

# Move Structures and Stance Adverbials in Editorials From The Bangkok Post and The New York Times

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Article information	Abstract
<p><b>Article history:</b> Received: 18 Sep 2021 Accepted: 6 Aug 2022 Available online: 10 Aug 2022</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Online newspaper editorials Move structure Move sequence Stance adverbials</p>	<p>Apart from the fact that there are no fixed rules for writing newspaper editorials, there is no single study incorporating both analyses of moves and stance adverbials in online English newspaper editorials from The Bangkok Post in comparison to those from an international online English newspaper from another country. The aims of the present study include 1). exploring the move structure of editorials from The Bangkok Post and The New York Times, 2). finding stance adverbials in each move, and 3). identifying the positions of the stance adverbials found in each move. 60 editorials from 2017 to 2019 with the length of 550-700 words whose purpose is to call for action were selected from each newspaper archive. A list of stance adverbials and a proposed move structure were employed for identifying the moves and stance adverbials. ANTCOCONC was used as a tool for counting the frequencies (converted into percentages and normalized frequencies afterwards) and identifying the positions of stance adverbials. In both corpora, most of the editorials contain the sequence of Move 1-Move 2-Move 3-Move 4 (1234 or MS1). Furthermore, other outstanding move sequences include Move 1-Move 2- Move 3- Move 2-Move 3- Move 4 (123234 or MS2) and Move 1-Move 3- Move 2- Move 3- Move 4 (13234 or MS3). Epistemic stance adverbials were found two times more frequently than attitudinal stance adverbials and about seven times more frequently than style stance adverbials. The most prevalent sub-categories of epistemic stance adverbials are doubt/certainty, source of knowledge, and actuality, whereas the most outstanding attitudinal stance adverbials are importance and evaluation. Those showing importance were more frequently used in The Bangkok Post than those showing evaluation, but this is reversed in The New York Times. Whether these findings were influenced by the L1 of the writer, cultural differences, and institutional practices could be carried out in additional research.</p>

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## INTRODUCTION

As the core of the newspapers, editorials may discuss some issues or events which the writers support or feel against to, emphasize the importance or effects of a particular topic on society,

as well as bring about change in public opinion. An editorial writer must express a firm and definite stance on a particular issue through their editorials (Singh & Singh, 2006). Hence, in editorials, the writers need to give their opinions, feelings, attitudes, and viewpoints towards some particular aspects of the issue or event being discussed at length (Bal, 2014; Sinclair, 2005).

In order to comprehend what editorial writers have expressed in their writings, it is important to know the move structures of newspaper editorials as a genre. Up to the present time, move structures of newspaper editorials have been studied by different researchers (Amoakohene, 2018; Tongsibsong, 2014; Tongsibsong, 2012; Kijratanakoson, 2015; Ansary & Babaii, 2004). However, none of these studies had examined the stance adverbials and their positions appearing in online English newspaper editorials, especially those from major English newspapers in Thailand in comparison to those from newspapers published in English native countries.

To explore how the editorial writers of the major English newspapers in Thailand express their opinions in their writings and whether they do it in the same way as those working for the world's leading English newspapers, editorials from *The Bangkok Post* need to be studied in relation to those from *The New York Times*. Currently, according to the yearly survey of Bangkok Post (2017), *The Bangkok Post* online newspaper is the most widely read English online newspaper in Thailand, with the number of page views of 13,010,140 (as of July 2017) through all kinds of social media channels. As for *The New York Times*, it is one of the greatest and most circulated daily newspapers in the US due to its editorial excellence (Britannica, 2021). In addition, it is currently the leader in digital newspaper subscriptions in the US (Adgate, 2021).

Apart from the importance of exploring the move structures of newspaper editorials, it is also crucial to focus on stance adverbials so as to better understand the viewpoints and feelings of newspaper editorial writers. Stance adverbials, among the linguistic features employed by editorial writers, play a significant role in expressing the writers' opinions towards a particular issue or situation. According to Biber and Conrad (2000), stance adverbials, normally used for expressing the writer's opinions or viewpoints on a particular issue or event, can be classified into three domains, namely epistemic stance (e.g. *certainly* and *maybe*), attitudinal stance (e.g. *effectively* and *properly*), and style stance (e.g. *basically* and *frankly*).

Currently, there are a quite number of studies on stance adverbials, as well as hedges and boosters (similar to stance adverbials) in the genre of news reportage (Omo, 2020; Ojo, 2020; Al-Ghoweri, 2019; Zarza, 2018; Kalwar, 2016; Yeganeh et al., 2015; Fengchao, 2014; Adalakun, 2013; Ai, 2012; Kotrč, 2012; Hidalgo, 2006; Biber et al., 2002; Biber et al., 1999). Out of these studies, some of them specifically focused on the comparison of the move structures of newspapers and stance editorials. For example, Zarza et al. (2015) compared the move structures of *The New York Times* and *The New Straits Times* (a Malaysian English newspaper), Tongsibsong (2014) focused on the comparison of the move structures of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*; and Kotrč (2012) analyzed stance adverbials in different UK newspapers. Nevertheless, these studies were based on international newspapers from abroad and carried out without simultaneously incorporating move analysis, the types of stance adverbials, and how and where to use them in the editorials.

Due to the reasons stated above, the present research attempts to compare the move structures of newspaper editorials and stance adverbials found in each rhetorical move between editorials from *The Bangkok Post*—the only major English broadsheet newspaper in Thailand generally read by educated middle-class people, and those from *The New York Times*, which is the most outstanding international English broadsheet newspaper in the world often read by educated readers and one of the most influential US newspaper of the present decade (Glader, 2017).

