

## **A Demonstrative Analysis of News Articles Using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis Framework**

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### **Abstract**

This paper attempts to demonstrate Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework by conducting internal and external level analyses on two online news articles that report on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) submission of its findings on the "Mamasapano Incident" that happened in the Philippines in 2015. In performing analyses using this framework, the social context and background for these texts, as well as the relationship between the internal discourse features and the external social practices and structures in which the texts were produced are thoroughly examined. As a result, it can be noted that from the texts' internal discourse features, the news articles portray ideological and social distinctions among social actors such as the Philippine Senate, the SAF troopers, the MILF, the MILF fighters, and the civilians. Moreover, from the viewpoint of the texts as being external social practices, the texts maintain institutional identities as news reports, but they also reveal some evaluative stance as exemplified by the adjectival phrases that the writers employed. Having both the internal and external features examined, it can be said that the way these texts were written seems to portray power relations that exist between the Philippine government and the MILF.

**Key words:** Critical Discourse Analysis, discourse analysis, news articles, social practices, social structures, power relations

### **Introduction**

#### **Literature Review**

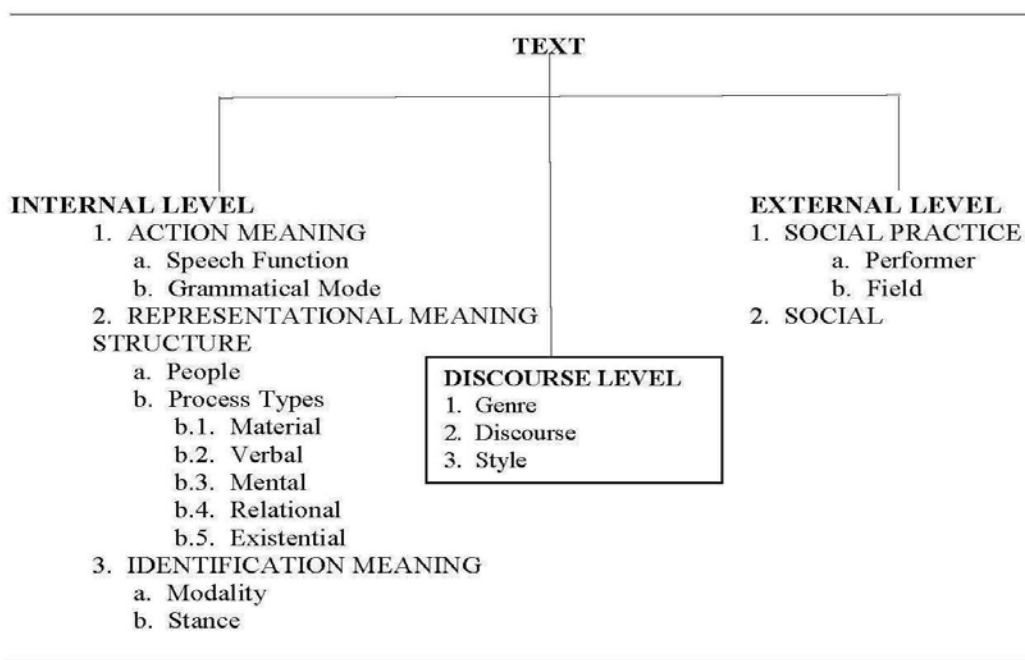
Caldas-Coulthard (2015) explains that Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was developed in the 1980s and 1990s to examine language within the framework of politics and ideology. Historically, CDA is rooted in the works of Saussure who analyzed language in terms of its "parole" or instance of language use and "Langue" which is language used as a sign system.

Halliday (1978) posits that language is a social semiotic system that allows people to make meaning based on their interactions with each other. Fairclough and Wodak

(1997) as cited in Wodak and Meyer (2002) explain CDA as "Language Practice". CDA practitioners agree that discourse is a social practice influenced by the relationship between discourse and human life. It is this relationship between discourse and human interaction where CDA gets the term "Critical" because CDA is not just about the analysis of discourse, but is also about the discourse's prominence in the social relations and power structures where the discourse originates (Caldas-Coulthard, 2015).

