

## **A Study of Ideational Grammatical Metaphor in Health Texts of English Newspapers**

**Fahimeh Tabrizi** <sup>\*</sup>

*Dept. of English, Islamic Azad University, Tabriz Branch, Tabriz, Iran*

**Nesa Nabifar** <sup>†</sup>

*Dept. of English, Islamic Azad University, Tabriz Branch, Tabriz, Iran*

### **ABSTRACT**

Systemic functional grammar constructs a grammar for the purpose of text analysis to investigate how grammar is used as a means of making meaning. Grammatical metaphor is one of the language phenomena introduced by Halliday (2004) in the framework of functional grammar. The present work focuses on the application of Halliday's metafunctional framework in health texts of English newspapers. The analysis of data was conducted through a description of English newspaper texts, based on ideational grammatical metaphor. To this end, the researcher conducted some statistics to this strand of meaning, including frequency and percentage of nominalization type of ideational grammatical metaphor in health texts. The obtained results indicate that health texts of English newspapers are using the nominalization of ideational grammatical metaphor and also transitivity analysis in health texts shows how we can express the same meaning in different ways.

**Keywords:** systemic functional linguistics; ideational grammatical metaphor; nominalization; health texts

---

<sup>\*</sup> E-Mail: Fahimehtabrizi84@yahoo.com; <sup>\*</sup>corresponding author

<sup>†</sup> E-Mail: Nesanabifar13@gmail.com

## 1. Introduction

In the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics, among the many of the new concepts introduced, Grammatical Metaphor is one of the most important ones since it made it possible to enhance the understanding of nature of language, the semogenic process of language and the relationship between language and context. The term of metaphor is traditionally applied to the lexical transformation which can be described as "variation in the use of words" (Halliday, 1985, p. 320). However, metaphor is also variation in the expression of meaning if it is described from the point of view of how meaning is expressed (Halliday, 1985). While the term metaphor is traditionally understood as being lexical metaphor, the introduction of GM opens a new page in interpretation of metaphor, suggesting that metaphor can be also approached from the point of view of grammar. It extends the canonical sense of metaphor from lexical region to grammatical region at lexicogrammatical level. Grammatical metaphor is proposed first by Halliday, who treated it as an important component of the theory of system language functions and made significant contribution to the metaphor study. "While in classical (lexical) metaphor one **word** takes over from another, in grammatical metaphor one **grammatical class** takes over from another" (Halliday, 2004, p. 38), as a way of "reconstructing the relations between the grammar and the semantics" (*ibid.*, p. 107). Thus, metaphor in the grammatical sense is the replacement of one grammatical class by another. Grammatical metaphor is an important linguistic feature of writing for scientific and academic purposes because it has the power of reconstructing ideational meaning along the lines from sequence to figure and from figure to participant. Halliday (1994) introduced grammatical metaphor as three language functions, or more accurately as three metafunctions: Ideational, interpersonal and textual. This semantic complexity is possible because language is a semiotic system, a conventionalized coding system, and organized sets of choices. Ideational grammatical metaphor is the first type of grammatical metaphor. In ideational grammatical metaphor lexico-grammatical metaphor features are re-arranged to put forth a certain view of reality. They constitute an alternative way of constructing a picture of reality. Nominalization is the most common form of ideational grammatical metaphor, especially in the science, technology, and news discourse. Nominalization makes action or process become concept and also, it reduces the number of clauses and more information is compressed into each nominal group. As Halliday (1985) mentioned each nominalized or metaphorical domain has its congruent wording. Metaphorical domain explains the situation more interesting and formal in comparing with congruent one.



Since journalists often take the skills of language use into account, grammatical metaphor is one of the most popular devices causing difficulties. Using grammatical metaphor in newspapers satisfies with readers' curiosity and excitement but sometimes causes many difficulties for us to understand. Study of grammatical metaphor has been traditionally associated with the study of literature; the use of metaphor is not restricted to this kind of language. Metaphor exists as a common fact in most of languages in the world. For this reason, the researcher hopes the present study will be a contribution to linguistic knowledge about the health texts of English newspapers, which helps writers, readers, teachers, students, translators use and understand language more effectively.