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the move structure of English newspaper editorials by *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*?
2. What kinds of stance adverbials, i.e. *epistemic stance*, *attitudinal stance*, and *style stance*, are mainly used and significantly predominant in each move of English newspaper editorials by *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*?

## THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS

### Corpus linguistics and descriptive statistics

In *Corpus Linguistics: Method, theory, and practice* by McErny and Hardie (2011), different sets of data can be compared to each other with use of corpus linguistics in the form of descriptive statistics, namely frequencies, means, and standard deviation. For instance, with the assistance of AntConc program, it is possible to compare the frequencies of some certain words, e.g. *actually*, *respectively*, and *carefully*, in two sets of data (corpora), such as articles from two different newspapers, by examining how often they appear in the concordance lines as well as their positions in the sentences. In addition, it is also viable to identify where the occurrences of those particular words appear in the text, such as the beginning, the middle, or the end of the text.

### Move structures in editorials

Move structures in English newspaper editorials have been studied by a number of researchers. The details are provided in the table below.

**Table 1**  
Move structures of newspaper editorials proposed by different researchers

Name of Researcher & Year	Move 1	Move 2	Move 3	Move 4	Others
Van Dijk (1993)	Introduction	Intermediate	Coda	N/A	N/A
Bhatia (1993; 1997)	Presenting the Case (relating to an actual event or issue)	Offering the Argument/Discussing the Alternatives (making a discussion)	Reaching the Verdict (giving a conclusion)	Recommending Action (giving a suggestion)	N/A
Bolivar (1994)	The Lead (introducing)	The Follow (responding)	The Valuate (evaluation)	N/A	N/A

Name of Researcher & Year	Move 1	Move 2	Move 3	Move 4	Others
Sugiura (1996)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Micro Level:</b> Quantitative features, e.g. passive system & lexical devices <b>Macro Level:</b> Qualitative rhetorical features, e.g. clause relations & information/ thematic structures
Ansary & Babaii (2004)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Major Elements:</b> Run-on Headline, Addressing an Issue, Argumentation, and Articulating a position <b>Minor Elements:</b> Background information (used before or after Addressing an Issue), Initiation of Argumentation (used for starting an argument), and Closure of Argumentation (used for ending an argument)
Hossein & Amin (2010)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Obligatory elements:</b> Headline, Addressing an issue, and Argumentation <b>Optional elements:</b> Providing background information (used before or after Addressing an issue), Articulating a solution (used at the beginning or at the end), and Concluding remarks
Bonyadi, A. (2010)	Introducing  Sub-move 1: Orientation Sub-move 2: Criticism	Body  Sub-move 1: Presenting (L) Sub-move 2: Developing (V) Sub-move 3: Evaluating (F)	Ending  Sub-move: Concluding the topic (by making a prediction and stating a necessity)	N/A	N/A
Tongsibsong (2012)	Presenting case (presenting actual events or issues of concern)	Offering case (discussing issues or events)	Reaching the verdict (giving opinions)	Recommending action (giving recommendations or suggestions)	N/A
Tongsibsong (2014)	Presenting case (presenting actual events or issues of concern)	Offering case (discussing issues or events)	Elucidating case	Reaching the verdict (giving opinions)	Move 5: Recommending action (giving recommendations or suggestions)
Zarza et al. (2015)	Headline	Presenting the Case S1: Addressing an issue/problem S2: Elaborating an issue S3: Providing background information S4: Presenting standpoint	Justifying or refuting events S1: Explaining S2: Contextualizing argumentation S3: Comparing and contrasting	Articulating a position S1: Expressing opinion S2: Evaluation S3: Raising suggestions S4: Expressing prediction	N/A

Name of Researcher & Year	Move 1	Move 2	Move 3	Move 4	Others
Amoakohene (2018)	The Editorial Heading	Presenting Background to the Issue under Discussion	Discussing the Issue Raise	The Columnists General Comment on the Issue Raised	N/A

As seen in the studies above, there are four main moves in the editorials. In the big picture, most of the models begin with introducing or presenting an event in the first move (Move 1) of the editorials. Next, the middle moves, which are Move 2 and Move 3 of the proposed models above, are mainly about discussing the situation, explaining and responding to the issue, and agreeing or disagreeing, giving opinions, providing a solution, and giving a standpoint. Lastly, most of them finish with ending the discussion, giving an evaluation, defending position, giving recommendations, and making predictions in the last move (Move 4).

Therefore, for the purpose of analyzing the move structures of newspaper editorials, a new model adapted from the proposed models stated above is to be utilized in the present study. That is, Move 1: Introducing, Move 2: Discussing, Move 3: Giving Opinions, and Move 4: Calling for Action will be employed for analyzing all the editorials in this study.

### Stance adverbials

Based on Biber et al. (1999), Biber & Conrad (2000), and Biber et al. (2002), stance adverbs can be classified into three major domains based on how the speaker or writer expresses their personal feelings, attitudes, and perspectives, including epistemic stance, attitudinal stance, and style stance. Epistemic stance adverbials, generally used for expressing the speaker’s or writer’s judgement about the certainty, reliability, limitations of the proposition, and commenting on the source of information, are the most diverse and frequently used of all categories of stance adverbials. As for attitudinal stance adverbials, they are used for telling the speaker’s or writer’s attitude toward the proposition which normally conveys an evaluation, value judgement, or assessment of expectations. Regarding the style stance, it is used for focusing on style and commenting on the manner conveying the message. Only stance adverbials and attitudinal stance adverbials can be further divided into sub-categories. The details of each domain and the sub-categories are provided in the Tables 2-4 below.

