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EDITORIAL

Every academic environment is sustained by learning through rigorous methods. Research is one and the focal point for assessment. A serious member of the academic community is measured by the quality and number of academic articles.

In spite of the desire to acquire many research reports, this edition has insisted on standards and quality. It is important to note that many articles have been rejected for not meeting our requirements.

The first and most obvious task of our journal is to provide a level playing field for researchers all over the globe in language-related disciplines, which is the vehicle for conveying knowledge. In this edition, thirty-one (31) articles have undergone academic scrutiny from our blind reviewers.

To our esteemed contributors and readers, thought-provoking articles are expected and we are ready to publish them in the next volume.

PROFESSOR ALI AMADI ALKALI,

Editor-in-Chief,

JAJOLLS: Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies,

Department of Languages and Linguistics,

Taraba State University, Jalingo.

FOR READERS

This volume of JAJOLLS (Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Volume 8, Issue 1) adheres to the guidelines of the current edition of the American Psychological Association and Modern Language Association (APA & MLA) Publication Manual for editing and formatting the featured papers. Renowned for its clear and user-friendly citation system, the APA/MLA manual also provides valuable guidance on selecting appropriate headings, tables, figures, language, tone, and reference styles, resulting in compelling, concise, and refined scholarly presentations. Furthermore, it serves as a comprehensive resource for the Editorial Board, navigating the entire scholarly writing process, from authorship ethics to research reporting and publication best practices.

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The "Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies" (JAJOLLS) is a publication of the Department of Language and Linguistics, Taraba State University, Jalingo, Nigeria. This journal publishes reports in relation to all aspects of linguistics, literary and cultural studies.

Manuscripts Submission

Three hard copies of the article with text, charts, tables, figures, plates or any other original illustration should be sent to the editor-in-chief JAJOLLS, Taraba State University, Jalingo, Taraba State Nigeria. Submission should either be in English, French, Hausa, or Arabic languages. Articles should be typed in double line spacing with a wide margin on each side only on A4 sized paper not exceeding 15 pages including abstract with not more than 6-7 keywords. Articles are to be submitted with Five Thousand Naira (N5,000) assessment and handling charges. By submitting an article to JAJJOLS, the author(s) agree that the exclusive rights to produce and distribute the articles to the publisher.

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Analysis of Predicate Logical Relations Used in Selected Nigerian Newspapers: A Lexico-Semantic Approach

Abstract

This study investigates predicate logical relations within selected Nigerian newspapers using a lexico-semantic approach. The analysis focuses on how predicates, as linguistic elements conveying action and states, establish logical connections within texts. Understanding these relations is crucial for discourse analysis and comprehension of the textual structure and semantic coherence in journalistic writing. The research employs a qualitative methodology, specifically a lexico-semantic framework, to systematically examine how predicates are utilized across a corpus of Nigerian newspapers. Predicates are identified and categorized based on their semantic roles and relationships within sentences and paragraphs. By doing so, the study aims to uncover patterns and trends in how Nigerian newspapers construct meaning and convey information through predicate logic. Furthermore, the study explores the implications of these findings for both linguistic theory and journalistic practice. It seeks to contribute to the growing body of research on discourse analysis within the context of Nigerian media, offering insights into how predicate logical relations shape the narrative and argumentation strategies employed by journalists. The findings highlight the diversity and complexity of predicate usage across different newspapers, reflecting variations in editorial style, audience engagement strategies, and rhetorical purposes. Such insights not only enrich our understanding of journalistic discourse in Nigeria but also provide a basis for comparative studies across different linguistic and cultural contexts.

