



## Verb Complementation in News Headlines by the Inner, Outer, and Expanding Circles

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**Abstract**

*The English language has survived the pangs of giving birth to its variations commonly called as World Englishes. Though there are many “Englishes” in the globe today, they do have similarities and differences which are manifested in the different styles employed by writers around the world. In this regard, the study aimed to analyze the structure of verb phrases in news headlines of the different countries in Kachru’s three concentric circles leading to the identification of types of verbs used. This is done to give fresher ideas into the style of headline writing by understanding what types of verbs are used by the writers from the inner, outer, and expanding circles. Using Brinton, L and Brinton, D’s (2010) structure of verb complementation, the researchers analyzed five news headlines per circle which served as their corpus in identifying the complements present in the verb phrases. This, furthermore, led to the following results: a) inner and outer circles mostly use monotransitive verbs, b) outer circle is characterized by its use of copulative verbs, inner circle by its usage of intransitive verb, and the expanding circle by its usage of prepositional and ditransitive verbs c) expanding and inner circles use diprepositional verbs while outer circle does not, d) the expanding and outer circles both use complex transitive, e) the expanding circle exhibits the characteristics of both inner and outer circles, and f) the circles overlap each other.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Headlines are the most read part of newspapers for readers generally prefer to glance at them first before they decide whether an issue is worth reading or not. Also, they are often skimmed at public places (Tiono, 2003); therefore, it is not surprising if headlines should be brief and eye-catching, written in short words and really fitted onto a small space in newspapers (Ehineni, 2014a).

In writing news stories, on the other hand, reporters use different linguistic styles and techniques though they have the same topic. They do so because they look at a certain event from different perspectives – leading them to have different foci in broadcasting and/or writing the stories (Tiono, 2003). It may be inferred, then, that different styles may also be employed in headline writing.

In all, headlines are important because they reflect the content of the whole issue or reported event and may be considered a good instructional material for teachers to help second language learners better understand the structural differences of language. They are also authentic materials since the language they contain is what is really used in the real world (Bonyadi & Samuel, 2013). This makes the understanding of how people write headlines a good topic to discuss in a writing class.

In the light of these realities, this study has attempted to give fresher ideas into the style of headline writing by understanding what types of verbs are used by the writers from the inner, outer, and expanding circles. This was done by analyzing the structure of verb complementation in the headlines published on-line. Though it is this paper's main aim to highlight the differences in verb complementation, Zhang (2004) said that "in different topics, the cultural stances and the positioning of the writers have significant effects on the text type structures created" (p. 2). This means that apart from linguistic differences, culture also plays a big part as to how peoples write.

### **Kachru's Three Concentric Circles**

Kachru (1985) introduced the three concentric circles to represent the spread of English in the world which can be better understood through understanding the several phases of English's diaspora. The first phase was limited to the British Island back when Wales was merged with England and when Great Britain was established after the unison of the English and Scottish monarchies. The second diaspora, on the other hand, is characterized by the migration of native speakers of English to another part of the globe. This covers North America, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. The third phase, known as the Raj phase, brought English to South and Southeast Asia, to South, East, and West Africa, and to the Philippines. Kachru did not include South Africa, Ireland, and Jamaica in his first model due to their complex sociolinguistic situations and there were no reliable figures at that time to account the number of people using English specifically those who consider it as their mother tongue (Kachru, 1996).

The first two phases described by Kachru are equivalent to what Bolton (2006) calls as inner-circle diaspora which is characterized by the prominence of English in the fields of law, administration and education. Industrialization and urbanization also hastened the expansion of English that led to the increase in number of English speakers in Wales – 63% of Welsh people by 1921 to 80% by 1981 (Thomas, 1994 in Bolton, 2006). Similarly, the spread of English in Ireland was accounted for the establishment of Ulster plantation. In 1983, only three percent of the Irish population claimed to have native abilities to speak Irish Gaelic (Kallen, 1994 in Bolton, 2006). This made Ireland part of what Kachru calls as the inner circle. This region, as first enumerated by Kachru in 1985, was composed only of United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. However, due to the developments, other countries like Ireland, South Africa and some of the Caribbean territories were then considered

part of this circle whose defining characteristic is that English has become their native language. There are estimated 380 million English speakers in this region (Lee & Jun, 2016).

