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LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF MEDIA TEXTS DESCRIBING TRAGEDIES AND  
DISASTERS

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## INTRODUCTION

It goes without saying that language is the most powerful tool that allows people to associate while delivering information, reporting news, or expressing feelings. People are able to communicate using words, body-language, gestures, etc., yet when the social media get more and more popular, the way of interaction changes too (Prokopová, 2008, 3). With the development of media, people are attracted to communicate via social network rather meeting face to face. Internet users choose to exchange information virtually by texting over talking in private. Although the media influences language have not been clearly investigated, it can be said that social media can affect the usage of language, since the quality of language is already deteriorating and the media stimulate the process of language downward (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014, p. 213).

For this reason the media linguistics focuses on analysing the usage of language from different perspectives, such as linguistic or paralinguistic, cultural, and conversational (Luginbühl, 2015, p. 16). The media language can be characterised by various linguistic signs, such as lexical features which help to make conversations more colourful and engaging (Luginbühl, 2015, p. 9; Prokopová, 2008, p. 10). Lexical items, such as words, phrases, idioms, etc. are enriching the discourse and preventing the simplification of the language. Thus the subject of the research of this paper will focus on the analysis of lexical features of media texts narrowing the analysis down to the usage of adjectives.

Many linguists, such as Huddleston and Pullim (2005), Downing and Locke (2006), Aikhenvald (2015), Biber et al. (2002), Biber et al. (2012), Greenbaum and Nelson (2002), Cobuild (1990), Plag (2003) have analysed adjectives over the decades. This particular part of speech is very commonly used in the English language, since it makes the discourse much more impressive, colourful, and attractive. Adjectives characterize people or subjects and usually are modified by nouns or pronouns (Huddleston and Pullim, 2005, pp. 18-19, Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 475). Aikhenvald (2015), Downing and Locke (2006), Biber et al. (2002), and Greenbaum and Nelson (2002) state that adjectives can be classified to central and peripheral and defined by three characteristics: morphological, syntactic, and semantic.

The **novelty** of this current paper is that nowadays social media affect the usage of the language. Internet plays a significant part in peoples' daily lives, since the internet users are able to communicate, exchange information, find some information, etc. Internet users progressively start to adjust the language for their convenience and needs, without paying much attention to and reducing the quality of the language. People try to facilitate and fasten their typing, so the abbreviations became a part of conversations, people choose to use characters instead of words. The internet language is becoming very ordinary, whereas the usage of adjectives makes it much more colourful and richer (Crystal, 2001, p. 225).

That is why the **subject** of this BA paper is linguistic features (with a core focus on adjectives) of media texts describing tragedies and disasters.

The **aim** of this paper is to analyse adjectives describing tragedies and disasters in media texts from news websites, American *CNN* (The Cable News Network) and British *BBC news* (British Broadcasting Corporation). The aim of the paper is specified by the following objectives:

1. To define the concept and characteristic features of media language.
2. To determine the notion and classification of adjective.
3. To describe the morphological features of the most common adjectives in the news websites describing tragedies and disasters
4. To present the frequency of usage of the gathered adjective + noun phrases from news websites describing tragedies and disasters.
5. To determine the frequency of the most commonly used adjectives and adjective + noun phrases gathered from the news websites reporting tragedies and disasters in the used American and British corpora.

The paper consists of several parts:

First of all, the concept and features of social media have been analysed. After that an overview of media language, narrowing it down to adjectives has been provided by reviewing the linguistic literature. Also, a brief overview of tragedies and disasters has been provided for a better understanding of the context where adjectives are used to describe tragic events.

The methodology part contains a description of the main theoretical guidelines that the empirical research is built on, the stages of the research as well as methods that have been used to fulfil the aim and objectives of the research.

The third part focuses on the actual analysis which is divided into two different sections. The first part is based on the analysis of fifteen most common adjectives gathered from media texts; in the second part of the empirical survey the frequency of fifteen adjective + noun phrases as well as morphological analysis of adjectives are provided. The final part of the empirical analysis consists of the conclusions based on the results of the research of the collected data.

The research paper also contains the introduction, the bibliography, the conclusions, the summary, and the appendix.

# 1. THE THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND MEDIA LANGUAGE

## 1.1. The definition of social media

In recent years social media became a significant measure of communication or social interaction. With the development of new technologies as well as the Internet in order to find out the news or certain information more and more people choose using social media instead of newspapers or radio. Media allow people to communicate and exchange information, so these are the most important factors why people could not imagine their daily lives without the Internet. In accordance with Page (2014), social media is concentrating on social networking that stimulates the communication between the Internet users (Page, 2014, p. 5). In order to clearly define a meaning of ‘social media’, several interpretations could be referred to. The concept of “social media” is clearly defined in the Dictionary of Contemporary English: “*all the organizations, such as television, radio, and newspapers that provide news and information for the public or the people who do this work*” (Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2005, p. 1035). According to Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2013), for instance, social media is defined as “*websites and computer programs that allow people to communicate and share information on the internet using a computer or mobile phone*” (Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, 2013, p. 879).

The definitions of social media mentioned above give an idea that social media by itself is used to combine the users of network into one community as well as their cooperation. According to Macevičius (2010), there are a lot of various different branches of social media (Macevičius, 2010, p. 7):

- Discussion forums (“Supermama.lt”, “us.battle.net”)
- Blogs (“gawker.com”, “basicthinking.de”)
- Wikis (“Wikipedia.com”, “Wikispaces.com”)
- Podcasting (“soundcloud.com”, “youtube.com”)
- Social network sites (“Facebook.com”, “MySpace.com”),
- Content-sharing sites (“quora.com”, linkedin.com)



- Virtual worlds (“Habbo.com”, “Secondlife.com”) and etc.

Thus, from all these different branches, it is obvious that the diversity of social media increases over time. The social network, such as blog, discussion forum, wiki helps people to cooperate with each other while finding common interests or mutual professional purposes (Page, 2014, p. 12). Social media users are capable to exchange information with other networkers. In social media a person could create his account without making sufficient efforts in order to post pictures, videos, leaving comments, which means that they exchange information using computer-mediated technology (Page, 2014, p. 12).