Keywords: Semantics, Lexical, Predicate, Calculus, Relations

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1.1 Introduction

Understanding the logical relations conveyed by predicates in journalistic texts is essential for comprehending how meaning is constructed and conveyed within the discourse. Predicates, as fundamental components of sentences, play a pivotal role in linking subjects with actions or attributes, thereby shaping the coherence and semantic structure of texts. In the context of

Nigerian newspapers (The Guardian, Premium Times, Vanguard, Leadership and Daily Trust on: 16th May,2024) the analysis of predicate logical relations offers insights into the linguistic strategies employed by journalists to convey information and persuade readers. This area of study intersects linguistics and media studies, focusing on how language is used to frame issues, present arguments, and engage audiences. Previous research has demonstrated the significance of predicate analysis in discourse analysis across various linguistic and cultural contexts. For instance, in their study on discourse structure and coherence, Mann and Thompson (1988) emphasizes on the importance of understanding how predicates contribute to the overall organization and interpretive strategies within texts. They argue that predicates serve not only to denote actions or states but also to establish logical relationships that guide the reader through the narrative flow. Furthermore, within the specific context of Nigerian media, studies have explored linguistic features and discourse patterns unique to Nigerian English (Ezeife, 2007; Oyetade, 2009). These studies underscore the importance of considering cultural and linguistic nuances when analyzing predicate logical relations in Nigerian newspapers. A lexico-semantic approach to analyzing predicates, involves examining both the lexical meanings of predicates and their semantic roles within sentences. This approach allows researchers to categorize predicates based on their syntactic and semantic properties, thus revealing patterns of argumentation, evaluation, and narrative construction within journalistic texts. By focusing on predicate logical relations in Nigerian newspapers, this study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how language is used to shape public discourse and construct meaning within the Nigerian media landscape. It seeks to build upon existing theories of discourse analysis while offering practical insights into journalistic practices and communication strategies in Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The study aims at investigating the usage and implications of predicate logical relations within selected Nigerian newspapers as indicated above, through a lexico-semantic approach. The problem statement revolve understanding how these newspapers construct meaning and convey information through the relationships established between predicates which readers most at times find it a bit difficult to understand. Specifically, the research seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis on how predicate logical relations function within Nigerian newspaper, contributing to both theoretical understanding of lexico-semantic in media texts and practical insights for journalists and readers alike. This research is crucial in a media landscape where the construction of meaning through language is pivotal in shaping public opinion and societal discourse.

1.3 Aim and Objectives:

The aim of this study is to analyse the usage and implications of predicate-logical relations in some selected Nigerian newspapers such as: The Guardian, Premium Times, Vanguard, Leadership and Daily Trust using a lexico-semantic approach through the following objectives:

- I. To identify predicate logical relations in some selected Nigerian newspapers
- II. To examine the semantic roles that predicate-logical relations play in constructing meaning and argumentation within newspaper articles.
- III. To analyse how different types of predicate logical relations appear in various sections of the newspapers.

2.1 Conceptual Review

This is meant to clarify concepts to readers as used in the present study. These concepts include: Semantic, lexical semantics, predicate calculus, lexical relations and Nigerian Newspapers nexus and lexical semantics and Newspapers nexus. This is done as follow:

2.1.1 Semantics as a Linguistic Concept

The conceptual review here, attempt to look at semantics as a linguistic concept, lexical semantics, predicate, calculus, lexical relations etc. as could be seen below:

Semantics is a foundational text in linguistic study. Its defines as the study of meaning in language, focusing on how words, phrases, and sentences convey meaning through relationships with each other and with the world. Lyons (2009) discusses various aspects of meaning, including lexical semantics (the meaning of words) and compositional semantics (how meaning is derived from syntactic structures).

In another perspective, Semantic Structures propose a cognitive linguistic approach to the study of semantics. This is further argued that meaning arises from conceptual structures and mental representations, rather than solely from linguistic forms. Jackendoff (1990) asserts that, the notion of conceptual semantics, which explores how meaning is constructed based on cognitive processes and contextual factors.

In another view, it implies that lexical semantics focuses on the meanings of words and how they relate to each other within a lexical system. This further examines semantic relations such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponym, and polysemy, emphasizing the systematic organization of lexical meanings. Cruse's (1986) work contributes to understanding how lexical choices impact semantic coherence in discourse.

These scholars offer distinct perspectives on semantics, ranging from structural and compositional aspects of meaning to cognitive, conceptual and lexical. The last one underpins this study. Therefore, the works collectively contribute to the theoretical framework for analyzing semantic relations in discourse, which is essential for studying how lexis in Nigerian newspapers constructs logical connections and coherence.