## 2. Review of Literature

Systemic functional linguistics (SFL) or Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a functional theory of language developed by Halliday. In other words, it explores the language in terms of its functioning in human lives (Taverniers, 2004). Systemic-functional linguistics (SFL), as its name suggests, considers function and semantics as the basis of human language and communicative activity (Martin, Matthiessen & Painter, 1997). The term 'systemic' refers to the view of language as "a network of systems, or interrelated sets of options for making meaning" (Halliday, 1994, p.15). Grammatical metaphor has been an important step forward in systemic-functional linguistics. It challenges the descriptive framework, to define and account for the phenomenon theoretically. It connects with fundamental concerns of this and related schools with questions of social context. It enables important insights into areas of practical application: textual studies, questions of language development and literacy, the processes of semiosis (Ravelli, 2003).

Knowles and Moon (2006) equate grammatical metaphor with nominalization actions, which would usually be described by sentence such as *we study economics*, are presented in noun phrase such as *the study of economics*. At its most simple, activities or processes, which would naturally be expressed by verbs, become things. The verbs have been changed to nouns: they have become nominalized. English is a language in which it is possible to use nominalization to quite a large extent, especially in the form of written form and the more formal spoken varieties. They add what we have choices in English as to how we want to present situations and events to others. There will be a typical or congruent way, as in *we study economics*, or there is the metaphorical way. Ideologically, nominalization allows the writer or speaker to avoid mentioning the agent or doer of the action. In the above example, we

avoid mentioning the way when we reformulated *we study economics* as *the study of economics*.

### **2.1. Grammatical Metaphor in Written Language**

According to Ravelli (2003), there are many reasons for being interested in processes of grammatical metaphor, one central reason is in terms of its relation to an understanding of written texts, and thus to processes of literacy. Grammatical metaphor is indeed very much at the heart of written language, particularly the hitherto privileged discourses of scientific and academic reasoning. It lies equally at the heart of the backlashes against these, in movements away from privileged institutional positions, towards such discourses as 'plain', English or accessible texts. It is a kind of 'linguistic magic': for struggling writers, successful mastery of grammatical metaphor is the fastest way to progress in the written mode (Cox, 1994). Halliday (1985) expressed that the complexity of written language is crystalline and there are more than one kind of simplicity and complexity; one which is associated with written language. Typically, written language becomes complex by being lexically dense, (that is it has a greater number of lexical items per clause, and the lexical items have a higher information content), often accompanied by a relatively simple grammatical structure.

### **2.2. Grammatical Metaphor's Function on the Role of Analyzing the News Discourse**

According to Wu and Tang (2010), news is a style which requires highly accuracy of the fact, the figures of speech which make abstract things concrete and arouse the reader's imagination. The purposes of English newspapers determine the unique stylistic characteristics of English newspapers, among which metaphor is the main feature of news style.

### **2.3. Systemic Functional Linguistics and the Three Metafunctions of Language**

Systemic functional linguistics is a functional theory of language. According to this theory, language is viewed in terms of its functioning in our human lives (Taverniers, 2004). Halliday (1985) the founder of this theory interprets this functioning of language in our lives in terms of three metafunctions which he calls ideational, interpersonal and textual. Systemic functional linguistics model is totally based upon the relationship and interaction between these three metafunctions (Vandenberg, 2003). The ideational metafunction of language deals with language as representation: it focuses on the role of language in representing and shaping reality. Language is able to fulfill this



function by subdividing reality into processes that take place, entities that can take part in these processes (living beings; concrete and abstract things), and qualities that we can use to describe these entities (Taverniers, 2004).

As Halliday and Matthiessen (1997, p.14) note, "the ideational metafunction is concerned with 'ideation' that is grammatical resources for *construing* our experience of the world around us and inside us. One of its major grammatical systems is TRANSITIVITY, the resource for construing our experience the flux of 'goings-on', as structural configurations; each consisting of a process, the participants involved in the process, and circumstances attendant on it." As different types of processes are used in the analysis, so the concentration is being made on describing the different types of processes and their associated configurations of particular roles. In transitivity system the process types shown as figure 2.1