Meanwhile, another region called as the outer or extended circle includes countries where English is not part of their native context but has been institutionalized. This region has been colonized by those from the inner circle for a long period of time and that left linguistic and cultural effects that are difficult to erase. The countries in the outer circle are also characterized by having English as one of the languages of the bilinguals and multilingual and where English is considered as a lingua franca. In addition, English has a wide range of functions in the social, educational, administrative, and literary domains in these countries. Having these features, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Philippines, Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Zambia have been classified to be within the bounds of the outer circle. This circle pertains to the third phase of English's diaspora termed by Bolton as the outer-circle diaspora. The indigenous languages in this region, however, were able to survive and in some other settings besides formal education, English also spread that led to the existence of pidgin and creole varieties. The prominence of English in this region was brought about by economic and political means rather than demographics like what happened in the inner circle.

The third and last circle, on the other hand, is known as the expanding circle and is composed of countries that consider English as an international or foreign language. It has similar characteristics with the outer circle and is geographically afar from the nations of the inner circle. This region includes China, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, USSR and Zimbabwe.

In all, Kachru characterized inner, outer, and expanding circles as norm-providing, norm-developing, and norm-dependent. It must be noted that with the current diffusion and uses of English, it is just to prove that the world now has cross-cultural and cross-linguistic universal language (Kachru, 1996).

### **Similarities among different Englishes**

Mukherjee and Hoffman (2006) conducted a pilot study on describing the profile of verb complementation in Indian English. Specifically, they determined the extent to which ditransitive verbs differ between Indian English and British English (BE). From their study, they were able to conclude that there are significant differences in verb complementation between the two varieties. This result is affirmed by another study of Mukherjee together with Gries (2009) when they analyzed the co-occurrences of intransitive, monotransitive, and ditransitive constructions among Hong Kong, Indian, and Singaporean Englishes. These three were then compared to BE and the authors summarized the results by saying that Hong Kong English is being more similar to BE while Indian and Singaporean Englishes being less similar. They, however, said that the monotransitive and intransitive verbs in BE have the same preferences in the Asian English variety and BE's use of ditransitive verbs is highly varied as compared to the other group. Strengthening the idea, Schilk, Mukherjee, J., Nam, and Mukherjee, S. (2013) accounted similarities and differences on the level of verb-complementation among the Englishes in South Asia (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka). Specifically, they focused on the complementation of ditransitive verbs. Secondly, they compared the complementation patterns between South Asian Englishes and BE and showed clear differences in their preference

of complementation patterns. Meanwhile, the researchers also compared Indian English (IE), Pakistani English (PaE), and BE by analyzing their influence on pattern selection and found out that South Asian varieties are apart from one another – PaE is closer to BE with regard to many aspects than IE. Intriguingly, Asian Englishes are more similar to the American English (AmE) than that to BE as concluded by Deschors and Gries (2016) when they contrasted BE and AmE to Hong Kong, Indian, and Singaporean Englishes as they used the International Corpus of English and employed forests analyses.

It can be noted that the similarities and differences among the varieties of English discussed above focused more on the types of verbs. However, in a broader sense, this difference is only a part of the other variances in grammar. “[These] inconsistencies between varieties of Englishes [can] lead to miscommunication or misunderstandings in a cross-cultural setting” (Smith, 2018, p. 107); thus, unveiling the differences may shed light as to how teachers and other scholars may craft their curriculum in communication.

### **Linguistic features of newspaper headlines and other genres**

Hassan and Mahmood (2014) studied patterns of verb complementation in PaE and found out through their corpus of sample sentences from The Pakistani Written English (PWE) that PaE employs various verb complementation though monotransitive verb is the most frequently used. They, moreover, concluded that Pakistani writers do so because Pakistanis do not pay much attention on actions done by other people or so, Pakistani people feel no need to talk about those actions.

Similarly, Kamluejirachai and Dennis (2016) from Thailand analyzed verbs in a news online website (BreakingNewsEnglish.com) in which 40 news articles were randomly selected and served as the corpus. They focused on the types of verbs frequently used and concluded that transitive verbs are mostly and usually utilized than intransitive verbs.

