

A Brief Discussion of Language Organization Techniques for Oral News Commentary

Zhixiang Fang

School of Media and Arts, Wuhan Qingchuan University, Wuhan, China

Abstract: News commentary is an important form of testing students' ability to construct thinking, organize language, knowledge and express content, and it is also an important training method for their analytical, insightful and critical thinking skills. This paper discusses three aspects of improving students' ability to organize the language of commentary: "pointing out the problem and clarifying the logical starting point of commentary; avoiding crude expressions of opinions and forming a distinctive attitude towards commentary; refining sub-arguments from the material and organizing the language of commentary in a targeted way", hoping to serve as a guide to the "news commentary" section in the teaching of "Oral Expression", and also provide a guide to the "skill" for students learning news commentary.

Keywords: Problem awareness; Tightly focused material; Targeted refining; Insightful thinking

1. Introduction

From the point of view of achieving communication effect, the quality of a news commentary is judged from the following aspects, namely, whether the statement of objective facts is appropriate, whether the attitude of the viewpoint is clear, whether the argumentative process is logical, whether the expository thinking is clear and hierarchical, whether the use of arguments is adequate, correct and relevant, and whether the wording and rhetoric are accurate and appropriate. If the above criteria are used to organize the language of the news commentary, then at least textually the news commentary has reached a relatively high quality level.

The term "text" here generally refers to the creation of a "think text" for news commentary. A good commentary text is the basis and foundation of an oral commentary. But the reason that oral news commentary encourages and even requires commentators to express themselves off-script, to speak as they think, is not to examine whether the commentator has the ability to improvise without any preparation for thinking. The reason is to avoid the loss of vividness and flexibility of the discourse when the text is used as a backing[1], resulting in the reviewer reading from a script, mechanical reading (memorization), loss of oral expression, and loss of clinical thinking and interactive awareness. Therefore, we need to have the ability to turn the text into a "thinking script", and there are some necessary language organization skills.

2. Build awareness of the problem and find a logical starting point for comments

In news commentary, the narrative is the basis of the commentary, and the commentary will be distorted if the content described loses its authenticity[2]. We tend to think of "narrative" as "statement or description", that is, a brief overview of the news material, to convey the necessary news information to the audience, so that the audience understands the basic overview of the news. So that the fact-based expression of the news commentary does not become a kind of pavilion, logic is also more smooth and reasonable. In practice, however, we find that commentators express their opinions immediately after a brief overview of the news material. Granted, there is nothing wrong with such a linguistic sequence for expressing one's own views and opinions on a news event. However, since the overview of the news material is only a distilled statement, its purpose is to give the audience a brief overview of the main message of the news. The main information is often not the object of the review, but the contradictions, problems, motives, perceptions, etc. that are hidden in the news material or after the main information are what really deserve to be discussed and reviewed. Therefore, after the overview of the news, the reviewer needs to refine and condense the material, point out the problem, and comment on the problem, that is, to find the logical starting point of the review. An overview of the news material, without pointing

out the problem, can give the audience a sense of illogicality, i.e., "What's wrong with this news material? To sum up, it means that "the reviewer has not pointed out the problems and contents of the news material that are worth commenting on before expressing his or her own opinion and attitude, which logically shows that there is no awareness of the problems and no clear starting point for the review", which actually reflects that the reviewer has not shown the concept or ability to summarize the news material.

For example, the article "You can't go back to the dormitory during the day: university education should be strict but also humane" published on "Guangming.com" on October 27, 2019[3] introduces a series of strict rules for students' life and rest in Henan Economic and Trade Vocational College. The school rules are that students are not allowed to return to the dormitory until the specified time from Monday to Friday, regardless of whether they have classes or not. The school rules also require students to complete the "6 punch cards a day" and strictly limit the time and scope of their activities. The news has a very obvious commentary value, and it is natural to express opinions such as "I think such a rule is unreasonable" or "I oppose such a practice of the school" after the overview of the news. But in fact, if we can see that behind the news incident, the school administration's management philosophy of "Valuing management, Belittling education" and "Valuing principle, Belittling flexible" is reflected, we can see that on the one hand, the school adopts a "one-size-fits-all" management mode, and on the other hand, Students' need for a "free and flexible learning and living environment. The above statement, before expressing one's opinion, is not only a distillation of the real value of the news material, but also point out to the audience where the contradictions lie, giving direction and space for commentary, as well as showing the commentator's keen observation, profound discernment and effective language organization skills.