## **1.2. The features of social media**

Nowadays social media has a good and bad influence on people who use technology in their daily lives (Crystal, 2001, p. 1). Apparently, companies started using interaction which exchange information for their own benefit, in this case – advertisement. The social media is very convenient for business, since sharing common concerns and actions might become a valuable commodity when trading it with media advertisers who use the received information in order to attract wide audiences (Page, 2014, p. 13).

Another important feature of social media that could be mentioned is self-disclosure which is defined by some scholars as the process of showing personal information to other internet users (Jourard, 1971, p. 2). An American professor Sandra Petronio (as cited in Očadlíková, 2015) provides five examples of possible risk posting personal information to others (Očadlíková, 2015, pp. 10-11):

1. *Security risks* – based on the disruption of the security of individuals, such as unjustified dismissal.
2. *Stigma risk* – it is based on networkers who might defame other person by sharing the thoughts that are not appropriate.
3. *Face risks* – it is correlated with information directed to lose someone’s good reputation.
4. *Relational risk* – focuses on offending other people for their own benefit.

5. *Role risk* – represents the situation when self-disclosure is found very unacceptable to the people in high government positions.

### 1.3. News media

While social media focus on various different fields reaching a vast majority of people in order to interact between each other, news media are attended to deliver the news. News became inevitable in order to stay on track for being aware of the actual news, developments, and various events. In order to understand *news media*, the concept of *news* should be clearly defined. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2000), *news* is characterised as “*new information about something that has happened recently*” (Hornby, 2000, p. 856). Jeffrey Schrank (1991) provides the following basic features of news media events (Schrank, 1991, p. 181):

- Timeless – the word “news” gives an understanding that events must be recent or ongoing.
- Importance of the event – the news should reflect the needs of the readers.
- Relation with people – the news can be international and local, for example the fire in a forest will be considered news only in a local press, but the presidential election in the USA would be reported in several countries.
- Significance of the people related – Schrank (1991) states the product of the media is well-known people (Schrank, 1991, p. 10), so the more famous person is the more interesting the news will be.
- Drama of human interest – in other words, the news should be dramatic. People usually are more attracted to “*bad news*” (Schrank, 1991, p. 180). Thus, the negative events that are dramatic or emotional become more interesting to the readers.

Park (1940) also provides more features of news media in Denis McQuail's (1987) book *Mass Communication Theory*. Although some of the insights are similar, for example the news is timeless or it should satisfy readers' needs (McQuail, 1987, pp. 204-205, Schrank, 1991, p. 180), Park (1940) presents a few points of news media (McQuail, 1987, pp. 204-205):

- Temporariness – the news exist until it is current, over time the event is replaced by the most recent one.
- Disorganisation of the news – the news does not have to stick to a certain plan. Events usually happen unexpected that are not connected to each other.
- Unexpectedness in the news – Park (1940) states that the news should be unpredictable. The readers show much more interest in unusual events than in everyday occurrences.

So, the main function of news media is to notify people by announcing unusual events (Landert, 2014, p. 12), such as tragedies and disasters, using print media (newspapers, newsmagazines), broadcast news (radio, television), Internet (online newspapers, news blogs, etc.) (Stoyanov and Kulminski, 2012, p. 7). All fields are related but slightly deviate from each other.

Although people find print media and broadcast news appealing, Internet became a potent competitor to radio, television, or printed newspapers. The amount of internet users has increased up to 3 billion people in 20 years. Approximately 40% of our population has access to the internet.<sup>1</sup> As already mentioned, Internet is the most significant thing that happened to the world which has a great impact on people (Crystal, 2001, p. 1). Thus, this would be the result of the increasingly popular online newspapers to report news.

#### **1.4. Online newspapers**

Online newspapers are not significantly different from printed, both contain valuable information. The main distinction is that in printed newspapers all information is printed out, while in online newspapers information is provided electronically (Newsom and Wollert, 1988, p. 75). The very first online newspaper known is Palo Alto Weekly, which was published in California in 1994 (Stoyanov and Kulminski, 2012, p. 10). Although, the online newspapers were published in the USA, it quickly spread all around the world because of the following reasons. People find online newspapers more attractive, since the articles might consist of audio or video applications. So, online readers could experience things in a much detailed way without putting a lot of efforts (Stoyanov and Kulminski, 2012, p. 10). Another advantage that makes

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<sup>1</sup> The Internet live stats. *Internet Users*. Retrieved March 3, 2017, from <http://www.internetlivestats.com/>

online newspapers more popular than printed is ongoing updates on the articles, so readers could get additional information every time after it has been revised (Gjesdahl, 2008, p. 17). In addition, using online newspaper it is easier to go straight to the section that an online reader likes. Usually, online newspapers are divided into several categories, such as sport, travel, weather, food, earth, culture, etc. Thus, people do not have to follow the news story line about a certain event. They can choose an article that is important to them (Stoyanov and Kulminski, 2012, p. 10).

### **1.5. Media language**

As already mentioned in the previous sections, media play a great role in our lives. Newspapers, radio, television provide news to all people who might be affected in a certain way (Prokopová, 2008, p. 12). Media language is a significant part of social media which might be affected by the Internet (Crystal, 2004, p. 1). A German linguist Ulrich Schmitz (2015) states that “*Media linguistics studies how language is used in the media*” (Schmitz 2015, p. 7, *my translation*)” (as cited in Luginbühl, 2015, p. 9).

In accordance with Shaver (1995) there are three views of media language (Shaver, 1995, p. 1). Firstly, media language is a tool to spread the information and ideas. It goes without saying that a language is a method to communicate, so media language helps to transfer information between people (Shaver, 1995, p. 1). Secondly, mass media language can be used as a commodity. Shaver (1995) states that, media organizations in the US and other enterprise institutions bear some similarities (Shaver, 1995, p. 2). Various business institutions and media language help organizations to become sufficiently profitable by fulfilling business culture and adopting the restriction of organizational rationalities (Shaver, 1995, p. 2). Thirdly, media language might be considered as rhetoric. In order to understand the concept it is important to clearly define what rhetoric is. According to Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, rhetoric described as “*speech or writing intended to be effective and influence people*” (Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, 2013, p. 1406). So, media language can be understood as an art of persuasion which is useful in any kind of way (Shaver, 1995, p. 2).

