

Journalism & Newspapers

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Dr. Mohsen Mobaraki

Faculty at Birjand University



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P.O. Box: 13145/1845 - Tel: (021) 66416604 & 66400927

E-mail: info@rahnamapress.com

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Preface

Although many books have already been written on journalism and news writing, the scope of the subjects covered in them seems to be wider than what is needed for undergraduate English students majoring at Teaching or Translation in our country. What was motivating for me while writing this book was partially rooted in this problem, with the other one being the need to have variety in the choices available to the students. As a teacher, I believe that the freedom for the students to choose from among different choices and possibilities available to them increases their proficiency in what they are due to study for a special course.

Having this in mind, I started writing the book and now the end product is before you; a book in fifteen chapters each discussing different aspects of journalism and newspapers.

The present book mostly tries to fulfill the requirements of the course, namely, Reading Journalistic Texts. As you see, it is organized in fifteen chapters each dealing with some aspect of news.

Chapter One provides a short history of news media through introducing some activities done in the west in this regard. In Chapter Two, the science of journalism, the Standard Model of Professional Journalism is presented and an introduction is provided on the present topic. Chapter Three deals with the carrier of journalists, different attributes of journalists, the journalist's job, freelance writing, etc. and provides the students with a holistic view of a journalist's job. Chapter Four offers a definition of news and gives an account of the different characteristics of news based on who the addressees of the news are. In Chapter Five different sources of collecting news such as sporting events, courts, meetings, and so on are introduced. Chapter Six deals with the Intro, the first sentence or paragraph of the news and the information it includes. It also introduces different elements of news and the questions that the intro should answer. Chapter Seven consists of styles and elements of news writing and provides some information on hard news, soft news, leads, and feature stories. Chapter Eight provides us with some information regarding what the news is made of; and emphasizes that the news should be short and simple while answering all WH questions about a specific news. In Chapter Nine, the accuracy of the news, which is an important characteristic of it, is discussed. Chapter Ten deals with the structure of the news and points that are to be

considered while writing it, including its grammatical construction, spelling, and punctuation.

Due to the advances of communication technology and the widespread use of internet in the present time, we have allocated Chapter Eleven to the online journalism and the effect it has had on it. Chapter Twelve is about Radio News, the way the materials are organized for it, the lead in radio news, the length of the story, lead- Ins, etc. and sheds light on different aspects of radio news. Chapter Thirteen discusses writing for the television broadcast. It deals with problems such as combining words and pictures, sound bites, television news writer, voice-overs, the split page, video instructions, sound on tape, and so on.

Since the news is broadcasted to a wide range of audiences and sometimes concerns the privacy of individuals and different groups, in Chapter Fourteen, different ethical problems involved in the work of a journalist are presented. In Chapter Fifteen, regarding the challenges of globalization, we have briefly discussed the challenges of the global journalism, the ethics of journalism in the globalized world, problems of regulation, the trauma of reporting, etc.

In the last part of the book, the readers are provided with four appendices:

- Common writing errors
- Abbreviations
- Useful websites
- Glossary of terms

These appendices aim at helping the students in writing journalistic texts, reading newspapers, understanding these texts, as well as doing their researches. Finally, any recommendations to improve the quality of the materials provided in this book is really appreciated.

Mohsen Mobaraki

27 May 2011