MOTION OF THANKS

Cong. confident of victory

NEW DELHI, March 8

The Congress is confident of the victory of its candidate, R.K. Dhawan, in the Luchدائ marriage contest in the Luchدائ constituency today, P.K. Banerjee, the official Congress candidate, said.

According to the election result, the Congress is confident of victory in the Luchدائ constituency.

Dhawan, the Congress candidate, said: "The Congress has a clear majority in the constituency and the people are with us. We are confident of victory."
CHAPTER SIX

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE TIMES TEXT

6.0.0 The Times of India (hereafter Times) is published by Bennett Coleman & Company Limited which is considered to be one of the important multinational companies in India. The paper is published in Bombay which is the business capital of the country. The paper is said to have all along been supporting the ruling party. Started in 1838, the paper presently brings out an edition from Bangalore also. It is said that the paper is always concerned with its own business interests since the proprietors of this paper are important business people. At present Dileep Padgaonkar edits this paper.

6.1.0 LEXICO-GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS OF TIMES TEXT

MOTION OF THANKS

Cong. confidant of victory

Vocabulary

'motion': The word has the denotation of parliamentary meeting wherein the members vote for or against a proposal.

'motion of thanks': a formal usage.

'Confidant of victory': Again the certainty associated with the
Congress confident
of victory

(Continued from Page 1)
its constituent, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), would vote against the motion of thanks.

Mr Paswan said that though the senior JMM leaders were yet to be contacted, the National Front was hoping that the party would oppose the motion.

Asked whether action would be taken against the JMM if they boycotted the motion, the Janata Dal leader refused to comment, saying, "We are trying to contact the leaders and discuss the issue."

The four-member Ajit Singh group in the Lok Sabha will either abstain or vote against the BJP line on the amendments on the motion, Mr Ajit Singh said today.

He told reporters in New Delhi that a final decision about the voting by his group will be taken tomorrow morning.

A defeat of the government at this juncture forcing another general election would lead to total economic chaos and yet not produce a clear cut verdict, Mr Ajit Singh said.

"We are not certain voting with the BJP," he said adding that the BJP and the National Front-left parties combine had reached "direct" understanding despite their denials.

Mr Ajit Singh said a number of Janata Dal MPs may not be present in the house tomorrow despite a whip issued by the party.

Ridiculing the Janata Dal stand on several issues, he said the sole aim of the party appears to bring down the government without having an alternative policy.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr George Fernandes, today appealed to the former prime minister, Mr Chandra Sekhar, and the Ajit Singh faction to vote against the government in parliament tomorrow.
game we were talking about above. Note that the usage here is 
not in any way different from what it was used in in HT. But the 
terminology does carry with it the association of a game, the 
number game, I suggested. There is neither the seriousness or 
the joviality associated with a game. It sounds more like a 
routine matter in the Parliament -- in every session the 
President'a address has to be okayed by the majority as a matter 
of routine.

'veictory': suggests a situation of complete success in defeating 
the opponent in a struggle.

'Cong': The modality of this dimunitive is quite interesting. 
Note that Congress Party is the only political party which is 
familiarly called by this acronym. This acronym was introduced by 
media persons long back. This suggests not only familiarity with 
the party but also the deceptive intimacy the party has with the 
people. Consciously or unconsciously media persons have managed 
to put this across the people now.

Syntax:
The nominal group 'MOTION OF THANKS' contextualizes the news 
item.

Cong. confident of victory
The sentence does not have a verb. This is a journalistic 
practice when the headlines are written. It foregrounds the 
content of the news. But while foregrounding, a few things are 
left out. Only the possible outcome is told in the headline.
The process involved is that of mental with the subject being the participant of senser. The circumstantial element is supplied to the sentence through the previous construction.

1. The Congress is confident of the P.V. Narasimha Rao government emerging victorious during tomorrow's voting in the Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks to the President's address, reports PTI.

Syntax:
The theme of the sentence and the subject are the same. The sentence is intensive attributive with the participants being the actor and the attribute. Here there is the view that Congress and Narasimha Rao Government are two different entities and the former is confident of the latter's victory. The Congress does not say that it is confident of its own government. The series of prepositional phrases that follows the complement establishes the circumstantial elements of manner, space, and time. In the context of factional politics, within the Congress Party, 'the Congress' and 'the P.V. Narasimha Rao Government' assume the relationship of superordinate - subordinate units. The tension, between the party and the government is also indicative of a split within the ruling party. (Cf. The tension between Mrs. Indira Gandhi's government and the 'syndicate' Congress in the late 1960's).