2.1.2 Lexical Semantics

Lexical semantics is a crucial aspect of linguistics that deals with the meaning of words and their relationships within a language. Here are perspectives on this concept from three scholars in linguistics: Geoffrey Leech is known for his work on semantics and pragmatics. He emphasizes the importance of examining meaning at both the lexical and contextual Leech, (1981; 1974) opines that, lexical semantics involves not only the definitions of words but also their usage patterns and how they contribute to the overall meaning of sentences and discourse. He introduces the idea that, words can have both denotative (literal) and connotative (associative) meanings, which are crucial for understanding how language users interpret and communicate ideas.

Lakoff & Johnson, (1980); Jackendoff (1983) are of the view that, cognitive linguists who have made significant contributions to lexical semantics through the theories of "embodied cognition" and conceptual metaphor. Lakoff (ibid) argues that, our understanding of words and their meanings is deeply rooted in our sensory experiences and bodily interactions with the world. Lakoff (1980) proposes that, abstract concepts are often metaphorically structured based on our physical experiences (e.g., understanding "love" through metaphors like "love is a journey" or "love is a battlefield"). This perspective challenges traditional views of lexical semantics by highlighting the embodied nature of meaning construction.

Jackendoff (1972; 1983) suggests that conceptual semantics and the mental representation of meaning on how lexical semantics is intricately connected to our cognitive structures and mental representations. He suggests that, the meaning of words is not just a static definition but involves rich networks of associations and conceptual relations. His approach emphasizes the hierarchical organization of meaning, where words are grouped into semantic categories and interconnected based on their shared features and relationships.

These scholars provide diverse insights into lexical semantics, highlighting its multidimensional nature and its significance in understanding how language functions both at the level of individual words and in broader linguistic contexts. This helps this study well-positions within the framework of lexical semantics.

2.1.3 Predicate Calculus

Predicate calculus, a fundamental part of mathematical logic, has been extensively studied and refined by various scholars for instance *Begriffsschrift* (1879) by Frege (1879) His work laid the groundwork for understanding quantifiers and predicates in a formal, mathematical way. Frege, (ibid) *Begriffsschrift*, this seminal work introduced the formal notation and basic principles of predicate calculus. In their monumental work. *Principia Mathematica* (1910-1913), by Whitehead and Russell who developed a comprehensive system of logic, including predicate calculus, to establish the foundations of mathematics based on logical principles. *Mathematical Logic* by Willard Van Orman (1940) made significant contributions to predicate logic, particularly in terms of its philosophical implications and applications in natural languages. These scholars have shaped our understanding of predicate calculus through their formalization, philosophical insights, and applications in mathematics and beyond. Their works continue to be foundational in the study of logic and computation.

2.1.4 Lexical Relations and Nigerian Newspapers Nexus

Logical relations of lexis used in Nigerian newspapers (see appendixes) encompasses various aspects crucial for effective communication and discourse coherence. Here are some key logical relations identified in journalistic contexts which is supported by:

1. Causation: Nigerian newspapers often employ causal relations to explain events or phenomena. For instance, Ogunmodede (2018) discusses how newspapers in Nigeria use causal connectives such as "because," "due to," and "resulted in" to attribute causes to various social and political developments. 2. Temporal Sequence: Temporal sequencing is essential for organizing news events chronologically. According to Ogunmodede (2018) Nigerian newspapers frequently use temporal markers like "firstly," "next," and "subsequently" to maintain temporal order and coherence in news reporting. 3. Contrast: Contrastive relations are employed to highlight differences or opposing viewpoints in Nigerian newspapers. As noted by Adegbite (2017) asserts that, contrastive conjunctions such as "however," "on the other hand," and "but" are commonly used to introduce contrasting perspectives and nuances in journalistic discourse. 4. Similarity: Similarity relations are utilized to draw parallels between events or situations. Oyeleye (2019) observes that, Nigerian newspapers employ lexical markers such as "similarly," "in the same way," and "likewise" to compare and underscore similarities between different occurrences or phenomena. 5. Conditionality: Conditional relations express hypothetical scenarios or conditions. According to studies by Adebayo (2016) opines that, Nigerian newspapers use conditional connectives such as "if," "unless," and "provided that" to present conditions under which certain outcomes or events may occur.

