

# 菲律賓英文報紙及台灣英文報紙新聞 導言的主題結構分析

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## 摘 要

英文報紙是外語學習者吸收知識的重要媒介。然而內圍圈(inner circle, 如美式英語)、外圍圈(outer circle, 如菲律賓英語)、和外擴圈(expanding circle, 如台灣英語)的英文報紙彼此間因為母語及文化思維的差異, 其報導呈現的風格或許也會有所不同。本文即根據Lautamatti (1987)的「主題結構分析」架構對比菲律賓及台灣英文報紙的新聞導言(lead), 進一步以量化方法分析二者之間是否存在結構上的差異性。研究結果指出, 菲律賓英文報紙和台灣英文報紙每則新聞導言的平均句長、字數、主題出現的位置、被動語態之使用頻率、新聞訊息來源之優先呈現等等都沒有達到統計上的顯著差異性, 也就是二者在報導風格上大致雷同。其原因有可能是二者在新聞報導的處理上仍舊遵循國際新聞社群的規範, 儘管前者是屬於外圍圈的英語而後者是屬於外擴圈的英語。

**關鍵字：**新聞導言、主題結構分析、菲律賓英語、台灣英語

# Topical Structure Analysis of the News Leads in the Philippine English and the Taiwanese English\*

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## Abstract

Newspapers supply one of the most effective ways to acquire the world information; therefore, in ESL/EFL college curriculums, journalist writing has become a popular subject. One assumption is that English newspapers published in outer circle English context might be different from those in inner circle; likewise, those published in expanding circle might be different from those in outer circle. In this paper, Lautamatti's (1987) TSA (Topical Structure Analysis) framework of the three basic sentence elements and its combinations are used for analysis. The three elements include initial sentence element (ISE), grammatical subject (mood subject) and topical subject (discourse topic).

The results indicate that the Philippine news leads and the Taiwanese news leads are identical in many ways. In physical characteristics, both leads have similar average words per one lead. Furthermore, each lead typically is composed of one sentence and the average words per sentence thus are similar too. In internal structures, topic subject has a higher frequency occurring in the non-initial position throughout the two languages. Needless to say, the passive voice whose "topic subject" appears initially would be less preferable. Among the constructions of non-initial topic subject, source type of ISE is used more frequently than information type of ISE in both news leads. One plausible interpretation for the similarities of English newspapers published in the expanding circle (Taiwanese English) and the outer circle (Philippine English) is that newspaper genres in these areas might be integrated in the international journalism community; therefore, there might have little differences between them.

**Keywords: news lead, TSA (Topical Structure Analysis), Philippine English, Taiwanese English**

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## 1. Introduction

Contrastive rhetoric expresses the view that language and writing are culture-specific. It was first proposed by Robert Kaplan in 1966 who stated that foreign students from different linguistic and rhetorical conventions composed and organized the same reality in different ways (Connor, 1996). Being too culture-centric and language determinative, Kaplan's model was criticized. Kachru (1995) stated that Kaplan's contrastive rhetoric paradigm resulted in devaluing rhetorical patterns that did not conform to the expectations of the readers from the Inner Circle. Consequently, a broader definition of New Model that considers cognitive and social-cultural variables, in addition to linguistic variables, has been proposed and it forces contrastive rhetoric to consider discourse-level features and processes of writing as well (Connor, 1996).

One new trend of contrastive rhetoric is to be applicable to many different kinds of texts, which is genre analysis (Swales, 1990). Genre is a written form that fulfills cultural expectations and aims at specific purposes. Genre-based analysis includes

the analysis of expository texts, academic writing, legal texts, business letters, newspaper genres, etc. Among them, Hinds (1983) explored an analysis of Japanese rhetorical organization of expository prose. Thatcher (2000) investigated the cultural and rhetorical patterns of professional writing among US and South American personnel in one multinational organization in Quito, Ecuador. Scollon's (2000) study focused on the generic variability in news stories between Chinese and English editions of the same newspaper. Woolever (2001) contrasted the issues and strategies used in international business communication. In Philippine academic field, the studies of genres include Dayag's (1997) study of newspaper editorials, Genuino's (2002) study of the opinion section of newspapers, Gonzales's (2002) study of letters to the editor in newspapers, Brylko's (2002) study of criminal appeal cases, Gustilo's (2002) study of news leads and Rojo-Laurilla's (2002) study of advice columns in newspapers.