**Table 2**  
Epistemic stance adverbials and its sub-categories

Sub-categories of Epistemic Stance Adverbials	Examples of Epistemic Stance Adverbials	Sample Sentences
Doubt and certainty	maybe, probably, arguably, certainly, undoubtedly, of course, most likely, definitely, surely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He <i>probably</i> knew what had happened</li> <li>• The person will <i>undoubtedly</i> show his personal feelings towards the bad situation.</li> </ul>
Actuality and reality	in fact, actually, really, truly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In fact</i>, what she did is a serious mistake.</li> <li>• Those people were <i>actually</i> smarter than expected.</li> </ul>

Sub-categories of Epistemic Stance Adverbials	Examples of Epistemic Stance Adverbials	Sample Sentences
Source of knowledge	according to, evidently, reportedly, reputedly, apparently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>According to</i> the statistics, the major cause of road accidents is alcohol.</li> <li>• <i>Apparently</i>, he was interrupted while working on the task.</li> </ul>
Limitation	in most cases, typically, mainly, generally, largely, in general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presentation was <i>mainly</i> about how to conserve wild animals.</li> <li>• <i>In general</i>, water sports are riskier than land sports.</li> </ul>
Imprecision (This could be considered as hedges (Biber et al., 1999).)	like, sort of, about, kind of, roughly, approximately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This artifact is <i>approximately</i> 500 years old.</li> <li>• He is <i>about</i> 180 centimeters tall.</li> </ul>

Table 3

Attitudinal stance adverbials and its sub-categories

Sub-categories of Attitudinal Stance Adverbials	Examples of Attitudinal Stance Adverbials	Sample Sentences
Expectation	surprisingly, no surprise, inevitably, naturally, to my surprise, astonishingly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The war would <i>inevitably</i> make the cost of living higher.</li> <li>• It is <i>no surprise</i> that he has dealt with the problem in that manner.</li> </ul>
Evaluation	unfortunately, fortunately, poorly, properly, conveniently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Prime Minister settled the dispute <i>properly</i>.</li> <li>• <i>Unfortunately</i>, the oil prices are going up rapidly.</li> </ul>
Importance	importantly, significantly, in particular, specifically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Importantly</i>, the government should consider reducing taxes on imported goods.</li> <li>• They should play team sports—football <i>in particular</i>.</li> </ul>

Table 4

Style stance

Examples of Style Stance Adverbials	Sample Sentences
Frankly, honestly, basically, briefly, literally, generally speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Basically</i>, he is just incompetent.</li> <li>• <i>Generally speaking</i>, this city is a very good place for study.</li> </ul>

## METHODOLOGY

### Data and samples

The data of the study are online English editorials from *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times* published from January 2017 to December 2019. With the purposive sampling technique, 60 online English editorials of politics-related or society-related topics with the length of 550-700 words and with the purpose of calling for action were selected from *The Bangkok Post* via [www.bangkokpost.com](http://www.bangkokpost.com) and *The New York Times* via [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) each. This was done because it was expected that there would be shared characteristics, including stance adverbials and move patterns, among the editorials in the present study.

In addition, only the editorials with domestic issues (either politics-related or society-related) were selected from *The Bangkok Post* to ensure that they were written by Thai authors, as revealed in an interview with the current Acting Director of *The Bangkok Post*. Meanwhile, only the editorials with political and social issues were retrieved from *The New York Times*.

### Research type

The present study incorporates textual, analytical, and corpus-based approaches to explore the move structures and stance adverbials in editorials selected from *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*.

### Research tools

A set of research tools was employed to explore the present study's research questions. Firstly, a corpus of 60 editorials was created for the editorials selected from *The Bangkok Post* and another corpus of 60 for those from *The New York Times*. Secondly, a list of stance adverbials was developed as for comparing and analyzing stance adverbials present in the corpora (Biber et al., 1999; Biber et al., 2002). Thirdly, a proposed move structure with four rhetorical moves was employed for identifying the moves in the editorials. Lastly, the ANTCONC program was used for concordancing and analyzing the texts and counting the frequencies of stance adverbials found in each rhetorical move of the editorials.

Table 5

Three types of stance adverbials and the sub-categories (adapted from Biber et al. (1999), and Biber et al. (2002))

Epistemic Stance	Attitudinal Stance	Style Stance
<b>Doubt/Certainty:</b> <i>no doubt, certainly, undoubtedly, probably, perhaps, maybe, arguably, decidedly, definitely, incontestably, incontrovertibly, most likely, very likely, quite likely, more likely, likely, unlikely, surely, possibly, of course, I guess, I think, I bet, I suppose, who knows</i>	<b>Expectation:</b> <i>surprisingly, not surprisingly, most surprising of all, as might be expected, as you'd expect, as you might expect, inevitably, naturally, as you might guess, to my surprise, astonishingly, no surprise, predictably, amazingly</i>	<i>frankly, honestly, basically, technically, primarily, briefly, literally, seriously, confidentially, to tell you the truth, technically speaking, generally speaking, quite frankly, more simply put, basically, in short, in a word, figuratively speaking, truthfully, well, you know, Actually, So, fundamentally, essentially, like</i>
<b>Actuality and reality:</b> <i>in fact, really, actually, truly, in actual fact, for a fact, indeed, in effect, in practice, in reality, of course, as a matter of fact</i>	<b>Evaluation:</b> <i>unfortunately, fortunately, conveniently, wisely, sensibly, unfortunately, slowly, fast, very fast, quickly, too quickly, quite rightly, even worse, disturbingly, ironically, moderately, poorly, properly, promptly, appropriately, badly, sadly</i>	
<b>Source of Knowledge:</b> <i>evidently, apparently, clearly, reportedly, reputedly, according to X, as X reports/notes</i>	<b>Importance:</b> <i>more importantly, even more importantly, importantly, significantly, crucially, especially, specifically, particularly, in particular</i>	
<b>Limitation:</b> <i>in most cases, typically, in most instances, mainly, generally, largely, in general, on the whole, usually, normally, sometimes, to some extent, as a rule, on average, in ordinary circumstances</i>		
<b>Imprecision:</b> <i>like, sort of, kind of, if you can call it that, so to speak, about, approximately, roughly, ... or so, more or less, generally, something like</i>		



## Data collection

With the purposive sampling technique, 60 editorials aiming to call for action were selected from *The Bangkok Post* and another 60 editorials from *The New York Times*, published from January 2017 to December 2019. The three-year period was chosen to find any possible changes or trends of using stance adverbials in the editorials from the two newspapers. The editorials from both *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times* are provided in the following tables.