These logical relations contribute to the clarity, coherence, and persuasive impact of news reporting in Nigerian media, reflecting how lexical choices shape meaning and facilitate reader understanding.

2.1.5 Newspapers and Lexical Semantics Nexus

Lexical relations in the context of Nigerian newspapers can be exemplified through various linguistic phenomena such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponym, and collocation. This includes a structured example covering these relations as thus: Synonymy: This refers to words or phrases with similar meanings. For instance, in Nigerian newspapers, "expenditure" and "cost" are often used interchangeably to refer to electoral processes (see Appendix B). Antonymy: Words with opposite meanings. In discussing political climates, Nigerian

newspapers might contrast "dishonesty" with "honesty" or "integrity" with "deceitfulness" (see Appendix A). Hyponym: This hierarchical relation involves a broader category and its specific instances. In articles about budget padding "billion vague projects" might be a hyponym of "frauds" (see appendix B). Collocation: This refers to words that frequently co-occur together due to habitual use. For example, "constituency projects" and "budget padding" often collocate in Nigerian economic reports (see Appendix C). This entails that Newspapers play a significant role in lexical semantics as they reflect the dynamic nature of language, the evolution of word meanings, and the contextual usage of vocabulary. Crystal (2008) emphasizes how newspapers serve as a crucial source for observing new word formations, changes in word meanings, and shifts in usage patterns. Crystal notes that newspapers not only report on linguistic innovations but also contribute to their dissemination and normalization in society (Crystal, 2004).

Eckert, (2008) opines how newspapers contribute to the sociocultural context of lexical semantics. Eckert (ibid) further discusses how newspapers reflect and shape societal values and norms through the selection and framing of words and phrases. Eckert (ibid) argues that, newspapers provide insights into how language use is influenced by social factors and how lexical meanings are negotiated and contested in public discourse.

Tannen, (1993) is of the view that, newspapers contribute to the understanding of lexical semantics through the study of discourse patterns and linguistic strategies. Tannen (ibid) highlights how newspapers use language to construct narratives, frame issues, and convey meanings that can influence public opinion and societal discourse. She discusses how lexical choices in newspapers can reflect power dynamics, ideological perspectives, and cultural values.

These scholars provide insights into how newspapers serve as a rich source for studying lexical semantics, illustrating how language use is shaped by social, cultural, and ideological factors reflected in the media's language choices and discursive practices.

2.2 Empirical Review

Opeibi, (2018) examines the lexico-semantic features of news reports in Nigerian newspapers, focusing on how language constructs meaning and represents events. It provides insights into how predicate logical relations are utilized in journalistic discourse within the Nigerian context.

Etim, (2017) explores the semantic structures and argumentative strategies employed in editorial columns of Nigerian newspapers. It investigates how predicate logical relations contribute to the construction of opinions and arguments in editorials.

Oyeleke (2019) focuses on discourse features, including predicate logical relations, in Nigerian political news. In doing this work, he uses corpus-based methods to analyse how these features shape the representation of political events and actors in Nigerian newspapers.

These empirical reviews offer valuable insights into the use of predicate logical relations and other lexico-semantic features in Nigerian newspapers, providing a foundational basis for further analysis in the proposed study. However, none has accounted for the predicate logical relations from specific selected Nigerian Newspapers as addresses in this study. Therefore, this serves as the basic ground through which this research is carried out to fill the existing literature within the context of lexico-semantics.

To sum it all, some instances to account for the shortcomings of this review which has to do with predicate analyses may include: predicate logic which deals with statements that contain variables and predicates. It is used to analyse and represent the logical structure of sentences,

arguments, and relationships in which predicate calculus was not used. Therefore, this study intends to use predicate calculus as thus: Take for example, Sentence: "John loves Mary"

Given the formula: Logical Form: L (J, M) where L for predicate, J for John and M for Mary (Gamut, 1991; Hurley, 2015).

2.2.1 Theoretical Framework

This research work is anchor on Systemic Functional Linguists (SFL) such as Halliday & Mathiessen (2014) considering the relevant of the work and to provide a robust framework for analyzing how language functions within different contexts, including media discourse such as newspapers. They emphasize the relationship between language structure (grammar) and its functional use in communication, examining how linguistic choices (including predicate logical relations) contribute to meaning-making in texts. Opeibi, (2018), Etim, (2017) & Oyeleke, (2019) all used this as a model in linguistics analyses.

