

# The positions of reporting clauses of speech presentation with special reference to the Lancaster Speech, Thought and Writing Presentation Corpus

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## Abstract

This paper reports the corpus findings on the positions of reporting clauses of speech presentation. In direct speech, the preferred positions of reporting clauses vary according to text types, and the results are compared with those of Biber *et al.* (1999). In indirect speech, more than 90% of reporting clauses are found in the initial position. Although fronted reported clauses of indirect speech in fictional texts have been treated as an intermediate form between indirect and free indirect speech, the corpus data from news reports shows textual/contextual conditions where reported clauses tend to be fronted. This phenomenon in the press data seems to have different motivations from the one in fiction which often manipulates shift of viewpoints.

## 1. Introduction

The report of other people's discourse is at the core of narrative and journalistic discourse. Reporting clauses in discourse presentation are one of the most explicit linguistic devices which introduce other people's discourse in texts. The various positions of reporting clauses have both syntactic and pragmatic importance in discourse presentation. The positions of reporting clauses can affect the syntactic relationship between the reporting and the reported clauses. In direct speech (DS), clear markers of the reported clauses such as quotation marks, the verb tenses and pronoun uses distinguish the reported from reporting clauses even when reporting clauses are placed after the reported clauses. Biber *et al.* (1999: 196) define the syntactic status of reporting clauses of DS as intermediate between independent and dependent clauses, and this definition does not seem to be affected by the varied positioning of reporting clauses. On the other hand, in the case of indirect speech (IS), the syntactic relation between reported and reporting clauses can be affected by their relative positions. If reported clauses are placed before reporting clauses, a 'that'-complementiser is compulsorily omitted. Placing reporting clauses in the medial and final positions also allows a question form or exclamatory sentence in the reported clauses. As a result, the reported clauses may gain more syntactic freeness than when they are subordinated to reporting clauses in the initial position.

Point of view is another issue which is deeply involved in discourse presentation. In DS, the reported speaker(s)' point of view is clearly distinguished from that of the reporter or other reported speakers by quotation marks and choices of deixis and verb tense. Fronted reported clauses (i.e. before reporting clauses) can increase the effect of immediacy. In IS, on the other hand, the narrator's point of view intervenes more in the reported clauses and is reflected in the choice of pronouns, lexis and verb tenses. When reported clauses are placed before reporting clauses, the reader might not notice the reporting clause and may at first take the reported clause to be free indirect speech (FIS) or narration before recognising the reporting clauses. This phenomenon has been an interest in the field of stylistics, and several researchers<sup>1</sup> have discussed it in relation to FIS in fictional texts. Leech and Short (1981) refer to the effect of inversion in IS and locate the constructions 'somewhere in between indirect speech and free indirect speech' (p.333). However, this phenomenon has hardly been examined outside literary texts. One of the purposes of this paper is to examine the inversion of the reporting and reported clauses of IS in journalistic texts.

Different modes of presentation of reported clauses seem to have different preferences for the positions of reporting clauses. These differential preferences are for syntactic and pragmatic reasons. The type of texts in which discourse presentation occurs also may affect the positions of reporting clauses. Biber *et al.* (1999) report from their corpus findings that the final position of reporting clauses of direct discourse presentation is highly favoured in both news and fiction.

The source of my data in this paper is the Lancaster Speech, Thought and Writing Presentation Corpus (ST&WP Corpus). This corpus of 260,000 words was annotated manually for categories of speech, thought and writing presentation using a tagset which was developed by the Lancaster research team and based on Leech and Short's 1981 model. Biber *et al.* report their findings based on a sample of 100,000 words from the Longman Spoken and Written English Corpus (the LSWE Corpus). The ST&WP Corpus is 2.6 times larger than the LSWE sample corpus. The ST&WP Corpus has three sections of texts: news, fiction and (auto)biographies. Each of three sections is subdivided into

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<sup>1</sup> Reinhart (1975), Banfield (1983) and Fludernik (1993).

serious/popular divisions. These divisions make comparisons between serious and popular types of texts possible as well as between different genres.

In this paper, I concentrate on speech presentation and make the following general points:

- (1) The preferred positions of reporting clauses of DS seem to vary according to text types and the serious/popular divisions.
- (2) Although more than 90 % of reporting clauses of IS are placed before the reported clauses in all three genres, news reports seem to have particular textual/contextual patterns where the reporting clauses of IS are placed either in the middle or at the end of the reported clauses.

