observe, accuse, suggest, respond, warn, propose, urge, encourage, agree, disagree, conclude, pledge, decline, announce
TMT	Say, apologize, blame, complain, criticize, defy, explain, make/made clear, offer, point out, propose, promise, quote, refuse, reply, suggest, remind
MB	say, advise, announce, argue, blame, propose, point out, recommend, state, vow, encourage, confirm, declare
MS	Say, add, apologize, declare, deny, exhort, encourage, interpret, point out, propose, respond, suggest

Online News Editorial	Communication Verbs
	Warn, agree, claim
TPS	Stress, add, argue,
	Assure, blame, call
	Complain, declare, remind, state
	Urge, vow, warn, claim

Mental Verbs

The use of mental verbs as reporting verbs are shown in the examples of sentences below.

> Example 3: "In spite of the country's rapid economic growth and progress in raising standards of living, it is *estimated* that about 80 million Chinese citizens, a population not much smaller than the entire Philippines, are still living below the poverty line" (The Manila Times, 2018, para. 5).

The reporting verb *estimated* means "to form an idea of the cost, size, value etc. of something, but without calculating it exactly" ("Estimate", 2018). From the meaning of the word, the verb *calculating* or *judging* is involved and in order to perform this skill, the mind is primarily involved. The phrase *about 80 million Chinese citizens* shown in the example above is a result of a calculation in the mind through estimating. Thus, the featured reporting verb is in the category of mental verbs. In this sentence from example 3, the mental verb used is classified to the private type of verbs because when calculating or judging is performed, it is not observable.

> Example 4: "The finance chief *noted* that other development partners including individual European nations, in contrast, had no such provisions in their respective grant agreements" (Manila Standard, 2018, para. 3).

The reporting verb *noted* means "to notice or pay careful attention to something" ("Note", 2018). From the meaning of the word, to put attention to something denotes focus and therefore it involves the mind. The subject *finance chief* has noticed the absence of provisions in the grant agreements of the other mentioned partners when he noted them. Therefore, the featured reporting verb is considered a mental verb and is classified to the private type of verbs because others cannot observe it. The following table shows the mental verbs discovered in online news editorials.

Table 7: Mental Verbs in Online News Editorials

Online News Editorial	Mental Verbs
PDI	assume, estimate, wonder, wish
TMT	Admit, estimate, expect, note, observe, wonder
MB	note, suppose, wish
MS	consider, decide, weigh, note
TPS	Acknowledge,
	Consider, decide, estimate, hope, suppose, wonder

Activity Verbs

The activity verbs italicized below were discovered in online news editorials and were used as reporting verbs. The examples are as follows:

> Example 5: "The NFA Council already *issued* earlier this month an authority to import 250,000 metric tons of rice because of the supposed shortage, and Pinol sees no need to import more, pointing out that the country had a record harvest of 19.4 million metric tons last year" (The Manila Times, 2018, para. 13).

The reporting verb *issued* means "to make something known formally" ("Issue", 2018). Referring to the semantic characteristic of the word, the word issued represents action because a thing is being provided or spread. In the sentence above, the *NFA Council* is issuing or delivering out an enacted policy regarding the importing of rice. Therefore, the reporting verb is considered an activity verb. Also, the activity verb *issued* is classified to the public type of verbs because it is noticeable by others.

> Example 6: "Yet, TRAIN *features* provisions that will cushion the effects of soaring prices in the form of lower or zero income taxes" (Manila Standard, 2018, para. 4).

The reporting verb *features* means "to include a particular person or thing as a special feature" ("Feature", 2018). Referring to the semantic characteristic of the word, the word *features* refers to displaying something. In the sentence above, provisions or national acts are being featured by *TRAIN* who assumes the semantic role of the agent. In this case, the verb *features* is considered an activity verb for it possesses a doer. Moreover, this activity verb is under the public type of verbs because something is being presented to the national public. The following table shows the activity verbs discovered in online news editorials.

Table 8: Activity Verbs in Online News Editorials

Online News Editorial	Activity Verbs
PDI	Capture, outline, present, post, prove
TMT	Direct, investigate, present, prove, issue
MB	List, prove
MS	Investigate, post, present, reach, list, point, focus, prove, feature
TPS	Point, focus

Causative Verbs

The use of causative verbs as reporting verbs are shown in the examples of sentences below.