3.1 Method

The research work is a descriptive survey, and the study employs a qualitative approach, specifically utilizing a lexico-semantic framework, to investigate predicate logical relations within a selected corpus of Nigerian newspapers as cited above. The research methodology is structured as follows (a) corpus of Nigerian newspapers were selected for analysis, ensuring representation across different regions and editorial orientations. The selection of criteria prioritize newspapers known for their wide readership and influence within Nigeria's media landscape.(b) Predicates within the newspaper texts are systematically identified. Predicates are defined as linguistic elements that convey action or states within sentences. Categorization based on Semantic Roles: Identified predicates are categorized based on their semantic roles and relationships within sentences and paragraphs. This categorization aims to discern patterns on how predicates contribute to the logical structure and coherence of journalistic texts. This analysis involves examining the meanings and semantic significance conveyed by predicates, and their implications for discourse coherence and narrative strategies in journalistic writing (adopted from: Smith, 2024). The instrument used for data analysis is universal quantifier \forall which was introduced by Palmer (1996). The given formula is symbolized as:

- I. $\forall x \ (M(x) \to D(x))$, where M stands for 'man' and D for 'mortal' ('For all xs, if x is a mortal'). As in: "All men are mortal".
- II. $\exists x \ (M(x)\& F(x))$, 'there are some xs that are both men and foolish'. As in: *Some men are foolish*. This expresses that, 'some' or, more strictly, means 'there is at least one individual fit whom it is the case of the sentence above.

4.1 Presentation of data

Table 1. Presents data collected from newspaper articles published on: 16th May,2024 Table 1. Presents data collected from newspaper articles published on: 16th May, 2024

S/N	Date	Newspapers	Article Title	Extracts	Predicate	Semantic Role	Logical Relation (Argument)
1	16/5/2024	The Guardian	That N3.7tr budget padding scandal at National Assembly	"Senator Abdul Ningi alleged N3.7 trillion worth of budget padding in the 2024 budget"	Alleged	Action	Cause-Effect
2	16/5/2024	Vanguard	2024 Budget Padding: The plot to unseat	"The senate suspended Ningi for raising the alarm of 3 trillion Budget Padding"	Suspended	Action	Cause-Effect

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			Akpabio as a Senate President				
3	16/5/2024	Leadership	National Assembly 's Many Budget Paddings	"Former president Muhammadu Buhari accused the National Assembly of raising the budget by N90 billion"	Accused	Action	Cause-Effect
4	16/5/2024	Premium Times	How Nigerian Lawmake rs Padded 2024 Budget with Over N53 Billion Vague Projects	"President Bola Tinubu presented the 27.5 trillion budget to the joint session of the National Assembly"	Presented	Action	(Specification of where the presentation occurred)
5	16/5/2024	Daily Trust	Budget 'Padding': Nigerians Angry with Lawmake rs	"The National Assembly inserted a total of 7,447 projects"	Inserted	Action	Quantificatio n (The National Assembly to insert projects)

4.2 Data interpretations

The date of publication of the Newspapers is between 18th March,2024 to 16th May,2024. The titles of the specific articles include: The Guardian, Vanguard, Leadership, Premium Times and Daily Trust. The predicates (main verbs) extracted from the articles determine the semantic roles which are mostly actions. The logical relation associated with the verb within its context are frequently cause-effects. The table above, allows for a structured presentation of lexical and semantic data extracted from newspaper articles, facilitating analysis and comparison across different articles and periods. The subheading below does the linguistic analyses with the help of predicate calculus.