In addition, there are other criteria for selecting the editorials for the present research, including 1). the suggestive language of the title and 2). the contents that contain a phrase or phrases that call for action, state the necessity to do something, and give suggestions or recommendations. Some examples of these criteria are provided below.

**Table 6**  
Examples of titles calling for action

Examples of Titles Calling for Action		
No.	Titles	Source
1	Education needs change	<i>The Bangkok Post</i> , December 9, 2019
2	Witch-hunts must end	<i>The Bangkok Post</i> , June 12, 2019
3	Tough Action on Russia, at Last but More is Needed	<i>The New York Times</i> , March 26, 2018

**Table 7**  
Examples of phrases calling for action

Examples of Phrases Calling for Action		
No.	Phrases	Source
1	It is the responsibility of all the people to change their unhealthy habits.	<i>A plastic tax is not enough</i> , <i>The Bangkok Post</i> , December 31, 2019
2	...Mr. Cuomo needs to step up and demonstrate the leadership he has shown on many other divisive issues in recent years.	<i>Albany, Pass the Child Victims Act</i> , <i>The New York Times</i> , January 11, 2018
3	But that's an incomplete answer. Mr. Buttigieg needs to explain what he did at McKinsey.	<i>Buttigieg's Untenable Vow of Silence</i> , <i>The New York Times</i> , December 5, 2019

## Data analysis

To identify the moves, the move structure model below was employed as the benchmark for the data analysis.

**Table 8**  
**The proposed move structure of the editorials (adapted from the models found in the literature review)**

Move Structure of the Editorials		
Move Number	Name of the Move	Characteristics
Move 1	Introducing	Providing background of a particular issue
Move 2	Discussing	Providing facts and details of the issue
Move 3	Giving Opinions	Giving opinions, viewpoints, personal feelings expressed through emotive words and phrases
Move 4	Calling for Action	Giving suggestions and recommendations

## Validation of the moves

To study qualitative data, establishing inter-rater reliability is required to ensure the trustworthiness of the study when the coding is done by different raters and the codes are then compared for agreements (Armstrong et al., 1997). Hence, in the present study, a validator who is a well-trained native speaker of English specialized in teaching English was requested to assign a move or more than one move (Moves 1-4), which are regarded as codes, to each paragraph of the 120 editorials. To ensure the inter-rater reliability of the study, any discrepancies found between the moves assigned by the researchers and the validator were then discussed until a consensus was reached. After that, all the move sequences of the editorials were finalized.

## Statistics for research

Frequency and percentage were used to report the occurrences of each type of stance adverbials and those of stance adverbials appearing in different positions. In addition, data normalization in terms of 100 (for the number of editorials) and 10,000 (for the number of words) was employed to compare the results of the two corpora.

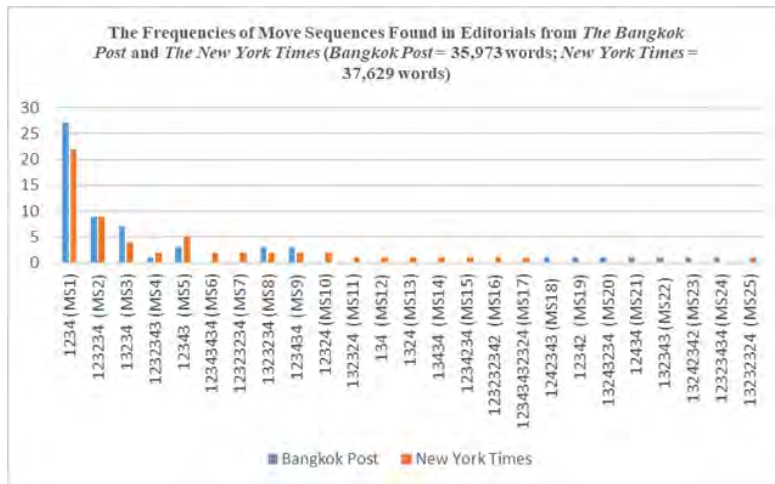
## Steps of analyzing the data

As the macro level analysis, the moves of all the editorials from both corpora were analyzed based on the four moves proposed in Table 8. At this stage, different move sequences were also identified. In addition, as the micro level analysis, all the types of stance adverbials based on Table 5 were identified in the editorials. With the aid of AntConc, the frequencies of each stance adverbial were obtained.