It can be inferred, then, that simplicity and short length are observed in their writings of headlines just like what Lee (2012) proved in her research on linguistic variations between English political news headlines in the United States and those in Korea. She arrived at the idea that Korean headlines employ shorter sentential headlines and smaller variety in tense as compared to American headlines for the latter is greater in number in terms of being sentential and employ NP + to V constructions and verbless constructions. More so, she argued that Koreans use less complex noun phrases since English is not their native language. Nevertheless, she concluded that both American and Korean headlines are similar in terms of syntactic patterns utilized and both follow the conventional news headline features. Ergo, there might be similarities and differences, but each has distinct characteristics as Ehineni (2014b) pointed out when he examined linguistic and stylistic elements in Nigerian English newspapers and deduced the idea that the use of English in Nigerian media has a “distinct Nigerian flavor”. The researcher said so after he noted that acronyms, shortening, compounding, deletion, substitution, metaphor, alliteration, pun, and idioms are found in the headlines. Lastly, he reminded that simplicity, clarity, and intelligibility should be emphasized for better dissemination.

Focusing on the results, using of acronyms and deletion is relatively used to minimize the length of the headline, same as the use of abbreviations which is common to headline writing

according to Abdulla and Salih (2012). Prášková (2009) proved it even before them when she aimed in establishing the most frequently used grammatical features and structures in headlines of six different British newspapers and found out that there is a great number of abbreviations. An earlier study is that of Khodabandeh's (2007) and stressed this fact by concluding that acronyms, abbreviations, and omission of words/articles are already being done in headline writing, though these are distinct features of English headlines written by natives. Tiono (2003), on the other hand, proved beforehand also that deletion of the verb is already prevalent through the use of simple future tense.

Highlighting further this point of shortening headlines, Bonyadi and Samuel (2013) found out that native writers as represented by The New York Times contributors prefer short and punchy phrases while those from the nonnative country as represented by the Iranian writers of the Tehran Times pen their headlines in newspaper editorials in full sentences. This "punchy" characteristic of native writers' headlines is affirmed by Ansary and Babaii (2004) when they studied 30 English newspaper editorials from The Washington Times and found out that all of which used run-on headlines.

Similar to this point is Roohani and Esmaeili's (2010) contrastive analysis of sports headlines from "The Times" of England and Tehran Times. They discovered that both prefer active voice of the verbs and simple present tense. In addition, both newspapers do not use adverbial headlines and they have great number of unmodified and premodified nominal headlines. These led them to conclude that these are done to save space and produce economical texts. It must be noted that postmodifiers occupy more space than premodifiers; however, Khodabandeh (2007) found out that adverbial headlines are dominant in English than in Persian.

Lastly, Ehineni (2014a) emphasized that headlines should be simple and brief but needed information can be conveyed using both lexical and functional heads. He underscored this idea by saying nouns and verbs (lexical heads) are important since they carry the meaning to be conveyed to the readers; however, functional heads such as setting and complementizers are used to give background information about the actions captured in the headlines.

### **Syntactic patterns of news headlines and other genres**

With regard to syntactic patterns, Olavarria de Ersson and Shaw (2003) investigated the relative frequencies of various complementation patterns among nine verbs (provide, furnish, supply, entrust, present, pelt, shower, pepper, and bombard) as used in both BE and IE. It was found out that NP1-V-NP3-NP2 pattern is commonly used in IE than in British newspapers. On the other hand, NP1-V-NP3-with-NP2 pattern is more common in BE. Thus, it can be said that ditransitive is common to Indian English while complex transitive may be common in BE.

Unlike ditransitive and complex transitive, monotransitive may be inferred to be common in the headlines from The International New York Times, China Daily, The Jakarta Post, and Bali Times since Maharani (n.d.) found out through the analysis of grammatical characteristics of sentential and non-sentential headlines from these newspapers that S-V-O pattern was frequently used.

S-V-O pattern is also highly employed in preparatory UNESCO resolutions dealing with administrative issues (Dontcheva-Navratilova, 2007). Though a different genre from that of news headlines, it is worth noting that different types of verb complementation were used in different types of resolutions. Dontcheva-Navratilova also highlighted that noun phrase complementation is the most frequent and reflects high degree of formality in written discourse. However, it does not mean that other types of complementation cannot be used.

