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**课程论文**

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**Analysis of the characteristics of English news —— take the example of The Washington Post**

**Abstract:** This paper takes several reports of The Washington Post, one of the most popular news websites in the United States, as an example to analyze the language style, bias and other characteristics of the newspaper. It is concluded that the language style of the newspaper is characterized by conciseness, accuracy and clarity, with rigorous structure and powerful words; the content of the newspaper is biased towards politics, economy and culture; and it has a political bias, with most of the reports standing on the Democratic Party's position.

**Key words:** The Washington Post; United States; characteristics; language style; politics;the Democratic Party

**摘要：**本文以美国流量最大的新闻网站之一华盛顿邮报的几篇报道为例，分析该报纸的语言风格、偏向性等特点。我认为该报语风格以简洁、准确、清晰为特点，结构严谨、文字有力；该报纸内容偏向政治、经济、文化；其具有政治偏向性，站在民主党立场的报道居多。

**关键词：**华盛顿邮报；美国；特点；语言风格；政治；民主党

**Ⅰ. Introduction**

**1.1 Profile of The Washington Post**

The Washington Post is an American daily newspaper founded in 1877. It is one of the most popular news websites in the United States, with a daily circulation of more than 500,000. It is known for its in-depth coverage of national and international news, as well as its investigative reporting. It has won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, and the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting.This is the icon of Washington Post：



***（the icon of Washington Post）***

**1.2 Brief introduction of the features**

The Washington Post is characterized by a concise, accurate, clear and rigorous language style. In addition, its content is mainly focused on politics, economy and culture. Furthermore, the Washington Post has a political bias, with most of its reports standing on the Democratic Party's position.

**Ⅱ. Body**

**2.1 The argument about language style**

Let me illustrate my point by referring to a recent news article. That is, the language style of Washington Post is concise, accurate, clear, rigorous and powerful.

The headline of the news is : Israeli settlers rampage through Palestinian towns in revenge for shooting ( Miriam Berger and Shira Rubin 2023 ) .



***（News page）***

Take a look at some of the passages :

“While the meeting was taking place Sunday, a Palestinian gunman opened fire at a traffic junction in Huwara, south of Nablus, killing Hillel Menachem Yaniv, 22, and Yagel Yaakov Yaniv, 20, brothers from the nearby Har Bracha settlement — itself likely a retaliation for an Israeli raid on Nablus the week before that killed 11 Palestinians, including militants and civilians.

After sunset Sunday, scores of settlers descended on Huwara and at least three other locations across the northern West Bank. Residents said that the Israeli army failed to intervene as the rioters set fire to cars, businesses, schools and homes, and threw stones at firetrucks and ambulances that attempted to treat casualties at the scene.”

As we can see, these two paragraphs are some descriptions of the news facts of the time. The text is composed and strong, without much embellishment, and aims to describe the facts clearly in plain language.

**2.2 The argument about content bias**

I think the content of the Washington Post is somewhat biased. Its content is more about politics, economy, culture. Although it is constantly expanding the scope of topics to meet the new development needs, so far, its main content is still centered on politics, economy and culture. Below, I will give some news headlines as examples. As we all know, the general content category of a news item can be seen by its title. Therefore, I think some examples of news headlines are enough to demonstrate my point.

The first headline is : Biden to huddle with House, Senate Democrats amid busy week in Washington ( John Wagner and Mariana Alfaro 2023 ) . This article focuses on the recent political work of U.S. President Joe Biden. Obviously this is a political news.

Next up, another news Report : Violent windstorm, tornado swarm tear through Oklahoma, Texas Panhandle ( Matthew Cappucci, Bryan Pietsch and Kelly Kasulis Cho 2023) .This article tells about a disaster in the middle of the United States, which caused certain economic losses. So this article is about economics.

One last example : Coloring Snow, a photograpger’s unique approach to covering a storm ( Nicole Neri 2023 ) .This article is not a press release in the traditional sense. It mainly talks about photography. It's about culture.

**2.3 The argument about Political bias**

The Washington Post sided with the Democrats. The main source is a classic Washington Post story: the Watergate scandal that made the Post famous in the United States.

**2.3.1 The Watergate scandal**

The Watergate scandal was a major political scandal in the United States involving the administration of President Richard Nixon from 1972 to 1974 that led to Nixon's resignation. The scandal stemmed from the Nixon administration's continual attempts to cover up its involvement in the June 17, 1972 break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Washington, D.C., Watergate Office Building.

**2.3.2 The Washington Post and Watergate scandal**

It was the Washington Post's pursuit of the Watergate story that made the Watergate scandal public. The Washington Post has thus gained an extremely high status in the press. Unfortunately, the original copy of the report is hard to find in China and may have been kept in secret archives. I found a Watergate history page on the Washington Post website:WATERGATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY (Bob Woodward etc. 2023 ).Although not written at the time, the Washington Post is closely associated with the Watergate scandal.



***（The Washington Post and Watergate scandal）***

**2.3.3 Notice**

The Washington Post has been less obvious in recent years about its political bias. So to make my argument stronger, I turned to the Washington Post's classic Watergate report. While this isn't news of the semester, it's still very valuable.

**Ⅲ. Conclusion**

The Washington Post can summarize the characteristics in three main aspects. First, the language style, Washington Post text concise, accurate, clear; The second is the content bias. The content of Washington Post is mainly about politics, economy and culture. The third is political bias. The Washington Post is a newspaper that leans towards the Democratic Party.

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