## 2. Reporting clauses of DS

There are 2878 reporting clauses in the corpus, and about 94% of reporting clauses are attached either to DS or IS: 53.2% are attached to DS and 40.6% are attached to IS (Table 1). About 6% of reporting clauses accompany other types of speech presentation such as free direct speech (FDS) or FIS.

DS (%)	IS (%)	DS+IS (%)	Total (%)
1530 (53.2)	1169 (40.6)	2699 (93.8)	2878 (100)

Table 1 The numbers of reporting clauses of DS and IS

Table 2 shows that news reports and fiction both have about 600 reporting clauses of DS, and (auto)biographies have 360. Thus the (auto)biography samples have less DS than news reports or fiction. This is probably because biographers tend to lack direct access to the original speech of the people who are involved and the nature of the non-fiction genre discourages the biographer to quote protagonists' speech as a faithful reproduction.

	Initial (%)	Final (%)	Medial (%)	Total (%)
News	394 (66.4)	197 (33.2)	2 (0.3)	593 (100.0)
Fiction	115 (20.0)	404 (70.2)	56 (9.8)	574 (100.0)
(Auto)biography	163 (44.9)	156 (43.0)	44 (12.1)	363 (100.0)

Table 2 The positions of reporting clauses of DS

The preferred positions of reporting clauses for DS vary in the three genres. In news reports, the initial position is more preferred than the final or the medial position. In fiction, on the contrary, the final position is much preferred. In (auto)biographies, reporting clauses are evenly distributed in the initial and the final positions. Reporting clauses in the middle position are hardly found in news reports while in fiction and (auto)biographies about 10% of the reporting clauses are inserted in the middle of the reported clauses.

The sample corpus from the LSWE Corpus suggests different distributions of reporting clauses of DS in the three positions.

	Initial (%)	Final (%)	Medial (%)
News	35	50	10
Fiction	15	65	15

Table 3 The positions of reporting clauses of DS in the LSWE Corpus<sup>2</sup>

The two corpora show similar results in fiction; reporting clauses in the final position are preferred in both corpora. On the other hand, in news reports, most reporting clauses are found in the initial position in the ST&WP Corpus whereas half of the reporting clauses are found in the final position in the LSWE Corpus. While reporting clauses in the medial position are scarcely found in the ST&WP Corpus, 10% of reporting clauses are found in the medial position in the LSWE Corpus. One possible explanation for the different results about the most preferred positions and the wide gap in the percentages of the middle position in the news texts is that the data sources are differently comprised in the two corpora. The news texts in the LSWE Corpus include articles on other topics than news reports such as sports and culture whereas the ST&WP Corpus concentrates on news reports on international/domestic matters. The articles on cultural topics could have different styles from that of typical news reports and may have more reporting clauses in the final and medial positions. Another difference in the news texts in the two corpora is that in the LSWE Corpus 60% of the data is from broadsheets and 40% is from regional papers while, in the ST&WP Corpus, 50% of data is from broadsheets and 50% is from tabloids<sup>3</sup>. The proportion of tabloid papers as a data source in the ST&WP

<sup>2</sup> The figures are based on Table 11.1 of Biber *et al.* (1999: 923).

<sup>3</sup> Broadsheets: Independent on Sunday, Guardian, Independent, Daily Telegraph, and Times. Tabloids: News of the World,

Corpus can be higher than in the LSWE Corpus, assuming that regional papers are either more similar to broadsheets or in-between of broadsheets and tabloids. The higher proportion of the tabloids may be one of the factors which raise the percentage of the reported clauses in the initial position in the ST&WP Corpus. As the data from ST&WP Corpus shows in the next section, initial reporting clauses are preferred in tabloid papers compared with the broadsheets.

### 3. Reporting clauses of DS and the serious/popular divisions

From now on, my discussion concentrates on my findings based on the ST&WP Corpus. In this section, DS reporting clauses are examined across text types and their popular/serious divisions. As a general tendency, the popular divisions of all three genres have more DS than the serious divisions, reflecting the style difference which the serious/popular contrast would predict (Table 4).