With social structures and power relations, Fairclough (2003), who advocates a “relational approach” to CDA, explains that discourse is analyzed by looking at a text’s internal and external levels and then looking at how these levels relate to each other. Internally, a text has Action, Representational, and Identification Meanings. Action Meanings refer to the use of language as a means of interaction. This posits that Action meanings are analyzed in

terms of speech functions such as making offers, giving suggestions, asking questions, or creating statements and from there, Grammatical Moods are identified in terms of the nature of the clauses in the text: interrogative, imperative, or declarative. As such, a text that functions as “making an offer” can be examined as either having an Interrogative Grammatical Mood or even perhaps a Declarative Grammatical Mood.



**Figure 1: Norman Fairclough (2003) CDA Framework**

Representational Meanings, on the other hand, refer to “the use of language to say things about the world” (Coulthard, 2015). According to Bernstein (1990) and van Leeuwen (1993), as cited in Coulthard (2015), Representational Meanings are created when language is used to “recontextualize” events. We recontextualize language in terms of how we represent elements of the world. For example, we represent a certain group of people or “social actors”, according to Fairclough, through proper names, or job titles, or through their characteristics.

Externally, a text occurs as a social event within a social practice that works inside the larger framework of a social structure. A third level (i.e. Discourse Level) is considered as the relation between the internal and external levels because it examines a text as a genre, as a discourse, and in terms of its style.

Figure 1 above presents the Fairclough (2003) framework while Figure 2 presents a framework for analyzing the representation of social actors in texts (van Leeuwen, 2008).