In line to this, Guerra (2015) conducted a corpus-based study using York-Toronto-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Prose, Penn-/Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English and Early Modern English, and Penn Parsed Corpus of British English. The researcher analyzed the ordering of complements and adjuncts in verb, noun, and adjective phrases to test the principle of complements-first (complements coming before adjuncts) and the principle of end-weight (shorter dependents come first before longer dependents). The researcher then proved that complements-first is more powerful than end-weight.

Lastly, Tabula and Agbayani (2015) analyzed syntactic patterns of news headlines in Philippine and American newspapers wherein they concluded that S-V-O pattern is the mostly utilized structure in constructing headlines between the two countries. Among the 30 news headlines, 23 were simple sentences following either S-V-O, S-V, and S-V-C patterns. Therefore, regarding this study, it can be inferred that those headlines follow the following expansions (which were used in this study): \_\_\_\_ NP, \_\_\_\_ #, and \_\_\_\_ AP having monotransitive, intransitive, and copulative verbs.

In synthesis, what have been greatly explored in the studies are on the areas of similarities among World Englishes in written discourses of different genres especially in terms of their syntactic patterns and/or complexity, verbs' transitivity and passivity. However, there is a seemingly untraversed region wherein the area of journalism is not much explored. Discovering unprecedented insights about this academic field may shed light to both linguistic, journalistic, and literacy fields. Thus, this paper humbly attempted to give such fresh acumens by answering the following questions:

1. What are the subcategories of verbs present in the news headlines as based on their complement structures?
2. What can be inferred from the identified subcategories of verbs present in the news headlines?

Results of this research study would be helpful to linguists, journalists, and teachers since the analysis will give considerable understandings of how news writers from the Kachru's circles write using the English language, thus uncovering their styles. In doing such, pedagogical implications to the field of teaching may also be considered.

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The study used a descriptive-qualitative research design for it analyzed the structure of verb complementation. Specifically, the researchers analyzed and identified the complements that follow the verbs in the news headlines to classify them into different subcategories. They

diagrammed the headlines manually following the principles of Brinton, L. and Brinton, D. (2010).

## 2.2 . CORPUS OF THE STUDY

This research examined 15 different news headlines from the inner, outer, and expanding circles. Five headlines per circle were randomly selected and were downloaded online from March 22-25, 2018. Table 1 below presents the news headlines and the corresponding countries where they come from.

**Table 1.** News Headlines from the Three Concentric Circles

<b>Expanding Circle</b>	
South Korea	S. Korean officials fly to Pyongyang
China	President talks with Macron on free trade
Japan	Hordes flock to Imperial Palace to view cherry blossoms
Indonesia	Diarrhea outbreak hits Orang Rimba in Jambi
France	France pays tribute to victims of jihadist attack
<b>Outer Circle</b>	
Nigeria	NDDC Distributes Fertilizers to Farmers
India	Ticket price for Shatabdi trains may become cheaper
Pakistan	Pakistan's first transgender newscaster appears on TV screen
Singapore	New fare formula raises questions about transparency
Philippines	DENR urges relocation of El Nido informal settlers
<b>Inner Circle</b>	
United States	Justice Department charges nine hackers with ties to Iranian government
United Kingdom	EU leaders approve strategy for trade talks with Britain
Australia	Motorcyclist dies after NSW crash
Ireland	Daughter of Tuskar air disaster victim marks 50th anniversary of tragedy
Canada	Quebec finance minister consults with anglophones on budget

## 2.3 . FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

Structure of verb complementation by Brinton, L. and Brinton, D. (2010) was used to analyze the headlines. By this framework, the researchers examined the complement structures for this will help in the identification of subcategories of verbs which can fall into either of the following seven categories: intransitive, monotransitive, ditransitive, copulative, complex transitive, prepositional, and diprepositional.

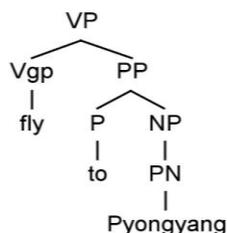
In line with this, Table 2 shows the possible expansions of verb phrases and the corresponding types of verbs based on a particular structure.