4.3 Data analyses

Palmer, (1996) opines that, predicate analysis in lexico-semantic is crucial because it helps in understanding the meanings of verbs within a language. Based on this claim, this study breaks down predicates as they occur in the context of the Nigerian Newspapers into their components and analyse their semantic roles and relationships with other elements in each sentence as thus:

1. The Guardian ... "Senator Abdul Ningi **alleged** N3.7 trillion worth of budget padding in the 2024 budget"...

Using the Universal Quantifier formula, this can be analysed as thus: P = (a, b, c) Where: P stands for the predicate "alleged" a, b, c and d stand for the arguments: Senator Ningi, budget padding, 2024 budget. This is further symbolised as A = (N, P, B) Where A stance for the "alleged" as the predicate N stance for "Senator Ningi", P for "budget padding" and B for "2024 budget" as arguments. So, the predicate determines the semantic roles as well as the logical relations as seen from the table above. Any attempt to tamper with any linguistic elements occurs in this sentence from Appendix A, it will change the semantic roles and logical relations.

2. Vanguard ... "The senate **suspended** Ningi for raising the alarm of 3 trillion Budget Padding"...

Using the same formula as the above, this sentence can be analysed as:

P = (a, b, c, d) where: P stands for the predicate "suspended" and a, b, c and d stand for the arguments: "The senate", "Ningi", "the alarm" and "budget padding".

Therefore, S = (S, N, A, P) where: A stands for suspended as the predicate while S, N, A, P stand for "Senate", "Ningi", "Alarm" and "Padding" as arguments. This analysis shows that the Senate performed the action of suspending Senator Ningi due to his act of raising the alarm about 3 trillion budget padding. This structure clarifies the roles and relationships within the sentence, emphasizing how changes in linguistic elements can alter semantic roles and logical relations in such statements. Therefore,

3. Leadership ... "Former president Muhammadu Buhari **accused** the National Assembly of raising the budget by N90 billion"...

Same as above, P = (a, b, c, d) where: P stands for "accused" as the predicate while, a, b, c and d stand for "Buhari", "National Assembly" "the budget" and "90 billion" as the arguments. Therefore, Former President Muhammadu Buhari accused the National Assembly of increasing the budget by 90 billion. The structure shows Buhari's action of making an accusation against the National Assembly, specifically regarding their role in increasing the budget by a specified amount.

4. Premium Times ... "President Bola Tinubu **presented** the 27.5 trillion budget to the joint session of the National Assembly"...

Similarly to the above finding, P = (a, b, c, d) where: P stands for "**presented**" as the predicate while, a, b, c and d for "**Tinubu**", "**budget**", "session" and "assembly. This us rewritten as P = (T, B, S, A) where: P stands for the predicate "presented" while T, B, S and A stand for the arguments Tinubu, Budget, Session and Assembly within the context of the sentence. So, Bola Tinubu performed the action of presenting the 27.5 trillion budget to the joint session of the National Assembly. This structure highlights Tinubu as the subject delivering the budget (object) in a specific context (joint session) to a particular audience (National Assembly).

5. Daily Trust ... "The National Assembly **inserted** a total of 7,447 projects"...

The last one is equally similar to the above, P = (a, b, c) where: P stands for the predicate "**inserted**" while, a, b, c for "**National Assembly**", "**total**" and "**projects**". This is further symbolized as: I = (A, T, P) where: I stands for the "**inserted**" as predicate while A, T and P for Assembly, Total and Projects. So, The National Assembly carried out the action of inserting a total of 7,447 projects. This structure emphasizes the National Assembly as the subject performing the action of inclusion or incorporation (insertion) of a specified quantity (7,447 projects).

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the objectives outlined and the data analysed conducted from newspaper articles published on the 16th May, 2024 in The Guardian, Vanguard, Leadership, Premium Times, and Daily Trust, the following conclusion is drawn:

Identification of predicate logical relations: The predicates (main verbs) extracted from the articles determine the semantic roles, primarily involving actions performed by various entities mentioned in the articles.

Examination of semantic roles: predicate-logical relations play a crucial role in constructing meaning and argumentation within newspaper articles. Semantic roles identified include subjects (entities performing actions), direct objects (entities acted upon), and prepositional phrases specifying context or location.

Analysis of predicate logical relations: The analysis reveals that different types of predicate logical relations, particularly cause-effect relationships, are prominently featured across

various sections of the newspapers. These relationships underscore the impact of actions described in the articles on subsequent events or consequences.

The final decision is that, the study underscores the significance of predicate logical relations in shaping the narrative structure of newspaper articles, providing insights into the actions, events, and their repercussions as reported within the analysed periodicals.

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