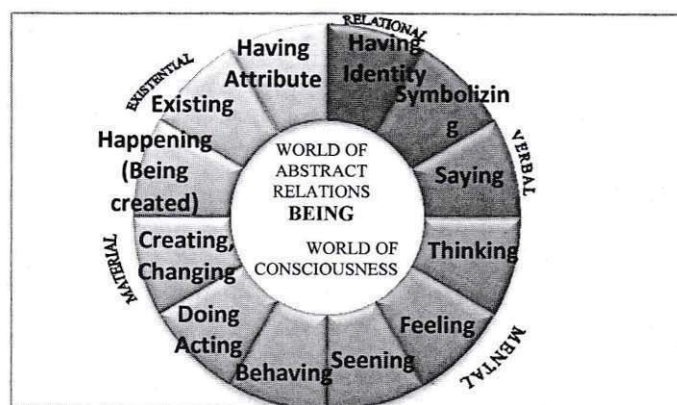


Figure 2.1. Circle of process types (Halliday, 1985)

They further believe that the second is the NOMINALIZATION. Noun is the most common grammatical metaphor in the word level, it transfers the verb which expresses the process and the adjective which expresses the characteristics metaphorical which lose their own functions into the form of noun (ibid.).

In linguistics, nominalization refers to the use of a verb or an adjective into a noun, with or without morphological transformation, so that the word can now act as the head of a noun phrase. In English, some verbs and adjectives can be used directly as nouns, for example, *change* and *good*, while others require some form of morphological transformation requiring a suffix, for example, *nominalization* from *nominalize*; *movement* from *move*; *investigation* from *investigate*; *difficulty* from *difficult*; *carelessness* from *careless* and

soon. When a verb is nominalised, it becomes concept rather than an action (Taverniers, 2003).

#### **2.4. The Characteristics of Nominalization**

- Nominalization makes actions or processes (verbs) become concepts (nouns).
- With nominalization, a single sentence packs in several complex abstract ideas.
- Nominalization builds long noun phrases to produce a lexically dense style.
- Nominalization reduces the number of clauses and more information is able to be compressed into each nominal (noun) group.
- When verbs are nominalised they become concepts rather than actions; as a result, the writer is able to increase in the amount and density of information to make further comment or observation about the concept in the sentence.
- Nominalization enables an academic writer to concisely refer to recurring abstract ideas.

#### **2.5. The Concept of Congruence in Ideational Metaphor**

Thompson (1996) sees a metaphorical and a congruent wording as representing the opposite poles of a continuum upon which are spread the murkier and less distinguishable instantiations of social meaning in language: Thus different constructions will be congruent to different degrees.

Halliday (1999) described the concept of congruence in his initial work on modern Chinese language, "a congruent realization is defined as that one which can be regarded as typical – which be selected in the absence of any good reason for selecting another one, a realization which is unmarked" (P. 14).

Fawcett (1980) noted that "in the congruence network referent may be processed in three ways: regarded as situation, regarded as thing, and regarded as quality. At this point the term congruence can be interpreted as an apt level for the system network in which we decide whether or not to use the typical set of semantic options and so the typical syntactic unit – for a referent" (P. 92). For each of these general options, more delicate further possibilities are specified. At this point the concept of 'congruence' comes in, interpreted in Halliday's sense:

"The term congruence [...] provides an apt label for the system network in which we decide whether or not to use the typical set of semantic options – and so the typical syntactic unit for a referent" (Fawcett 1980, P. 92).

For the option referent regarded as situation three possibilities are available, of which one is congruent, as realized in, for example:

1. *Ivy quickly refused his offer.*

Other types of construal of this referent regarded as situation, are, (1) a construal as possessed situation (gerund), as in