Newspapers supply one of the most effective ways to acquire the world information; therefore, in ESL/EFL college curriculums, journalist writing has become a popular subject. One

assumption is that English newspapers published in outer circle English context might be different from those in inner circle; likewise, those published in expanding circle might be different from those in outer circle. Another assumption is that newspaper genres in these areas might be integrated in the international journalism community; thus, there might have little difference. With the analysis of Chinese and English editions of the same newspaper, Scollon (2000) tried to adopt eight features to differentiate five distinct genres of news stories in these newspapers. It would be interesting to further investigate whether the eight features still remain legitimate in analyzing Chinese English newspapers and American English newspapers. Another study about newspaper genres is on the contrast of leads. Leads may be considered to be the most important part of the news story. Gustilo's (2002) contrasted American and Philippine news leads and found out that there was no significant difference in the number of words between the two Englishes. Moreover, in terms of preference for summary lead, placement of wh- elements, placement of "when" element and

highly use of active voice, both samples demonstrate similar results. Gustilo provided plausible explanations that the recurrent patterns of similarities might be due to the fact that Philippine writers adhered to the expectations of international journalism as propagated by European and American journalists or as a trace of American influence in the Philippine educational system (p. 53). Through contrast of genres among different newspapers, ESL/EFL students may increase the awareness of diverse rhetorical conventions interwoven in them.

In order to discover the variation of news leads in other languages, the present study selects Philippine English and Taiwanese English newspapers for contrast. Taiwanese English, being an expanding circle English, might vary from Philippine English in some ways. In Taiwan news leads, the researcher assumes that it may remain more of its L1 linguistic features and rhetorical patterns. The framework of the study is two-folds. First, it is a quantitative description of the physical characteristics of both leads. The physical characteristics of leads consist of the number of words, sentences and

its average number of words per lead and per sentence. Second, the other part of the framework focuses on topical structure. Unlike paragraphs in academic writing, one lead usually possesses simply one or two crucial sentences in a news story. Lautamatti's (1987) TSA (Topical Structure Analysis) framework can only be partially adopted; that is, only the three basic sentence elements and its combinations are used. The three elements include initial sentence element (ISE), grammatical subject (mood subject) and topical subject (discourse topic). As they are described by Lautamatti, ISE means the element that first appears in the initial position of a sentence. Grammatical subject is the subject occurring in the independent clause. However, topical subject is vaguely defined as referring to the "main idea" discussed in the sentence and topical subject can occur either in the independent clauses or subordinate clauses. In order to identify more accurately of the topical subject, headlines in each news story are included in the present study; in addition to headlines, the news story should be referred to when it is necessary. For instance, in the following excerpt, if the

headline is omitted, the main idea of the lead may be on "the candidate Hsieh Shen-shan." But based on the headline and the whole story, the main idea of the lead is on "the campaign" instead of on "the candidate." So "Candidate Hsieh Shen-shan" is a grammatical subject, not a topical subject.

*Hualien magistrate by-election campaign heats up*

*Candidate Hsieh Shen-shan representing the opposition "pan blue" alliance is running into tough territory in the Hualien magistrate by-election campaign. He is now feeling mounting pressure from ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the split of voters in his alliance. (CP, 07/14/03)*

The combination of the three elements has five types and they are called topical structures. So the current study is based on the physical characteristics for the first part of the analysis and the topical structures for the second part of the analysis. The research questions are stated as follows:

1) Are there any significant differences in physical characteristics between Philippine and Taiwanese leads?

2) Are there any significant differences in topical subject position between the Philippine and the Taiwanese leads?

3) How many types of ISE? Are these types of ISE used equally in the two languages?