2. A party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar, told reporters
here that "there is nothing to worry about. We are quite confident of victory".

Syntax: The theme of the sentence is the subject. In the a, the nominal group has an appositive construction which gives some information about the status of the person mentioned in the clause. The theme of the clause is also unmarked. The process involved is that of verbal, with the sayer and the target as the participants. The projected clause (b) is paratactically related to the locution though the subordinating conjunction 'that' is being used since the quotation marks imply a direct reporting of the locution. The subject position is occupied by the deictic marker. The theme of the clause is unmarked. The process involved is that of mental since 'being not worried about' means a mental activity with the senser and the phenomenon as participants. The next sentence which is within the quotation marks is that of the locution as said by the subject verbatim. The theme is unmarked. The process involved is that of intensive attributive with carrier and attribute as participants. The prepositional phrases determine the circumstantial element of manner.

3. Mr. Chandrakar said that the party had already issued a whip to the members and all the MPs were present in the capital.
Syntax:
The theme and the subject of the sentence are the same. Hence unmarked. The indirect reporting implies a hypotactic relationship. In the a clause which has an unmarked theme the process involved is that of saying with the sayer and the target as participants. The circumstantial element is supplied by the \(G_2\) clause. In the \(G_1\) clause, the subject and theme again are the same. The median verbal operator has the primary tense of the past. The process involved is that of material since 'had already issued' means doing something physically. The actor and the goal are the participants of doing. In the \(G_2\) clause, the relationship of paratactic nature being determined by the coordinating conjunction 'and', the theme is unmarked and the process involved is that of material since 'being present in a place' is also doing something physical. The participants involved are that of actor and goal. The circumstantial element of time is determined by space which is revealed in the prepositional phrase that follows the complement.

4. Asked about the Prime Minister's engagements today, Mr.Chandrakar said that Mr.Rao had been meeting MPs of different states.

Syntax:
The theme of the sentence is marked since it is a minor clause. It foregrounds the context of the sentence giving the
circumstantial element of time. In the a clause the process involved is that of verbal with the sayer as the participant. In the b clause the process involved is that of material (since 'meeting' is a physical act) with the actor, phenomenon and goal as the participants.

In this sentence what is important is the reporter trying to find out from the spokesperson what the PM is doing on the eve of an important parliamentary session.

5. The Andhra Pradesh Congress President, Mr.V.Hanumantha Rao today appealed to the opposition parties to stand unitedly with the government in Parliament tomorrow and vote in favour of the motion of thanks to the President.

Syntax:-

The nominal group which is the theme of the sentence, consists of a head preceded by a classifier. The process involved in this simple sentence is that of verbal with sayer and target as participants. The illocutionary force involved in the clause is that of strong request 'appealed'. The infinitive (along with the prepositional clauses that follow) functions as circumstantial elements of manner, space and time.

6. "For a trial of strength, there may be many occasions in the budget session," he said in a statement adding that the question tomorrow was of expressing respect to the institution of the President.
Syntax:
The theme of the sentence is in the locuted projected clause which appears before the projecting clause. The former is the $\underline{B}$ clause and the latter is the $\underline{A}$. In the $\underline{B}$ clause, the subject of the sentence is in the rheme position. The process involved is that of existential since the reference is to something which could come into existence in future. The participant role is existent. The circumstantial element of time is also found in the clause. The $\underline{A}$ clause exhibits a verbal process with the sayer and the target as participants. The $\underline{A}$ clause has another clause which is in hypotactic relation and hence it is called $\underline{T}$ clause. The process involved in the clause is that of verbal with the sayer and the target as participants. This has to be a verbal process because 'expressing' something is saying. The mixture of direct and indirect reporting selectively is ideologically motivated. The reporter has the choice to select the mode of reporting. While doing this the indirect reporting is the paraphrasing of the direct mode. We have argued earlier that paraphrasing does not ensure reporting exactly what the speaker has said. Hence the reporter can always 'manipulate' the speech.