2. *Ivy's quickly refusing his offer*

and (82) a construal as quasi thing (nominalization or 'mixed nominal'), as in

3. *Ivy's quick refusing of his offer.*

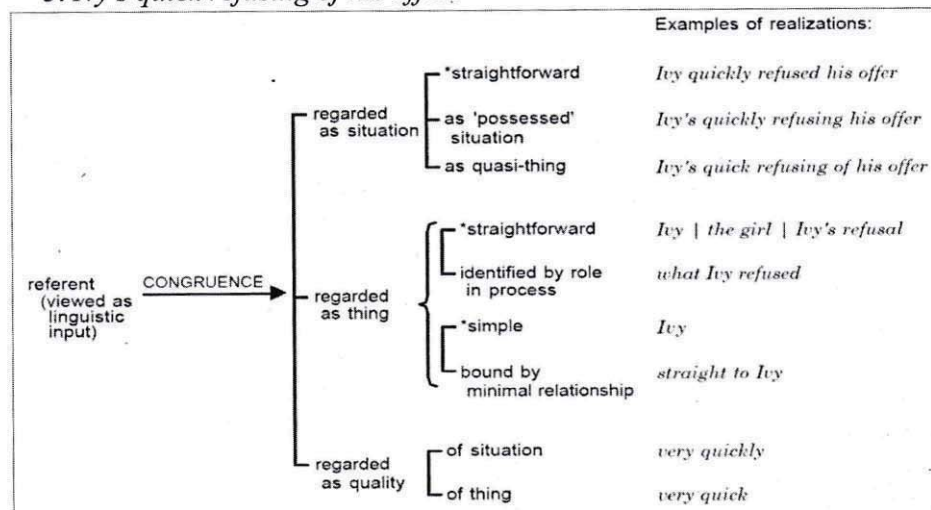


Figure 2.2: Congruence network proposed by Fawcett (1980, p. 93)

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1. Material

Since the newspapers are the most common means of communication, and journalists often use the skills of languages especially grammatical metaphor which is one of the most popular devices causing difficulties, an effort was made to select health texts from famous English newspapers, such as Washington Times, Washington Post, Times, The New York Times and Los Angeles Times which were published in 2012. Because of time constraints only five health texts, about 5346 words of health texts were used as the corpus in order to investigate the frequency and percentage of process types, role and function of ideational grammatical metaphor, to find congruent domain for all the extracted grammatical metaphors in health texts.



Health texts were chosen for this research because over the last 250 years and during the course of the twentieth century, there has been an increasing use of ideational grammatical metaphor especially the nominalization one in scientific texts. Also, they were supposed to contain more ideational grammatical metaphor.

### 3.2. Design

The present study was designed within the framework of qualitative research methodology. The text analysis was done in terms of grammatical metaphors in particular by its view of semantic and lexico-grammatical realizations of functions employed in health texts of English newspapers. To analyze ideational meaning, i.e. meaning about how we represent reality in language, clause was used as the unit of analysis. As a model of analysis, this study brought in the Hallidyan Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) model of text analysis as a point of reference to analyze the process types of clauses.

### 3.3. Procedure

This study was carried out in several steps. First, the researcher selected five famous English newspapers, such as Washington Times, Washington Post, Times, The New York Times and Los Angeles Times which were published in 2012 and from among them only health texts were chosen. Then the researcher read the texts thoroughly and determined ideational grammatical metaphors. It was noticed that nominalization is the most important feature of health texts that leads to ideational grammatical metaphor. The principal way of creation of GM is nominalization which is the application of a noun form to present a process meaning.

Thompson (2004, p. 226) gives the following example declaring that the nominal form is derived from a verbal form,

These ideas have been subject to widespread *criticism*.

The congruent form of the above sentence would be the following wording,

Many people have *criticized* these ideas.

As it is clear from the example, the nominal item 'criticism' is derived from the verbal form 'criticize'.

Halliday (2004) has summarized the categories that have been set up, together with an informal indication of their core meaning and a list of the participants uniquely associated with each type as follows,



Table 3.1

*Overview of Process Types (Adopted from Halliday, 2004)*

Process type	Category meaning	Participants
Material:	'doing'	Actor, Goal
action	'doing'	
event	'happening'	
behavioural	'bahaving'	Behaver
mental	'sensing'	Senser, Phenomenon
perception	'seeing'	
affection	'feeling'	
cognition	'thinking'	
Verbal	'saying'	Sayer, Target
relational	'being'	Token, Value
attribution	'attributing'	Carrier, Attribute
identification	'identifying'	Identified, Identified
existential	'existing'	Existent