4) Do the two leads have higher frequency in using a certain voice of verbs?

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Data

Two predominant English newspapers were selected from both the Philippines and Taiwan. The two representative newspapers from the Philippines were the *Philippine Star* (PS) and the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* (PDI); the two from Taiwan were the Taipei Times (TT) and the China Post (CP). The other remaining English newspaper in Taiwan was the Taiwan News. But since its internet service started from 2001, unlike the former two which started from 1999; in addition, since there was limited archive service in Taiwan News, it was excluded.

After the selection of the newspapers, twelve months were

decided; it dated from April, 2003 to March, 2004. The exact date of each month was chosen by simple random selection through the random-number table. The selected dates were identical through the four newspapers. The exact dates were April 11<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, August 26<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, December 30<sup>th</sup>, January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup> and March, 1<sup>st</sup>.

Each piece of news story in front page was selected randomly by months from the four press newspapers. If the news stories derived from the foreign news agencies, they had to be eliminated because they might not be consistent with the norms of the local newspapers. Overall, forty-eight news leads were collected from the four newspapers.

### 2.2 Data Analysis

#### 2.2.1 Physical Analysis

Simple physical analysis was used to contrast Philippine English and Taiwanese news leads. As illustrated above, four aspects of physical analysis include total number of words, average words per lead, total number of sentences and average words per sentence. Basic statistics was used to identify their differences.

2.2.2 Topical Structure Analysis

differences in the four aspects.

Table 1. General Data

	Philippine Newspapers	Taiwanese Newspapers
Total number of words	820	769
Average words per lead	34.17	32.04
Total number of sentences	27	25
Average words per sentence	30.37	30.76

Lautamatti’s topical structure analysis (TSA) framework was partially used to contrast the internal structures of both leads. The analysis was based on the three basic sentence elements which include initial sentence element (ISE), grammatical subject (GS), topical subject (TS), and the five types that are combined from the three elements.

**3. Results and discussion**

**3.1 Physical Analysis**

The general data of the two news leads are shown in table 1. The figures indicate that in terms of the total number of words, the average words per lead, and the total number of sentences, Philippine English news leads surpass its counterpart (820 vs. 769; 34.17 vs. 32.04; 27 vs. 25). As to the average words per sentence, Taiwanese English leads slightly exceed its counterpart (30.76 vs. 30.37). However, statistics tests show that there are no significant

**3.2 Topical Structure Analysis**

According to Lautamatti (1987), type 1 is the type when all three elements coincide; that is, initial sentence element (ISE), grammatical subject (GS) and topical subject (TS) coincide in the initial position of the lead. The results are shown in table 2 below:

The percentage in type 1 Philippine and Taiwanese English news leads is identical (20.8% vs. 20.8%). In the following three excerpts, the *Philippine Star* lead, “the Philippine peacekeeping and humanitarian contingent in Iraq” is ISE, grammatical subject and topical subject. In the *Taipei Times* lead “the focus of the nation's battle against SARS” is ISE, grammatical subject and topical subject as well. Likewise, in the passive voice excerpt in the *China Post*, “over 200 passengers and 19 flight attendants” also contains the three basic sentence elements.

Table 2. Co-occurrence of Sentence Elements

	Philippine Newspapers		Taiwanese Newspapers	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Type 1 all	5	20.8%	5	20.8%
Type 2 ISE + (GS & TS)	3	12.5%	1	4.2%
Type 3 (ISE & GS) + TS	13	54.2%	14	58.3%
Type 4 (ISE & TS) + GS	0	0%	0	0%
Type 5 separate	3	12.5%	4	16.7%
TOTAL	24	100%	24	100%

*RP to keep peace contingent in Iraq*  
**The Philippine peacekeeping and humanitarian contingent in Iraq will remain there despite deadly attacks that killed 42 people and wounded over 200 in Baghdad early this week, President Arroyo said yesterday. (PS, 10/29/03)**

*Kaohsiung center of new SARS fears*

**The focus of the nation's battle against SARS turned to Kaohsiung yesterday, as fears grew that the deadly disease had spread through a major hospital near the city. (TT, 05/14/03)**