**Table 2.** Expansions of VP

Structure of Verb Phrase	Type of Verb
___ <sup>1</sup> #	Intransitive
___NP	Monotransitive
___NP NP	Ditransitive
___NP <sub>2</sub> PP[ <i>to/for</i> NP <sub>1</sub> ]	
___{NP, AP, PP}	Copulative
___NP {NP, AP, PP}	Complex Transitive
___PP	Prepositional
___PP PP	Diprepositional

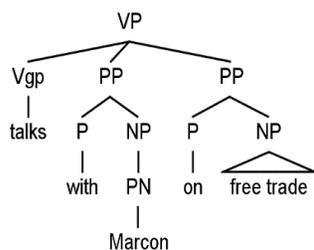
### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. News headlines from the expanding circle



**Figure 1.** South Korea’s NH

Figure 1 shows the structure of the verb phrase in the news headline from South Korea, i.e. S. Korean officials fly to Pyongyang. Based on the tree diagram, the prepositional phrase “to Pyongyang” follows the verb “fly”; thus, it can be said that the verb is prepositional and can be subclassified into locative.



**Figure 2.** China’s NH

Meanwhile, China’s headline “President talks with Macron on free trade” employs the use of diprepositional verb. The verb “talks” is followed by the prepositional phrase “with Marcon” and another prepositional phrase “on free trade”. Two prepositional phrases after the verb group make the complementation diprepositional.

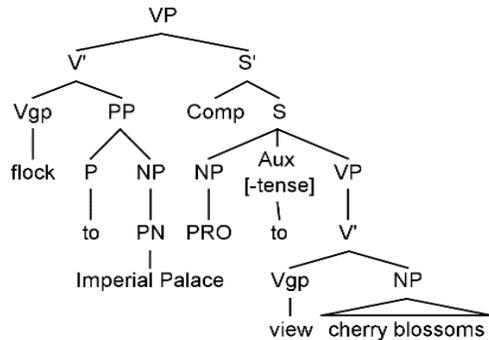


Figure 3. Japan’s NH

The third headline (Hordes flock to Imperial Palace to view cherry blossoms) came from Japan. This headline is different from others for it is the only one that uses a To-infinitive as an adjunct adverbial. “To view cherry blossoms” serves as an adverb of reason modifying the verb phrase “flock to Imperial Palace” and is therefore considered sisters to V-bar. Nevertheless, adverbials are not considered in classifying verbs; rather, complements are the ones taken into consideration. Based on the structure, the verb “flock” is followed by a prepositional phrase (to Imperial Palace) which is its complement; thus, the headline employs the use of a prepositional verb.

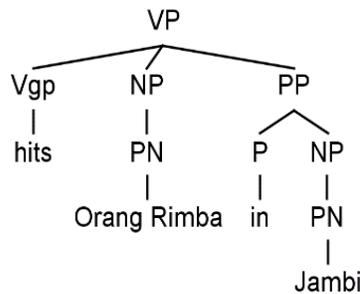
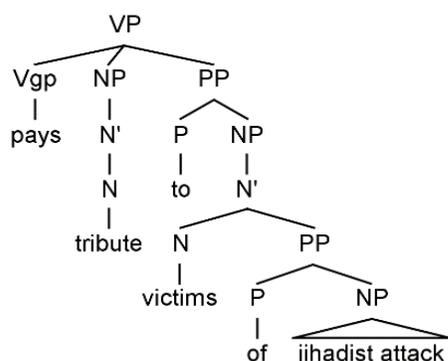


Figure 4. Indonesia’s NH

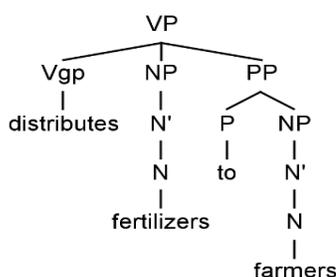
Figure 4, on the other hand, shows the structure of the verb phrase in the news headline “Diarrhea outbreak hits Orang Rimba in Jambi”. This one from Indonesia uses a complex transitive verb because the verb “hits” is followed by its obligatory element noun phrase which serves as the direct object. The second element is an object complement also known as objective predicative which, in this case, is a prepositional phrase. Moreover, this objective predicative/complement identifies and locates the object (Orang Rimba) and so, “hits” can be subclassified as a locative complex transitive.