For example, the article "Ban on spicy sticks, better to stop the boiling than to take the bottom out" published in Qianjiang Evening News on March 19, 2019[4] tells the story of the CCTV "3-15 Gala" after the article tells the story of the special management actions carried out by various places for the "spicy sticks industry" after CCTV's "3-15 Gala". The investigation found that this kind of spicy food, traditionally known as "50 cents food", not only has high oil, salt and additives in its ingredients, but also tends to be mainly consumed by primary and secondary school students, who have been selling these foods in kiosks around schools for a long time. This is very detrimental to the healthy growth of young people. Similarly, after giving an overview of the above news materials, if you can first point out the substantive problems, i.e. "the lack of supervision and the low awareness of safety", and then express your own attitude and opinion, e.g. "special treatment is imminent" or "food safety is no small matter. Please give students a healthy environment around school". Then, it can also play the role of "indicating where the problem lies, giving direction and space for comments, as well as presenting keen thinking and effective language organization".

3. Avoid crude expression of views, and connect the material to make the attitude clear

The point of view of a news review is the position and attitude of the reviewer towards the thing or issue under review. It clearly indicates what the commentator is affirming and denying; what he or she is for and what he or she is against; what he or she is singing the praises of and what he or she is criticizing[5]. However, it should be noted that the attitude of affirmation, support, praise, or negation, opposition, criticism should not be used as a direct expression of opinion, i.e., such as "I think is right", "I am critical of is critical", "We should support such behavior (or perception)", etc. Such expressions are intuitive, but because they are too simple, they may give the audience a feeling of simplicity and crudeness. We should see that the direct use of "affirm or deny, support or oppose, glorify or criticize" in the expression of opinions is a rigid and lazy way, which shows that the commentator does not engage in profound discernment and lack of in-depth thinking, and also shows that the commentator does not relate to the actual materials when condensing the opinions. Such simple, rigid, crude wording can even be applied to any news commentary in the expression of views, it also becomes a kind of "golden oil" like expression and fall into the "Low-end".

For example, the article "Students notified for failing to greet leaders, no justification" published in Xinjing News on December 8, 2021[6] reported that a number of students from Hunan University of Commerce and Industry met a group of school leaders and teachers in front of a supermarket and were notified for failing to take the initiative to "greet" the leaders and teachers "The incident resulted in a university-wide notification of criticism (the names, student numbers, faculties and majors of the above students were published). If you comment on this news material by using opinions such as "I oppose the school's approach", "I think this is wrong", "the school's management model is wrong", then you will fall into a cliché and not produce a deafening or thought-provoking effect. So, how can we organize a concise

and uncomplicated sentence? The first thing we need to understand is what is the core of the point of view? It's "distinct". To make a clear point of view, it is crucial to stick to the news material and word it vividly, with a clear attitude. Here is an effective technique for organizing the language of opinion expressions - "two-sentence opinion expressions".

The "two-sentence formula", as the name implies, is a linguistic organization of ideas through two sentences. The first sentence is a summary of the most salient issues or contradictions in the news material, pointing out in one sentence where the information is worth commenting on. The second sentence is a judgment of the previous sentence, which is also the basic point of the commentary, and avoids the use of simple language such as "right or wrong, for or against", but gives a vivid and clear attitude from the material. The most prominent problem and contradiction is "no greeting is uncivilized", which is also the factual basis and logical starting point for the commentary of this news material. "The first sentence. The school asks students to make a judgment on the attitude of the "previous sentence" by closely following the news material and making the necessary discernment. There is nothing wrong with the school asking students to be polite and courteous in their daily lives, but if, regardless of the facts and without actual investigation, they are deemed to be "uncivilized" simply because they "don't say hello", and even ask for a school-wide reflection This is a bit too harsh. In this regard, we can conclude that the school's approach is somewhat "overkill". Therefore, "not greeting is uncivilized, and the school's practice is overkill" can be the basic point of the commentary. Compared with the expressions "I think the school's way of handling the situation is wrong" and "I do not agree with the school's way of handling the situation", it can show the commentator's more rigorous and in-depth thinking and effective language organization ability. The "overkill" position also clearly points out the next commentary ideas for the audience, making the argument process more acceptable and understandable.