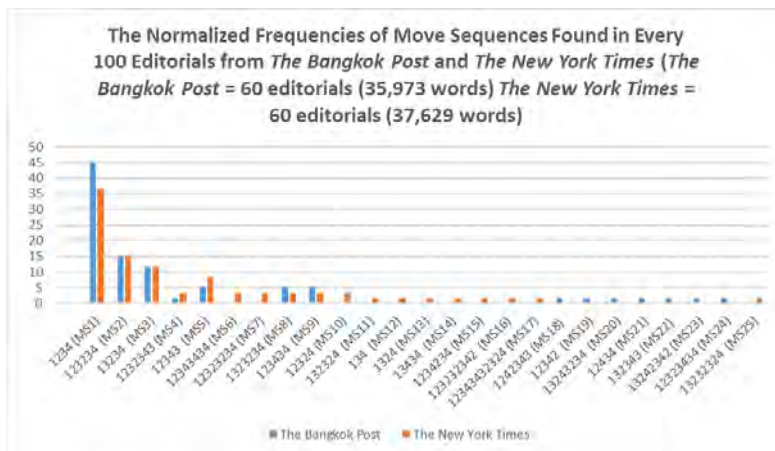
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Move structures

In the present study, it was found that there are 25 move sequences altogether. More details of the move sequences of the editorials from *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times* are shown in the figures below.



**Figure 1** The frequencies of move sequences found in the editorials from The Bangkok Post and The New York Times



**Figure 2** The normalized frequencies of move sequences found in every 100 editorials from The Bangkok Post and The New York Times

According to Figure 1 and Figure 2, the move sequence of 1234 (MS1) was found the most frequently in both corpora—27 occurrences (45 occurrences per 100 editorials) in *The Bangkok Post* and 22 occurrences (36.67 occurrences per 100 editorials) in *The New York Times*. The move sequence of 123234 (MS2) was the second highest in both corpora, with 9 occurrences or 15 occurrences per 100 editorials in *The Bangkok Post* and 9 occurrences or 15 occurrences

per 100 editorials in *The New York Times*. However, the third highest move sequence in *The Bangkok Post* is the move sequence of 13234 (MS3), with 7 occurrences (11.67 occurrences per 100 editorials), whereas the third highest one in *The New York Times* is the move sequence of 12343 (MS5), with 5 occurrences or 8.33 per 100 editorials. The other move sequences received few occurrences.

The move sequence of 1234 can be compared to the move structures proposed by Bhatia (1993); Bhatia (1997), Tongsibsong (2012), Tongsibsong (2014), and Zarza et al. (2015), since their obligatory moves are similar in nature to the move sequence of 1234 in the current study. Thus, the move sequence of 1234 is the most commonly found in editorials by *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*. In addition, move sequences of 123234 (MS2), 13234 (MS3), 12343 (MS5), 1323234 (MS8), and 123434 (MS9) seem to be often used by the editorial writers working for *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*. However, based on the bar charts, the editorials from *The New York Times* contain a wider range of move sequences when compared to those from *The Bangkok Post*. Whether the above move sequences exist in editorials from other English online newspaper or not should be explored further in additional research.

### Stance adverbials in each move

The three main categories of stance adverbials, namely epistemic stance adverbials, attitudinal stance adverbials, and style stance adverbials were found in all the four rhetorical moves in the editorials from *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*. The details of each category and sub-category of stance adverbials are given in Tables 9-11 below.

### Epistemic stance adverbials

Table 9

The frequencies and normalized frequencies per 10,000 words of each sub-category of epistemic stance adverbials found in each move in the *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times* corpora (N of BP=35,973 and N of NYT=37,629)

	The Bangkok Post Corpus								The New York Times Corpus							
	M1		M2		M3		M4		M1		M2		M3		M4	
	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000
<b>Doubt/Certainty</b> BP (N = 37) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 10.29 NYT (N = 36) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 9.57	4	1.11	8	2.22	22	6.12	3	0.83	2	0.53	12	3.19	17	4.52	5	1.33
<b>Actuality</b> BP (N = 28) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 7.78 NYT (N = 23) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 6.11	1	0.28	9	2.50	14	3.89	4	1.11	3	0.80	3	0.80	17	4.52	0	0.00
<b>Source of Knowledge</b> BP (N = 31) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 8.62 NYT (N = 33) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 8.77	2	0.56	18	5.00	11	3.06	0	0.00	1	0.27	14	3.72	15	3.99	3	0.80
<b>Limitation</b> BP (N = 16) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 4.45 NYT (N = 24) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 6.38	2	0.56	6	1.67	8	2.22	0	0.00	1	0.27	8	2.13	12	3.19	3	0.80
<b>Imprecision</b> BP (N = 18) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 5.00 NYT (N = 22) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 5.85	0	0.00	14	3.89	4	1.11	0	0.00	3	0.80	9	2.39	10	2.66	0	0.00
<b>Total</b> BP (N = 130) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 36.14 NYT (N = 138) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 36.67	9	2.50	55	15.29	59	16.40	7	1.95	10	2.66	46	12.22	71	18.87	11	2.92

As shown in Table 9, there are 130 occurrences of epistemic stance adverbials out of 35,973 words in the *The Bangkok Post* corpus (36.14 occurrences per 10,000 words) in *The Bangkok Post* and 138 occurrences of epistemic stance adverbials out of 37,629 words in the *The New York Times* corpus (36.67 occurrences per 10,000 words).

### Epistemic stance adverbials showing doubt and certainty

Epistemic stance adverbials showing doubt/certainty were found to have the highest number of occurrences in both corpora—37 occurrences out of 35,973 words in *The Bangkok Post* (10.29 occurrences per 10,000 words) and 36 occurrences found out of 37,629 words in the *The New York Times* corpus (9.57 occurrences per 10,000 words). In *The Bangkok Post*, 22 occurrences were found in Move 3 (6.12 occurrences per 10,000 words), 8 in Move 2 (2.22 occurrences per 10,000 words), 4 in Move 1 (1.11 occurrences per 10,000 words), and 3 in Move 4 (0.83 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively. Similarly, in *The New York Times*, 17 occurrences were found in Move 3 (4.52 occurrences per 10,000 words), 12 in Move 2 (3.19 occurrences per 10,000 words), 5 in Move 4 (1.33 occurrences per 10,000 words), and 2 in Move 1 (0.53 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively.