*CAL passengers, crew isolated after SARS scare*

**Over 200 passengers and 19 flight attendants will have to be confined to their homes after China Airlines allowed a stewardess who was showing symptoms associated with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) to fly back**

*to Taiwan from Japan. (CP, 04/11/03)*

Type 2 is the category when the ISE is separated from both the grammatical subject and the topical subject. The ISE remarkably occurs on introductory clause (dependent clause) followed by independent clause. The following extract shows that “even without hitting land” is identified as the ISE on the introductory clause which provides certain background information for the grammatical and topical subject “tropical storm Egay.” According to Table 2, three leads are found in the Philippine data (12.5%), while only one in the Taiwanese data.

*‘Egay’ downs power lines, brings floods to Samar*

**Even without hitting land, tropical storm “Egay” toppled power lines, flooded many parts of Samar and Leyte, and stranded passengers at ports in**

*Albay and Sorsogon yesterday. (PDI, 06/15/03)*

Type 3 belongs to those when the ISE and the grammatical subject coincide, while the topical subject is apart. Such type obtains the highest percentage in the two English leads (54.2% vs. 58.3%). The ISE in this type plays a crucial role as being an initiator or a source of the news story. In the *Philippine Star* excerpt, “President Arroyo” is the ISE and the grammatical subject of the independent clause. The topical subject is “MILF guerrillas” which is initiated by the ISE “President Arroyo.” Moreover, “President Arroyo” may indicate the source of news where the story derives. In the *China Post* excerpt, ISE and grammatical subject “Candidate Hsieh Shen-shan” initiates or derives the topical subject “campaign,” which is the main idea of the news story.

*MILF gets June 1 deadline for peace*

*President Arroyo gave yesterday separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas until June 1 to end “retaliatory attacks” on civilians and cut links with terror groups, or be branded as terrorists themselves. (PS,*

*05/14/03)*

*Hualien magistrate by-election campaign heats up*

*Candidate Hsieh Shen-shan representing the opposition “pan blue” alliance is running into tough territory in the Hualien magistrate by-election campaign. He is now feeling mounting pressure from ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the split of voters in his alliance. (CP, 07/14/03)*

Type 4 occurs when the ISE and the topical subject coincide while the grammatical subject is separate. Neither Philippine English lead nor Taiwanese English lead belongs to this type.

Type 5 is the type when all the three elements are separate. Type 5 resembles type 2 in that the ISE separates from the other two. In Type 5, the grammatical subject and the topical subject are also separate. In the two leads that cited below, “accused of misusing judiciary funds” and “hours before the official end of the legislative session yesterday” are the ISE, “Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.” and “lawmakers” are the grammatical subjects and “court employees” and “seven financial laws” are the topical subjects in the two

respective newspapers.

*Davide says court personnel to get bigger share of JDF*

***Accused of misusing judiciary funds, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. announced yesterday that court employees will soon get more from the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) to make up for their exclusion in the law increasing the salaries of justices and judges. (PS, 11/05/03)***

*Legislative changes increase penalties for financial crimes*

***Hours before the official end of the legislative session yesterday, lawmakers passed amendments to seven financial laws, increasing penalties for white-collar crime. (TT, 01/14/04)***

### 3.2.1 Position of Topic Subject

According to table 2, the highest percentage among the five Types in Philippine and Taiwanese news leads is Type 3 (54.2% vs.58.3%). In Type 3, the topic subject occurs in a post-ISE position or non-initial position. In addition to Type 3, the topic subjects of Type 2 and Type 5 are also appear non-initially. If the percentages of Type2, Type 3 and Type 5 are added, the total percentage is 79.2% in Philippine English and coincidentally 79.2% in