**Figure 5.** France’s NH

The last headline from the expanding circle is “France pays tribute to victims of jihadist attack”. This one is similar in structure to Indonesia’s headline but the prepositional phrase here (to victims of jihadist attack) serves as an indirect object instead of an objective complement. The “victims” serve as the goal or the benefactive of the action (paying tribute). The preposition “to” serves as a marker rather than a preposition that means “place to which”. To prove this, the headline can be evaluated through the indirect object movement transformation which states that the *to*- indirect object can move to the position before the direct object. In that case, France’s headline may be transformed to “France pays victims of jihadist attack [a] tribute” proving that instead of a preposition denoting location, *to* serves as marker accompanying the noun phrase (indirect object). Thus, this headline employs the use of a ditransitive verb using the expansion \_\_\_\_\_ NP<sub>2</sub> PP[*to* NP<sub>1</sub>].

### 3.2 News headlines from the outer circle



**Figure 6.** Nigeria’s NH

The headline “NDDC Distributes Fertilizers to Farmers” uses a complex transitive verb and is similar to the structure of Indonesia’s and France’s headlines. In its literal sense, the prepositional phrase “to farmers” makes it the receiver of the action “distributes”; however, the Nigerian headline could not undergo the indirect object movement transformation for it will create an ungrammatical/confusing construction such as \*NDDC distributes farmers fertilizers. This is because “to” is not an indirect object marker, rather it means “place to which”. Following the expansion \_\_\_\_\_ NP PP, this makes the headline employ a complex transitive verb.

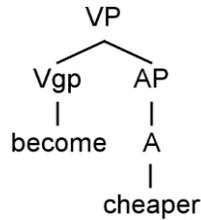


Figure 7. India’s NH

The second headline (Ticket price for Shatabdi trains may become cheaper) from the outer circle came from India, and the verb is classified as copulative. The adjective phrase/adjective “cheaper” functions as subject complement characterizing/describing the subject of the news headline (ticket price).

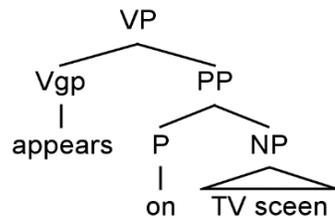


Figure 8. Pakistan’s NH

Next is the news headline “Pakistan’s first transgender newscaster appears on TV screen”. Like India’s, this one has the same structure and also uses a copulative verb. The prepositional phrase “on TV screen” complements the subject “newscaster” making it a subject complement. It is quite confusing to distinguish a copula from a prepositional verb since both may use the expansion \_\_\_\_ PP. In addition, locative prepositional verbs also express a copulative relationship; however, the prepositional phrase in this headline serves as a subject complement as it locates the subject and expresses a current state.

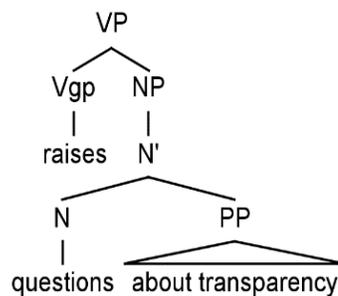
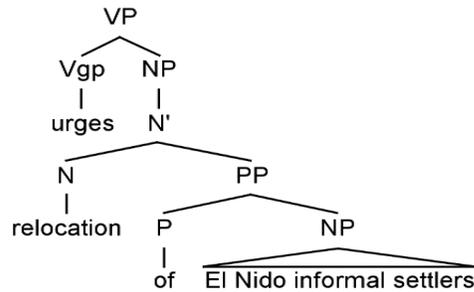


Figure 9. Singapore’s NH

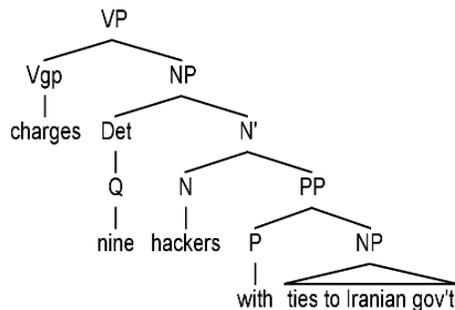
Fourth is the headline “New fare formula raises questions about transparency” from Singapore. The headline is the first among the three concentric circles to employ monotransitive verb, for it has only one noun phrase functioning as its complement. The phrase “questions about transparency” complements the verb “raises” and functions as a direct object.