	Broadsheets/Serious (%)	Tabloids/Popuar (%)	Total (%)
News	234 (39.5)	359 (60.5)	593 (100.0)
Fiction	244 (42.5)	330 (57.5)	574 (100.0)
(Auto)biography	81 (22.3)	282 (77.7)	363 (100.0)

Table 4 DS in the popular/serious divisions

In news reports, the tabloids have roughly half as much DS again compared with the broadsheets. Furthermore, the tabloids tend to have more reporting clauses in the initial position than the other two positions (Table 5). In the DS mode, the reported clause can produce more immediacy than IS and allow a wider range of registers from formal public speech to casual colloquial speech. The initial position of reporting clauses makes the reader's processing of the speech presentation easier than other positions. The tabloid papers may well favour these advantages of DS with reporting clauses in the initial position. In contrast, the broadsheets show no distinct preference for either the initial or the final position.

News	Initial (%)		Final (%)		Medial (%)	
	broad	tabloid	broad	tabloid	broad	tabloid
Total No. of DS (%)						
Broad=234 (100)	117	277	117	80	0	2
Tabloid=359 (100)	(50.0)	(77.2)	(50.0)	(22.3)	(0.0)	(0.5)

Table 5 The positions of reporting clauses of DS in News

In fiction, DS is also preferred in the popular division compared with in the serious division (Table 6). As for the positions of reporting clauses, both popular and serious fiction prefers the final position. Since DS in fiction is most often indented as well as accompanied by the quotation marks, the reader is probably already aware that a character's speech is being presented at the beginning of reported clauses even if reporting clauses are postponed until the end of the sentences. Such graphological practice in fiction can help the reader's processing. In addition, in fictional contexts, a range of choice of speakers is much more limited than in journalistic contexts, which often offer almost unlimited possibilities of speakers. The reader may have less difficulty in recognising a reported speaker with the reporting clause at the final position in fiction.

Fiction	Initial (%)		Final (%)		Medial (%)	
	serious	popular	serious	popular	serious	popular
Total No. of DS (%)						
Serious=244 (100)	45	70	174	229	25	31
Popular=330 (100)	(18.4)	(21.2)	(71.3)	(69.4)	(10.3)	(9.4)

Table 6 The positions of reporting clauses of DS in Fiction

By placing the reported clauses before the reporting clauses, the narrator's intervention is postponed and the characters' speech can be presented almost like a play script. Fronted DS clauses give vivacity to characters' speech presentation and generate dramatic effects in fictional worlds.

In (auto)biographies, there are 363 reporting clauses attached to DS and 282 reporting clauses are found in popular (auto)biographies whereas only 81 reporting clauses are found in serious (auto)biographies (Table 7). Popular (auto)biography does not show particular preference for either initial or final position of reporting clauses. But it does have a higher percentage of reporting clauses in the medial position, compared with the serious (auto)biographies or the other two genres.

(Auto)biography	Initial (%)		Final (%)		Medial (%)	
Total No. of DS (%)	serious	popular	serious	popular	serious	popular
Serious=81 (100)	52	114	26	131	3	40
Popular=282 (100)	(64.2)	(40.4)	(32.1)	(46.5)	(3.7)	(13.1)

Table 7 The positions of reporting clauses of DS in (Auto)biographies

Out of 40 examples of reporting clauses in the medial position in the popular division, 35 examples appear in the autobiographies, and 5 in the biographies. In popular autobiographies, the protagonists' speech often embeds another narrative: it can be a story or a joke. The following example is from an autobiography by the actor, Michael Caine, to whom a comedian, Eric Sykes, is talking at a party. He is joking that Brigitte Bardot, a famous actress, ignores him because she loves him.

- (1) 'She is in love with me,'  
 he whispered,  
 'and she can't stand it. Watch her as she goes by,'  
 (Michael Caine, *What's It All About?*)

The reporting clause comes at the clause boundary in the reported clause. The second reported clause gives a reason the super star ignores the comedian, which renders a humorous effect. By inserting the reporting clause before the punch line, the reader's expectation is suspended and the punch line is made more effective. Out of 40 examples, 27 examples have reporting clauses at a clause boundary. Such interruption suspends the onset of the latter part of the speech momentarily, making the reader more attentive to it. The subjects of popular autobiographies are often famous actors, athletes and comedians, whose images and tones of voice the reader is likely to be familiar with. A casual, colloquial style which reflects the celebrity's image is commonly shared in such autobiographies, and this tendency is especially strong in direct speech. Inserting a reporting clause in the middle of a reported clause with a colloquial register, the reader can have processing time imagining the character's speech with more immediacy and get ready for the following speech which often requires more inferential work than the first part.