As well as using language to interact with people, we clearly use it to talk about the world, the external world, things, events, qualities or our internal world, thoughts, beliefs. When we look at how language works from this perspective, we are focusing on primarily on the 'content' of a message rather than the purpose for which the speaker has uttered it (Thompson, 1996). According to Halliday (2004) the process is typically expressed by the verbal group in the clause, and is the central component of the message from the experiential perspective. After determining the ideational grammatical metaphors, the researcher tried to find a congruent domain for all the extracted grammatical metaphors because elucidating both the congruent and metaphorical domain helps us to completely understand the concept of transitivity and ideational grammatical metaphor. As it is believed that the complexity of written language is a lexical complexity so written language attains a high lexical density. Comparing metaphorical and congruent wording showed that in most of the cases both of them allow us to explain the same situation and the same meaning, but the metaphorical wording explains the situation and

meaning in a more interesting and economic way. Since ideational grammatical metaphor is closely tied with transitivity system which enables us to construe the world of our experience into a limited set of process types (material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioural, existential), the researcher tried to find a process type in the extracted ideational grammatical metaphor instances.

#### **4. Results and Analysis**

##### **4.1. Introduction**

In this section five health texts of famous English newspapers are analyzed on the basis of the definitions of ideational grammatical metaphor presented by Halliday (2004), to find out how many instances of ideational grammatical metaphor are used in health texts and what the respective frequencies are. Furthermore, the data has been looked into to find out the role and function of ideational grammatical metaphor in health texts. The first step was to identify the instances of ideational grammatical metaphor, to be specific in this study, the instances of nominalization in health texts based on what Halliday (2004) calls the main source out of which ideational grammatical metaphor arises.

According to Halliday (2004), to fully grasp ideational grammatical metaphor, the identification and analysis of both the metaphorical and the congruent realization are essential. Ideational grammatical metaphor is closely tied to the transitivity system, which enables us to construe the world of our experience into a limited set of process types (material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal and existential). Processes are realized as a configuration of transitivity functions (Martin et al, 1997). According to Halliday and Matthiessen (1997), noun is the most grammatical metaphor in the word level, it makes the verbs which express the process and the adjectives which express the characteristics metaphorical lose functions of their own, so that they cannot reflect something in the form of noun.

For example these are instances of verbs which have been transferred to nouns by adding a suffix -tion.

1. *decision*       $\longrightarrow$  *To decide*
2. *Foundation*       $\longrightarrow$  *To found*
3. *Recommendation*       $\longrightarrow$  *To recommend*
4. *Action*       $\longrightarrow$  *To act*



#### 4.2. Ideational Grammatical Metaphor in Health Texts

Traditional studies limit metaphor as rhetorical and lexical means, with little consideration to grammatical metaphor. But grammatical metaphor is used extensively in various written genres of English and hence becomes an important concept of systemic-functional grammar. The application of grammatical metaphor is one of the important stylistic features of health English texts. Since more people are interested in health texts, especially as physicians, so analyzing and studying them sound interesting for most of the people. Nominalizations of ideational grammatical metaphor have important role in the organization of knowledge in scientific and technical disciplines. Especially in the course of the twentieth century the use of nominalization of ideational grammatical metaphor has been developed. Halliday (2004) suggests that the use of nominalization evolved first in scientific and technical registers and then gradually extended to the other areas of adult discourse. Common way of expressing in scientific registers are 'objectification' and 'abstraction' for condensing information by expressing senses in an metaphorical form which has more importance in such registers so this is the reason why scientific writing is difficult to understand. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), nominalization probably evolved first in scientific and technical registers and then gradually spread to other areas of adult discourse and become a mark of prestige and power.

The number of material processes is more than other process it shows the dominant force of material type process in health texts. See the following text in example 1,

1. *It has not always been easy. **Juggling work** – even **part-time work** – and*

*children can be stressful. And **staying** home with kids is no walk in the park.*

*Sometimes just **the thought of cooking** another meal or **driving** to another*