Taiwanese English. On the other hand, if Type 1 and Type 4 are added, then both Philippine and Taiwanese news leads are 20.8% in each data. Apparently, both leads are not significantly different in terms of higher occurrences of the topic subject emerging after ISE and relatively lower occurrences of the topic subject emerging initially. In other words, approximately four fifths of the topical subjects appear after ISE, while one fifth of those appear in the ISE position. Such phenomenon may illustrate that newspaper leads in the two languages prefer “beating around the bush” or delaying to introduce the main idea of the news story. Dissimilar to academic writing, the topic subject or main idea of the news story is stated after the introduction of the initiator, source, or background information, for instance, “President Arroyo said yesterday…” (PS, 04/11/03), “The DPP released a poll yesterday…” (TT, 07/14/03), “After the Sandiganbayan settled the 16-year-old ownership dispute in the United Coconut Planters Bank…” (PS, 07/14/03), “Hours before the official end of the legislative session yesterday…” (TT, 01/14/04), etc. It might be the golden law that in

journalism, a reporter must present authentic news instead of artificial ones; the source therefore is strikingly important. Besides, newspaper reporting is informatively based, and the background information is necessary whenever needed. That might be the reasons why topic subject after ISE is highly used in the newspaper leads in the two languages.

### 3.2.2 Types of ISE

As described above, source type of ISE and information type of ISE are two major types preceding topical subjects. Out of Types 2, 3 and 5, Type 2 belongs to the former one while Types 3 and 5 belong to the latter. If compared within the three Types of topical structures, source type of ISE in the Philippine leads possesses 68.4% and in Taiwanese leads 73.6%. It is identical that the source type of ISE outnumbers the information type of ISE in both the Philippine and Taiwanese leads. It might be an international journalist norm to frequently present the source instead of using dependent clause to provide or highlight the background information. In conclusion, both Philippine and Taiwanese news leads use around 80% of non-initial topic subject and within

which, both languages use around 70% of source type of ISE to start the lead.

### 3.2.3 Voice of the Verb

Passive voice is primarily illustrated by Type 1; nonetheless, there is still a chance that it appears in Type 2. The only example in the data is the lead from the Taipei Times, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Furthermore, Type 1 comprises not only passive voice, but also active voice. It seems that Lautamatti's topical structures to some extent may not explicitly illustrate the passive voice pattern. But through the occurrences of passive voice in both data, we can still predict its lower percentage than the active voice. In the Philippine leads, only two passive voice leads are found out from Type 1 and in Taiwanese leads, two are from Type 1 and one from Type 2. If converted into percentage, only 8.3% of the Philippine leads and 12.5% of the Taiwanese leads choose passive voice. It consistently reveals that moving the topical subject initially, the formation of passive voice, is not the norm of preferences to both languages. News leads in both languages prefer to posit "warm-up" source or provide certain information of the news initially.

## 4. Conclusion

The Philippine news leads and the Taiwanese news leads are identical in many ways. In physical characteristics, both leads have similar average words per one lead. Furthermore, each lead typically is composed of one sentence and the average words per sentence thus are similar too. In internal structures, topic subject has a higher frequency occurring in the non-initial position than in the initial position throughout the two languages. Needless to say, the passive voice whose “topic subject” appears initially would be less preferable. Among the constructions of non-initial topic subject, source type of ISE is used more frequently than information type of ISE in both news leads. One plausible interpretation might be that the source of news is treasured highly in journalism, so the source type of ISE is regularly situated in the primary position of a lead. To sum up, Topical Structure Analysis explicitly exhibits the allocations of the three elements. It not only presents that Type 3 (ISE & GS) + TS construction has a higher frequency of usage, but also consistently presents the functions of ISE and the lower usage

of passive voice.

The result proves that even in the expanding circle, English leads might share considerable similarities with those in outer circle. Therefore, it might be possible to presume that the Philippine and Taiwanese news leads may practice the same norms of the international journalism community.

As Panetta (2001) has suggested that ESL students need not be taught that there is only one “American” approach to writing. The present paper has demonstrated that even in news leads, it varies dramatically with school expository texts. In fact, it would be difficult to find out any culture only with one genre. Besides, in ESL/EFL journalist writing, an instructor does not suggest that learners use more the Type 3 construction other than others in lead composing; on the contrary, he/she can impart to learners the different types in composing the news leads and let them choose what they want to present.