**Figure 10.** Philippines’ NH

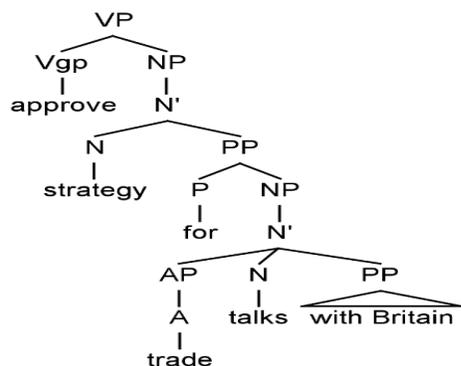
Figure 10 shows the structure of verb phrase of the Philippine news headline “DENR urges relocation of El Nido informal settlers”. Just like Singapore, the news headline uses monotransitive verb with a noun phrase as its complement which also functions as a direct object.

**3.3 . News headlines from the inner circle**



**Figure 11.** USA’s NH

First headline (Justice Department charges nine hackers with ties to Iranian government) in the inner circle is from USA. Just like the ones from the outer circle, this one uses monotransitive verb since a noun phrase (nine hackers with ties to Iranian government) follows the verb “charges” and functions as a direct object.



**Figure 12.** UK’s NH

Figure 12 shows the structure of the verb phrase from the headline “EU leaders approve strategy for trade talks with Britain”. Like the headlines from the outer circles and USA, this one

has a monotransitive verb and a noun phrase as its complement. “Strategy for trade talks with Britain” functions as a direct object complementing the verb “approve”.

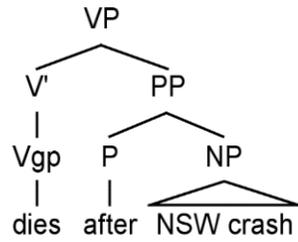


Figure 13. Australia’s NH

Figure 13, on the other hand, is the only news headline that uses an intransitive verb. In here, the prepositional phrase (after NSW crash) functions as a modifier rather than a complement. Specifically, it functions as an adjunct adverbial (adverb of time) modifying the verb “dies”.

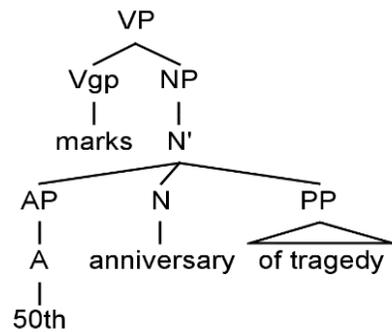


Figure 14. Ireland’s NH

Second to the last is the news headline “Daughter of Tuskar air disaster victim marks 50th anniversary of tragedy” from Ireland. Similar to the headlines from outer and other countries in inner circle, this Irish news headline uses monotransitive verb with a noun phrase as its complement which functions as a direct object.

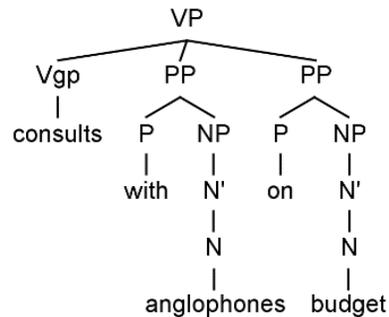


Figure 15. Canada’s NH

Canada's news headline "Quebec finance minister consults with anglophones on budget" uses diprepositional verb which is similar to China's headline. In here, the prepositional phrases "with anglophones" and "on budget" followed the verb "consults" making it a diprepositional verb.

To summarize, Table 3 shows the frequency of verb that appears in each concentric circle.