Mr. Hanumantha Rao is deliberately trying to mislead the opposition MPs. The purpose of vote of thanks on the President's
speech is not to express respect to the institution of the President. Now, the problem for an analyst is this: by reporting it, is the newspaper exposing the Congress Party or is the newspaper going along with it? The latter seems to be correct. I take up this issue again when I describe and interpret the data at the discoursal level.

7. The APCC President said the need of the hour was to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, who, he said, was straining every nerve to pull the country out of crises.

Vocabulary:

'need of the hour': A politician's cliche. This is the perception of APCC President considered to be close to the Prime Minister. This cannot be taken seriously but it is an accepted expression in journalism since journalistic writing thrives on stock responses. Note the equation between the country and the party in power.

'strengthen the hands': Another cliche. One needs to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister if one is interested in the country's welfare which is what the President of APCC feels.

Syntax:

The nominal group is the subject and the theme of the sentence. All the three clauses in the sentence are attached to each other hypotactically. In the a clause the process involved is that of verbal ('said') with the sayer and the target as participants.
The President of APCC is referred to by the designation he holds rather than by his name. What is thus highlighted is the institutional authority. Though the subordination marker 'that' is not present in the beginning of the clause, there is the past tense form which determines the hypotactic relation. The clause has abstract material process since 'strengthening the hands of the Prime Minister' involves doing something which is not exactly a physical act. Time is the circumstantial element involved. In the clause, the process involved is both material and mental since 'straining' connotes both physical and mental. The actor/senser and goal/phenomenon are the participants. The circumstantial element functioning here is that of space. The embedded clause, 'he said', in the clause has verbal process.

8. Regretting the "wild and baseless" allegations by certain opposition parties against the government and the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, he said they think that they can put the government in a tight corner and win the support of the people.

Vocabulary:
'"wild and baseless" allegations': As far as these words are concerned the reporter is not taking any responsibility and that is why the words appear in quotes.

Syntax:
The theme of the sentence extends up to the end of the '-ing' clause. The passive structure has a pronounced agent. The
foregrounding of the 'allegations' is ideological. Now Government (particularly the Prime Minister) and the finance minister ia on one side and the opposition is on the other. In the a clause, the sayer is the subject. Hence the process is verbal. In the b clause, the process involved is that of mental - 'think'. The senser and the phenomenon are the participants. The phenomenon involved forms the g clause. The g clause consists of a subject and a low modal operator as mood elements. The process involved is abstract material since 'putting in a tight corner' and 'winning the support of the people' cannot be physical.

9. "The Indian electorate has proved more than once that they are mature enough to analyse things, take their own decision and refuse to be misled," he added.

Syntax:
The projected paratactic clause comes before the reported projecting clause. Hence the theme of the sentence is within quotation marks. The median verbal operator makes the mood of the a clause unmarked. The verb 'proved' indicates that the nature of the process is both mental and material since both mental act (of thinking what is the right thing to do while voting) and the physical act (of voting) are involved in the process. Hence the participants are both senser/actor and phenomenon/goal. The hypotactic clause, the b, which is within
the quotation marks has three complements. The process is that of intensive attributive since 'are mature' is indicative of the quality of the participants. The process has attribute and carrier as participants. Circumstantial element is that of manner.

10. A report from Ahmedabad says that the BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the National Front (NF) will support his party in the vote against the Congress government in the Lok-Sabha tomorrow.

Syntax:
The a clause is the theme of the sentence. The nominal group of the theme is the subject of the sentence. The a clause exhibits the process of verbal with the sayer and the target as the participants. The target forms the next clause, the g where the subject has an appositive structure. In the g clause also the process involved is that of verbal with again the target forming the next clause, g. In g clause, the subject and the infinitive which has median modal operator forms the mood. The process involved is that of abstract material since the word 'supporting' not only indicates a physical action, but also an abstract action.

11. At a question-answer session with party workers organised by the party's city unit, Mr Advani said the National Front has taken a decision to do so.
Syntax:
The prepositional phrase forms the theme of the sentence. The prepositional phrase gives the circumstantial element of manner to the sentence. The subject of the clause is held in the rheme position which is in the a clause. The process involved is that of verbal. Though the subordinating conjunction 'that' is absent at the end of the a clause, there exists a hypotactic relationship with the b clause which is realised through the rest of the clause by the primary tense of the clause. The process involved in the b is that of mental since 'taking a decision' is to do with the mind of the people. The participants are the senser and the phenomenon.