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	Taipei Times	China Post
4/11	<p><u>Bad banks `sucking blood' from government's coffers</u> Following data released this week showing that the nation's most troubled banks were getting worse, an industry watcher yesterday urged the government to take action quickly so that they do not become an even greater burden on taxpayers.</p>	<p><u>CAL passengers, crew isolated after SARS scare</u> Over 200 passengers and 19 flight attendants will have to be confined to their homes after China Airlines allowed a stewardess who was showing symptoms associated with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) to fly back to Taiwan from Japan.</p>
5/14	<p><u>Kaohsiung center of new SARS fears</u> The focus of the nation's battle against SARS turned to Kaohsiung yesterday, as fears grew that the deadly disease had spread through a major hospital near the city.</p>	<p><u>Wanhua community quarantine lifted</u> The SARS quarantine for a public housing estate in Taipei's Wanhua district was lifted yesterday about a week ahead of schedule after the city government determined that the community was not plagued by the epidemic, officials said.</p>
6/15	<p><u>Taipei loses delegates to WHO meet</u> Two Taiwanese experts invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to join the global SARS conference in Malaysia will not attend the event because of WHO travel regulations, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday.</p>	<p><u>Taipei hospital reopens after six-week long SARS closure</u> Taipei's Jen Chi Hospital reopened yesterday after being closed down for around six weeks in the wake of an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) inside the facility.</p>
7/14	<p><u>DPP sees pan-blue support slipping</u> The DPP released a poll yesterday showing that support for the pan-blue-backed candidate in the Hualien County commissioner by-election, Hsieh Shen-shan (謝深山), has slumped.</p>	<p><u>Hualien magistrate by-election campaign heats up</u> Candidate Hsieh Shen-shan representing the opposition "pan blue" alliance is running into tough territory in the Hualien magistrate by-election campaign. He is now feeling mounting pressure from ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the split of voters in his alliance.</p>
8/26	<p><u>Lee pulls through after heart operation</u> Former president Lee Teng-hui (李登輝) was a patient at the Taipei Veterans General Hospital yesterday where he underwent cardiac surgery after tests revealed partial oxygen deprivation in his heart.</p>	<p><u>Gov't to recruit more than 360 English teachers</u> The government yesterday decided to spend NT\$417 million to recruit more than 360 English teachers from four countries to teach the language at schools in Taiwan starting next year.</p>

Appendix

9/11	<p><u>MAC unveils indirect cargo flight plan</u> Starting on Sept. 25, domestic airlines will be allowed to operate indirect scheduled charter cargo flights to Shanghai for a year, moving the country a step closer toward direct cross-strait transportation links with China.</p>	<p><u>Taipei court to summon Lee to testify on land scam</u> The Taipei District Court has decided to summon former President Lee Teng-hui to testify in a trial involving former China Development chairman Liu Tai-ying.</p>
10/29	<p><u>Chen tries to boost party's confidence</u> President Chen Shui-bian (陳水扁) said yesterday the next presidential election is not about whether the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) can retain power; rather, it is about the continuation of the party's responsibility in realizing its reform agenda.</p>	<p><u>Detained Taiwan Falun Gong practitioner returns from China</u> A Falungong practitioner has returned home to Changhua, central Taiwan, after being released from detention in Shanghai.</p>
11/5	<p><u>Stray dogs being eaten, welfare activists charge</u> On the fifth anniversary of the Animal Protection Law (動物保護法), legislators and animal-rights activists said the law was being ignored, claiming that one third of stray dogs in public shelters are sold to restaurants.</p>	<p><u>Soong confirms plan to face Lee in new probe</u> Chairman James Soong of the People First Party (PFP) yesterday said that he has informed prosecutors of his hope to face former President Lee Teng-hui in the reopened probe into his alleged mishandling of Kuomintang (KMT) funds.</p>
12/30	<p><u>Rebound more than 'just a feeling'</u> Trying to head off opposition accusations that the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has mismanaged the economy, Premier Yu Shyi-kun yesterday said that Taiwan is standing at the crossroads between corruption and inefficiency or reform and prosperity.</p>	<p><u>Premier Yu sweetens protection of farmers</u> Premier Yu Shyi-kun yesterday announced a series of measures to take better care of farmers, including purchasing farm produce with guaranteed prices.</p>
1/14	<p><u>Legislative changes increase penalties for financial crimes</u> Hours before the official end of the legislative session yesterday, lawmakers passed amendments to seven financial laws, increasing penalties for white-collar crime.</p>	<p><u>Bird flu kills 3 in new Asian scare</u> Asia faced a new health scare on Tuesday after three Vietnamese died from "bird flu," but the WHO said there are no signs yet an outbreak that has ravaged the region's poultry industry is spreading between people.</p>