Then again, on January 12, 2022 Xinhua published "Phone send me! Shenzhen epidemic prevention and control and these things"[7] article. The news related to the Shenzhen Health Commission's prompt resolution of a request for help from a citizen who was unable to get a nucleic acid test certificate in time for hospital admission due to the hospital's epidemic prevention and control. In the news, the staff of the Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission immediately asked for the hospital's phone number after seeing the request for help on the public number, and helped the wife of the person who left the message to be admitted to the hospital for delivery in just less than two hours. The quick response and speedy solution not only show that the Shenzhen government has established an efficient and timely feedback and response mechanism in the context of epidemic prevention and control, but also make people feel its management and service philosophy of governing for the people and putting the people's interests first.

For this news material, if we only use "I support the practice of the Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission" and "I want to give praise to the Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission" as the basic point of view, the strength of its commentary and attitude will inevitably appear rigid and cliché, and even weaken the influence of this incident in society and the positive effect of publicity. Using the "two-sentence" viewpoint organization technique, the first sentence is about the weight of the word "Phone send me", and the second sentence is about the content of the news, which shows that the Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission is able to "sense the urgency of the people" and do practical things and solve problems for them. It is more important to see that during the seriousness of the epidemic prevention and control, the relevant government departments can take the initiative to take responsibility and implement a full set of preparations from problem feedback channels and resolution mechanisms to personnel and material support. Then, the word "take charge" will be called out. Therefore, compared to "affirmation, support, praise" and other views expressed, "Phone send me", 'bullying' behind a city's role "The attitude of the commentary is more deafening. In the context of the negative social impact caused by the "miscarriage of pregnant women in Xi'an", the "overbearing response" and positive solution of the Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission is undoubtedly a "shot in the arm", sweeping away the gloom of the epidemic. It will also help the public to build confidence in the government's ability to prevent and control the epidemic.

4. Refine sub-arguments from the material and organize targeted argumentative language

Sub-arguments, also known as "sub-arguments", are subordinate arguments to the main or central argument or basic argument, and are derived from the general argument and serve to clarify it[8]. The commentator in the news material to quickly build a commentary thinking, the organization of the commentary language, the formation of a complete argument process, the refinement of the sub-arguments, is in the formation of the outline of the commentary, the construction of the framework of the commentary, the completion of the commentary of the thinking guide, and the sub-arguments to develop

the elaboration, on the one hand to improve the argument process, on the other hand, how to express the content clearly and accurately is also an important criterion for the reviewer's language organization. For the reviewer, it is not difficult to outline the material, clarify the direction of the review, and express the basic arguments of the review, but from which angles and levels does the review develop further to form a complete and correct argumentative process? What are the subarguments that surround the main thesis? How to organize the language to elaborate the content of the sub-arguments? are often important questions that plague and hinder the expression of an effective commentary.

In fact, the refinement or finding of the sub-argument is not untraceable. You should know that the sub-argument is actually the basis for the formation of the main argument, from a certain point of view, the sub-argument is the main argument "arguments". Therefore, the sub-argument must be from the actual material, which has the "argument" of "sufficient, accurate, reliable" attributes, and from the actual material of the sub-argument, but also precisely so that it has a "target ". This way, the "logical self-consistency" of the news commentary can be reflected, and the argument will present a strong persuasive.

