Chapter VI
CONCLUSION

The study of the language of the news-reports and editorials in the Indian and the British newspapers to describe interpersonal meanings from the Systemic Functional Linguistic perspective has revealed that the language in the British newspapers is more loaded with expressions of uncertainty and speculation than that in the Indian newspapers. Further, in case of news-reports, the British newspapers are more attitudinal than the Indian newspapers. However, when it comes to editorials, it is vice-versa. Next, it is found that generally the world constructed by the British newspapers differs from the world that the Indian newspapers construct, and it amounts to variations in their ideological standpoints. It is also found that there are significant variations in the language of news-report and that of editorial and on the basis of these variations news-report and editorial can be identified as two distinct genres. These findings are discussed in detail as follows.

The study has attempted, first of all, to analyze the use of appraisal and modality in the news-reports and editorials taken from the Indian and the British newspapers; second, to decode the ideological implications that the use of appraisal and modality results in; and third, to ascertain the generic features of a news-report and an editorial.

As regards the use of appraisal and modality, the analysis shows significant variations between the news-reports and editorials taken from the Indian newspapers and those taken from the British newspapers. At the same time, there are a number of similarities too. First, the variations between the Indian and the British news-reports are as follows:

1. The British news reports tend to be more attitudinal than the Indian ones.
2. In the British news-reports the number of authorial modal clauses is more than their number in the Indian news-reports.
3. The news-reports in the British newspapers pass more judgements and tend to be less emotive than the news-reports in the Indian newspapers.
4. The British news reports are more negative and less positive in their use of *judgement*. Quite contrary, the Indian news-reports are more positive and less negative in this regard.

5. The news-reports in the Indian newspapers tend to be more positive and less negative in their use of *appraisal* motifs in comparison to the news-reports in the British newspapers.

6. In the Indian news-reports there is more amplification of positive attitudes and less of negative attitudes as compared to their amplification in the British news-reports.

7. In the British news-reports the percentage of median value authorial *modalised* clauses is more and that of low value authorial *modalised* clauses is less as compared to their percentage in the Indian news-reports.

8. In the Indian news-reports the *subjective implicit* and *objective implicit* authorial *modalised* clauses are equal in number. On the other hand, in the British news-reports *subjective implicit* variant outnumbers the *objective implicit* one.

Next, the following are the similarities between the Indian and the British news-reports:

1. The news-reporters, in both the Indian and the British newspapers, generally write *unmodal* propositions, thus presenting them as undisputed, factual statements bereft of uncertainty and elements of doubt.

2. The news-reports taken both from the Indian and the British newspapers hardly go beyond their function of providing the reader with information and start laying down obligations or inclinations or abilities.

3. Out of the three variants of *modulation* – *obligation, inclination* and *ability*, in both the Indian and the British news-reports, there exists only the first one i.e. *obligation*. The other two i.e. *inclination and ability* are nowhere found in the data.
4. Out of the two variants of modalization, probability and usuality, there is the use of probability variant only. The usuality variant is found neither in the Indian news-reports nor in the British ones.

5. In the news-reports taken from the Indian newspapers, most of the authorial modalised clauses are characterized with median value of modality, followed by low value, and so far as high value is concerned it is nowhere found. In the British news-reports, the trend is almost similar.

6. In both the Indian and the British news-reports, in the modulation variant of modality, only median value is available, however, in the modalization variant, both median and low values are available.

7. In both the Indian and the British news-reports, the modulation variant of modality is always characterized with subjective implicit orientation.

8. Both the Indian and the British news reports use no other resource except modal finite to grammaticalise the modulation variant of modality.

9. In both the Indian and the British news-reports, modal finite emerges out as the most used resource to grammaticalise the modalisation variant of modality.

10. In both the Indian and the British news-reports, there is no use of the subjective explicit orientation of modality. The similar is the case with the objective explicit orientation in the British news-reports and in all but one news-report in the Indian newspapers.

11. In both the Indian and the British news reports, the most used attitude is appreciation followed by judgement and affect.

12. In the use of appreciation and affect, the news-reports in both the Indian and the British newspapers tend to be more negative and less positive.

