

expressions are already obsolete and do not make practical sense to use them, and which are neologisms and have not yet managed to become part of the active vocabulary.

An essential part of learning any language is having examples of live usage, which is crucial when communicating and understanding linguistic realities. A language corpus is an ideal tool for selecting means with a breadth of coverage sufficient to consider their use worthwhile.

Result of the research. The study of corpus possibilities has shown that the most effective methods of foreign language level improvement are: analysis of typical mistakes, use of frequency lists, studying examples of live usage of lexical units.

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USING HEADLINES IN POLITICAL MEDIA DISCOURSE

ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕ ЗАГОЛОВКОВ В ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОМ ДИСКУРСЕ СМИ

The aim of this study was to analyze US online publications on China in order to identify strategies for gatekeeping. The material of research comes from 300 publications in online versions of news sources (CNN, ABC News, USA Today, Blumberg, Forbes) published July through August 2022 and dealing with US — Chinese relations.

The object of the study is headlines, as the headline is one of the main elements of the media text. According to the researchers, the headline is a special linguistic and pragmatic unit designed to grab the reader's attention and briefly inform about the content of the media text.

The concept of gatekeeping, or gatekeeper theory, was originally applied to news distribution by David White, who studied the work of newspaper editors. White concluded that the editor is seen as a 'gatekeeper' between all the events reported throughout the day. While editors may have their own opinions and preferences, they must act within a professional and organizational framework when selecting news. In fact, news selection may be collective and there may be more than one 'gatekeeper' in the newsroom. Nevertheless, the emphasis in selection is still on what gets into the news and what doesn't.

The US sees China as a challenge. China's alternative development model may 'eclipse' the Western model based on liberal democracy and market economy. Obviously, the US media should be involved in some way in the process of shaping Americans' perceptions of global geopolitics.

The main research question can be formulated as follows: does the gatekeeping strategy manifest itself in the choice of specific lexical units?

The analysis reveals that the following lexical units are the most frequent in the studied English-language headlines.

<i>Word</i>	<i>Number of times the word appeared in the headlines</i>
War	21
Biden	18
Xi Jinping	17
Russia	12
Threat	22
Covid	21
US	100
Visit	46
Taiwan	111
Military	27
Tension	19
Nancy Pelosi	70
Drill	21

One of the most frequent nouns is the lexeme *threat*, which may lead to the perception of China as a state in opposition to the US.

The denial of China's peaceful development is emphasized with the word *military*. It creates an image of a force that is dangerous not only for the US itself, but also for the whole world.

The word *war* appeared in the phrases “*U.S.–China Trade War*”, “*China–U.S. Financial Cold War*”.

“*Russia*” is mentioned as a China’s ally that in turn causes the US concern. Moreover, each time “*Russia*” appeared in combination with China in the headlines, for instance, “*China follows Russia*”, “*China and Russia hurt earnings*”, “*Missile threats from China and Russia*”, “*Russian and Chinese influence*”, etc.

The results show that US media sources are actively employing the strategy of gatekeeping that manifests itself in selecting a particular type of lexis in article headlines.