12. Mr. Advani had discussed among other things, the political situation and organizational matters and visited different areas and contacted the voters of his Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency.

Syntax:
The theme of the sentence is the subject also. There are three coordinating clauses in the sentence. In the a1 clause, the process involved is that of verbal with sayer and target as participants. In the a2 clause, the process involved is that of material with actor and goal as participants. The same is the case with the a3 clause.
13. He said the Central government had accepted some of the party's demands like political relations with Israel and control under economic policy.

**Syntax:**
The sentential theme is the a clause. The process involved in the a clause is that of verbal with the sayer and the target as participants. The target forms the B clause which is in hypotactic relationship with the a clause. Since the subject and the theme of the a are one and the same, the mood of the clause is unmarked. In the a clause, the subject and the theme of the clause are the same. The material process involved in the B clause has the actor and the goal as participants.

14. He also pointed out that the income tax slab should be up to Rs.48,000 and the Rs.28,000 limit set by the government was not sufficient.

**Syntax:**
The sentential theme is a clause. The a clause has a verbal process involved with sayer and target as participants. As in the previous sentence, the target of the a forms B1 which is hypotactically related with the a clause. In the B1 the process involved is that of intensive attribute with the actor and the attribute. In the B2 clause, the coordinating conjunction establishes the paratactic relationship with the B1 clause. The B2 clause has the nominal group in which the subject is determined by a minor clause. The process involved is the
intensive attribute with the actor and the attribute.

15. Referring to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, Mr. Advani said the temple would be constructed but he did not set a time limit.

Syntax:
The theme of the clause is a minor clause which contextualizes the report. The circumstantial element of manner is also found in the clause. The a clause contains verbal process with the sayer as the participant. In the ω₁ clause the process involved is that of material with actor and goal as participants. The median modal operator determines the mood of the clause. In the coordinating clause, ω₂, which is paratactically related to ω₁ clause, the process involved is that of abstract material (since 'setting a time limit' is an abstract action) with actor as the participant. The negative polarity of the clause determines the mood of the sentence.

16. He also pointed out that the Uttar Pradesh government had improved the law-and-order situation.

Syntax:
The sentential theme is the a clause. In the a clause, the process involved is that of verbal since 'pointed out' involves saying. The participants involved are sayer and target. As we found in the previous two sentences, the target of the a clause
is formed by the entire $\text{B}$ clause. The subject and the theme of the $\text{B}$ clause are the same. The process involved in the $\text{B}$ clause is that of material since 'improving' involves 'doing'. The participants involved in the process are actor and goal.

17. On the direct telephone services between Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad, he said the direct telephone link from Gandhinagar would start working shortly, but from Ahmedabad it would take longer due to the old telephone exchanges, which would be converted into the electronic system.

Syntax:
The prepositional phrase forms the theme of the sentence. The subject is in the rheme position. The prepositional phrase offers circumstantial element of manner. The $\text{a}$ clause has verbal process. The sayer and the target are overt participants. The target of the $\text{a}$ clause is the $\text{B}$ clause. Though there is no subordinating conjunction in between the two clauses, the primary tense and aspect of the clause make it clear that the clause has hypotactic relation with the $\text{a}$. The $\text{B1}$ clause is attached to another clause $\text{B2}$ through a coordinating conjunction 'but'. The process involved is that of material. The Wh-hypotactic clause attached to $\text{B2}$ has abstract material process. Prepositional phrases function as circumstantial elements in all the clauses.

18. A report from Ranchi says that the Janata Dal leader and MP, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, said that the National Front was confident
that its constituent, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), would vote against the motion of thanks.

Syntax:
The sentential theme is the subject. The process involved in the clause is that of verbal with the sayer and the target as participants. The target of the process becomes the clause. In the clause which is hypotactically related to the , the subject (nominal group) has an appositive construction. The process involved is again verbal with the target found in the clause. The clause has intensive attributive process with the actor and the attribute as participants. The has another clause which is hypotactically related to it, let us call it an 'r' clause for the sake of description. The process involved in the clause is that of material since 'voting' involves doing something physically.

19. Mr. Paswan said that though the senior JMM leaders were yet to be contacted, the National Front was hoping that the party would oppose the motion.

Syntax:
The clause forms the theme of the sentence and has verbal process involved with the sayer and the target as participants. The target is the hypotactically related to . The clause has two clauses which are hypotactically related to each other: Ga
and SS clauses. In the SS clause, the process involved is material since 'contacted' involves a physical act. The actor and the goal are participants. The Sa clause consists of two clauses: both are hypotactically related; they are called Saa and SaS clauses. The process involved in Saa clause is that of mental since 'hoping' has to do with the mind. The senser and phenomenon are the participants. The phenomenon forms the SaS clause which has material process.

20. Asked whether action would be taken against the JMM if they boycotted the motion, the Janata Dal leader refused to comment, saying, "We are trying to contact the leaders and discuss the issue."

Syntax:
The complex sentence contains a non-finite verb (-ed participle) as the theme of the sentence. The -ed participle is a verbal group and hence could be treated as a minor clause. The subject is in the a clause which starts from 'the Janata Dal leader...'. The a has two subclauses – a1 and a2, both of them attached to each other paratactically; both have verbal processes with sayer as an overt participant. The b clause could be divided into these subclauses – b1 which is the theme 'Asked', b2 which is between 'whether action would be taken against the JMM', and b3, 'if they boycotted the motion'. Though b1 is taken as a minor clause, the presence of the verb envisages a verbal process. In the b2, the process involved is that of material with goal as the
specific participant. In the 63, the process involved is that of abstract material with actor as the participant.

21. The four-member Ajit Singh group in the Lok-Sabha will either abstain or vote against the BJP line on the amendments on the motion, Mr. Ajit Singh said today.

Vocabulary:
'The four-member Ajit Group': The nominal group is descriptive with the numerical strength clearly mentioned.

Syntax:
The sentential theme is the subject of the sentence. The clausal arrangement is different in the sentence. The reporting (projecting clause) comes at the end of the sentence. The exhibits verbal process. The reported (projected clause) comes in the beginning of the sentence. The median modal operator indicates that the forthcoming action is quite probable. The process involved is that of material since 'abstaining' or 'voting against' are physical actions. The participants are actor and goal. The 'either ... or ...' structure offers a coordinating relationship between the verbal groups within the clause. The circumstantial element of time is also found in the sentence.

22. He told reporters in New Delhi that a final decision about
voting by his group will be taken tomorrow morning.

Syntax:
The *a* clause forms the theme of the sentence. The *a* clause contains the subject of the sentence. The mood of the clause is also determined by the verbal operator. The process involved is that of verbal with sayer and target as participants. The circumstantial element of space is also found in the clause. In the *b* clause, the process involved is that of material with the actor and the goal as participants. The circumstantial element of time is also determined in the adjunct.

23. A defeat of the government at this juncture forcing another general election would lead to total economic chaos and yet not produce a clear cut verdict, Mr. Ajit Singh said.

Syntax:
The theme of the sentence consists of the entire nominal group in the *b* clause. The nominal group is descriptive in nature. The circumstantial elements of time and manner is also determined in the nominal group. The process involved in the *b* clause is that of abstract material with an abstract actor and abstract goal as participants. The *a* clause consists of verbal process.

24. "We are not certainly voting with the BJP," he said adding that the BJP and the National Front-Left parties combine had
reached "direct" understanding despite their denials.

**Syntax:**

The projected clause of locution, (which is the sentential theme also) is related to the a clause paratactically since the quotation marks indicate 'direct' proposition of the speaker. Within the projected locuted clause, a2, the process involved is that of material since 'not certainly voting' involves physical inaction. The participants involved are actor and goal. The negative polarity goes with the verbal group to determine the mood of the clause. In the projecting a1 clause there is another clause, a, which is hypotactically related to the a1 clause. The process involved in a1 is verbal. The verb 'adding' is the reporter's discourse marker. The process involved in the a clause is that of mental since 'reaching understanding' has to do with the mind with the senser and phenomenon as participants. Additional information is given through the adjunct.

25. Mr. Ajit Singh said a number of Janata Dal MPs may not be present in the house tomorrow despite a whip issued by the party.

**Syntax:**

The theme of the sentence is also the subject. The a clause is the projecting clause with the projected clause in the hypotactic relationship since the projected idea is in the reported form. Hence it is a. The process involved in the a is verbal with the sayer and the target as participants. The target of the a
becomes the $\Theta$ clause. The process involved in the $\Theta$ clause is that of material (since 'not being present' is physical) with the actor and goal as participants. The circumstantial element involved is that of both space and time. The clause has a low median modal operator along with the negative polarity as a part of the mood structure. The adjunct provides additional information.

26. Ridiculing the Janata Dal stand on several issues, he said the sole aim of the party appears to bring down the government without having an alternative policy.

Vocabulary:
'Ridiculing': This is a reporter's comment. He concludes that Mr. Ajit Singh has been 'ridiculing' the Janata Dal stand.

Syntax:
The minor clause forms the theme of the sentence. The minor clause foregrounds the informational context wherein the reporter's point of view is also reflected. The minor clause is doing the work of an adverbial. In the $\Theta$ clause the process involved is that of verbal with the sayer as the participant. The $\Theta$ clause consists of mental process (since 'appears' seems to be mental. As discussed earlier that it could be argued quite sensibly that 'appears' belongs to the relational attributive process. For the reasons stated earlier, I wish to take this as a
case of mental.) with the senser and the phenomenon as participants. The adjunct offers additional information.

27. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. George Fernandes, today appealed to the former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar to vote against the government in parliament tomorrow.

Syntax:
The subject and the theme of the sentence are the same. The nominal group contains the classifier along with the head. The clause has verbal process ('appealing' is saying) with the sayer and the target. The infinitive clause that follows the target involves material process. This is taken as a separate infinitive 'clause' since there is an overt subject and a verbal group. The circumstantial elements of time and space are found in both the clauses.

6.2.0 THE TIMES Vocabulary

Since the Times text has only 28 sentences, the 'significant' vocabulary in the text is also limited compared to the other texts we are examining. There are, of course, similar lexical items which we find in the other texts, for example, nouns like 'confidence', 'victory', etc., descriptive nominal groups like 'four-member Ajit Group', 'wild and baseless allegations' etc., which are all conflict-laden in their usage in the text. The verbal groups like 'strengthen the hands',

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'straining every nerve', 'need of the hour', etc., also contribute to the tension prevalent in the text. The tension is the result of saying conflicting things in the same breath. That is, the reporter reports two things simultaneously: one, that the Congress would have no problem the next day, and two, that the opposition parties would be making a bid to get the ruling party embarrassed. Thus the tension determines the vocabulary of the text.

6.3.0 MESSAGE STRUCTURE OF THE TIMES TEXT

The message structure of the Times text is different from the rest of the discourses. There are 28 sentences (including one headline which is taken as a sentence). Out of three, 4 are simple, 1 is compound and the rest of the 23 are complex sentences. The complex sentences characterize an asymmetrical relation within the propositions offered in each sentence whereas in the only one compound sentence of the discourse the propositions are evenly placed. Simple sentences do not have this problem since each simple sentence can take only one proposition. Since most of the sentences in the discourse are complex, we can conclude that the asymmetry is one of the characteristic features of the discourse.

When we take the thematic structure of sentences, 17 sentences out of the 28 are unmarked and the rest of the 11 are marked. The marked sentences are characterized so by either a prepositional phrase or an adverbial or a subordinating clause
occupying the theme position. Marked sentences are usually the deviant sentences. Unmarked sentences are recognized as non-deviant ones.

So most of the sentences in the discourse are unmarked which is a non-deviant phenomenon. And also we noted that most of the sentences are complex. The two observations could be interpreted in one way. The nondeviant asymmetrical relations pervade in the discourse. That is, the naturalized asymmetrical relations between the propositions are exhibited in most of the sentences of the discourse.

6.4.0 REPRESENTATION STRUCTURE OF THE TIMES TEXT

There are 61 clauses spread over 28 sentences, out of which, 27 clauses have verbal processes, 13 material, 7 mental, 7 abstract material, 6 intensive attributive and 1 existential. So a majority of the clauses exhibit verbal processes with sayer and target as key participants. In most of the sentences, the processes occur in the sentence initial (a) positions. Verbal processes are 'processes of saying'. Saying, as noted in the analysis, does not mean just saying a thing. It 'covers any kind of symbolic exchange of meaning' (Halliday 1985, p.129). In a way it is a valorization of an event or an idea of the author. The author of the news reportage is concerned more about what others say in the matter. The 'verbalized clauses' in the discourse are mostly propositional in the sense that a
proposition is expressed by the sayer as in sentence numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, etc. The participant in the verbal process is the sayer who is quite obvious in all the sentences. In fact, the discourse is full of a series of names of politicians who have been talking about the issue. But the other participant, namely the target, or the beneficiary, the one who is being addressed, is not found in any of the sentences. The reason is of course quite well known. The news reporter, who is the author of the discourse, is the covert beneficiary of the process. Thus, in all these, what one can find is that the discourse is only recording the 'sayings' of politicians rather than giving its own position on the event.