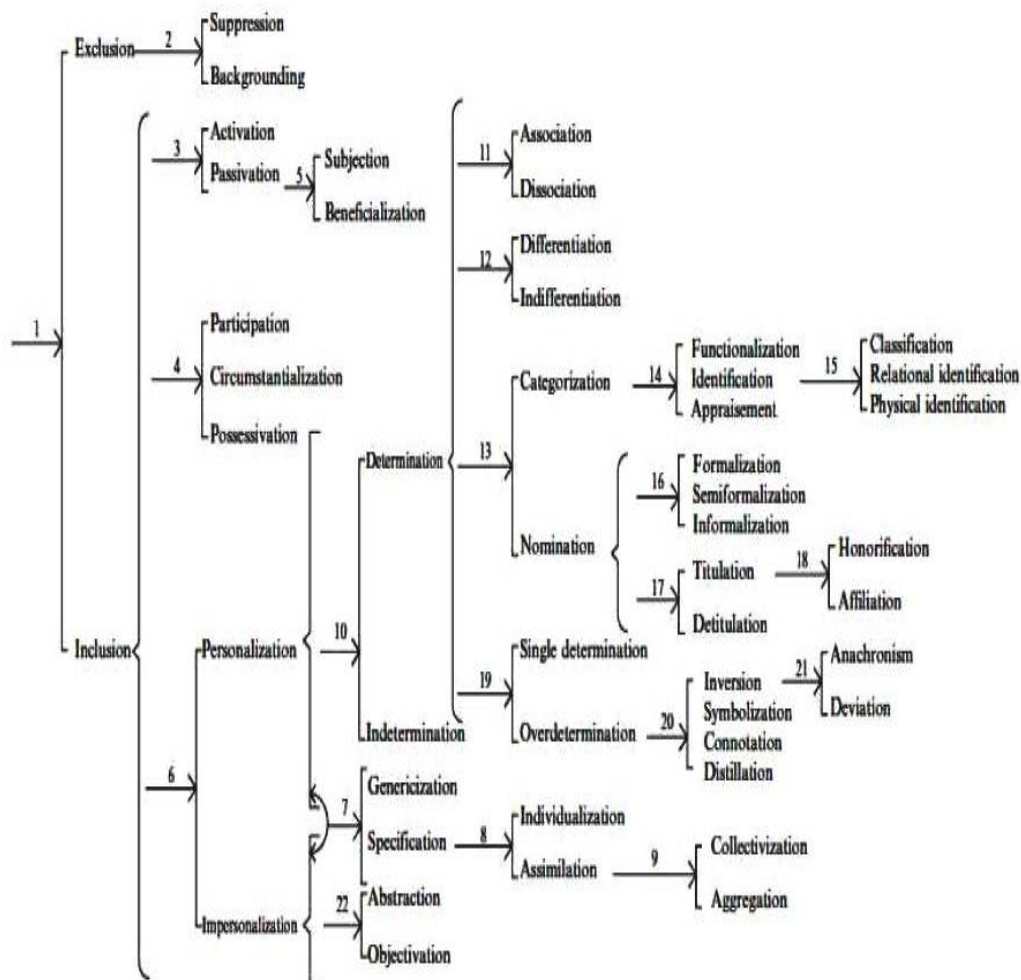


Figure 2: Theo Van Leeuwen's Framework for Representations of Social Actors

Given the theoretical framework discussed above, this paper is founded on the primary research objective of demonstrating that social relations of power in Philippine society can be portrayed in texts like news articles.

In the case of this research which performs analysis of two news articles as a way to demonstrate this portrayal of power relations, this research features more specific underlying objectives. These are analyzing the internal properties of these news articles using Fairclough's (2003)

CDA framework, analyzing the external properties of these aforementioned texts, conducting discourse level analysis of these texts and from these, proposing generalizations on how the internal and external properties of these texts contribute to demonstrations of power relations in the Philippines.

### Context and Background

The focus of the two texts (see Appendix) is the "Mamasapano Incident" which happened on January 25, 2015. This incident stems from a military operation that

was conducted in Mamasapano, Mindanao, Philippines. Its aim was to kill the Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir – one of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) most wanted terrorists. The operation, named Oplan Exodus, was initially a success as Philippine troops were able to kill Zulkifli bin Hir. However, it ultimately resulted in an encounter between Philippine troops and Muslim fighters and this has resulted in the deaths of 44 Philippine soldiers and 18 Muslim fighters who are purportedly known as Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members. This incident draws its broader significance because of an important precursory event which is the submission of the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in 2014. This law, which was personally submitted by the Philippine President to Congress, is significant because its ratification can pave the way for peace and development in the prevalently Muslim Southern island of Mindanao. However, because of the Mamasapano incident, it is now feared that the BBL might be suspended (Merueñas, 2015). Such implication is relevant to this analysis as it backgrounds the power relations that occur between the Philippine government and the MILF – the primary proponent of the BBL.

Both Fairclough's (2003) and van Leeuwen's (2008) frameworks for conducting CDA were applied on two online news articles. Text 1 is titled, "MILF submits own Mamasapano report to Senate" and was written by Ernie Reyes from InterAksyon.com, the online news portal of Studio 5, a privately owned Philippine television network. Text 2 is titled, "READ: MILF report on Mamasapano incident", and was published in Sunstar, a privately owned Philippine online news portal.

In view of this paper's research objectives which are previously mentioned, the relationship between the internal and external properties of the texts were identified and the texts' contribution to social relations of power was examined by conducting the following:

1. Internal Level analysis by identifying the Speech Functions and Grammatical Mode of the texts
2. Identifying the Social Actors and analyzing the resources that were used to represent these Social Actors and Identifying the Process Types that created the texts' Representational Meaning
3. Identifying the Modalities and Stance that were taken to create Identification Meaning
4. Conducting of External Level analysis by analyzing the Social Practice and Social Structure within the texts
5. Conducting Discourse Level analysis by looking at the texts' genre, discourse, and styles.

As a result of this Critical Discourse Analysis on the two sample online news articles, a number of generalizations regarding the relation of the internal and external properties of the texts and how these texts contribute to existing power relations in Philippine society are discussed.

### Methods

In completing this research, the texts' Action, Representational, and Identification Meanings which are analyzed at the internal levels were evaluated and then related to the text's External Levels. The texts were then examined at Discourse Level to identify the genre, the discourse, and the accompanying styles. Ultimately, this paper discussed how the texts contribute to social relations of power in Philippine society.