On the other hand, since serious (auto)biographies tend to aim for accuracy of record on past events rather than immediacy and drama, specifying the speaker of the following speech presentation at the beginning of the sentence is a reasonable measure in order to avoid the ambiguity over the speakers.

#### 4. Reporting clauses of IS

In IS, the initial position of reporting clauses is a more established, syntactically-determined pattern. More than 90% of reporting clauses are fronted in all three genres (Table 8).

	Initial (%)	Final (%)	Medial (%)	Total (%)
News	650 (92.9)	42 (6.0)	8 (1.1)	700 (100.0)
Fiction	110 (90.1)	2 (1.7)	9 (7.4)	121 (100.0)
(Auto)biography	327 (94.0)	3 (0.8)	18 (5.2)	348 (100.0)

Table 8 The positions of reporting clauses of IS

A few reporting clauses come after the reported clauses or are inserted in the middle of the reported clauses, which, as we have already noticed, occurs much more commonly in DS. Stylistic accounts regard such inversion of reporting and reported clauses as an intermediary form between IS and FIS and link it with free indirect discourse in literary texts. However, in these discussions other aspects of a character's subjectivity such as lexis, ejaculative expressions and deixis in the reported clauses are also taken into consideration. Above all, FIS involves more characters' points of view and less intervention from the narrator than IS. It should be further examined whether placing a reported clause before a reporting clause can automatically generate shifts of viewpoint. News reports offer useful data in this respect because reported clauses in news texts tend to contain less subjective elements than those of fiction and the inversion of the reporting and the reported clauses can be analysed independently of other elements of FIS. If the inversion itself has an effect which suggests a clearly speaker-oriented perspective, it will push the reported clause toward FIS.

#### 5. Reporting clauses of IS in the final/middle position of news reports

Table 8 shows that reporting clauses of IS in the final position most frequently occur in news reports while fiction has much less. This is quite remarkable when we remember that in DS reporting clauses in the final position is most preferred in fiction. The phenomenon looks contradictory at first sight because the fronted reported clause of IS can sometimes be ambiguous with narration, and news reports are supposed to avoid any ambiguities concerning speech presentation. By examining the examples of news reports, three major textual patterns can be found, in which the inversion of the

reporting and the reported clauses do not necessarily generate ambiguities or involve shifts of the points of view.

### 5. 1. The first sentence of the body text

The first major textual pattern is that the sentence appears as the leading sentence of the body text immediately after the headline. As Table 8 indicates, there are 42 examples of IS with reporting clauses after the reported clauses. Out of these 42 examples, 13 (31%) are the first sentence of the body text. This tendency is the same for both broadsheets and tabloids. Out of these 13 cases, in 12, the contents of the reported clauses are previously announced by the headlines. Consider:

(2) <headline >

Britain ready to pull troops out of Bosnia

<body text>

BRITAIN could start withdrawing its troops from Bosnia within weeks if the warring factions reject the latest plans for a settlement, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

(*The Times*, 5/12/94, Britain ready to pull troops out of Bosnia)

The headline gives the reader a general idea on the topic of the article; more precisely, the headline summarises the reported clause of the first sentence of the body text. The content of the reported clause gives more detailed information in relation to the main headline. The combination of the headline and the reported clause of the first sentence repeats the general content of the headline and reinforces the impact of information which the article conveys. From the perspective of 'given/new information', the reported clause of the first sentence is textually 'given' since it is previously mentioned in the headline. On the other hand, the reporting clause, which specifies the information source, is 'new'. The construction of the first sentence observes the 'end-weight' principle of informational structure (Quirk *et al.* 1985: 1365-6) although it can deviate from the normal syntactic structure of IS. It should be noted, however, that 'end-weight' does not necessarily entail 'prominence', or, in more practical terms, 'news value'. In some cases, the sources of information are mentioned in less specific ways. Compare:

(3) <headline>

2 BRITS AMONG DEAD IN PLANE HORROR

<body text>

A BRITISH couple were among the 109 killed in Saturday's Florida jet crash, it was revealed last night.