For example, on 4 December 2021, Xinjing News published the article "Parental violation affects children's evaluation of third best students, questionable"[9] , reporting that on 26 November 2021, the People's Government of Henan Province announced on its portal that "Zhengzhou City launched a comprehensive management action for students' safe travel ". The action followed the announcement of the "Zhengzhou City Student Safety Travel Integrated Management Program", which stated that the city's public security traffic police department will actively cooperate with the city's education department and the city's civilization office, and will severely investigate and deal with traffic violations such as electric bicycles not wearing safety helmets as required, illegal vehicles picking up and dropping off students, and vehicles parked indiscriminately, and the traffic violations of people picking up and dropping off student vehicles will be included in the creation of civilized units, civilized classes, and schools "Three good students" assessment and evaluation scope. The main argument of this news is very clear, that is, "parents make mistakes, students 'guilt-by-association', urban management can not blur the boundaries of responsibility". But in order to argue the correctness and reasonableness of the main argument, from what angles and levels should we develop the argument? What are the sub-arguments? In fact, the material can find clues or evidence.

First of all, we can see in the materials that this action is severely investigated and punished for "not wearing helmets according to the regulations, vehicles parked indiscriminately and using illegal vehicles to transport students" and other acts. For the above violations, there are corresponding laws and regulations to restrain or punish, whether "points" or "fines", the target of which can never be the children of the violators. Secondly, the material also points out that "the traffic violations of the personnel of vehicles transporting students will be included in the assessment and evaluation of schools to create civilized units, civilized classes and three good students". What is a "civilized class"? Even though the assessment and scoring rules vary from school to school, they are always based on "excellent academic discipline", "good learning culture", "outstanding academic performance" and "rich student activities". The assessment criteria for the "three good students" are already clear, that is, "good moral character, good study and good health". All of the above does not seem to be linked to the behavior of the parents of the students, and it is extremely erroneous to test the quality and character of the students from the perspective of the parents' behavior. Finally, taking into account the content, scope and target of punishment as well as the "guilt-by-association" effect on students as expressed in the materials, it is foreseeable and worrying enough that such a provision will not create "confrontation between students and parents" "conflicts between teachers and parents" and "divisions, isolation and exclusion within the classroom"? All three of the above (sub-theses) are from the news material, and with appropriate expansion and elaboration, a more complete and insightful news commentary can be formed. The important thing is that the above three sub-arguments are completely specific to the material, no wild imagination or speculation, its logical reasoning is valid, the review also seems to be relevant, persuasive.

5. Conclusions

Finally, we need to recognize that, compared to impromptu commentary, news commentary should, as far as possible, present the commentator with a deeper and sharper grasp of news sensitivity, news value, understanding and presentation. In other words, news commentary should not be simply expressed as "news understanding" or "news feelings". Understanding and feeling are often subjective, emotional and abstract, while the public expects more profound knowledge, more rational thinking and more professional analysis of the causes, motives and subsequent effects from the reviewer, and to be enlightened by new ideas, new heights and new perspectives.

References

- [1] Jiang Yan. *Improvised commentary* [M]. Beijing: Communication University of China Press, 2020:9.
- [2] Fu Cheng, Lu Jingchao, Chen Xiaoou. *Practical Broadcasting Tutorial-Language Expression* [M]. Beijing: Communication University of China Press, 2002:325.
- [3] Guangming. com Commentator. *No return to the dormitory during the day: university education should be strict but also humane* [EB/OL]. Guangming. com, https://guancha.gmw.cn/2019-10/26/content_33267144.htm. 2019-10-26.
- [4] Xiang Xiangrong. *Banning chili sticks, it is better to raise the boil to stop the boil than to pull the bottom out* [N]. Qianjiang Evening News, 2019-03-19 (24).
- [5] Ding Fazhang. *Tutorial of contemporary journalism criticism* [M]. Shanghai: Fudan University Press, 2020:111.
- [6] Li Wanyou. *Student notified for failing to greet leaders, no justification* [N]. Xinjing Daily, 2021-12-08(02).
- [7] Sun Fei, Wang Feng. *"Phone send me!" Shenzhen's epidemic prevention and these things* [EB/OL]. Xinhua, http://gd.news.cn/newscenter/2022-01/12/c_1128254300.htm.2021-12-08.
- [8] Ding Fazhang. *Tutorial of contemporary journalism criticism* [M]. Shanghai: Fudan University Press, 2020:111.
- [9] Chi Daohua. *Parental violation affects child's rating as third best student, debatable* [EB/OL]. Xinjing News, <https://www.bjnews.com.cn/detail/163861776314230.html>.2021-12-04.