Furthermore, in as much as this research demonstrates these power relations

through the texts that were analyzed, it can be worth noting that this research is merely demonstrative in its attempt. As such, this research is meant to demonstrate the social phenomenon of power relations, as it is depicted in the CDA-based analyses of two news articles. Hence, with the admission

that this research might be limited in its scope, the author, nonetheless hopes that this paper will have motivated researchers interested in Critical Discourse Analysis to conduct related research that covers more extensive corpora.

## Results and Discussion

### Internal Level Analyses

Using Fairclough's CDA framework (2003), from an internal analytic perspective, the texts function as *Statements* with *Declarative* grammatical moods. The texts present two primary social actors: the MILF and the Philippine Senate, with the former assuming an *Active* function and the latter assuming the role of "beneficiary" of the action. These textual representations in view of power relations in the Philippines are significant as they can imply that the MILF, despite being a revolutionary Muslim group, is showing a certain level of commitment towards the resolution of the incident and that it was cooperating with the Philippine Senate's request for an investigation. Moreover, such representations may be important because of a more important political consideration, i.e. the passing of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (Medina, 2015).

Additionally, the texts featured *Epistemic Assertive* statements that indicated "knowledge exchange" and *Evaluative* statements that provided the texts' *positive* stance towards the quality of the MILF's report. Such positive "stance" is seen in phrases like "full report", "officially submitted", and "helpful" in Text 1 and "35-page investigation report" in Text 2.

### Action Meanings of Texts 1 and 2

Table 1 below presents the texts' internal level analyses. Sentences 1 to 6 reflect the *Declarative* Grammatical Mode.

However, sentence number 7 in Text 1 and sentence number 3 in Text 2, while still following a *Declarative* Grammatical Mode through the verb phrase, "...Iqbal said", are different from the other sentences because they also assume an *Optative* Grammatical Mode (Palmer, 1986) by virtue of the speaker's expression of a wish which is evidenced by the speaker's statement of "**We trust..., and we hope...**".

### Representational Meaning Analyses

Fairclough (2003) adds that Representational Meanings are also examined in the text's internal level analysis. Representational Meanings refer to how language is used to say things about the world. Bernstein (1990) and van Leeuwen (1993) refer to this as the recontextualization of events using language. Fairclough (2003) explains that recontextualization is manifested in the following elements: The people or social actors and the things that people do or the process types.

In analyzing Representational Meanings, "Social Actors" are examined based on how they are represented in the text. Van Leeuwen (2008) expands this by analyzing if social actors are "included" or "excluded" from the text and then delves more deeply into representation details as Figure 2 above reveals. Tables 2 and 3 below identify the Social Actors in the Texts and then detail the Representations that are created for these social actors.

**Table 1**  
**Internal Level Analyses of Texts 1 and 2: Action Meaning Analysis**

ACTION MEANING ANALYSIS		
Sentence Number	Speech Function	Grammatical Mode
1	Statement	Declarative
2	Statement	Declarative
3	Statement	Declarative
4	Statement	Declarative
5	Statement	Declarative
6	Statement	Declarative
7	Statement	Declarative

TEXT 2		
Sentence Number	Speech Function	Grammatical Mode
1	Statement	Declarative
2	Statement	Declarative
3	Statement	Declarative
4	Statement	Declarative

**Table 2**  
**Inventory of Representations of Social Actors in Text 1**

Social Actors				
MILF/We	Senate	Committees	Senator Marcos	Senator Poe
Inclusion	Inclusion	Inclusion	Inclusion	Inclusion
<u>Activation</u>	Passivation	Passivation	Activation	Passivation
Personalization	Personalization	Personalization	Personalization	Personalization
Determination	Determination	Determination	Determination	Determination
Association	Association	Association	Nomination	Nomination
Nomination	Nomination	Nomination	<u>Functionalization</u>	<u>Functionalization</u>
<u>Pronounce Reference</u>		<u>Categorization</u>		
		<u>Functionalization</u>		

Social Actors				
Zulkifli bin Hir/Marwan	SAF/18 MILF Fighters/5 civilians	Mohagher Iqbal/He	Head of Mission	
Inclusion	Inclusion	Inclusion	Inclusion	
Passivation	Passivation	Passivation	Passivation	
Personalization	Personalization	Personalization	Personalization	
Determination	Determination	Determination	Determination	
Association	Association	Association	Association	
Differentiation	Differentiation	<u>Pronoun Reference</u>	Nomination	
Nomination	Nomination		<u>Categorization</u>	
<u>Categorization</u>				