(*The Sun*, 13/5/96, 2 Brits among dead in plane horror)

Such an unusual order of reporting and reported clauses in the first sentence of the body text makes a contrast with the normal clausal order in a similar textual environment. When the reporting clause is at the beginning of the first sentence, the importance of the syntactic subject of the reporting clause is stressed. In the following example, the subject of the reporting clause appears in the headline, and the full name of the speaker is again indicated in the first sentence. Compare:

(4) <headline>

Blair backs Straw over a new role for the monarchy

<body text>

TONY BLAIR confirmed yesterday that he intended to make fundamental changes to the role of the Royal Family an issue in the next general election.

(*The Times*, 5/12/94, Blair backs Straw over a new role for the monarchy)

There are 23 cases where the speaker of the indirect speech appears in the fronted reporting clause as well as in the headlines. In such cases, the source of information, the speaker, can express the 'topic' and the reported clause can express the 'comment'<sup>4</sup>. In (4), the 'topic' is Blair, who is already known to the reader, and the 'comment' is what he said. The pragmatic functions of 'topic' and 'comment' explain why famous individuals tend to be found as the syntactic subject of fronted reporting clauses. Out of 23 cases, 18 have personal names of politicians, show business people or royals in the fronted reporting clauses.

The inversion of the reported and reporting clauses in the first sentence of a news article seem to have a different motivation from that of fiction. In news reports, the inversion of the two clauses are mainly related to the shifts of focus between the speaker, i.e. the source of information, and the content

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<sup>4</sup> Van Dijk (1977: 116) defines a topic as 'some function determining about which item something is being said; it often associated with what is already known in some context, or what is presupposed.' He refers to the 'comment' as what is 'unknown' and asserted.

of speech. In the above examples, the positions of reporting clauses are especially affected by the relationship between the headline and the first sentence. On the other hand, in fiction, the issue has more to do with changing points of view and the distance which the narrator intends to take between the character who speaks and him/herself. As a representative example which clearly demonstrates shift of viewpoints, I will quote a short passage by V. Woolf outside the corpus. There are three reporting clauses in the passage, and two of them are in the final position, one in the middle.

- (5) (a) ‘Do you write many letters, Mr. Tansley?’ asked Mrs. Ramsay, pitying him too, Lily supposed; for that was true of Mrs. Ramsay - she pitied men always as if they lacked something - women never, as if they had something. (b) He wrote to his mother; otherwise he did not suppose he wrote one letter a month, said Mr. Tansley, shortly.  
(Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* p.93; alphabetising mine)

In (a), the first reporting clause is attached to Mrs. Ramsay’s direct speech. The second reporting clause is inserted after an adverbial phrase with a present participle ‘pitying him’. This reporting clause suggests that the point of view is suddenly shifted from the narrator to Lily Briscoe, and she takes over the role of telling Mrs. Ramsay’s inner state when Mrs. Ramsay passes a conversational turn to Mr. Tansley. The fronted indirect form in (b) suggests both immediacy and Mr. Tansley’s reserved manner. The final reporting clause not only specifies the speaker of the preceding speech but also signals whose point of view is presented from now on; a new paragraph which follows the present passage concentrates on reporting Mr. Tansley’s thought.

In fiction, the positions of reporting clauses is one of the devices which can manipulate the characters’ or the narrator’s points of view. Especially in IS, even if the reported clause has no particular signs which are more attributable to the character than the narrator such as deixis or lexis, postposing the reporting clause after the reported clause generates some character-bound effect. This kind of rapid viewpoint switching is not usually a feature of news reports. In news report, the positions of the reporting clause seems to be more dependent on textual organisation and pragmatic elements rather than shifting viewpoints.

## 5. 2. Continuous speech presentation by the same speaker

Another textual feature of news reports, surrounding a postponed reporting clause, is that a fronted reported clause comes immediately after another speech presentation by the same speaker. 16 cases out of 50 with inverted reporting clauses are part of a continuous speech presentation by one speaker. All of the 16 cases except one are found in broadsheets. In these cases, the reporters seem to reorder reporting and reported clauses as one of the devices for re-constructing the speaker’s speech. In (6), each reporting and reported clause is alphabetised for ease of reference.

- (6) (a) Mr Major warned yesterday of the dangers of Britain being left behind if a group of European Union members pushed ahead with a single currency.  
(b) Nobody could be certain.  
(c) he said.  
(d) of the economic impact on the UK.  
(*Independent on Sunday*, 11/12/94, Blair puts Labour troops on alert for snap election)

In (6), the reporter summarises Mr Major’s speech by using the mode of IS in (a). After this summary, the reported speaker’s more specific wording is introduced in (b) and (d) in order to back up the previous summary. It is clear that the reporter intentionally chose a particular part out of Mr Major’s speech which would most strongly support his/her previous generalisation. By fronting the reported clause, the rhetorical connection between the summary (a) and the specification (b) and (d) are tightened. In (7), too, the reporter seems to apply a similar strategy.