Bell (1991) emphasizes that media language is able to promote interaction between people or various minorities (Bell 1991, p. 2). Media are useful in approaching the particular

language characteristics that people are interested in. It also focuses not only on how language is used in media, but also the usage of spoken language. Media language is able to determine what impact the media might have on language on in the society. It focuses on the functions of media language in a context of culture and public. Moreover, it is interested in the internet user's personal views influences by media language. Bell (1991) emphasises the easy accessibility of information. He also states that notability in media language does not play a great role, because the target of media is to drag wide audiences (Bell 1991, p. 2).

So, media linguistics can be described as study on the usage of language in the media focusing on various fields. Media language can be defined as a tool to spread the information and ideas, considered as commodity as well as rhetoric.

### **1.6. Netspeak**

Netspeak cannot be separated from media language. Nowadays most of people are chatting, blogging, writing e-mails every day that makes internet users to facilitate the usage of language (Crystal, 2001, pp. 24-25). The Netspeak has made a huge influence on media language: The most general character of Netspeak is using characters. One of them is a symbol @, which became a meaningful word. People started using it in their e-mails as a word *at*. For example, "I was @home this morning". Also, new words were created, such as *file*, *window*, *error*, *webcam*, *hyperlink*, etc. (Crystal, 2001, p. 84). Furthermore, abbreviations became more popular, for example *HTML* (*hypertext markup language*), *FAQ* (*frequent asked questions*), or diversity of abbreviations used in Netspeak chat, such as *asap* (as soon as possible), *b4* (before), *imo* (in my opinion), etc. (Crystal, 2001, p. 84). Moreover, Netspeak affected the usage of capital letter. Capitalized words are assumed as shouting, for example "This is a VERY important point" comparing to "This is a very important point". It is easy to say that words in capitals are stressed (Crystal, 2001, p. 87). Finally, punctuation also was affected for the same reason which was mentioned above. People started to reduce or totally avoid using it in the Netspeak conversations (Crystal, 2001, p. 87).

Taking into consideration the Netspeak has a great impact on people, which facilitates conversation between internet users but at the same time it reduces the quality of a language itself.

## II. LINGUISTIC FEATURES

It goes without saying that language is the most important measure to communicate. There is diversity of devices that make our language “alive”, such as alliterations, metaphors, etc. According to Brown and Yule (1983) (as cited in Prokopová, 2008) all linguistic features are divided into deviations (Prokopová, 2008, pp. 7-11):

- Discourse level, e.g. coherence and cohesion.
- Programmatic, which includes reference, presupposition, implicature, and inference.
- Situational context, e.g. addresser and addressee, audience, topic, setting, channel, code, message-form, event, etc.
- Lexical deviation, e.g. idioms, collocations, phrasal verbs, etc.
- Grammatical deviation, e.g. tense, number, gender, etc.
- Stylistic deviation, e.g. antonym, homonymy, hyponymy, etc.
- Phonetic deviation, e.g. repetition, alliteration, rhythm, etc.
- Graphical deviation, e.g. punctuation, titles, font, spacing, etc.

In contrary to Brown and Yule (1983), Chugh and Sharma (2012) provide only two levels of deviations, which is lexical and syntactic. They state that lexical deviation is “separating words into smaller units” (Chugh and Sharma, 2012, p. 159). Syntactic deviation is characterized as inappropriate grammar.

Lexical level includes idioms, collocations, phrasal verbs, adjectives, pronouns, etc., in order to have a colourful vocabulary. In accordance with Prokopová (2008) “*Under the heading of vocabulary we shall give information about the choice of specific lexical items in a text..., their distribution in relation to one another, and their meaning...*” (Crystal and Davy, 1969, p. 19).

## 2.1. Characteristic features of adjective

As it has been mentioned above, adjectives make our speech and texts more descriptive and colourful. Adjective is an inevitable measure to exemplify an object you are talking about and it helps one to provide more information about people or things (Cobuild, 1990, p. 62). The main definition that could be used describing an adjective would be: “*a word that describes a noun and a pronoun*” (McIntoch, 2013, p. 19). More precise meaning of adjective provided in the Oxford dictionary of English Grammar, stating that an adjective is “*defined as containing “describing” words, or “words that tell us something about a noun*” (Aarts et. al., 2014, p. 8). Linguists provide various different classifications of adjectives that are described in a detailed way in the following paragraphs.

The scientists such as Aikhenvald (2015), Downing and Locke (2006), Biber et al. (2002), Downing and Locke (2006), Greenbaum and Nelson (2002) provide the following characteristic features of adjectives on morphological, semantic and syntactic levels.

### 2.1.1. Morphological level

The adjectives can be formed by three processes: using participial forms, attaching derivational suffixes, and compounding (Biber et. al., 2002, p. 190, Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 482, Cobuild, 1990, p. 62).

2.1.1.1. The first type of adjective formation - **adjectives formed by using participial forms**. The suffixes –ed and –ing are used as participial forms (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 482, Cobuild, 1990, p. 70, Biber et. al., 2002, p. 190).

2.1.1.1.1. *-ing*. According to Cobuild (1990) most of those adjectives are derived from present participial verbs, e.g. *alarming, charming, disturbing*, etc. (Cobuild, 1990, p. 76).

- Suffix -ing can be used to characterise an effect on feelings or believes. E.g. *an interesting choice, a welcoming house, an encouraging speech* (Cobuild, 1990, p. 77).
- It can define a process or condition. E.g. *an increasing income, an ageing man, a decreasing demand* (Cobuild, 1990, p. 77).