The following observations on how the social actors are represented in Text 1 can then be drawn:

1. All the social actors are *Included* in that they are recognized and expressed.
2. The Senate Committees headed by Senators Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and Grace Poe are represented according to their *nominations* and *functions*.
3. Zulkifli bin Hir, the Senate Committees, and the Head of Mission are all *categorized*. Zulkifli bin Hir is categorized for his *identification* as a Malaysian terrorist while the others are categorized for their *functions*.
4. Zulkifli bin Hir, the SAF, the MILF fighters, and the civilians are *differentiated* through the use of labels (i.e. Malaysian terrorist, police commandos, MILF fighters, and civilians).
5. The MILF and Mohagher Iqbal are *activated* to show that they are the performers of the activity (i.e. the submitting of the incident report) while the Senate, the Senate committees, the identified senators, and the head of the mission are portrayed as *Passive* participants who “benefit” from the submission of the report.
6. Lastly, Zulkifli bin Hir and the SAF, the MILF fighters, and the civilians are also represented as *Passive* participants, but they differ from those in item 5 above because they were the “subjects” who were “fatally” affected by the incident.

Looking at these representations vis-à-vis the social structure of Philippine media, it can be derived that politicians are typically identified by their positions in government and by what they do in those positions. Also, Philippine media can create ideological distinctions based on the nominations that are provided as exemplified in how Philippine troops and Muslim fighters are labelled.

**Table 3**  
**Inventory of Representations of Social Actors in Text 2**

Social Actors		
MILF/We	Senator Marcos	Senator Poe
Inclusion	Activation	Inclusion
Passivation	Personalization	Passivation
Personalization	Determination	Personalization
Determination	Association	Determination
Association	Nomination	Differentiation
Circumstanancialization		Nomination
Pronounce Reference		

Social Actors		
Members of the MILF	Mohagher Iqbal/He	Head of Mission
Inclusion	Inclusion	Inclusion
Passivation	Passivation	Passivation
Beneficialization	Personalization	Personalization
Personalization	Determination	Determination
Determination	Association	Association
Association	Circumstanancialization	Nomination
Nomination	Differentiation	
	Nomination	

On the other hand, how the social actors in Text 2 are represented is detailed below:

1. All the social actors are *Included* in that they are recognized and expressed.

2. Senator Ferdinand Marcos is *activated* as the “agent” who performs the receiving of the Mamasapano report.

3. Senator Grace Poe is *passivized* as the channel through which the report was submitted.

4. Senator Grace Poe and MILF Chairman Mohagher Iqbal are *differentiated* through their *nominations* (i.e. Senator Poe as leading “the Senate’s investigation on the tragedy” and Mohagher Iqbal as the MILF Chairman).

5. The members of the MILF and the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force were “beneficialized” as being absolved from any liability.

Looking at the above observations from both Texts, a common relationship with the larger social patterns and power relations in Philippine society is discussed below.

In the same manner that Marcos, Jr. and Poe are represented as Senators and functionalized as Senate committee chair and head, respectively, the practice of nominating Philippine politicians according to their position and/or function in government is prevalent in Philippine media.

In that these texts differentiate and nominalize the other social actors, namely the “police commandos”, “MILF fighters”, “members of the MILF”, and the “Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force”, this representation is also evident in the Philippine social pattern of distinguishing between ideological inclinations. For instance, media often nominate forces allied

with the government as “forces”, “commandos”, “troopers”, and “soldiers” while rebel forces are typically named as “fighters”, “insurgents”, “militants”, and “terrorists” (AFP, 2014); (Legaspi, 2015).

With these reflections on the relation between the text and the Philippine media, it can be observed that news reporting is often affected by political and ideological biases (CMFR Philippines, 2013). How Philippine media in general can be politically and ideologically inclined can be evident on how Philippine politicians, government troops, Muslim fighters, and civilians are often represented through varying nominations and functionalizations.