*after-school activity is enough to make me want to redo my resume.*

Some sentences such in the above example represent the application of ideational grammatical metaphor twice or more in a simple sentence. One of the main benefits of nominalization of ideational grammatical metaphor is the production of high adult wordings (Halliday, 1985). To illustrate this fact more tangibly, it is worth paying attention to the instance 'Jugglingwork' and 'part-time work'. '*jugglingwork*' and '*part-time work*' are instances of grammatical metaphor. Here, the nominalized grammatical metaphor ((*work*)) enables it to become ((*thing*)) from the process ((*to work*)) and an epithet juggl-

ing and part-time to modify it. This allows for certain cognitive effects on the mind of the hearers when the nominalized group (*juggling work and part-time work*) are used including a vague, conceptual and logistical as-sendary of the speaker and so on. Lees believes that (1960/1968, p.71), " one of the two types of nominalizations is factive gerundive nominalization". According to Halliday (1994, p. 264), "factive gerundives which designate processes that the writer projects as being instances, as being 'true proposition' as in staying home and driving which their congruent form are (to stay home and to drive)."The other characteristics of nominalization is that makes actions or processes (verbs) become concepts (noun) such as: *kids is no walk*. Its congruent form is *kids who donot walk*. Consider the other example:

....*after school activity* is metaphorical wording and its congruent wording is *to activate after school*.

Written language is full of grammatical items that function is closed systems in language and grammatical metaphor is with a feature of written language and it makes the writing more expressive and attractive.

#### **4.3. Frequency and Percentage of Ideational Grammatical Metaphor Instances in Health Texts**

In this part of this chapter the frequency and percentage of process type in health texts are represented in Table (4.1) and Figures (4.1) and (4.2).

Analyzing and finding congruent domain of extracted grammatical metaphor instances in health texts bring the following Table.

**Table 4. 1**

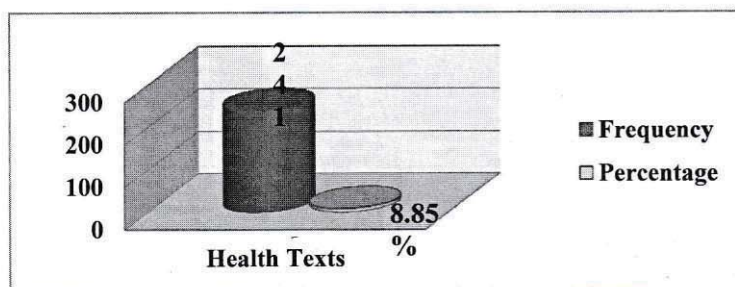
*Frequency and Percentage of Process Type in Health Text*

Process	Frequency	Percentage
Material	196	81.32 %
Mental	17	7.05 %
Relational	13	5.39 %
Behavioral	5	2.07 %
Verbal	8	3.31 %
Existential	2	0.82 %

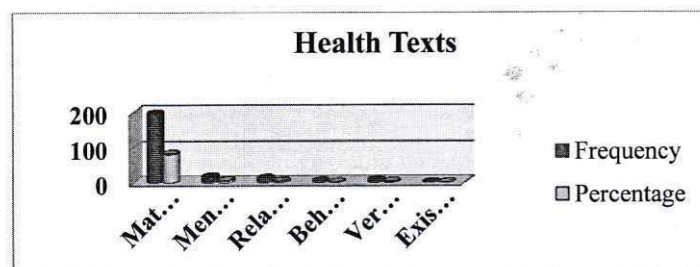
Health texts use frequently ideational grammatical metaphor, especially nominalization, 241 instances of ideational grammatical metaphor were extracted from health texts. Out of this amount, 196 of them have a material



process, 17 of them mental process, 13 of them relational, 5 of them behavioral process, 8 of them verbal process and 2 of them existential process. Health texts represent the dominant textual force of material process type which is about 81.32%. The most important reason why in health and academic registers used nominalization is that it makes it easy for processes to be objectified. In other words, to be expressed without the human doer and another important use of nominalization in health text is technical term 'code switching' which acts as a 'condensation' of the clause so, the nominalized technical terms condense a clause down to a word or group and are very economical; but equally the reader needs to be able to identify the uncondensed wording or congruent meaning that the nominalization relates to. According to Wang (2003), nominalization makes long noun phrases produce a lexically dense style and this is why health texts and scientific writing are difficult to get the meaning and understand.



**Figure 4.1:** Frequency and percentage of process types in health texts



**Figure 4.2:** Frequency and percentage of ideational grammatical metaphor in health texts

According to the above Figure, out of 241 instances of ideational grammatical metaphor, 196 instances have had material process which is

about 81.32%. So, this shows that health texts employ material process type more than other processes and apply frequently the nominalization of ideational metafunction. Finally, the frequency of ideational grammatical metaphor in health texts is represented in the following figure.