2.1.1.1.2. *-ed*. Cobuild (1990) states that the adjectives having a suffix –ed are derived from past participle verbs. E.g. *broken, closed, known*, etc. (Cobuild, 1990, pp. 79-80).

- Adjectives formed with a suffix –ed usually describe expression or appearance. E.g. *a hidden wallet, a broken heart, a known person* (Cobuild, 1990, p. 80).

2.1.1.2. The second process is forming adjectives by adding **derivational suffixes** (Biber et. al, 2012, p. 530). Biber (2012) states that the participial adjectives can be derived from verbs as well as nouns (Biber et. al, 2012, p. 530), for example to the noun *pain* the derivational suffix –ful can be added and the word *painful* becomes a derived adjective, also to the verb *use* the derivational suffix –able can be attached and the derived adjective *usable* is created.

**Table 1:** The adjectives forming derivational suffixes

<b>-able, -ible</b>	<b>-al, -ial</b>	<b>-ed</b>	<b>-ful</b>	<b>-ic, -ical</b>	<b>-ish</b>	<b>-ive, -ative</b>	<b>-less</b>	<b>-eous, -ious, -ous</b>	<b>-y</b>
<i>Usable</i>	<i>Physical</i>	<i>Injured</i>	<i>Painful</i>	<i>Dramatic</i>	<i>Danish</i>	<i>Alive</i>	<i>Endless</i>	<i>Serious</i>	<i>Early</i>
<i>Terrible</i>	<i>Global</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>Truthful</i>	<i>Toxic</i>	<i>Childish</i>	<i>Decisive</i>	<i>Aidless</i>	<i>Famous</i>	<i>Messy</i>
<i>Moveable</i>	<i>Special</i>	<i>Alleged</i>	<i>Cheerful</i>	<i>Economic</i>	<i>British</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Ageless</i>	<i>Anonymous</i>	<i>Likely</i>

2.1.1.3. The third process that the adjectives can be formed is **compounding**. Compound adjectives, which are the most complicated out of those three groups, usually consist of two or more words creating a new word (Plag, 2003, p. 133, Cobuild, 1990, p. 83). According to Cobuild (1990) compound adjectives can be qualitative (*absent-minded, low-paid, open-minded, etc.*), classifying (*half-price, part-time, so-called, etc.*) or colour adjectives (*royal-blue, lime-green, etc.*) (Cobuild, 1990, pp. 83-84).

The diversity of compounds might be composed as follows (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 477, Plag, 2003, pp. 154-155, Biber et. al., 2002, p. 192, Cobuild, 1990, pp. 83-85):



**Table 2:** Compound adjectives

<b>Noun + ed- participle</b>	<i>Family-orientated, king-sized, home-baked.</i>
<b>Noun + ing participle</b>	<i>Eye-catching, nerve-wracking, peace-keeping.</i>
<b>Noun + Adjective</b>	<i>World-famous, smoke-free, life-long.</i>
<b>Adjective + Noun</b>	<i>Last-minute, short-length, full-time.</i>
<b>Adjective + color adjective</b>	<i>Royal-blue, silvery-white, dark-blue.</i>
<b>Adjective + ed- participle</b>	<i>Ready-made, clean-shaven, soft, texture.</i>
<b>Adjective + ing- participle</b>	<i>Funny-looking, biggest-selling, free-standing.</i>
<b>Adjective + other adjective</b>	<i>Sectoral-zonal, abdomino-perineal, infinite-dimensional.</i>
<b>Number + Noun</b>	<i>Three-hour, four-wheel, two-foot.</i>
<b>Adverb + ed- participle</b>	<i>So-called, new-born, well-balanced.</i>
<b>Adverb + ing-participle</b>	<i>Badly-fitting, slow-moving, rapidly-growing.</i>
<b>Adverb + Adjective</b>	<i>Highly-sensitive, newly-rich, highly-sensitive.</i>
<b>Reduplicative</b>	<i>Okey-dokey, super-duper, easy-peasy.</i>
<b>Participle + adverbial particle</b>	<i>Left-over, paid-up, blown-out.</i>

Linguists A. Downing and P. Locke, I. Plag divide adjectives into **simple**, **derived**, and, already mentioned in a previous paragraph, **compound** adjectives. These simple adjectives, such as *good*, *bad*, *tall*, etc., which consist of monosyllabic or bi-syllabic words are the most commonly used in a language (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 477). The second group of adjectives would be derived adjectives, which might be derived from nouns, verbs or other adjectives, using certain affixes or suffixes (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 477).

### **2.1.2. Syntactic level**

The first syntactic type of adjectives has two basic functions: to modify nouns and to state the possession (Aikhenvald, 2015, p. 157, Biber et al., 2012, p. 202). In accordance with Biber Conrad, and Leech (2012) the adjectives can act as postposed modifiers. The adjective always follows the noun and is placed in the end of a sentence. For example, *We did absolutely everything possible to get you here* (Biber et al, 2012, p. 202-203). Also, adjectives can serve as a

noun phrase, it is worth mentioning that usually it is modified by adverb, for example, *People in India are either very wealthy, either very poor* (Biber et al, 2012, p. 202-203). Another syntactic feature of adjectives could be that adjectives can be free modifiers, for instance *Golden, silver and bronze medals are for the winners* (Biber et al, 2012, pp. 202-203). Adjectives often occur as exclamations in spoken language, for example, *Amazing! I will wait for you* (Biber et al, 2012, p. 202-203). The final syntactic feature is that the adjectives connect clauses or sentences. For example, *Even more important people who remain homeless after tragic events* (Biber et al, 2012, p. 202-203).

Downing and Locke (2006) classify adjectives into **central** and **peripheral**. Central adjectives consist of **attributive** (adjectives which occur before the noun), for example *the green tree, the little girl*, and **predicative** (adjectives which occur after the noun), such as *the tree is blue, the girl is little*, function (Greenbaum and Nelson, 2002, p. 95). Also, they have a descriptive function, adding additional information about people, places and things. Central adjectives can also be evaluators, “expressing the subjective and objective evaluation of the speaker” (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 482), whereas peripheral adjectives lack one or more of these functions. Peripheral adjectives are not always gradable. For example, a word *beautiful* (*beautifuller* - not correct) cannot be graded as a regular adjective, even though *beautiful* is a central adjective which is usually gradable. Also they cannot occur in both attributive and predicative contest. They have to function either in one or another (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 483, Biber et. al., 2002, p. 189).