Power relations in Philippine society, as the texts reveal, are also often characterized by media’s way of employing “key symbols” to articulate social structure relationships (Pertierra, 2012). Philippine media is a revelation of how “key” political personalities can either be foregrounded or backgrounded depending on how the “symbol” will benefit. Philippine news reporting nominates and functionalizes Philippine politicians in that these people can enjoy either positive or negative exposure. In the case of the two texts, nominating and functionalizing Senators Marcos and Poe as Senate Committee chairpersons can mean positive exposure for them. The same can be observed with Mohagher Iqbal whose nomination as MILF Chairman and agent in the submission of the report can positively portray him and the MILF as willing parties in the resolution of the incident. Such representations may be significant in the power relations that exist between the electorate and government because as Defensor-Santiago (2012) asserts, “in our democracy, the principal



source of political information is the mass media..." and how positive or negative politicians are represented in mass media will affect existing and subsequent issues of power.

In the previous analyses, the social actors in the Texts were identified and related vis-à-vis the larger social patterns

and power relations. However, the Process Types within the texts must also be analyzed to achieve a fuller understanding of these representations (Halliday, 1994). From these, Fairclough (2003) identifies the Categories of Process Types: a. Material; b. Verbal, c. Mental, d. Relational, and e. Existential

**Table 5**  
**Modalities for Identification Meanings of Texts 1 and 2**

TEXT 1	
Sentence	Modality
1	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. The MILF has submitted...)
2	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. Copies... were handed to...)
3	Epistemic Statement Modalized Hedges (i.e. ...is said...) Modal Adjectives (i.e. is said to have been killed) Statement Assert (i.e. the mission left...)
4	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. The Senate report... described...) Reported Speech
5	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. Mohagher... said...) Reported Speech
6	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. He added...) Reported Speech
7	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. We trust...) Reported Speech
TEXT 2	
Sentence	Modality
1	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. Senator Ferdinand Marcos... received...)
2	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. The report... was submitted,... was signed...)
3	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. We trust...) Reported Speech
4	Epistemic Statement Assert (i.e. The report which absolved members...)

As can be examined, the dominant process types in the texts are *Material*,

The different categories of process types and the **bold-faced** examples in each sentence in the Texts are enumerated below. The analysis of which follows thereafter.

From these, the majority of the texts reveal *material* processes that identify the MILF as the “agent” in the submission of the report. This “submission of the report” is important in establishing the MILF’s relation with the larger social pattern and the power relations in the Philippines. Historically, Mendoza (2014) reports that the MILF has been instrumental in signing the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (the precursor of the Bangsamoro Basic Law) in 2012 and the eventual ratification of the BBL can pave the way for the cessation of the four-decades old conflict between the Philippine government and the MILF. Hence, knowing that a much bigger issue is at stake, (i.e. the ratification of the BBL), it was of utmost importance that the MILF cooperate with the Philippine government in their compliance with the Senate’s request that a report on the incident is submitted.

Likewise, other *material* processes that were identified reveal that the relevant Senate committees are deliberating on the proposed BBL as a result of the incident and that the incident has also had effects on the combatants who were involved. With this, larger power relations come in as media has reported that the Mamasapano clash might negatively affect the peace pact (i.e. the Bangsamoro Basic Law) and even future investments (ABS-CBN News, 2015), (Merueñas, 2015), and (GMA Network, 2015). In the event that Philippine Congress fails to ratify the BBL because of the

*Verbal, Relational, Behavioral, and Mental.*

Mamasapano incident, the ability of Muslim groups to form their own autonomous government will also be stymied.

#### **Identification Meanings**

Fairclough (2003) explains Identification Meanings by looking at Modality and Evaluation. Table 5 presents the modalities of the texts.