As it was mentioned in the introduction of this work, health texts, totally 5346 words are analyzed on the basis of the definitions of ideational grammatical metaphor. There are 241 instances of ideational grammatical metaphor in health texts about 8.85 percent.

#### **4.4. Discussion**

With reference to some empirical studies and the research questions posed in this study, the discussion of the findings is represented as follows,

Some studies as Banks (2003) has investigated the origins of grammatical metaphor in scientific writing; Milrose (2003) has explored nominalization and its dual nature. The following results supported by some of above researchers,

Banks (2003), explored the origins of grammatical metaphor in scientific writing. According to Villamil (2003, p.453), "despite being a common feature of scientific style nowadays, it had not always been so pervasive, as becomes evident from the contrasts of articles from different periods since the beginning of modern science in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from variation in time, scientific writing also involved typological variety. Different scientific branches, namely, biological and physical sciences, presented dissimilar characteristics in their use of nominalization, especially at their beginning, due to their different pace of development. It was also taken into account how the context might have influenced the differences in the increased use of nominalizations between various branches of science". Some researchers like Melrose (2003), has used abundant theoretical evidence and references together with practical analysis and extracted some instances from piece of academic writing to stress the fact that nominalization was an open and dynamic device, between the topological (interpersonal and textual meaning) and typological (experiential meaning) poles.

Hong (2010), has presented that nominalization is one of the essential characteristics of grammatical metaphor in systemic-functional linguistics. Ideational grammatical metaphor is an incongruent representation of the experiential meaning, logical grammatical metaphors refers to ideas that are organized in an incongruent form at the level of discourse. The research question was about the usage of ideational grammatical metaphor employed



in health texts of English newspapers. As the results according to data analysis presented that health texts employed ideational grammatical metaphor and also nominalization and dominant textual force of material process types in health texts and low frequency of other types. Hong (2010), has presented that nominalization is one of the essential characteristics of grammatical metaphor in systemic-functional linguistics. Ideational grammatical metaphor is an incongruent representation of the experiential meaning, logical grammatical metaphors refers to ideas that are organized in an incongruent form at the level of discourse. The research question was about the usage of ideational grammatical metaphor employed in health texts of English newspapers. As the results according to data analysis presented that health texts employed ideational grammatical metaphor and also nominalization and dominant textual force of material process types in health texts and low frequency of other types .

The research finds support in the research findings of Halliday (2004) that the ideational grammatical or transitivity analysis should show a material type process and as Mlrose (2003) believes, in health texts the grammatical metaphor as represented by nominalization, instead of being a device for maintaining the ideological status quo, becomes a weapon for challenging it. Comparing metaphorical and congruent wording in health texts represent that metaphorical domain explains the situation in a more interesting, lively, colorful and desirable manner. Ideational grammatical metaphor instances in health texts serve several important functions like condensing, compacting, and creating scientific terms. Upon analysis, certain grammatical metaphors emerge that are composed of two successive nouns one of which premodifies the other. The researcher resorts to these so-called ((phrasal grammatical metaphor)) in order to convey a desirable meaning so they are a very interesting metaphorical textual device. Nominalization is the most common form of ideational grammatical metaphor. According to Thompson (2004), by nouning a process, writers can establish and negotiate the meaning of the clause centered on the process. In other words, that meaning can be treated as having existence, as a kind of abstract thing.

Health texts deal with physical and concrete phenomena so, it has objective feature and the nominalization used in scientific health texts makes easy for processes to be objectified. In other words, processes are expressed without the human doer. The use of nominalization in such texts is related to

produce technical, professional and expert terms because in health texts various lexical meaning are often packed into one single nominal group so that understanding these texts becomes difficult for the mass unscientific readers with different background of knowledge.

Finally, nominalization is claimed to be a powerful device to condense information about the context of situation and of culture. For example, nominalization could be used as a way of showing that you had mastered a discipline or that the reader and writer belonged to the same social group and make health entities encapsulate themselves in words, and reduce them gradually to get the central message that underpins their continuity.