**Table 3.** Summary of Findings

Type of Verb	Expanding	Outer	Inner
Intransitive	--	--	1
Monotransitive	---	2	3
Ditransitive	1	--	--
Copulative	--	2	--
Complex Transitive	1	1	--
Prepositional	2	--	--
Diprepositional	1	--	1

In all, it can be inferred that news writers from outer and inner circles mostly employ the use of monotransitive verbs when they construct their headlines which confirms the study of Mukherjee and Gries (2009) who investigated the co-occurrences of intransitive, monotransitive, and ditransitive constructions among Hong Kong, Indian, Singaporean and British Englishes. They said that both the Asian English variety and British English have the same preferences in the use of monotransitive and intransitive verbs and it has to be noted that British English is included in the inner circle while Indian and Singaporean Englishes belong to outer circle. Hassan and Mahmood (2014) also affirm this when they concluded that Pakistani writers use monotransitive verbs most frequently as they do not focus much on the actions done.

More so, it is worth noting that the inner circle is the only one that uses intransitive verbs which do not actually need any complement. Thus, it could be said that the inner circle uses simpler sentence structures as exhibited by their verb usage reaffirming the idea presented by Ehineni (2014a) that simplicity should be observed. Additionally, it is one of two headlines that have an adjunct (the other is Japan's headline) which sets them apart from the outer circle.

Meanwhile, the outer circle is characterized by its usage of copulative verbs. Thus, it may be assumed that news writers from the outer circle prefer to characterize their subjects as what the subject complements do. This is similar to Tabula and Agbayani's study (2015) as their analysis arrived at the idea that S-V-C is one of the most used patterns in Philippine and American headlines.

Lastly, the expanding circle exhibits the characteristics of both inner and outer circles. The expanding and inner circles use diprepositional verbs while the outer circle does not. Similar to this effect, expanding and outer circles use complex transitive while the inner circle does not. This contradicts the findings of Olavarria de Ersson and Shaw (2003) which imply that complex transitive is common in British English which belongs to the inner circle. One striking point also is the usage of prepositional and ditransitive verbs by the expanding circle which is not evident in both outer and inner circles. For this reason, it may be assumed that expanding circle writers prefer the usage of prepositional phrases as majority of the representative news headlines from this circle use prepositional phrases as complement.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

In all, this research paper modestly attempted to subcategorize the verbs present in the news headlines from the three concentric circles of Kachru. Using Brinton, L. and Brinton, D's structure of verb complementation, the two research questions were answered: 1. what are the subcategories of verbs present in the news headlines as based on their complement structures? And 2. What can be inferred from the identified subcategories of verbs present in the news headlines? Based on those answers, the following conclusions have been formulated:

1. All the subcategories of verbs are present in the headlines of the three concentric circles.
2. Similarities and differences between and among the concentric circles exist such as:
  - a. The usage of monotransitive verbs by the inner and outer circles characterize them from the expanding circles. This leads to the assumption that writers from both inner and outer may prefer simpler news headline structure.
  - b. The use of copulative verbs in news headlines is a characteristic distinct to the outer circle, while intransitive verb is only present in inner circle. Similar to this, the use of prepositional and ditransitive verbs is discrete to the expanding circle.
  - c. Expanding circle and inner circle both use diprepositional verbs while the outer circle does not.
  - d. Expanding circle and outer circle both use complex transitive verbs while the inner circle does not. Therefore, expanding circle manifests the characteristics of both inner and outer circles.
  - e. The no apparent use of ditransitive verbs by the writers in outer and inner circles may mean that they prefer to show the action (verb) and the person or thing affected by that action (direct object) rather than showing the goal or benefactive of the action (indirect object). This is evident by their usage of complex transitive and monotransitive verbs.
  - f. Lastly, the circles overlap each other.

In light of the foregoing, the study recommends the following in various aspects. First, the corpora must be added to further strengthen the reliability of the results. Second, the study may involve news writers from the three circles to elicit more sound ideas to support the conclusions made. Third, other frameworks may be used to gather more findings to compare and/or contrast

the inferences/ conclusions made in this study. To summarize, this study is a humble contribution in the field of linguistics and journalism but can still be enriched in various facets.

## NOTE

1. The line indicates the verbs.

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## **CORPUS**

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