<p>2/26</p>	<p><u>Lien Hui-hsin takes legal action against magazine</u> Lien Hui-hsin (連惠心), Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Lien Chan's (連戰) daughter, filed a libel suit against Next Magazine yesterday for its story claiming to have letters of hers complaining of her father's wife-beating.</p>	<p><u>Speaker optimistic Yu will return to Legislature</u> Speaker Wang Jin-pyng yesterday was optimistic about Premier Yu Shyi-kun returning to the parliament's question-and-answer session he had walked out of in protest, but the government head was not committed.</p>
<p>3/1</p>	<p><u>Referendum has become Taiwan's destiny: Hsieh Kaohsiung Mayor Frank Hsieh (謝長廷)</u>, as the Cabinet's representative, yesterday debated against writer and political commentator Li Ao (李敖), with both of them failing to answer questions put to them by academics arranged to take part by the Central Election Committee.</p>	<p><u>Lin defends referendum: aboriginal lawmaker Kao questions costs</u> An aboriginal lawmaker yesterday charged that buying more weapons will not guarantee peace, and will erode social welfare spending as she argued against a Cabinet spokesman over the necessity of the March 20 referendum on strengthened national defense.</p>

Topical Structure Analysis of the News Leads in the Philippine English and the Taiwanese English

	Philippine Star	Philippine Daily Inquirer
4/11	<p><u>GMA blames Iraq war for drop in ratings</u> President Arroyo said yesterday that she knew the price she had to pay for her administration's support for the war in Iraq, and was candid enough to admit it – just after she broke the news to the public, her popularity ratings went into a tailspin.</p>	<p><u>It's final: SC orders Meralco to pay refund</u> The Supreme Court yesterday switched the lights off on the Manila Electric Co.'s last-ditch appeal, ruling that the country's largest power firm must finally refund its consumers for excess charges it imposed since February 1994.</p>
5/14	<p><u>MILF gets June 1 deadline for peace</u> President Arroyo gave yesterday separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas until June 1 to end "retaliatory attacks" on civilians and cut links with terror groups, or be branded as terrorists themselves.</p>	<p><u>Consumer groups unhappy with refund plan</u> Consumer groups are not too happy with the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval on Monday night of Manila Electric Co.'s proposal to refund in June customers using up to 100 kWh a month, with one group claiming that Meralco's computation of the amounts to be returned to the small customers is inaccurate.</p>
6/15	<p><u>RP's AIDS statistics not accurate due to gaps in surveillance system — expert</u> A local expert in the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) lamented over the weekend that gaps in the government's surveillance system assail the accuracy of official statistics on the disease.</p>	<p><u>'Egay' downs power lines, brings floods to Samar</u> Even without hitting land, tropical storm "Egay" toppled power lines, flooded many parts of Samar and Leyte, and stranded passengers at ports in Albay and Sorsogon yesterday.</p>
7/14	<p><u>2 buyers waiting in wings for UCPB</u> After the Sandiganbayan settled the 16-year-old ownership dispute in the United Coconut Planters Bank, at least two foreign groups have expressed interest in buying into the UCPB, banking industry sources said yesterday.</p>	<p><u>Palace: History will judge GMA on US-Iraq war</u> Malacanang yesterday sought to deflect criticism of President Macapagal-Arroyo's support for the US-led war on Iraq, as a scandal over false US claims about Baghdad's nuclear program grew in Washington.</p>
8/26	<p><u>Task force formed to probe AFP execs in P250-M scam</u> The office of the Special Prosecutor has started pursuing graft charges against several military officers and five private individuals accused of pocketing over P250 million in military pension funds after the Supreme Court ordered the case reopened.</p>	<p><u>Expert says RP can eradicate corruption</u> A Hong Kong anticorruption expert yesterday expressed confidence that the Philippines could rid its government bureaucracy of deeply ingrained corruption.</p>