Epistemic stance adverbials showing doubt and certainty play a significant role in English newspaper editorials, especially when it comes to justifying or refuting events (Kalwar, 2016; Zarza, 2018). As seen in the findings above, these stance adverbials were mainly found in Move 3 (Giving Opinions) and Move 2 (Discussing) of the two corpora, which is quite similar to the findings by Zarza (2018), who found out that hedges and boosters were prevalent in the third move (justifying or refuting events) in the editorials from *The New York Times*. Hence, it could be said that editorial writers from *The Bangkok Post*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere tend to employ epistemic stance adverbials showing doubt or certainty, such as *probably* and *definitely*, when it comes to giving an opinion and having a discussion.

### Epistemic stance adverbials showing actuality and reality

As for epistemic stance adverbials showing actuality and reality, 28 occurrences were found in *The Bangkok Post*, which could be estimated at 7.78 occurrences per 10,000 words), making it the third highest number of occurrences in the *The Bangkok Post* corpus. Fourteen occurrences appeared in Move 3 (3.89 occurrences per 10,000 words), 9 in Move 2 (2.50 occurrences per 10,000 words), 4 in Move 4 (1.11 occurrences per 10,000 words), and only 1 in Move 1 (0.28 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively. Nevertheless, in *The New York Times*, this type of epistemic stance adverbials received the fourth highest number of occurrences (23 occurrences or 6.11 occurrences per 10,000 words). 17 occurrences appeared in Move 3 (4.52 occurrences per 10,000 words), 3 in Move 1 and Move 2 each (0.80 occurrences per 10,000 words each), and none in Move 4 (0 occurrence per 10,000 words), respectively.

The results of epistemic stance adverbials showing actuality and reality seem to be on par with the findings by Kotrč (2012), who found that *actually*, *really*, and *basically* were used in his newspaper articles from *The Times* and *The Telegraph*. In addition, they seem to be in agreement with the findings by Biber et al. (1999), who stated that epistemic stance adverbial showing

actuality, particularly *really*, *actually*, and *in fact* are the most commonly found in both *The New York Times* and British news articles. Thus, it is certain that epistemic stance adverbials showing actuality, such as *actually* and *really*, are normally employed by editorial writers working at *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*, when it comes to express their opinions over a certain issue.

### **Epistemic stance adverbials showing source of knowledge**

Epistemic stance adverbials showing source of knowledge was found to be the second highest number of occurrences in both corpora, with 31 occurrences (8.62 occurrences per 10,000 words) in *The Bangkok Post* and 33 occurrences (8.77 occurrences per 10,000 words) in *The New York Times*. In *The Bangkok Post*, 8 of them were found in Move 2 (5.00 occurrences per 10,000 words), 11 in Move 3 (3.06 occurrences per 10,000 words), 2 in Move 1 (0.56 occurrences per 10,000 words), and none in Move 4 (no occurrence per 10,000 words), respectively. In contrast, in *The New York Times* 15 of occurrences appeared in Move 3 (3.99 occurrences per 10,000 words), 14 in Move 2 (3.72 occurrences per 10,000 words), 3 in Move 4 (0.80 occurrences per 10,000 words), and 1 in Move 1 (0.27 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively

The present findings seem to challenge Biber et al. (1999), who proposed that *according to* was used as frequently as *probably* (an epistemic stance adverbial showing doubt/certainty). This is because epistemic stance adverbials showing source of knowledge, particularly *according to*, is more often used than in the past when the editorial writer refers to the source of information or knowledge.

### **Epistemic stance adverbials showing limitation**

As per epistemic stance adverbials showing limitation, they were found 16 times in *The Bangkok Post* corpus, accounting for 7.40%. 8 occurrences were present in Move 3 (3.70%), 6 in Move 2 (2.78%), 2 in Move 1 (0.92%), and no occurrences found in Move 4 (0%), respectively. However, they were found 24 times in *The New York Times* corpus, meaning that 6.38 occurrences can be found in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The New York Times*. 12 occurrences were present in Move 3 (3.19 occurrences per 10,000 words), 8 in Move 2 (2.13 occurrences per 10,000 words), 3 in Move 4 (0.80 occurrences per 10,000 words), and 1 in Move 1 (0.27 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively.

It is very interesting that epistemic stance adverbials showing limitation appeared the most frequently in Move 3 (Giving Opinions) and Move 2 (Discussing), respectively. Generally speaking, both editorial writers for *The Bangkok Post* English newspapers and *The New York Times* newspapers tend to give some limitation in their argumentation in the discussion part by using epistemic stance adverbials, such as *largely*, *usually*, and *mostly*, rather than other parts of the newspaper editorial.

### **Epistemic stance adverbials showing imprecision**

Regarding epistemic stance adverbials showing imprecision, 18 occurrences were found in the

The *Bangkok Post* corpus, which could mean that 5 occurrences can be found in 10,000 words. 14 of them appeared in Move 2 (3.89 occurrences per 10,000 words), 4 in Move 3 (1.11 occurrences per 10,000 words), and none found in Move 1 (no occurrence per 10,000 words) and Move 4 (no occurrence per 10,000 words), respectively. On the other hand, in *The New York Times* there are 22 occurrences in the corpus, which means that 5.85 occurrences can be found in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The New York Times*. 10 of them appeared in Move 3 (2.66 occurrences per 10,000 words), 9 in Move 2 (2.39 occurrences per 10,000 words), 3 in Move 1 (0.80 occurrences per 10,000 words), and none found in Move 4 (0 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively.