13. In both the Indian and the British news-reports, the majority of attitudes are inscribed.

14. The amplification of attitudes in both the Indian and the British news-reports is quite restricted.
15. In both the Indian and the British news-reports, the number of amplified negative attitudes is more than that of amplified positive attitudes.
16. The amplified attitudes are either appreciations or judgements in the Indian and also, to a large extent, in the British news-reports. There is almost no amplification of affect in both categories of news-reports.
17. In both the Indian and the British news-reports, the most used amplification is force-intensification; focus-sharpen is second in terms of use; force-quantification is third; and focus-soften is the least used amplification.

Likewise, the Indian and the British editorials vary in their use of appraisal and modality in terms of the following features:

1. The analysis shows that in the case of editorials, quite contrary to the case in news-reports, the Indian newspapers are more loaded with attitudes than the British newspapers.
2. Though the majority of attitudes in both the categories of editorials are negative, the editorials in the Indian newspapers are slightly more positive and less negative in their use of appraisal motifs in comparison to the editorials in the British newspapers.
18. In the use of judgement the British editorials are more negative and less positive, whereas the Indian editorials are more positive and less negative.
19. In the editorials taken from the Indian newspapers, the number of invoked attitudes is more as compared to their number in the editorials taken from the British newspapers.
20. Another difference between the Indian and the British editorials relates to the variants used for the amplification of attitudes. In the Indian editorials, focus-soften is the third most used amplification and force-quantification is the fourth. However, it is vice-versa in the British editorials where force-quantification stands third and focus-soften fourth in terms of quantity.
21. In the Indian editorials, the number of amplified positive attitudes is more and amplified negative attitudes is less in comparison to the number of amplified positive attitudes and amplified negative attitudes in the editorials taken from the British newspapers.

22. In the British editorials the amount of authorial modal clauses is more than their amount in the editorials taken from the Indian newspapers.

23. The Indian editorials are more instructive and demanding than the British editorials as they are ahead of the British editorials in the use of the modulation variant.

24. The Indian and the British editorials vary in the frequency of occurrence of the high and low values of modality. In the Indian editorials, the high value is the second highest and the low value stands third in terms of frequency of occurrence, whereas in the British editorials the case is just the opposite. Here the low value of modality comes second and the high value remains third.

After variations, the following are the similarities between the Indian and the British editorials:

1. In both the Indian and the British editorials, the quantity of authorial modal clauses is remarkably more than that is found in their news-reports.

2. In both the Indian and the British editorials, the authors of editorials not only disseminate information, but also instruct people to do certain things and voice their opinions regarding people’s abilities to do certain things as both the variants of modality – modalization and modulation – are available in both the categories of editorials.

3. In both the Indian and the British editorials, modalization variant of modality is dominant in terms of usage.

4. There is no use of the usuality variant of modalization in the editorials taken both from the Indian and the British newspapers.
5. There are only two variants of modulation, obligation and ability, available in the editorials taken both from the Indian and the British newspapers. The third variant i.e. inclination is neither found in the Indian nor in the British editorials.

6. In both the Indian and the British editorials, all the three values of modality i.e. high, median and low, are found in both the modalization and modulation variants.

7. In both the Indian and the British editorials, the most used value of modality is median.

8. In the editorials taken both from the Indian as well as the British newspapers, in the modalisation variant, the majority of authorial modal clauses are of subjective implicit orientation.

9. In both the Indian and the British editorials, the modulation variant of modality has always subjective implicit orientation.

10. The subjective explicit orientation of modality features neither in the modalisation nor in the modulation variant in the editorials taken both from the Indian and the British newspapers.

11. The objective explicit orientation of modality is unavailable in the Indian and to a large extant in the British editorials too.

12. In both the Indian and the British editorials, the most used resource for grammaticalising modality is modal finite.

To decode the ideology that the use of appraisal and modality in the Indian and the British newspapers codifies has been another objective of this study. In this regard, the research points out that the British newspapers are generally more negative in their worldview than the Indian newspapers as in majority of the cases they tend to criticize more and admire less the participants, things or entities involved in the process of interaction in comparison to the Indian newspapers. For instance, the British
newspapers are more critical of the Iraqi PM and his ruling coalition; of the relationship between North Korea and South Korea; of Musharraf, Benazir and Nawaz Sharif; of the Russian president Vladimir Putin and his successor Dmitry Medvedev; of Mwai Kibaki; of Nepal, its outgoing ruler King Gyanendra and its existing or upcoming rulers (Maoists); of the Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe; of the Indian security forces, etc. in comparison to the Indian newspapers. Similarly, they are less enthusiastic than the Indian newspapers when it comes to the positive appraisal of Benazir, of Musharraf, of Obama, of the United States, of the presidential elections in Zimbabwe, etc. However, there are some participants or things as regards to which both the British and the Indian newspapers hold almost the same ideas. For instance, they paint Iraq negatively, criticize North Korea, condemn Benazir’s assassination and her killers, criticize Afghan and Iraq wars, condemn Mumbai attackers and admire the democracy in the United States. The negative worldview of the British newspapers also reflects in the probabilities and fears they write about. For instance, the British newspapers are far more pessimistic than the Indian newspapers regarding the future of Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF. Likewise, they present a catastrophic Nepal where things are going for an absolute reversal i.e. the king becoming a ‘commoner’ and the ‘rebels’ leading the ‘government’, whereas the Indian newspapers present a Nepal at a point of transition and this transition is smooth and not annoying. Not only this, the British newspapers hint at the probability of the ongoing economic crisis limiting Obama’s ambitions to bring a change in America, predict a sort of doom or disaster in Kenya in the wake of disputed elections, construct a more hopeless picture of post-Benazir Pakistan than that is constructed in the indian editorials, etc. It has been further found that the viewpoints in the Indian and the British newspapers get conditioned by such considerations as international relations of India and Britain, the official policies and strategic moves, Third-World solidarity, membership of the Commonwealth, etc. For instance, the Indian government claims India to be the foremost victim of terrorism and attempts to sensitize the international community regarding its threat to global peace through diplomatic
channels, the UNO and the Commonwealth. On the other hand, the British government, except its involvement in the US led *War on Terror*, has earlier never been so vocal on this issue. These official positionings of the two nations can be traced in their newspapers. Hence, the Indian newspapers are a bit more critical of the bomb blasts in Iraq and of Benazir’s assassination than the British newspapers. Another instance is that the Indian newspapers are positive in their attitude towards Russia. It may be the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, or his successor, Dmitry Medvedev, or the prime-minister Sergi Ivanov, they are positive in their *judgements*. On the other hand, the British newspapers are negative in their attitude towards Russia. It may be the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, or his successor, Dmitry Medvedev, or the prime-minister Sergi Ivanov, or the Russian foreign policy, or the president-selection procedure in Russia, they are negative in their *judgements* and *appreciations*. The reason may be that there have been old and intimate ties between the Indian and the Russian governments, whereas there has been a constant confrontation between Britain and Russia since the Cold War days. Similarly, the British editorials’ skepticism in diplomacy or negotiation and hint at the obligation to hunt down the Islamist terrorists seems to be in tune with the ideology of the US led western forces that preferred a military option in Iraq and Afghanistan. One more instance is that the reason why the Indian newspapers use *modalised* clauses to write about the defeat of the ruling party in Zimbabwe may be that like India Zimbabwe is a Third-World country and also like India it is a Commonwealth nation. Thus, by not writing categorically the thing that goes against the interests of the ruling party, the Indian news-reports might be towing the official line of not eroding the Third-World and Commonwealth solidarity. In contrast, the British newspapers use authorial clauses to declare the defeat of ZANU-PF, thus owning the full responsibility of the declaration. The reason for being so categorical in their declaration may be that Britain does not have very cordial relations with Zimbabwe’s ruling party.
And yet another objective of the study has been the identification of the linguistic features with reference to *modality* and *appraisal* of the genre of news-report and that of editorial. It has been found that news-report and editorial can be identified as two distinct genres. The following variations enable this identification:

1. The genre of editorial is more loaded with attitudes than the genre of news-report. The trend of editorials having more *appraisal* motifs than the news-reports prevails in both the Indian and the British newspapers irrespective of theme.

2. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, the genre of editorial has more authorial *modal* expressions than the genre of news-report.

3. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, authors in the genre of editorial are more instructive and demanding than authors in the genre of news-report as the number of authorial *modulated* clauses in the former is far more than that in the latter.

4. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, in the genre of news-report, the most used amplification is *force-intensification* and the second most used amplification is *focus-sharpen*; while in the genre of editorial in both the Indian and the British newspapers, the most used amplification is *focus-sharpen* and *force-intensification* stands second in terms of usage.

5. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, there is the presence of *ability* variant of *modulation* in the genre of editorial. In contrast, in the genre of news-report there is no instance found of this variant either in the Indian or in the British newspapers.

6. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, the genre of news-report does not have any instance of high value in the *modalisation* variant of *modality*. In contrast, in the genre of editorial, all the three values i.e. high, median and low are found in the *modalisation* variant of *modality* in both the Indian and the British newspapers.
7. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, the genre of news-report has only median value in the *modulation* variant of *modality*. In contrast, the genre of editorial in both the Indian and the British newspapers has all the three values in the *modulation* variant.

8. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, in the genre of news-report, the most used value in the *modulation* variant of *modality* is median. In contrast, in the genre of editorial, in both the Indian and the British newspapers, the most used value in the *modulation* variant of *modality* is the high.

However, there are a number of similarities too between the language of news-reports and that of editorials with reference to the use of *appraisal* and *modality*:

1. In both the genres, cumulatively, *appreciation* is the most used attitude, *judgement* is the second most used attitude and *affect* is the least used attitude in both the Indian and the British newspapers.

2. In the use of *appreciation* and *affect*, both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers tend to be more negative and less positive.

3. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, the majority of attitudes are *inscribed*.

4. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, amplification of attitudes is equally restricted.

5. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, the number of amplified negative attitudes is more than that of amplified positive attitudes.

6. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, the majority of amplified attitudes are *appreciations*, amplified *judgements* stand second in terms of quantity and amplification of *affects* is almost negligible.

7. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, there is no use of *inclination* variant of *modulation*. 
8. In both the Indian and the British newspapers, in both the genres, the most used value in the *modalisation* variant of *modality* is median.

9. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, *subjective explicit* orientation of *modality* is found neither in the *modalisation* nor in the *modulation* variant.

10. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, *objective explicit* orientation of *modality* is equally rare in both the *modalisation* and the *modulation* variants.

11. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, *modulation* variant of *modality* is always having *subjective implicit* orientation.

12. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, in the *modulation* variant of *modality*, there is the use of only one resource for grammaticalising *modality* in the clause and this resource is *modal finite*.

13. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, in the *modalisation* variant of *modality*, *modal finite* is the most used resource for grammaticalising *modality* in the clause.

14. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, *expansion of the predicator* is the second most used resource for *modality*.

15. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, *modal adjunct* stands third in terms of usage.

16. In both the genres in the Indian and the British newspapers, the use of *separate clause* as a resource for *modality* is equally rare and restricted.

It is stressed that the study endorses what Geoff Thompson (1996: 73) says of the use of *modality* in the genre of editorial, “In newspaper leaders – articles expressing the newspaper’s view on a current event – you often find *modalisation* occurring as the writer ponders various aspects of the events and the possible implications, followed by a move to modulation as the writer explains what should be done.” Further, it is also an
endorsement of Thompson’s view regarding the almost absence of authorial modality in the genre of news-report. He (1996: 73) asserts that news-reports are “usually presented as an objective setting-out of the facts as collected by the journalist. Any comment should be clearly signaled as that of the people involved, not of the journalist. If there is any modality, therefore, it should in principle have its source explicitly indicated (through reporting clauses, etc.).”

In addition to the realisation of the objectives set for the study, the study has also proved that Systemic Functional Linguistics is a valid theoretical model to describe the language of newspaper discourse produced in the same language at two different places, to ascertain the generic distinctiveness of media genres in relation to their linguistic features, and to get a peep into the ideology embedded in the newspaper discourse.