<p>9/11</p>	<p><u>House in uproar over Magi's proposal for legal separation.</u> The proposal of Valenzuela City Rep. Magtanggol Guniundo Jr. for President Arroyo to file legal separation from her husband has stirred a hornet's nest on both sides of the political fence at the House of Representatives.</p>	<p>'I can't imagine life without GMA' "I can't imagine a life without my wife beside me. She is my life and my heart," Arroyo declared at a press conference at the family-owned LTA Building in Makati City.</p>
<p>10/29</p>	<p><u>RP to keep peace contingent in Iraq</u> The Philippine peacekeeping and humanitarian contingent in Iraq will remain there despite deadly attacks that killed 42 people and wounded over 200 in Baghdad early this week, President Arroyo said yesterday.</p>	<p>The leaders of the mutinous Magdalo Group yesterday announced their support of the lawmakers who impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.</p>
<p>11/5</p>	<p><u>Davide says court personnel to get bigger share of JDF</u> Accused of misusing judiciary funds, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. announced yesterday that court employees will soon get more from the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) to make up for their exclusion in the law increasing the salaries of justices and judges.</p>	<p><u>Davide gave Senate detailed JDF records in March last year</u> A detailed list of the expenditures of the Judiciary Development Fund which includes the expenses for furniture and building renovation had already been submitted to the Senate as early as March 2002, according to administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan.</p>
<p>12/30</p>	<p><u>The judiciary under attack in '03</u> The year 2003 was a turbulent one for the judiciary. Attacks on its members, particularly Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., nearly tore the nation apart in the maelstrom of a constitutional crisis that damaged all three branches of government in the process.</p>	<p><u>Closure sought on dark chapter in CPP history</u> At a public forum on Feb. 15 in Intramuros, Manila, a group in the audience objected to the airing by survivors and their friends of the horrors of the purges conducted by the Communist Party of the Philippines in the 1980s.</p>
<p>1/14</p>	<p><u>Susan as poll bet? A joke, says KNP</u> Fernando Poe Jr.'s wife, actress Susan Roces, is not running in her husband's stead if the movie actor is disqualified from the presidential race, Poe spokesman Rod Reyes said yesterday.</p>	<p><u>Senators to tackle Cha-cha bid today</u> Although insisting that the chamber had no more time to tackle the issue, the Senate majority bloc yesterday decided to calendar for floor debate today the controversial resolution seeking amendments to the 1987 Constitution.</p>

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<p>2/26</p>	<p><u>Ninoy gets hero status with death anniversary now a holiday</u> The crowd was sparse and many of the original players were absent as President Arroyo and her predecessors, Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino, led the nation yesterday in celebrating the 18th anniversary of the EDSA people power revolt that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos.</p>	<p><u>Low-key celebration; all militants' rallies blocked</u> Despite the presence of three Presidents, low-key was the order of the day at yesterday's 18th-anniversary celebration of the EDSA people power revolt that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.</p>
<p>3/1</p>	<p><u>2<sup>nd</sup> most wanted kidnap suspect falls</u> One of the country's most wanted kidnapping suspect was arrested by military intelligence agents and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in a remote barangay in San Pablo City in Laguna yesterday.</p>	<p><u>We bombed ferry, says Abu chief (GMA says pranksters behind terror claim)</u> "We did it!" Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Soliman said in a phone interview. The fire killed at least one person and left 186 people missing.</p>