Due to the results of epistemic stance adverbials showing imprecision, it could be interpreted that editorial writers working for *The Bangkok Post* tend to use epistemic stance adverbials showing imprecision when they would like to have a discussion only (Move 2), while those working for *The New York Times* are inclined to employ epistemic stance adverbials showing imprecision, such as *about*, *generally*, and *roughly*, when they give an opinion (Move 3) and discuss an issue (Move 2)

### Attitudinal stance adverbials

Table 10

The frequencies and normalized frequencies per 10,000 words of each sub-category of attitudinal stance adverbials found in each move in the *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times* corpora

	The Bangkok Post Corpus								The New York Times Corpus							
	M1		M2		M3		M4		M1		M2		M3		M4	
	Frequ ency	Per 10,000	Frequ ency	Per 10,000	Frequ ency	Per 10,000	Frequ ency	Per 10,000	Frequ ency	Per 10,000	Frequ ency	Per 10,000	Frequ ency	Per 10,000	Frequ ency	Per 10,000
<b>Evaluation</b> BP (N = 32) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 8.90 NYT (N = 36) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 9.57	5	1.39	7	1.95	16	4.45	4	1.11	3	0.80	10	2.66	18	4.78	5	1.33
<b>Importance</b> BP (N = 34) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 9.45 NYT (N = 30) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 7.97	0	0.00	4	1.11	25	6.95	5	1.39	2	0.53	10	2.66	15	3.99	3	0.80
<b>Expectation</b> BP (N = 5) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 1.39 NYT (N = 3) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 0.80	0	0.00	2	0.56	3	0.83	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0.80	0	0.00
<b>Total</b> BP (N = 71) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 19.74 NYT (N = 69) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 18.34	5	1.39	13	3.61	44	12.23	9	2.50	5	1.33	20	5.32	36	9.57	8	2.13

Based on Table 10, there are 71 occurrences of attitudinal stance adverbials out of 35,973 words in the *The Bangkok Post* corpus. It could be estimated that there are 19.74 occurrences of attitudinal stance adverbials per 10,000 words in editorials from The Bangkok Post. Likewise, in *The New York Times* there are 69 occurrences of attitudinal stance adverbials out of 37,629 words, meaning that 18.34 occurrences of attitudinal stance adverbials could be found in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The New York Times*.

### **Attitudinal stance adverbials showing evaluation**

Attitudinal stance adverbials showing evaluation received the second highest number of occurrences among the attitudinal stance adverbials found in *The Bangkok Post*. That is because 32 occurrences were found in the editorials from *The Bangkok Post*. In other words, 8.90 occurrences of this type of attitudinal stance adverbials could be expected in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The Bangkok Post*. Sixteen occurrences appeared in Move 3 (4.45 occurrences per 10,000 words), followed by 7 in Move 2 (1.95 occurrences per 10,000 words), 5 in Move 1 (1.39 occurrences per 10,000 words), and 4 in Move 4 (1.11 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively. In contrast, attitudinal stance adverbials showing evaluation received the highest number of occurrences among the attitudinal stance adverbials in the editorials from *The New York Times*. This is due to the fact that there are 36 occurrences of attitudinal stance adverbials showing Evaluation in the editorials from *The New York Times*. This means that 9.57 occurrences can be expected in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The New York Times*. 18 occurrences appeared in Move 3 (4.78 occurrences per 10,000 words), followed by 10 in Move 2 (2.66 occurrences per 10,000 words), 5 in Move 4 (1.33 occurrences per 10,000 words), and 3 occurrences in Move 1 (0.80 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively.

### **Attitudinal stance adverbials showing importance**

With the highest number of occurrences among the sub-categories of attitudinal stance in *The Bangkok Post*, attitudinal adverbials showing importance were found 34 times in the editorials. This means that 9.45 occurrences of this type of attitudinal stance adverbials can be found in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The Bangkok Post*. Twenty five occurrences appeared in Move 3 (6.95 occurrences per 10,000 words), 5 in Move 4 (1.39 occurrences per 10,000 words), 4 in Move 2 (1.11 occurrences per 10,000 words), and no occurrences found in Move 1 (0 occurrence per 10,000 words), respectively. Nevertheless, this sub-category of attitudinal stance adverbials is the second highest in *The New York Times*, as there are 30 occurrences in the corpus, which could be estimated at 7.97 occurrences per 10,000 words in editorials from *The New York Times*. 15 occurrences appeared in Move 3 (3.99 occurrences per 10,000 words), followed by 10 occurrences in Move 2 (2.66 occurrences per 10,000 words), 3 occurrences in Move 4 (0.80 occurrence per 10,000 words), and 2 occurrences in Move 1 (0.53 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively.

### **Attitudinal stance adverbials showing expectation**

As per attitudinal stance adverbials showing expectation, only 5 occurrences appeared in the *The Bangkok Post* corpus, which could be estimated at 1.39 occurrences per every 10,000 words in editorials from *The Bangkok Post*. Three occurrences appeared in Move 3 (0.83 occurrences per 10,000 words), 2 in Move 2 (0.56 occurrences per 10,000 words), and no occurrences found in Move 1 and Move 4 (0 occurrence per 10,000 words). Similarly, attitudinal stance adverbials showing expectation appeared 3 times in Move 3. This means that 0.80 occurrences can be expected in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The New York Times*.