- (7) (a) But Mr Lilley said  
(b) Labour tactics could prompt many ordinary people who would otherwise support Labour to turn to the Conservatives.  
(c) “I regret very much that they have put the future of the monarchy into the political domain,”  
(d) he said on BBCI’s Breakfast with Frost.  
(e) “But having done so, I think that they risk losing the support of a lot of their voters.”  
(f) While Labour activists were Left-wing, Labour voters were usually “very pro- monarchy, very pro-Britain” and the Conservatives would “vigorously defend” the Queen and the Royal Family.  
(g) Having abandoned its policies on the economy and education, Labour desperately needed something new to please the Left.  
(h) he said.  
(*The Daily Telegraph*, 5/12/94, Labour in row over Royal role)

A generalisation of Mr Lilley’s speech is introduced as IS in (a) and (b). The following DS in (c) and

(e), FIS in (f) and the inverted reported clause of IS in (g), all not only represent Mr Lilley's specific wording but also explain the reasons why Labour tactics could lose the potential voters against the Conservatives. These reported clauses, however, may not be presented in the same sequence as that of Mr Lilley's actual speech. The reporter could have rearranged the order of these clauses so that the each segment is organised according to his logic. Fronting the reported clause (g) seems to be one of strategic devices to link the reported clause logically with the reporter's summary of Mr Lilley's speech.

### 5.3. An introduction of a new speaker at the end

The third pattern of placing reporting clauses in the final or medial position is more context-dependent than affected by textual organisation. Reporting clauses can 'abruptly' appear after fronted reported clauses without any introduction of the speaker before. There are 11 such cases in the corpus, out of which 10 reporting clauses are at the end. These 'abrupt' reporting clauses are equally distributed across the broadsheets and tabloids. In those examples, the contents of the reported clauses are often additional or secondary to the preceding information, which has more importance or impact. In the following example, the reported clause has its reporting clause at the end. The content of the reported clause (b) has less news value than the preceding information (a), and consequently, the information source specified in (c) is even less important.

- (8) (a) A powerful bomb ripped through a bus in Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 40 people. Most of the passengers were returning home to celebrate the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha.  
(b) A second bomb was found near the wrecked bus and safely defused,  
(c) the official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said.  
(The *Times*, 29/4/96, Bomb on crowded bus kills 40 in Pakistan)

In (8), no clues that indicate speech presentation are found in (b) after quite a long stretch of narration. The reader will not recognise (b) as a reported clause until he/she reads the reporting clause of (c). The possible reason for the inversion here would be that the reporting clause receives the least emphasis because the information of the reported clause is secondary as news. Different degrees of emphasis on the reporting and the reported clauses seem to affect the order of the two clauses. Another aspect of this structure is that information sources in the reporting clauses are often institutions or groups rather than individuals such as 'the official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency' and 'the UN'. Out of 13 cases, 6 mention groups and organisations as information sources. Such institutional group speakers/writers tend to be backgrounded because they have less news value. This makes a contrast with the situation where famous individuals such as politicians and celebrities are often found in the fronted reporting clauses in the first sentence of the body text.

## 6. Conclusion

This research supported our intuitive perception about the positions of reporting clauses in direct speech and indirect speech by the quantitative data which was obtained from the ST&WP Corpus: DS has more reporting clauses in the middle and the final positions of the reported clauses compared with IS, while in IS the order of the reporting and the reported clauses is syntactically established and the inversion of the two clauses occurs much less. The corpus findings also quantitatively suggested that text types are closely related to the preferred positions of reporting clauses in DS. These results were compared with those of the LSWE sample Corpus by Biber *et al.* (1999). In IS, the press data gave a new perspective to the inversion of the reporting and the reported clauses. Although placing the reported clause before the reporting clause can be an unusual syntactic structure, this construction tends to be more affected by textual organization and often obeys the informational principle. Here, not only the quantitative analysis of the corpus data but also the qualitative approach successfully revealed some of the motivations for this construction of news reports, which seem to be different from those of fiction.

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