### 2.1.3. Semantic level

The semantic characteristics of adjectives must be clarified too. Downing and Locke (2006), Biber et al. (2002), Cobuild (1990) divide adjectives into two sub-types: **descriptors** and **classifiers** (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 480, Biber et al, 2012, pp. 508-509, Cobuild, 1990, pp. 62-64). Descriptors can be further divided into: Size, weight, extent: *big/little, short/tall, large/small*, etc.; Colour: *black, red, white*, etc.; Meaning related to time: *young, old, new*, etc.; Evaluative: *good, bad, nice, terrible*, etc.; An active/passive process: *shocking, surprising, exhausted*, etc.; General qualities: *hot, cold, sour, strong*, etc.; A temporary state: *awake, asleep, alone*, etc. While classifiers are grouped only into three branches: Restrictive: *main, particular*,

*public, final*, etc. Relating to certain groups, like nationalities, politics, etc., e.g.: *Lithuanian, Muslim*, etc., and category-specific meanings, which includes culture, technology, science, etc. (Downing and Locke, 2006, p. 480, Biber et al, 2012, pp. 508-509, Cobuild, 1990, pp. 62-64). Contrary to the above-mentioned mentioned linguists, Aikhenvald (2015) divides adjectives into large, medium-sized and small classes. The first type consists of large and small adjective classes: dimension: *big, small, long*, etc.; Age: *new, old, young*, etc.; Value: *good, bad, perfect*, etc.; Colour: *black, white, red*, etc. Moving to medium-sized and large adjective classes there are three levels: Physical property: *hard, soft, strong, weak, sour*, etc.; Human propensity: *jealous, happy, sad*, etc.; Speed: *fast, slow*, etc. The final type is based on: Difficulty: *easy, hard, simple*, etc.; Similarity: *like, similar, other*, etc.; Qualification: *possible, likely, common*, etc.; Quantification: *many, some, few*, etc.; Position: *low, high, right, southern*, etc. (Aikhenvald, 2015, pp. 158-159).

Taking everything into consideration it should be mentioned that an adjective in the English language is one of the eight parts of speech, which gives additional information about a subject by modifying a noun and a pronoun. Also, adjectives can be described by their morphological, semantic, and syntactic characteristic features.

### **III. TRAGEDIES AND DISASTERS**

As the current paper deals with the linguistic features of media texts describing tragedies and disasters, therefore it seems appropriate to shed some light on the very notion of tragedies and disasters.

The vulnerability to hazards has increased and the tragedies are intensifying because of the disasters which have shaken the world over the past decades. According to The Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>2</sup> statistics of 2015, there are 346 reported disasters, such as earthquake, flood, heat wave, etc.; 22 773 people dead, mostly in Nepal, France, and India; 98.6 million people affected, including Koreans, Indians, Ethiopians; and \$66.5 billion economic damage in total.

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<sup>2</sup> The Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016). *2015 disasters in numbers*. Retrieved from [http://www.unisdr.org/files/47804\\_2015disastertrendsininfographic.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/47804_2015disastertrendsininfographic.pdf)

According to The Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>3</sup> statistics of damages from disasters over a past decade \$1.4 trillion total damage was made, mostly because of the earthquake/Tsunamis in Japan where lost around \$250 billion<sup>3</sup>. Because of the same reason 328.629 people were killed in 2010<sup>3</sup>. In terms of people affected there are 1.7 billion victims, from which more than 150 million people were affected by floods in 2010<sup>3</sup>.

### **3.1.Natural disasters**

Longman Dictionary of contemporary English (1995) describes “disaster” as “*a sudden event such as a flood, storm, or accident which causes great damage or suffering.*” (Summers, 1995, p. 381), while “natural disaster” is “*caused by nature, not by accident.*” (Summers, 1995, p. 381). Natural disasters usually are related to injuries, deaths, pain, economic difficulties, etc. The numbers of weather related disasters, like floods, storms, earthquakes are growing and causing many problems for people suffering from that (Wahlstrom & Guha-Sapir, 2016, p. 5). According to The International Disaster Database natural disasters might be classified into several categories<sup>3</sup>:

Geophysical – the disaster appears from the earth. For example, earthquake, mass movement, volcanic activity.

Meteorological – the hazard is caused by abnormal weather conditions. E.g. Extreme temperature, fog, storm.

Hydrological – the hazard occurs because of the extreme situation of water on Earth. For example, flood, landslide, wave action.

Climatological – the climatological disaster is caused by very extreme temperature volatility. For example, drought, glacial lake outburst, wildfire.

Biological – a tragedy is induced by various organisms that carry illnesses which usually are fatal diseases, for example epidemic, insect infestation, or animal accident.

Extra-terrestrial – a hazard occurs because of the celestial objects from Earth’s atmosphere, such as asteroids, meteoroids, etc. For example, impact, chemical weather.

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<sup>3</sup> The International Disaster Database. Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters – CRED. *General Classification*. Retrieved December 18, 2016, from <http://www.emdat.be/classification>

### 3.2. Man-made disaster

Contrary to natural hazards, man-made disasters usually cause danger to people, animals and plants because of human activity. According to Silvia Gherardi (1998) a phrase “man-made disaster” was produced by Barry Turner. “*Man-made disaster is about how technical, social, institutional and administrative arrangements can produce disasters; it is about the relationship between information, error and surprise in organizations*” (Gherardi, 1998, p. 80). In concordance with Tarn, Wen, Shih (2008) the man-made disasters are classified as follows:

Industrial accident is a danger caused by technological or industrial tragedies, risky transactions, framework accidents, which cause economic issues or environmental problems, injury, and death.<sup>4</sup> For example, chemical spill, collapse, explosion, fire, gas leak, poisoning, radiation, etc.

Transport accident involves mechanised modes of transport, like accidents in air, road accidents including vehicles, rail transport accidents, and tragedies of boats<sup>4</sup>.

Miscellaneous accident also called “complex emergencies” which consists of both, natural and man-made disasters.<sup>5</sup> For instance, collapse, explosion, fire, etc.

### 3.3. Physical and psychological impacts

It goes without saying that various hazards, in this case natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, storms, and unnatural disasters, including terrorism attacks, transport accidents or explosions have a negative impact on people (Freitag, Grimm and Schmidt, 2011, p. 40). Natural and man-made disasters lead to diversity of consequences that might affect people’s physical conditions (death, sickness and injury), or have a negative impact on victim’s psychology, such as stress or post-traumatic disorders (Fothergill, Meastas & Darlington, 2000, p. 160).

People collide with various disasters which, unfortunately, like every accident, have a negative impact on people. The worsening of physical needs, like food, housing, and hygiene could cause outbreak of various serious diseases, following psychological impact on survivors

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<sup>4</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. *Technological hazards: industrial accidents. Definition and characteristics*. Retrieved from <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/definition-of-hazard/industrial-accidents/>

<sup>5</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. *Technological hazards: complex emergencies*. Retrieved from <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/definition-of-hazard/complex-emergencies/>

(Petrucci, 2012, p. 114). In accordance with Wahlstrom & Guha-Sapir (2016), “EM-DAT” recorded 87 million homes damaged or destroyed by weather-related disasters since 1995, plus 130,000 damaged or destroyed schools, clinics, hospitals and other critical health and education facilities“. Petrucci (2012) states, that there are three levels of damage from a higher to a lower.

**Table 3:** The classification of damage

<b>Level 1: high damage</b>	<b>Level 2: medium damage</b>	<b>Level 3: low damage</b>
Collapse of building/bridges	Damaged building/bridges	Damage to agriculture
Damaged/blocked roads	Severe damage to agriculture	Floods in populated settlements
Occurrence of certain victims	Roads marginally damaged	Damage to life-lines

In terms of the psychological impact, people put so much efforts trying to save their tangible assets (money, house), and intangible assets, such as their jobs, marriages, following negative consequences for survivors. There are several effects which can be divided into subgroups (Petrucci, 2012, p. 114): “emotional” effects, like anxiety or depression, “behavioural” effects, like sleeping, eating disorders, etc. (Petrucci, 2012, p. 114). Also, “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder” which might be long-term or short-term disorder (Petrucci, 2012, p. 114).

Evidently from the above mentioned facts about tragedies and disasters the news about them causes pain, sorrow and sympathy on the part of the reader. Therefore journalists should be able to use particular linguistic features to achieve a desired impact on the reader.

From the point of view of the aim of the current paper, it is important to note that tragedies and disasters have to be and are reported in the news, therefore it is relevant to those who have suffered as well as to the general audience, how the tragic news is presented, by what linguistic means, what effect is meant by media texts to have upon the reader.

## CONCLUSIONS OF THE THEORETICAL PART

1. Social media became a significant part of our daily lives, since it allows people to communicate and interact with each other. Media contains various different divisions, such as forums, blogs, social network sites, etc., which encourage people to use social media more and more every day. It goes without saying that social media has a good as well as bad influence on internet users. Many entrepreneurs use social media as advertising due to promote the product however it might affect the security of the Internet users.
2. Media language, being an essential part of social media, can be described as study on language usage in the media. Media linguistics can be defined as a tool to spread the information and ideas, used as commodity, and might be considered as rhetoric.
3. Linguistic features make the language much more colourful, so people choose to use adjectives, phrasal verbs, pronouns to make their discourse “alive“. Linguistic features can be divided into diversity of fields: discourse level, programmatic, situational context, lexical deviation, grammatical deviation, stylistic deviation, phonetic deviation, graphical deviation. The lexical level focuses on the lexicon which consists of idioms, collocations, adjectives, etc.
- 3.1. Adjectives are one of the lexical items that enrich the language. Adjectives are able to characterize people or subjects and are usually modified by nouns or pronouns. They can be classified to central and peripheral. The central ones usually have attributive role, but also can have a predicative function, have a descriptive meaning, can be gradable, can have morphological variations, while the peripheral adjectives lack one or another feature. This particular part of speech can be defined by three characteristics: morphological, syntactic, and semantic. The morphological classification focuses on the formation of adjectives. The syntactic classification focuses on central adjectives divided into attributive and predicative that can act like noun modifiers or state the possession. The adjectives that are classified into semantic characteristic can be subdivided into descriptors and classifiers (focusing on restrictive adjectives, relating to certain groups, and other categories, like culture, technology, etc.) The final semantic characteristic

focuses on two roles: noun modification and stating the possession. Adjectives from this certain classification can be divided into central adjectives, which are sub-grouped into attributive (occurring before the noun) and predicative (occurring after the noun), and peripheral adjectives.

4. The tragedies and disasters usually cause pain and compassion, since it might affect people physically and psychologically. Catastrophic events are divided into two groups: natural hazards that are caused by nature, such as earthquake, floods, etc., and man-made disasters that happen because of careless human activity, e.g. radiation, car accidents, explosions.



#### IV. METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

The research is based on the theoretical material covered in the introductory part, justifying the research of the linguistic literature as followed: Cobuild (1990), Aikhenvald (2015), Biber et al. (2002), Biber et al. (2012), Downing and Locke (2006), Greenbaum and Nelson (2002), Plag (2003). The research is particularly based on Downing and Locke (2006), Biber et al. (2012) as well as Cobuild (1990), since these scientists classify adjectives into semantic, syntactic and morphological fields as it has been analysed in the theoretical part of the paper with the focus on the morphological characteristics of adjectives.

The empirical research was carried out in several stages. Firstly, there were 100 adjectives collected from media texts describing tragedies and disasters. Two major sources were selected for gathering the empirical data: the news websites *CNN* (The Cable News Network) and *BBC news* (British Broadcasting Corporation) (The data is provided in Appendix 1). Secondly, the frequency of usage of fifteen the most commonly used adjectives from the collected ones was analysed in spoken, magazine, newspaper, academic and fiction registers using Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Thirdly, there were most frequent adjective + noun phrases gathered from *CNN* and *BBC news* media texts and the frequency of their usage was analysed in the same registers (spoken, magazine, newspaper, academic and fiction registers) using Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) as well as the frequency of their usage was compared to the data provided in British National Corpus (BYU-BNC).

In order to conduct the research both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used. The analysis shows not only numerical data or statistics, but also the data were carefully analysed and compared, thus descriptive, analytical and comparative research approach was used to analyse the collected data.

The Corpus of Contemporary American English and British National Corpus were used for the analysis of empirical data, since the main sources for the analysis were British (BBC) and American (CNN) news websites. The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) is the largest corpus of English language which provides 520 million words from spoken and written

texts. COCA covers American English from 1990 to 2015 years. The next corpus which was used in the research is British National Corpus (BYU-BNC) created in 1980. This particular corpus contains over 100 million words from various genres, such as spoken, fiction, magazines, newspapers, and academic. The empirical research analysis was carried out by analysing and comparing the frequency of adjectives gathered from *CNN* (The Cable News Network) and *BBC news* (British Broadcasting Corporation) news websites. In order to determine the most frequently used adjectives and adjective and noun phrases, all words and phrases were manually typed in Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and British National Corpus (BYU-BNC).

The empirical survey is divided into several stages.

The first stage is based on the analysis of the linguistic literature on adjectives in order to conduct the empirical research.

The second stage of the research focuses on the adjectives gathered from the news websites. In total one hundred adjectives have been gathered from, as already mentioned, *BBC news* and *CNN* articles describing tragedies and disasters (50 adjectives from British news website, 50 adjectives from American news website). The morphological analysis of the collected adjectives was carried out by determining the derivational suffixes added to the stem of a word. Also, the adjective + noun phrases were collected as well from the media texts reporting tragedies and disasters in CNN and BBC news websites.

The third stage focuses on classification of the adjectives and the gathered adjective + noun phrases. In the first part of the empirical survey, a hundred of adjectives collected from BBC and CNN were classified into fifteen separate sections according to the adjective suffixes: – *al*, *-ial*, *-ful*, *-ic*, *-ical*, *-ed*, *-ish*, *-ive*, *-ative*, *-ing*, *-eous*, *-ious*, *-ous*, *-able*, *-ible*. Using Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and British National Corpus (BYU-BNC) the frequencies of a hundred collected adjectives were examined and most common adjective from each section was picked for further analysis. The most frequent *adjective* + *noun* phrases were gathered from the American *CNN* and British *BBC news* by checking the frequency in the corpora: *painful experience*, *public health*, *injured people*, *homeless people*, *serious problem*,

*vulnerable people, national service, effective way, British government, social security, political system, devastating effect, negative impact, outrageous behaviour, and terrible thing.*

The fourth stage is based on the analysis and comparison of the selected data. The frequency and exhaustive analysis of the fifteen chosen adjectives, according to the frequencies based on COCA and BYU-BNC, were provided in spoken, fiction, magazine, newspaper, and academic sections according to Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Also, the most commonly used *adjective and noun* phrases were analysed as well, comparing both American (COCA) and British (BYU-BNC) corpora providing normalized frequency per 100 million words.

In the final stage of the research the conclusions of the empirical survey have been provided.

## V. EMPIRICAL SURVEY OF THE ADJECTIVES FROM MEDIA TEXTS DESCRIBING TRAGEDIES AND DISASTERS

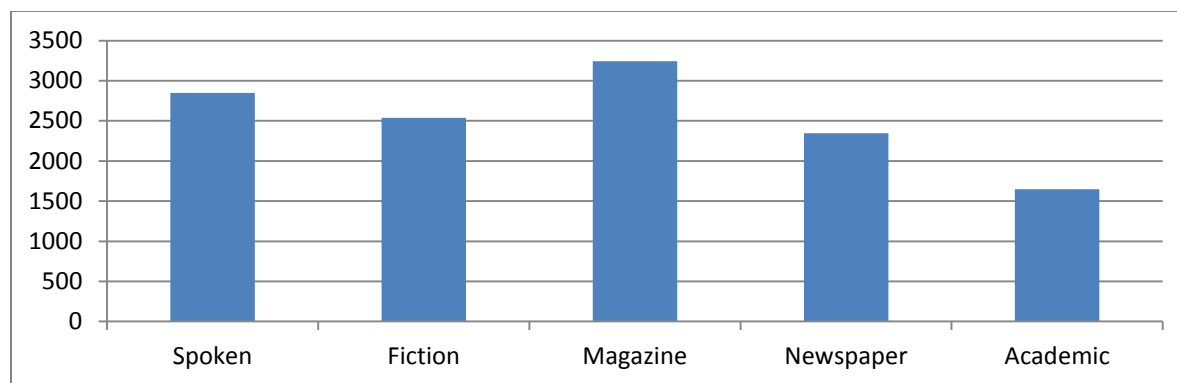
### 1. Frequency of the most commonly used adjectives in media texts describing tragedies and disasters according to the Corpus of Contemporary American English

As already mentioned in the methodology part, in the first stage of the empirical analysis the frequency of most common adjectives gathered from media texts in the context of tragedies and disasters are analyzed. Fifteen words formed with adjective suffixes, such as *-al*, *-ial*, *-ful*, *-ic*, *-ical*, *-ing*, *-ish*, *-ive*, *-ative*, *-less*, *-eous*, *-ious*, *-ous*, *-able*, *-ible* were examined in the spoken, fiction, magazine, newspaper and academic registers. The adjectives gathered from the articles in news websites are: *painful*, *public*, *injured*, *homeless*, *serious*, *vulnerable*, *national*, *effective*, *British*, *social*, *political*, *devastating*, *negative*, *outrageous*, and *terrible*.