## Discussion of attitudinal stance adverbials

Overall, the findings about attitudinal stance adverbials of the present research are in accordance with those by Kotrč (2012), Biber et al. (2002), and Biber et al. (1999), who stated attitudinal stance adverbials are less frequently used in editorials than epistemic stance adverbials. When looked at more closely, the findings seem to suggest that the Thai editorial writers of *The Bangkok Post* prefer attitudinal stance adverbials showing importance to those showing evaluation and those showing expectation, respectively. On the contrary, those working for *The New York Times* are likely to use attitudinal stance adverbials showing evaluation than those showing importance and expectation. From a perspective, the Thai editorial writers of *The Bangkok Post* are keen on highlighting the importance of the issue, while the writers of *The New York Times* are better off giving an evaluation of the issue being discussed. As a matter of fact, none of the above researchers focused on which sub-category of attitudinal stance adverbials is more frequently used by editorial writers. Therefore, additional research may be necessary to find out which sub-category of attitudinal stance adverbials, namely those showing evaluation, importance, and expectation, are generally used by newspaper editorial writers and the reasons why to use them.

In terms of where in the text the adverbials are used, most attitudinal stance adverbials in both corpora were found in Move 3 (Giving Opinions). The possible reason is that in this move the editorial writer needs to give their opinions towards what was discussed in in Move 2 (Discussing), as well as evaluate, and highlight the significance of the issue. Therefore, a large number of attitudinal stance adverbials, especially the ones expressing evaluation and importance, are employed in Move 3 (Giving Opinions).

Another interesting point is that the majority of attitudinal stance adverbials showing expectation found in both corpora are single-word stance adverbials (Kotrč, 2012; Biber et al., 2002). In other words, longer stance adverbials were scarcely found in the present study. Hence, it could be said that single-word attitudinal stance adverbials showing expectation are normally used in both *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times*. This leads to the need for additional research on how stance adverbials are used in online newspaper editorials.

## Style stance adverbials

Table 11

The frequencies and normalized frequencies per 10,000 words of style stance adverbials found in each move in *The Bangkok Post* and *The New York Times* corpora

Frequencies of Style Stance Adverbials																
	The Bangkok Post Corpus								The New York Times Corpus							
	M1		M2		M3		M4		M1		M2		M3		M4	
Style	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000	Frequency	Per 10,000
<b>Total</b>	1	0.28	3	0.83	8	2.22	3	0.83	2	0.53	4	1.06	10	2.66	3	0.80
BP (N = 15 per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 4.17 NYT (N = 19) per 10 <sup>4</sup> = 5.05	1	0.28	3	0.83	8	2.22	3	0.83	2	0.53	4	1.06	10	2.66	3	0.80

Based on Table 11, there are 15 occurrences of style stance adverbials out of 35,973 words in the editorials from *The Bangkok Post*. This could be interpreted that 4.17 occurrences of style stance adverbials can be expected in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The Bangkok Post*. For the *The New York Times* corpus, there are 19 occurrences of style stance adverbials out of 37,629 words. It means that 5.05 occurrences of style stance adverbials could appear in every 10,000 words in editorials from *The New York Times* newspaper.

In the editorials from *The Bangkok Post*, 8 occurrences of style stance adverbials appeared in Move 3 (2.22 occurrences per 10,000 words), followed by 3 occurrences each in Move 2 and Move 4 (0.83 occurrences per 10,000 words each), and 1 occurrence in Move 1 (0.28 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively. However, in the editorials from *The New York Times*, 10 occurrences appeared in Move 3 (2.66 occurrences per 10,000 words), 4 in Move 2 (1.06 occurrences per 10,000 words), 3 in Move 4 (0.80 occurrences per 10,000 words), and 2 in Move 1 (0.53 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively.

Among the three main types of stance adverbials, style stance adverbials appeared the least frequently in all the four moves of the newspaper editorials (Fengchao, 2014; Biber, Conrad & Leech, 2002). The majority of the style stance adverbials appeared in Move 3 (Giving Opinions) in both corpora—with 8 occurrences (370.37 occurrences per 10,000 words) and 10 occurrences (442.48 occurrences per 10,000 words), respectively. From a perspective, the editorial writers might want to focus on the manner in which how the text is presented when providing their argument. Therefore, they employ style stance adverbials as devices to achieve their purpose.

## CONCLUSION

In general, the present study has shown that the Thai authors working for *The Bangkok Post* and those working for *The New York Times* write their editorials in a similar way in both the macro and micro levels. In the macro level, the editorial writers from the two news agencies generally follow the typical move sequence of Move 1-Move 2- Move 3- Move 4 (1234 or MS1) and resort to some common move sequences, including 123234 (MS2) and 13234 (MS3). As for the micro level, they employ epistemic stance adverbials about two times more frequently than attitudinal stance adverbials and about seven times more often than style stance adverbials, respectively (Kotrč, 2012; Biber et al., 2002). In addition, the authors from both newspapers seem to often use stance adverbials in medial positions in Move 3: Giving Opinions and Move 2: Discussing (Zarza, 2018; Biber et al., 2002). This is quite similar to the findings by Ojo (2020), who compared the editorials from the Nigerian newspaper and American newspapers and found that editorial writers coming from different cultures could employ the same hedges and boosters (stance adverbials).

Nevertheless, the editorial writers from the two newspapers do have some differences in their writings, including the use of the source of knowledge stance adverbial *according* to and the stance adverbials showing importance and evaluation—the sub-categories of attitudinal stance. Thus, whether the Thai editorial writers were influenced by their L1 (The Thai language) and whether these practices are the norms of each online newspaper or institution could be explored in future research.

Ultimately, it is hoped that those wishing to become professional editorial writers and novice editorial writers alike will benefit from the study in terms of how to organize their ideas in their editorials and what stance adverbials should be used in certain parts of the editorial. Additionally, based on the present findings, future research could be carried out to explore whether cultural differences among editorial writers can determine their choice of move sequences and stance adverbials. Last but not least, it may be necessary to explore whether the Thai culture has an impact on making Thai editorial writers less judgmental, especially when discussing the issues, than their American or other international counterparts.

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