> Example 7: "The panel's initial findings, *released* last week, strengthened the government's resolve to keep the dengue immunization program suspended, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said" (Manila Standard, 2018, para. 6).

In this sentence, the reporting verb is the word *released*. This word means "to let somebody come out of a place where they have been kept or stuck and unable to leave or move" ("Release", 2018). According to the semantic characteristic of the word, allowing or

enabling something or someone to be in an unrestricted state attributes to a new condition that took place. The featured causative verb is classified to the public type of verbs As indicated in the sentence above, the verb *released* meant to reveal something for the public to notice which were the initial findings from the panel.

> Example 8: "This is a total lie, as Times columnist Rigoberto Tiglao *disclosed* on Wednesday in his column" (The Manila Times, 2018, para. 6).

In this sentence, the reporting verb is the word *disclosed*. This word means "to give somebody information about something, especially something that was previously secret" ("Disclose", 2018). The semantic characteristic of the word *disclosed* shows that there is an allowing of something that is unrevealed to be in a known condition and it is being brought about by a person or an entity that is non-living. In example 8, a person indicated who is Rigoberto Tiglao, a columnist in Times, is the one who brought about or disclosed a strong opinion. The featured causative verb is classified to the public type of verbs because to disclose something is to make something publicly known. The following table shows the causative verbs discovered in online news editorials.

Table 9: Causative Verbs in Online News Editorials

Online News Editorial	Causative Verbs
PDI	commend, release
TMT	disclose, release
MB	--
MS	release
TPS	release

Verbs of Occurrence

The verb of occurrence italicized in the example below was discovered in one of the online news editorials and was used as a reporting verb.

> Example 9: "The company initially *maintained* that it was a mere platform and thus could not exert censure over what appears on people's walls" (Manila Standard, 2018, para. 5).

The reporting verb *maintained* means "to make something continue at the same level, standard, etc." ("Maintain", 2018). Referring to the semantic characteristic of the word, the word *maintained* represents an occurrence of an event with the absence of a semantic role of an agent. This verb of occurrence still reports an event that is being preserved. Correspondingly, this indicated verb of occurrence is classified under the public type of verbs because it shows an occurrence of an event to be observed even with the absence of a doer of the verb. The following table shows the verbs of occurrence discovered in online news editorials.

Table 10: Verbs of Occurrence in Online News Editorials

Online News Editorial	Verbs of Occurrence
PDI	--
TMT	--

MB	Maintain
MS	Maintain
TPS	--

CONCLUSION

This research addressed the objectives of determining the typology of reporting verbs found in the editorial sections of the five Philippine online newspapers and analyzing and categorizing the reporting verbs on account of its semantic functions. As a result of the quantitative and qualitative analysis, a deduction can be made that there were five semantic categories into which the reporting verbs discovered in online news editorials were divided. The categories are as follows: communication verbs, mental verbs, activity verbs, causative verbs, and verbs of aspect. It was discovered that most of the reporting verbs from the consulted online news editorials were in the communication category. Moreover, the reporting verbs underwent investigation and subdivision according to their typology whether they would be *public* which means that they could be observed by others or *private* which means they could not be observed. It was found out that most of the reporting verbs used in the five online editorials were public. In other words, most verbs that were incorporated possessed an overall overt quality in reporting the information. Therefore, it can be concluded that reported speech such as sentences with a reporting verb can still be extracted and analyzed from news editorials even though it is a type of data which is opinionated and not originally a source of news reportage. In this case, various semantic categories of reporting verbs were discovered which showed that there were different ways to report opinions in news editorials. Doing a research which includes semantics is significant for this can provide another linguistic dimension which deals with meaning. Hence, it can offer us a clearer and deeper understanding of what is really being conveyed by a speaker or a writer. A news editorial is a type of an opinionated form of writing wherein such study can be done in order to give us a profounder view and grasp of how others state, react, relay arguments, or persuade others to a certain perspective, stance, or argument on a particular issue.

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