There are 13 sentences which exhibit material process with actor and goal as key participants. The material process, though not a dominant process in the discourse, has a role to play. In almost all the sentences, the process occurs in the secondary clause (either b or a2 or a3) positions. 'Material processes are processes of doing' (Halliday 1985, p.103). They indicate that some concrete action is done by someone/something to someone/something else. Since most of the clauses which exhibit verbal process appear sentence initially, and since most of the clauses which exhibit material process are in the secondary clause position, a generalization is possible. The reporting is done mostly of actions, of who said what others are doing. So the discourse is a report of an action. This cannot be a wild
generalization since the verbal process and material process could be linked this way. Further, the same generalization could be extended to the other processes also. The abstract material and the mental processes found in 7 clauses each appear mostly in the secondary clause positions. So also the intensive attributive processes which appear in 6 clauses at the secondary clause positions. Even the only one clause which has existential process appears in the same position. Thus almost all clauses (other than verbal process clauses) are in the subordinating positions. So the relationship between the verbal processes and the other processes in the discourse is one of asymmetry with verbal process always in the dominating position. And also note most of the clauses are unmarked which means that the subjects in the clauses appear in the theme position making them predominant. This enables us to infer that the political personalities and what they say becomes the main concern of the discourse.

6.5.0 EXCHANGE STRUCTURE OF THE TIMES TEXT

Like any other discourse we have been observing here, all sentences are declarative. Thus the speech act function is well defined. The declarative clauses are clauses of statements where the relationship between the speaker (here the reporter or the author of the report) and the hearer (the readers of the news report) is that of equals superficially. But the news reporter who has the information with him and he/she is giving it to the reader who does not have it entails certain power of manipulation
in what is being said. Hence, the interpersonal function is marked by certain expressions which if probed give insights into some of the implied meanings.

We noted that most of the clauses involve verbal process which indicates that communicating something that has been communicated already is also an important consideration in the discourse. This kind of reporting of what has already been said has its own implications. The words 'appealed', 'regretting', 'pointed out', 'ridiculing', etc., are used as reporting verbs instead of a neutral verb like 'said'. Note these verbs have specific meaning. Of course, this is the general practice while transforming the direct speech into indirect speech. This common practice envisages a wide variety of choices. Your choices are according to your ideological inclination.

In this discourse most of the sentences have indirect speeches. The quotation marks ('inverted commas') indicate the beginning and end of a speech event in the case of direct speech. It is supposed to be a faithful reproduction of what has been said by someone. Here the reproduction has been done partially. This partial reproduction of what someone has said has been accepted as a journalistic practice. The practice is so 'common sensical' (Fairclough, 1988) that we fail to recognize that is also ideological. The reporter reports the speech event in the way that suits the requirements of his/her newspaper and that is
accepted as a natural practice. No one questions the authenticity.

6.6.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION AT THE DISCOURSE LEVEL

The Times text is the smallest of the five texts we are examining. Like the earlier two texts, the Times text also expresses the same hope that the ruling party would more or less scrape through the hurdle. But the reporter distances himself from the assessment saying that it is the Congress Party which is confident of the victory and not the reporter. This is clearly observable in the headline and the first sentence of the text. This kind of distancing by the reporter from an assessment makes the report look a little more authentic. The interesting aspect of this text is that each sentence is made into a paragraph as if each sentence has a separate point. Between paragraphs 1 and 4, the Congress Party spokesman's views are reported. Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar's words appear to be answers to some questions posed by news persons. But the 'appeal' of Mr. V. Hanumantha Rao is a little intriguing. The reporter prefers to give away five paragraphs in this small text to the 'appeal' which looks like an interpolation. Even in the 'appeal', one would feel that a follower is making an 'appeal' for supporting his leader. While Mr. Hanumantha Rao has every right to talk his mind in the press conference, it is expected that a reporter is always selective in his/her reporting of the same. Here one can see that over five
paragraphs are devoted to the appeal of a state congress party chief. This implies that the reporter (or the editor) is keen on the message of Mr. Hanumantha Rao to get a wide publicity at this juncture. Note that this is the only newspaper which reports Mr. Hanumantha Rao's 'appeal'. In paragraph 10, the reporter shifts from Mr. Rao to Mr. L. K. Advani. In paragraphs 12-17, there is a report about Mr. Advani's speech. Mr. Advani is reported to have spoken about so many other issues (other than that of the vote of confidence motion). Hence one would feel that the text lacks pointedness in its news coverage. Or, is it an attempt to marginalise the views of Mr. Advani on this issue? One cannot definitely conclude. In paragraph 18, while reporting the words of Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, there is a tendency to report scandalously. Look sentence 20, where he is questioned whether their party is going to take action against JMM if they boycotted the motion. Of course, such questions are always asked in press conferences to feel the pulse of a particular politician. But when Times spends just 28 sentences on the issue, there has to be space for something more serious and responsible. From paragraph 20 onwards, we find the reporting of Mr. Ajit Singh's perception of the voting trend is the same as what is reported in other papers. The additional piece of information given in this text is that of Mr. George Fernandes has appealed to his former colleague in the Janata Dal, Mr. Chandra Shekar, to vote against the Government.
Thus what is lacking in this text is the cohesion of matter. In Hindu and Hindustan texts, there were a set of arguments and perceptions from various angles to prove a particular point stated as thesis in the headlines. Here there is no evaluation, no judgement and no comment.
Narasimha Rao govt set to sail through today

Ajit Singh group, SJP to abstain from vote

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, March 8: On the eve of the crucial vote on the motion of thanks to the President’s address, the Narsimha Rao government seems set to sail through its first real challenge comfortably.

With the decisive — 20-member Ajit Singh group to abstain from voting, and a similar strategy adopted by the five-member Samajwadi Janata Party (SJP), it appears that the Congress government will not have problems in securing the Opposition. The nine-month Congress government was threatened following the National Front-Left front’s decision to vote for the presidential amendments moved by the RJP.

Addressing a news conference, Mr. Ajit Singh, said his group would abstain from the fall of the government as it would lead to economic chaos.

Asked whether his party would vote against the government on the issue of price rise, for which both the RJP and National Front had tabled amendments, Mr. Ajit Singh said price rise could not be controlled through another general election. In fact, elections would only fuel inflation further.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which holds three members in the Lok Sabha, is also likely to throw its lot with the government.

Narasimha Rao govt set to sail through today

Ajit Singh group, SJP to abstain from vote

In the last three days, the National Front leaders were not able to get in touch with the five members of the Bharatkand Maitri Morcha. The Opposition leaders, however, report that the JMM leaders have decided to support the Congress vote. The general secretary of the party and Mr. S.K. Mahanta told newsmen in Jammu that the five MPs would be present in the Lok Sabha tomorrow.

The 13-member TDP, which has three members in the Lok Sabha, informed the party that it would not vote because it was not satisfied with the resolution. Mr. Jagaprakash Goud, who is also a member of the TDP, informed the party that he would not vote because of personal reasons.

The RJP leaders, Mr. G.E. Adaven, reported to have said in Ahmedabad today that his party was not interested in opposing the government by opposing the presidential amendments but was not in any vote on price rise and remuneration. The party will vote against the vote.

It seems clear that the party will do so for a division of votes. The procedure is that there will be a vote on a proposed amendment but if a member insists on a division vote, it will be in the hands of the party.

The RJP’s six amendments would be a head on the fall of the government.

The party spokesman, Mr. S.P. Mehter, said this was a “decisive issue” for the Congress to stay in power as it was for the Opposition to ensure its presence in any vote that it could put up a block against Mr. V.P. Singh’s government.

Despite the three-line whip issued in Jammu, Janata Dal MP’s, there is a possibility that some who were allegiance on Ajit Singh might abstain from voting.

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The leaders of the Congress(I) have been expressing satisfaction over the decision of the five members of the Bharatkand Maitri Morcha to support the Congress vote. The government requested the support of 252 members in the present House which has 225 members. The Congress(I) itself has