From Table 5, both texts demonstrate an *Assertive Epistemic* modality. Both Texts featured *Reported Speech* like “The Senate report... described...”, “Mohagher... said...”, “He added...”, and “we trust...” to support the statements that have been mentioned. In looking at how these modalities relate to the larger social practices and structures, Parks (2014) explains that news reports are a form of knowledge exchange where news reporters or writers commit to the presentation of facts as they are narrated from the source. This explains why the texts show statements that reveal facts surrounding the MILF’s submission of the report. Moreover, it is important that a balanced coverage is achieved and the texts do this by reporting the event as Epistemic Assertive Statements from the MILF’s side (i.e. them acting as agent) and by reporting how the Senate describes the incident as a “massacre”. Text 1, in particular, also modalizes its reportage of Marwan, being “...said to have been killed”. Lastly, the texts also include reported speech from Mohagher Iqbal. All these are in consonance with practices in media where journalists are asked to be transparent with their sources and methods and that facts are professionally assembled and verified (Kovak and Rosenstiel, 2007).

**Table 6**  
**Evaluation for Identification Meanings of Texts 1 and 2**

<b>TEXT 1</b>	
<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
1	Evaluative (i.e. full/special)
2	Evaluative (i.e. proposed/deadly/Malaysian/ terrorist)
3	Descriptive (i.e. killed/dead/hanging)
4	Evaluative (i.e. described as massacre)
5	Evaluative (i.e. full report)
6	Evaluative (i.e. officially submitted)
7	Evaluative (i.e. helpful)
<b>TEXT 2</b>	
<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
1	Evaluative (i.e. 35-page investigation report)
2	Evaluative (i.e. submitted, signed)
3	Evaluative (i.e. helpful)
4	Evaluative (i.e. The report, which absolved...)

From Table 6, many of the sentences feature *Evaluative Identification* Meanings. Evaluative statements express the desirability or undesirability of the contents. The texts, from the writers' stance, are filled with adjectives and participial adjectives that convey the quality of the report (i.e. as "full", "special", "submitted", "helpful"), the evaluative magnitude of the incident (i.e. as "deadly", as a "massacre"), the incident's effects on the social actors who were directly implicated in the incident (i.e. as "killed", "dead", "absolved") and the incident's possible implications to the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (i.e. as "hanging"). From the point of view of Waterhouse (cited in Cole, 2008), adjectives in journalistic writing "should not be allowed unless they have something to say..." and "if they add relevantly to the information being provided, they can stay." In the case of the texts, the writers used evaluative elements for the report saying it

is "full" and "special", in addition to the reported speech of Mohagher Iqbal which used words like "officially submitted" and "helpful" to lend credence to the quality of the report and to underscore the compliance of the MILF. This acts as a counter-balance to descriptors that depicted the incident as a "massacre" and the secondary social actors as "killed" and "dead". From the media social structure, using evaluative and descriptive elements in news writing adds "color" to the news although it is advised that these elements are used sparingly. Considering that broader power relations depicting the importance of ratifying the BBL lies at the background of the Mamasapano incident, it may have been necessary for the texts to feature evaluative and descriptive elements to positively present the MILF as having complied with the requirement of submitting the incident report, regardless of the descriptive gravity of the incident.

### External Level Analysis

External Level Analysis focuses on the Social Practice where the texts are situated and the Social Structure that encompasses the Social Practice. In identifying Social Practice, Fairclough (2003) identifies the one who "performed" the text and the field where the text is coming from. In this case, the "performers" or the writers are Mr. Ernie Reyes who works as a Reporter for Studio 5 and an anonymous author who works for Sunstar. The texts function within the Social Practice of News Reporting and all these (i.e. the performer and the field) work together within a larger Social Structure which, in this case are privately owned media companies.

Externally, the texts were written within the social practice of news reporting which typically works within a social structure, (i.e. the media). Despite being private media companies (Studio 5 and

Sunstar), news agencies will typically feature reports that present the government as either the initiator of social reforms or as the recipient of compliance from non-government groups. This assertion is underscored in Tatad's (1978) (as cited in Gonzales, 2003) declaration that press freedom has always yielded to higher considerations such as the security of the State and the right and duty of the State to provide for the well-being of its citizens, among others. Hartley (1982) adds that government is one of two most important agencies in news production. In this case, it is clear that when the texts presented the government as recipient of the MILF's report, the texts were indirectly representing the government and the security of the State as having primacy and this is evidenced in the MILF's need to concede to the government's request for an investigation (as stated in Text 1).