### **5. Conclusion**

In the current study, based on systemic functional approach, a functional analysis was carried out in an attempt to identify the nominalization of ideational grammatical metaphor in health texts of English newspapers. To achieve this end, the researcher prepared the study in three parts: first the study focused on the realization of ideational grammatical metaphor in health texts of English newspapers, second it concentrated on the nominalization, and finally the study considered the frequency and percentage of nominalization of ideational grammatical metaphor health texts attempting to show whether written texts in this use ideational grammatical metaphor across English newspapers.

Based on the findings which address the proposed research question, this genre includes all types of process. Nominalization, a typical process leading to grammatical metaphor is a striking feature of health texts and makes the writing more interesting, lively, convincing and colorful. Nominalization has been used in this genre, turning the process (verb) to a concept (noun). As a consequence, the tone of the writing sounds more abstract and more formal. In this genre, the purpose of using an ideational metaphor is to render the lexis and grammar in the way the journalist wants in order to produce a certain effect and without ideational grammatical metaphor both written texts sound artificial and informal.

Nominalization, the single most powerful resource for creating grammatical metaphor, is a writing style of academic and scientific writing. This study came to the conclusion that the special function of nominalization in health texts is the condensing function, which can make more information as much as possible in the fewer clause. The feature just corresponds to the characteristic of the news that is using fewer words in a sentence to express more messages and also in health texts creating technical, expert and professional



terms that are available to a beauty of clause and absorbs the reader's attention to follow the writing (Halliday, 2000).

### References

- Banks, D. (2003). The evolution of grammatical metaphor in scientific writing. In A. Simon-Vandenberg, M. Taverniers, and J. L. Ravelli (Eds.), *Grammatical metaphor: Views from systemic functional linguistics* (pp. 127–147). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Cox, K. (1994). Tertiary level writing by magic – presto! nominalization. *Elicos Association of Australia Journal*, 12(1), 8-23.
- Fawcett, R. P. (1980). *Cognitive linguistics and social interaction: Towards integrated Model of a systemic functional grammar and other components of a communicating mind*. Heidelberg and university of Expert: Julius Groos.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1978). *language as social semiotic: the social interpretation of language and meaning*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1985). *Introduction to functional grammar*. London: Arnold.
- Halliday, M. A. K. (1994). *An introduction to functional grammar* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) London: Edward Arnold.
- Halliday, M. A. K. (1999). *The language of early childhood*. London: Continuum.
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. (2004). *An introduction to functional grammar*. London: Arnold.
- Knowles, M., & Moon, R. (2006). *Introducing metaphor*. New York: Routledge.
- Lees, R.B. (1960/1968). *The grammar of English nominalizations*. Bloomington: Indiana University; The Hague: Mouton.
- Martin, J. R. (1997). Analysing genre: functional parameters. In F. Christie and J.R. Martin (eds.), *Genre and Institutions: Social Processes in the Workplace and the School* (pp.3–39). New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Matthiessen, C. M. I. M., & Halliday, M. A.K. (1977). *Systemic functional grammar: A first step into the theory. The systemic meaning modeling group*. Sidney Australia: Macquarie University.
- Melrose, R. (2003). Having things both ways: Grammatical metaphor in a systemic functional model of language. In A. Simon-Vandenberg, M. Taverniers, and J. L. Ravelli (eds.), *Grammatical metaphor: Views from systemic functional linguistics* (pp. 417–442). Amsterdam /Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Ravelli, J. L. (2003). Renewal of connection: integrating theory and practice in an understanding of grammatical metaphor. In A. Simon-Vandenberg, M. Taverniers, and J. L. Ravelli (Eds.), *Grammatical metaphor: Views from systemic functional linguistics*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Taverniers, M. (2004). Grammatical metaphors in English. *Moderna Sprak*, 98(1), 17-26.

- Taverniers, M. (2004). Interpersonal grammatical metaphor as double scoping and double grounding. In A. Simon-Vandenberg, M. Taverniers, and J. L. Ravelli (Eds.), *Grammatical metaphor: Views from systemic functional linguistics* (pp.1-31). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Thompson, G. (1996). *Introducing functional grammar*. London: Routledge
- Thompson, G. (2004). *Introducing functional grammar*. London: Arnold.
- Vandenberg, S., Taverniers, M., & Revelli, L. J. (2003). *Grammatical metaphor: views from systemic functional linguistics*. Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins.