CHAPTER SEVEN

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE TELEGRAPH TEXT

7.0.0 The Telegraph (hereafter Telegraph) is an important English daily published from Calcutta which is deemed to be the cultural capital of the country. The paper was launched in 1982. The paper is known for its excellent printing technology. The paper is also known for its 'openness'. The paper devotes more space (than its counterparts elsewhere in the country) for art, literature and music. Though the paper is published from the heartland of Communist movement in the country, most often it is seen to be more critical of the Left-Front Government of West Bengal than the other parties. The paper is edited by Aveek Sarkar and published by Ananda Bazar Patrika.

7.1.0 LEXICO-GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS OF THE TELEGRAPH TEXT

NARASIMHA RAO GOVT SET TO SAIL TODAY

AJIT SINGH GROUP, SJP TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTE

Vocabulary:

'Narasimha Rao Government': It is not Indian Government not even Congress(I) Government, but it is Narasimha Rao Government. Secondly it is Ajit Singh's group which abstains along with SJP.
Note that Ajit Singh belongs to a faction of a political party called Janata Dal(A). Thirdly, SJP, the Samajavadi Janata Party ('Socialist People's Party') is headed by the former Prime Minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, but it is not called either Chandrashekar's group or faction. Though both the parties which had decided to abstain from voting are the parties lead by factions of the earlier ruling party called Janata Dal.

Another interesting feature of the headline of the Telegraph text is that there is a metaphoric usage of the process of winning the vote of confidence -- 'set to sail'. Government is compared to a ship and it has to sail smoothly, and the decks are cleared and the government starts sailing today.

Syntax:

The headlines, as is generally the case with newspaper discourses, do not contain an overt verb. In the first case the auxiliary verb is absent. In the second, there is an infinitival clause. Of course, both of them make sense and contextualize the forthcoming news. The themes of both the statements are unmarked since subjects of the respective statements are also themes. The processes involved in the two headlines are abstract material with actor and goal as participants.

1. On the eve of the crucial vote on the motion of thanks to the
President's address, the Narasimha Rao government seems all set to sail through its first real challenge comfortably.

Syntax:

The prepositional phrase occupies the theme of the sentence. The contextual configuration of the sentence is set by the phrase. The process involved in the clause is mental since 'seems' has to do with perception. The participants are senser and phenomenon which are defined. The prepositional phrases before and after the clause offer circumstantial element of time and manner. The mood structure is also unmarked. The infinitival clause gives further information.

2. With the decision of the four-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 countering the Opposition.

Vocabulary:

'four-member Ajit Singh group' and 'five member Samajwadi Janata Party': The status of the two political groups is described in terms of its numerical strength rather than anything else. Even in perceiving the fact in terms of its strength, the second group is recognised by the name of the party, though that is headed by
the former prime minister of the country, and the first one is identified by the person who is heading it. The fact that is foregrounded is that both of them are splinter groups, and they can offer the strength which is needed for the congress party to survive. The perception of the press that the group has to be recognised in terms of its number is interesting.

Syntax:

The prepositional phrase forms the sentential theme and serves to contextualize the sentence. Two important pieces of information are given in the phrase which is decisive in the forthcoming clause. The a clause as such has an existential process since 'it appears' where the subject is nothing other than adjunct since 'it' has no representational function. In the q clause, the process involved is that of intensive attributive. The mood structure has a negative polarity. The complement structure gives the circumstantial elements of manner.

3. The nine-month Congress government was threatened following the National Front-Left Front combine's decision to vote for the presidential amendments moved by the BJP.

Vocabulary:

'nine-month Congress Government': Here again the foregrounded nominal group intends to specify the age of the government. Since the government is quite young, it needs the support. Rather
the government is not old enough to get dismissed.

**Syntax:**

The sentential theme is also the subject. The process involved is that of mental (since 'feeling threatened' is to do with mind) with senser and phenomenon as participants. The minor clause which follows the primary clause does not have a proper verb. However, the clause offers the circumstantial element of manner.

4. Addressing a news conference, Mr Ajit Singh said his group would abstain since the fall of government at this juncture would lead to economic chaos.

**Syntax:**

The minor clause forms the theme of the sentence. The a clause has a verbal process with sayer and target as participants. In the B clause, there are two clauses, Ba and BB, which are linked to each other hypotactically. In both the clauses, the process involved is that of abstract material (since 'abstain' and 'would lead to economic chaos' are abstractions). Circumstantial elements are offered by prepositional phrases. The median modal operator, 'would', in the clauses determines the probability of the future action. It is to be noted here that
the use of 'would' in this context is rather opaque: did Ajit Singh use will or would? Since this is indirect mode and one sees a series of verbals such as 'would', 'could' etc., the probability is that in the direct speech there was 'will'. Note that there is a difference between the use of 'will' and 'would'.

5. Asked whether his party would vote against the government on the issue of price rise, for which both BJP and National Front had tabled amendments, Mr Ajit Singh said price rise could not be controlled through another general elections.

Syntax:

The non-finite verb ('-ed' participle) is the theme of the sentence. The a clause, 'Mr. Ajit Singh said', has verbal process with sayer as the participant. The a clause, 'price could not be controlled through another general elections.' has material process with actor and goal as participants. The prepositional phrase offers circumstantial element of manner. The negative polarity in the clause along with the modal operator indicates the nature of the interpersonal function. The g clause contains three clauses, one is a minor clause which is without the subject, second and third are hypotactic clauses. The first one has a verbal process and the other two have material processes with actors and goals as participants. The circumstantial elements of all these three clauses are available
in the prepositional phrases. The modal operators operate in all
the clauses which make the action quite tentative.

6. In fact, elections would fuel the inflation further.

Vocabulary:

'fuel': The word is usually associated with fire. The semantic
deviation is intended to indicate the spiralling of prices in the
event of elections.

Syntax:

The minor clause is the theme of the sentence. However, the
subject of the sentence comes in the rheme position. The process
involved is material with the actor and the goal as participants.
The median modal operator along with the subject forms the mood
of the sentence. The word 'further' acts as a postmodifier.

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

Vocabulary:

'throw its lot': The idiom indicates that BSP would support the
ruling party at any cost.
8. Though the party's stand was made official, sources said the members would abstain.

9. The decision of splinter groups to oppose the amendments on price rise and unemployment moved by the BJP has thwarted the Opposition's plan, and thus hold the key to the government's
survival.

Syntax:

The sentential theme extends up to the verbal group of the sentence and it is the subject of the sentence also. The nominal group contains an infinitival clause. The clause has a passive construction with an overt agent. The process involved is that of abstract material (since 'thwarting a plan' in this context has the semantic configuration of doing something which would upset a plan that is not exactly a physical action, but closer to that) the actor and the phenomenon as participants. The coordinating conjunction 'and' brings in another paratactic clause. The subject is deleted in the clause. The process involved is that of the material with actor and phenomenon as participants. The circumstantial element of manner is revealed.

10. The SJP's stand was confirmed by Mr Udai Pratap Singh, one of the three party MPs in the Lok Sabha who said that the decision had been taken because the party was not prepared for another election.

Syntax:

The subject and the theme of the sentence are the same. The
sentence has a passive construction. In a, the process involved is that of verbal (since 'confirmation' in this context is done only through saying) with the sayer and the target as participants. The agent is specified. The appositive construction gives information about the status of the MP. The wh-clause (g) has a verbal process followed by a g1 having an abstract material process. The coordinating conjunct of reason 'because' connects g1 with g2. The g2 has an abstract material process (with negative polarity at the mood element). The prepositional phrases set the circumstantial element of manner.

11. Even Dr Subramaniam Swamy, after talks with the Uttar Pradesh leader, Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav, this evening said the party would abstain from voting.

Syntax:

The nominal group qualified by an adverbial, along with the minor clause forms the theme of the sentence. The minor clause comes in between the nominal group. The contextual configuration is offered by the minor clause. The process involved is that of verbal with the sayer and the target as participants specified. The circumstantial element of time is offered by the nominal group. In the g clause, the process involved is that of material with the actor and the phenomenon as participants.
12. What remains to be seen is how many of the 255 Opposition members will be present during voting.

Syntax:

The nominalization constitutes the theme of the sentence. The process involved is that of intensive attributive with the carrier and the attribute as participants. The complement of the sentence is a wh-clause wherein the process involved is that of material with the actor and the phenomenon (since 'to be present' is a physical activity).

13. Even as the splinter groups unravelled their strategies, the onus now rests on the National Front-Left Front combine to ensure the presence of its members.

Vocabulary:

'unravel': The word denotes that something is knotted or something mysterious is there in the strategies of the 'splinter groups'. That is either undone or explained through their words.

'onus': a formal word with ethical implications.

Syntax:

The theme of the sentence is the \( \beta \) clause and the subject is shifted to the rheme position. The \( \beta \) clause consists of the
adverbial 'Even' followed by the subordinating conjunction which establishes the hypotactic relationship with the a clause. The process involved is that of abstract material with the actor and abstract phenomenon as participants. The circumstantial element is that of manner. In the a clause, the process involved is that of abstract material with a concrete actor and an abstract phenomenon.

14. Sources in the Janata Dal said it had become as much a prestige issue for the Congress to stay in power as it was for the Opposition to ensure its presence especially after it had whipped up the issue in the last three days.

Vocabulary:
'Sources': The exact 'source' of information is not revealed. The authenticity of the 'source' could also be questioned. Notice that 'sources' is a journalistic word used by all papers. Journalists are protected from revealing their sources too!

'whipped up': denotes churning something up, also some feeling is rised like hatred. Here 'the issue' is 'whipped up'. Notice that this is a deliberate act. 'The issue' has not come up spontaneously in the interest of the people. But it is 'whipped up' like 'cooked up'.

Syntax:
The sentence consists of four clauses which are hypotactically related to each other. The a clause is the theme of the sentence. The clause (which extends from 'Sources...' to '...Janata Dal said,') consists of verbal process with the sayer as the participant. In the a clause, (which could be marked from 'it had become' to 'its presence'), there are three clauses. One, Ga, 'it has become', has abstract material process. Two, and three, GG1 and GG2 respectively, are paratactically related to each other though both of them together are hypotactically related to Ga. Both have intensive attributive as process. The g clause has material process with actor and goal as its participants. The circumstantial elements in these clauses are marked by the prepositional phrases.

15. Till Sunday evening, the National Front leaders were not able to get in touch with the five members of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

Vocabulary:

'five members of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha': The nominal group is descriptive. It gives the strength of the JMM which is 'crucial' for the voting.

Syntax:

The prepositional phrase which is occupying the theme position
offers the circumstantial element of time to the sentence. The subject of the sentence is found in the rheme position. The process involved is that of material with the actor and the phenomenon as participants.

16. Our Jamshedpur correspondent, however, reports that the JMM leaders have decided to go along with the National Front on the crucial vote.

Syntax:

The theme of the sentence is the a clause. The clause consists of a conjunctive adjunctive 'however' which besides functioning as the conjunctive adjunct, offers the reporter's subtle comment on the event. The process involved is that of verbal with an overt sayer and an implicit target. In the a clause, the process involved is that of mental (since 'decided' is a mental activity) with senser and phenomenon as participants. The circumstantial element of manner is offered through the prepositional phrases.

17. The general secretary of the party and MP, Mr Sailendra Mahanto, told newsmen in Jamshedpur that all the five MPs would be present in the Lok Sabha tomorrow.
Syntax:

The nominal group forms the theme and the subject of the sentence. The process involved in the a clause is that of verbal with sayer and target as defined participants. The prepositional phrase offers circumstantial element of space. In the a clause which is hypotactically determined and marked by the subordinating conjunction 'that' contains material process with the actor and the phenomenon as participants. The circumstantial element of time and space is also given by the prepositional phrases.

18. Of the 13-member Telugu Desam Party (TDP), one MP informed the party command that he would not be present, because of personal reasons.

Vocabulary:

'the 13-member Telugu Desam Party': The descriptive nominal group indicates the strength of the party which is crucial at this context.

Syntax:

The prepositional phrase is the theme of the sentence. The a clause has the verbal process wherein the sayer and the target are the participants. In the a clause the process involved is that of material with the actor and the phenomenon specified.
The prepositional phrase indicates the circumstantial element of manner.

19. While abstentions will definitely be the order of the day for both the ruling and the Opposition, the Congress(I) for which voting means the survival of its own government, is much ahead in organising the party MPs.

Syntax:

The theme and the subject of the sentence are the same. The process involved is intensive attributive with carrier and attribute as participants. The adverbial 'definitely' further confirms this. The clause has an embedded clause which qualifies the nominal group. The process involved in a clause is also that of intensive attributive with carrier and attribute as participants. The prepositional phrase gives the circumstantial element of manner.

20. Members from each state have been under the charge of a Cabinet minister and instructed to keep in touch with him.

Syntax:

The theme and the subject of the sentence are the same. The process involved in a clause is that of intensive attributive with
carrier and attribute as participants. The paratactically related clause, \( a_2 \), which has the coordinating conjunction 'and' has a verbal process with an implicit sayer and overt target. The subject and the modal verb in \( a_2 \) are deleted through ellipsis.

21. Despite the three-line whip issued to Janata Dal MPs, there is a possibility that some who owe allegiance to Ajit Singh might abstain from voting.

**Vocabulary:**

'the three-line whip': The descriptive nominal group is intended to foreground the nature of the whip.

**Syntax:**

The \( g \) clause forms the theme of the sentence. The hypotactic relationship is established through the subordinating conjunction 'Despite'. The subordinating conjunction has an attitudinal configuration hence has a role at the interpersonal level. The process involved in the \( g \) clause is that of abstract material process since 'issuing a whip' means doing something. The participants are the actor and the goal. In the \( a \) clause, the process involved is that of existential since 'there' is an empty subject. The participant is the existent. In the \( a \) clause, there is an embedded clause qualifying the subject. However the process involved in the clause is that of material with the actor
and the goal as participants. The low modal operator 'might' indicates the level of probability of action.

22. The BJP leader, Mr L.K. Advani, is reported to have said in Ahmedabad today that his party was not interested in toppling the government by opposing the official motions but openly wanted his party's position on price rise and unemployment to be felt.

Syntax:

The subject and the theme are the same. The classifier for the nominal head reveals the special status accorded to the BJP leader. In the ~ clause, the process involved is that of verbal with sayer and target as participants. The ~ clauses can be divided into two, ~1 and ~2, as the two are related paratactically. In both the clauses, the process involved is that of mental, (since 'interested in toppling the government' and 'wanted his party position...to be felt' pertain to the mental activity) with senser and phenomenon as participants. The circumstantial element is offered by the prepositional phrases.

23. It seems clear that the party will move for a division on vote.

Syntax:

The ~ clause is the theme. The process involved in ~ is that of
existential since there is no proper subject in the clause. The participants in the process is existent. In the $a$ clause which has hypotactic relationship with $a$, the process involved is that of material with the actor and the goal as participants. The prepositional phrase determines the circumstantial element of manner.

24. The procedure is that there will be a voice vote to a proposed amendment but if a member insists on a division vote, it will have to be carried out.

Syntax:

The subject and the theme of the sentence are the same. The process involved in the $a$ clause is that of intensive attributive with the carrier and the attribute as participants. In the $G1$ clause, the process involved is again that of intensive attributive. It is the same in the $G2$ also. $G2$ has two clauses, $G2a$ and $G2b$, which are hypotactically related to each other. In these two clauses also the processes are intensive attributive.

25. The BJP's six amendments would not lead to the fall of the government.

Syntax:
The declarative sentence has the subject as the theme. The mood is determined by the median modal operator. The process involved is that of material with actor and goal as participants.

26. The party spokesman, Mr J.P. Mathur, said this was a "sort of pressure on the government."

Syntax:

The declarative sentence has the subject as its theme. The process involved in the projecting clause is that of verbal with the sayer as the specified participant. The hypotactically projected clause has intensive attributive as the process with the carrier and the attribute as participants. The locuted idea is within the quotation marks. The prepositional phrase in the quotation marks gives the information about the circumstantial element of manner.

27. He said it was up to the National Front-Left Parties combine to support these amendments though the BJP had held no formal talks with them on floor coordination.

Syntax:

The clause forms the theme of the sentence. The clause has verbal process with the sayer as participant. In the clause (which extends from 'it was' to 'amendments') the process
involved is that of abstract material process. In the g, the process involved is that of verbal with sayer and target as participants. The circumstantial element of manner is offered by the prepositional phrase.

28. However, the BJP was determined to press for a division on the voting and had issued a whip to its members in the Lok Sabha.

Syntax:

The adverbial and the conjunctive adjunct is the theme which contains the reporter's attitude. The subject in the a1 clause is that of intensive attributive. The infinitival construction offers circumstantial element of manner. a2 is paratactically attached to a1 through the coordinating conjunction. The process involved in the a2 is that of material with the actor and the goal as participants. Here also the infinitival construction offers the circumstantial elements of manner and space.

29. Sources said the Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, was busy discussing floor strategies with ministers and mustering strength for tomorrow.

Vocabulary:
'Sources': Who/Which are these sources-- the reporter does not tell the readers. How authentic are the 'sources', whether these sources could be relied upon, one cannot make out.

Syntax:

The a clause is the sentential theme. The clause has verbal process with the sayer as the participant. The B clause contains a nominal group which has both classifier and head. There is another clause paratactically attached to B where the subject and the verb are deleted through ellipsis. The process involved in the B clause is that of abstract material. The temporal circumstantial element is supplied by the prepositional phrase.

30. The government requires the support of 267 members in the present House which has 12 vacant seats.

Syntax:

The subject and the theme of the sentence are the same which is in the a clause. The a clause consists of intensive attributive as the process with carrier and the attribute as participants. The spatial circumstantial element is supplied by the prepositional phrase. The wh-embedded clause also contains intensive attributive as the process.

31. The Congress(I) itself has 242 members and the strength of
its allies is 24.

Syntax:

The theme and the subject are the same. The two clauses, \( a_1 \) and \( a_2 \), have intensive relational processes with carrier and attribute as processes.

7.2.0 THE TELEGRAPH VOCABULARY

The nominal groups are over-descriptive. There are two nominal groups which describe the ruling party -- 'Narasimha Rao Government' and 'nine month Congress Government'. Note the former appears in the headline and the later in sentence 3. Though they do appear in different sentences, the interesting thing is that both are one and the same and they plead for the same. Narsimha Rao government is nine month Congress Government. Note also that both these nominal groups occupy thematic positions in the sentences and thus they give an impression that two separate issues are involved here. The reporter expects the people to be concerned with the fate of the government for these two reasons and hence the nominal groups are descriptive and are also foregrounded.

The nominal groups which describe the small parties are also interesting:

four-member Ajit Group (2)
five-member Samajwadi Janata Party (2)
five-members of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (15)
13-member Telugu Desam Party (18)

These 'splinter' /small groups are being recognised by the number of MPs that each party/group has. This comes as a stark contrast to the numerical strength of the Congress party but still the party needs the help of these small groups.

The nominal group 'the three-line whip' (21) is also descriptive. Here this description seems to be unnecessary in the sense that people do not care whether the whip is three-line or four-line. This has nothing to do with the strategies to be involved in the parliament. Since the party whip is binding on all the members of the party, the whip has a value to them -- even if it is put in one line.

The use of certain lexical items which have no antecedents like 'sources' (29) seems to be the practice of many newspapers. As mentioned earlier, the use of the word 'sources' is a way of making the forthcoming news look authentic. But, eventually the exact 'source' of information is not mentioned anywhere. This kind of 'hiding' the name of a particular source of information is a 'naturalized' procedure in journalism said to have been done in order to 'protect' the source.
7.3.0 MESSAGE STRUCTURE OF THE TELEGRAPH TEXT

There are 33 sentences including the headlines which do not have the auxiliaries. Out of these, 11 are simple, 4 compound and 19 complex sentences. Here also the majority of the sentences have unmarked themes — there are 25 sentences with unmarked themes, and 12 marked themes. As pointed out in our analysis of the Times text, here too the complex sentences collapsed with unmarked themes indicate the non-deviant asymmetrical propositional structure of the discourse. The four compound sentences indicate the hypotactic relationship of the propositions. In the simple sentences which are 11 in number, each proposition is independent in itself. Usually the theme positions both at the sentential level and at the clausal level are occupied by the subject making the sentence/clause declarative.

7.4.0 REPRESENTATION STRUCTURE OF THE TELEGRAPH TEXT

Out of the 71 clauses spread over 33 sentences, 19 clauses exhibit intensive attributive process, 18 verbal, 16 material, 12 abstract material, 5 mental and 3 existential. So here the predominant process involved is that of intensive attributive. Intensive attributive process is one of the relational processes and is called the process of being. "In the intensive, the relationship between the two terms is one of sameness; the one 'is' the other." (Halliday 1985, p.114) In the intensive
attributive process, some qualitative attribute is assigned to a 'carrier'. Here, for instance, in sentences 7, 12, 14 and 18, an attribute is assigned to the subject. Since the majority of the clauses have intensive attributive processes, we can infer that a certain quality is attributed to the actors or institutions involved in the process. There are 18 clauses which exhibit verbal process which is almost the same as that of intensive attributive. As explained in the Times analysis, the process consists of saying something about something or somebody. The full implication of the process is already explained in the previous section. There are 16 clauses which exhibit material process. Material process is a process of action where actor and goal are the key participants. In clauses of this sort, there is usually a person or a place or a thing as the actor to do something to something/someone, (which is the goal). The actions in these clauses are concrete like, 'his party would vote against the government' (5), 'elections would fuel inflation' (6), etc. There are 12 clauses where similar actions are done in an abstract manner. The processes involved in these clauses are called abstract material. Examples: 'The decision of splinter groups to oppose the amendments on price rise and unemployment moved by the BJP has thwarted the opposition's plan' (9), 'the splinter groups unravelled their strategies' (13), etc. In both these examples the process, the actor and the goal are abstract, in the sense that the action cannot be 'seen'. It is an action which can only be 'felt'. There are 8 clauses which show mental
processes. Here the process envisages something that has to do with the mind, as in the examples:—'the Narasimha Rao government seems all set to sail through its first real challenge comfortably' (1), 'The nine-month congress government was threatened following the NF-LF combine's decision...', etc. The verbs, 'seems', and 'threatened', are related to what is perceived by the mind. Hence mental. (It is argued quite sensibly that 'seem' belongs to the relational since 'seem', according to Halliday (1985) does the work of attributive, like 'is' or 'was'. But I prefer to take it as mental as it certainly refers to a mental attitude unlike a 'being' word. As I mentioned in Section 3.3.4 of Chapter Three, sometimes categorizing the processes is dependent on one's own interpretation and certain amount of ambiguity exists in the interpretation.) There are only 3 clauses which show the existential process. So in all, the predominant processes involved are the ones of 'being' and 'saying'. Since most of the sentences are unmarked, 'being' and 'saying' clauses would be sort of status-quo indicators which only report what exists and what is 'said', thus making the discourse a place of reproduction of the existing state of affairs.

7.5.0 EXCHANGE STRUCTURE OF THE TELEGRAPH TEXT

The sentences are all declarative and that is the practice in journalistic writing. The declarative sentences give an
impression that the author has been 'neutral' in what he/she has been saying. But we have examined earlier that this is not exactly true. There are places where the reporter intrudes to offer his commentary, or gives his own perception and more than anything, directs the attention of the readers in such a way that the most crucial things are just missed out by the readers. Take for example sentence 23 where the sentence starts this way. 'It seems clear...' This is an authorial commentary on the events that have been recorded so far. The author comes to the conclusion by what he/she has reported so far that 'it seems clear'. Take another sentence, sentence 22, wherein a clause runs like this '...reported to have said...'. Here the reporter is quite aware of the implication of reporting something which has already been said and since the source is of a second hand nature, he/she tries to make the statement a little more authentic by being non-committal about the nature of the source. There is no way you can crossverify this statement because you are not given the exact source of the information. The use of the modals 'would', 'would not', 'will not', 'could not' in several sentences indicate the author's judgement of the probabilities of the event. For instance, in sentence 4, '...his group would abstain ...', the use of median modal operator 'would' indicates that there is a distinct probability of the group's abstention in the house of parliament. But that is not definite. This is the perception of the author from what Mr. Ajit Singh said. Thus
in this way use of these modals (with negative or positive polarity) indicates the likelihood of the future action whose reporting is ideological.

The discourse markers, which function as cohesive devices, like 'However', 'While', 'Despite', 'Even' and 'Even if', are also indicative of the author's perception of the event.

When we are looking at the interpersonal function of the discourse, the use of quotation marks, ('inverted commas'), indicates something interesting. The journalists are fond of using reported speech sometimes and direct speech sometimes and sometimes they mix the two not only in the discourse but also within the sentences. Why does the reporter choose to put a few things in the reported speech and some in the direct speech. The reason is, as pointed out earlier, ideological. For instance, in sentence 26, the quotation marks are restricted only to "sort of pressure on the government". Just the previous sentence is in the indirect mode. In this sentence, the speaker, Mr.Mathur is a BJP spokesman and the party is quite powerful now in terms of its sheer number in the parliament. Hence he says that the exercise of amendment motion is 'a sort of pressure on the government'. The words in the direct mode are important not only because there could be a great relief to the Congress sympathisers that even BJP is not serious about the motion, but also because the words are made most authentic by their insertion
within quotes. But it is still a fact that what Mr. Mathur has said has been reported partially and within the partial reporting only a part is made to look authentic.

7.6.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION AT THE DISCOURSE LEVEL

The *Telegraph* text announces the possible outcome of the opposition sponsored amendment motion in the headline itself. One of the plausible reasons is also given in the headline. So the two headlines, one, the result and two, the reason for such a result, are sufficient clues as to what is forthcoming in the report. The first two paragraphs elucidate the two headlines contextualizing the report. Unlike the other texts, Mr. Ajit Singh's news conference is made more coherent here. His answer 'price rise could not be controlled through general elections' seems to be logical and balanced. In *Hindu, Hindustan* and *Times*, the answer is quoted a little out of context. (For instance, we are not told why he says 'price rise could not be controlled by another election' in the other texts.) Hence the impact of this report is a little different. Note also that the *Telegraph* text does not report Mr. Ajit Singh's outbursts against his former party colleagues. From paragraph 4 onwards, every paragraph takes up the stand of each political party in the Parliament and possible outcome of the stand taken by each of them. First BSP which has a very small number of MPs in the Parliament, but it is made clear that these small parties can really tilt the balance.
This theme comes out in the sixth paragraph. In the eighth paragraph, the reporter seems to be telling the opposition parties what they should do at this point of time in the light of the 'splinter groups' willingness to oblige the ruling party by abstentions. In the ninth paragraph the reporter appears to fully agree with the Janata Dal perception. The 'prestige' also seems to be an issue amidst all these complications. It is perhaps to fulfill certain egos that we find politicians most often clashing with each other in the Parliament. No one seems to take notice of the cost involved in this kind of exercise in the Parliament. Anyway, one major point that seems to be emerging in the subsequent paragraphs is that the only party which has taken up the matter seriously is the ruling party. The Congress party President and the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao is leaving no leaf unturned and working thoroughly toward getting ready for the event. Besides, the opposition is not able to take all its MPs with them for various reasons. While the reporter seems to be balanced in his/her report of the event, he/she is hinting that a lot more has to be done by the opposition. This is the most implicit hint. The reporter wants the opposition to muster its strength despite all these weaknesses. Paragraph 8 and 9 are indicative of such a desire. Unlike the other texts we examined, this text does not project any personality either from the opposition or from the ruling party. The report concentrates on the implications of the stand of each party at this juncture. Each inference that is made is
properly elucidated. In fact, an ideological reading becomes interesting in this kind of 'neutral' reporting. Here is an instance of the reporter consistently adopting a moderate tone in reporting even the questionable things said by politicians about their opponents. This is also an ideological position which is rooted in the firm belief that journalism must highlight only what is happening without getting 'mixed up' with the events. Here the reporter appears to be belonging to a particular institution which imposes, though covertly, certain value system. Hence the reporter is seen not taking any sides on the issue. But he/she is upholding the institutional values and is working within the established ideological framework.
Abstentions may save Cong(I)
Small parties to support

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Sunday — The eight-month-old Sarasmatha Rao Government's chances of survival appear to have brightened following indications that the bulk of the crucial floating votes will remain unaltered when a set of amendments to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address come up for voting tomorrow in the Lok Sabha. However, for the Prime Minister, it will be a close encounter with danger and the victor, when it comes, will be a hard-earned one.

In a set of amendments to the motion in the Rajya Sabha tomorrow, Opposition leaders Mr. Shastri of the SDL and Mrs. Gandhi of the RPF have crossed ranks, causing a stir in the sense that the amendments, if adopted, will give the Government a chance to get a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. However, this is not the only amendment that will be voted on. The Opposition has also tabled an amendment to the motion to reiterate the Prime Minister's commitment to the welfare of the people.

The amendments are part of a larger strategy on the part of the Opposition to bring the Government down. The Opposition leaders have been working closely with the floating voters in the Lok Sabha to ensure that their amendments are passed. The amendments are expected to pass easily, giving the Government a chance to survive.

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