### Conclusion

From Fairclough's (2003) and van Leeuwen's (2008) frameworks for analyzing texts at the internal and external levels, and relating these to the social structure and power relations in Philippine society, this paper is able to present the following conclusions:

At discourse level analysis, the texts function as online news reports that assume a *Declarative* Function because they provide information regarding the MILF's submission of the report to the Senate. Representational Meanings generally reveal the *Activated Inclusion* of the MILF and Mohagher Iqbal as the primary "performers" of the "submitting" of "the report", whereas the Senate and the relevant Senators "act" as Passive "beneficiaries" of the report. This shifting between the Activated and Passivized social actors occurs amidst the *Nomination*,

*Categorization*, and *Functionalization* that happen among other social actors (the MILF, the Senate, the SAF troopers, the MILF fighters, the civilians) aims to create ideological and social distinctions.

The texts also feature an *Institutional* identity. This is because news reports as a genre belong to a speech community that shares communicative norms. These are reflected in their unique linguistic behavior (Paltridge, 2006). Bhatia (1993) explains that a genre is governed by a mutually defined and agreed communicative purpose which in this case is hard news reporting. As with news reports, these are generally *Epistemic Statements* in their modalities and sometimes *Evaluative* in their stance. Hence, while the texts maintain institutional identities as news reports that are characterized by straight-forward presentation of facts, these texts also reveal

some evaluative stance as exemplified by the adjectival phrases that the writers employed.

From these relations between the texts' internal properties (Action, Representational, and Identification meanings) and the external properties (social practice of news reporting and the media social structure), the way these texts were written seems to portray power relations that exist between the Philippine government and the MILF. This is evident when the texts underscore the MILF's cooperation with the Philippine

government's request for the former's submission of the report. With the MILF being a revolutionary armed group, their representation as the *Active performer* of the submission of the report portrays them as willing and cooperative parties in the investigation of the incident, in particular, and as interested parties who are aiming for the passing of the Bangsamoro Basic Law which is the larger issue that not only influences the incident, but also the peace and the welfare of the Muslims in Mindanao.

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## Appendices

### Text 1

#### **MILF submits own Mamasapano report to Senate**

By: Ernie Reyes, InterAksyon.com

March 24, 2015 1:45 PM

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/107564/milf-submits-own-mamasapano-report-to-senate>

MANILA, Philippines -- (UPDATE - 2:24 p.m.) The Moro Islamic Liberation Front has submitted to the Senate the full report of its special investigation commission on the January 25 Mamasapano incident.

Copies of the report were handed to the committees on local government chaired by Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr., which is deliberating the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law, and on public order and dangerous drugs headed by Senator Grace Poe, which spearheaded the Senate probe into the deadly Special Action Force mission to get Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias "Marwan."

While Marwan is said to have been killed, the mission also left 44 police commandos, 18 MILF fighters, and at least five civilians dead, and the Mindanao peace process hanging in the balance.

The Senate report on its probe described the Mamasapano incident as a "massacre."

In identical cover letters to Marcos and Poe, Mohagher Iqbal, chairman of the MILF negotiating panel and chairman of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, said: "I respectfully submit herewith a copy of the full report of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front investigation on the Mamasapano incident, in response to your request for said transmittal in your letter dated March 9, 2015."

He added that the report had also been officially submitted to the head of mission of the International Monitoring Team in Cotabato City on March 22.

"We trust that this report is treated with fairness, and we hope that all the information provided herein will be helpful in your evaluation of the incident," Iqbal said.

### Text 2

#### **Read: MILF report on Mamasapano incident**

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2015/03/24/read-milf-report-mamasapano-incident-399171>

SENATOR Ferdinand Marcos Jr., chair Senate committee on local government, received on Tuesday the 35-page investigation report of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on the Mamasapano incident last January 25.

The report, which was submitted through Senator Grace Poe who led the Senate's investigation on the tragedy, was signed by MILF chairman Mohagher Iqbal. "We trust

that this report is treated with fairness and we hope that all information provided therein will be helpful in your evaluation of the incident," Iqbal said in a letter dated March 23.

The report, which absolved members of the MILF and the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force of any liability, was also submitted to the Head of Mission of the International Monitoring Team in Cotabato City.