#### ***Painful:***

The following figure below presents the frequency of the most common adjective formed by adding a suffix *-ful* used in reporting disasters and tragedies from media texts. It goes without saying that the adjective *painful* has a negative connotation, since it usually characterises a person affected with sore and gives the readers an impression that someone is suffering, for instance *a painful wound*. The physical suffering appears from various accidents, like earthquake, tsunamis or car accidents, so this particular adjective often appears in media texts describing tragedies and disasters.

Figure 1 presents the frequency of the adjective *painful* formed by adding a suffix *-ful* gathered from the news website.



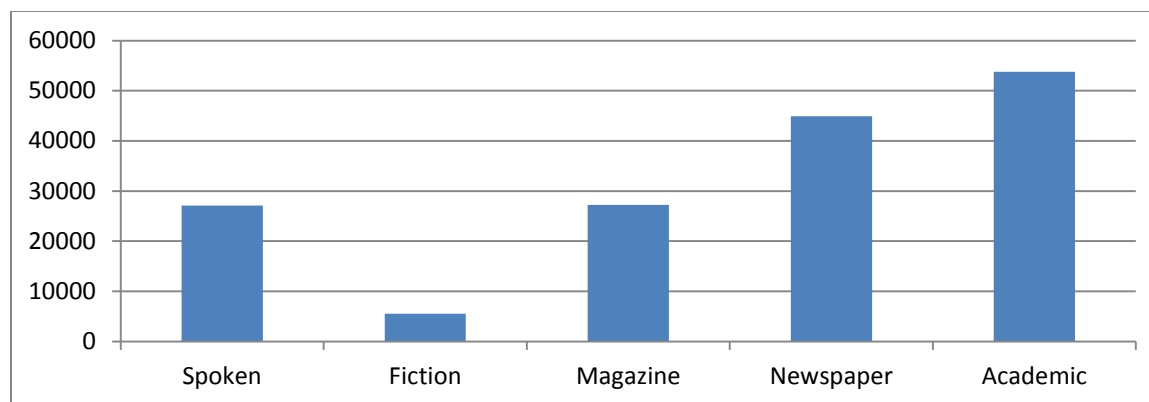
**Figure1:** The raw frequency of the adjective *painful* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

According to COCA, the empirical research data analysis shows that the adjective *painful* is the most used in magazine section (3,242), followed by spoken section (2,849), fiction section (2,539), newspaper section (2,347), and academic section (1,647). Thus, using the adjective *painful* the negative feelings can be expressed talking about tragedies and disasters in media texts.

### ***Public:***

According to the research findings, the most common adjective found in the American online newspaper (CNN) formed with a suffix *-ic* in the context of tragedies and disasters is *public*. This particular adjective is concerned with the society which might be affected by man-made disasters or natural hazards. In this case, the context where the adjective occurs is natural disaster, specifically the landslide in China: “...the Shenzhen Public Security Bureau said the police had taken what they call “compulsory measures” against 12 people...” (Hunt & Lu, 2015). The adjective *public* is used in the name of the organisation which is in charge of the society’s safety.

The following figure represents the frequency of the adjective *public* formed with a suffix *-ic*, which is gathered from the CNN news media texts reporting tragedies and disasters.



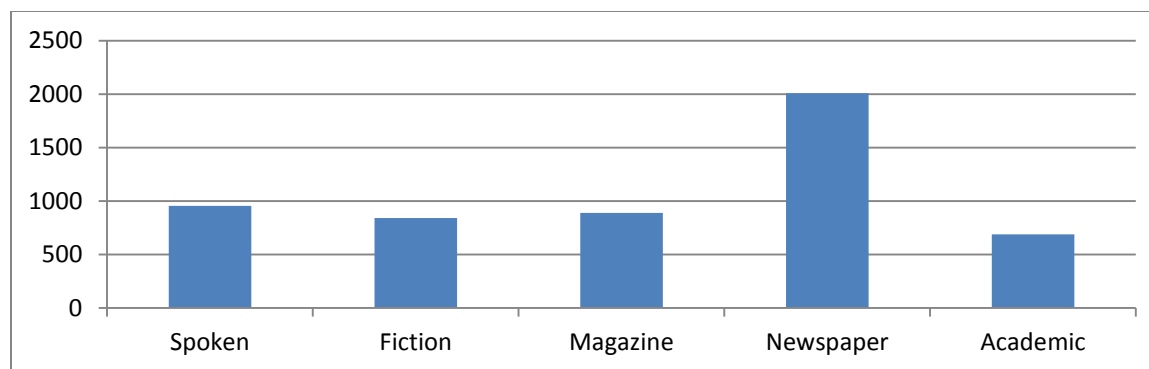
**Figure 2:** The raw frequency of the adjective *public* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

The research analysis shows that the raw frequency of a word *public* occurs as such: academic section (53,776), newspaper section (44,931), spoken section (27,080), magazine section (27,233), and fiction section (5,518). The raw frequency in fiction section of an adjective *public* is very low, yet the academic is the dominant one. According to Corpus of Contemporary American English data base, *public* most frequently was used in law and politics section (7,976).

### ***Injured:***

The third most frequent adjective formed with a suffix *-ed* gathered from CNN news website describing tragedies and disasters is *injured*. The gathered adjective *injured* occurs in media texts describing natural disasters, such as mudslides in Colombia: “*He said at least 202 injured people and 300 families were displaced*” (Brocchetto, Ramos & Sanchez, 2017), and the Nepal earthquake: “*The earthquake triggered an avalanche at Mount Everest during its climbing season, leaving at least 13 killed and an unknown number of injured people*” (Park, 2015). So, it can be concluded that this particular adjective often occurs in media texts describing tragedies and disasters, since it can reveal the pain that people face after various natural hazards, in this case earthquakes and mudslides.

Figure 3 bellow presents the frequency of the adjective *injured* formed with a suffix *-ed* gathered from CNN news website.



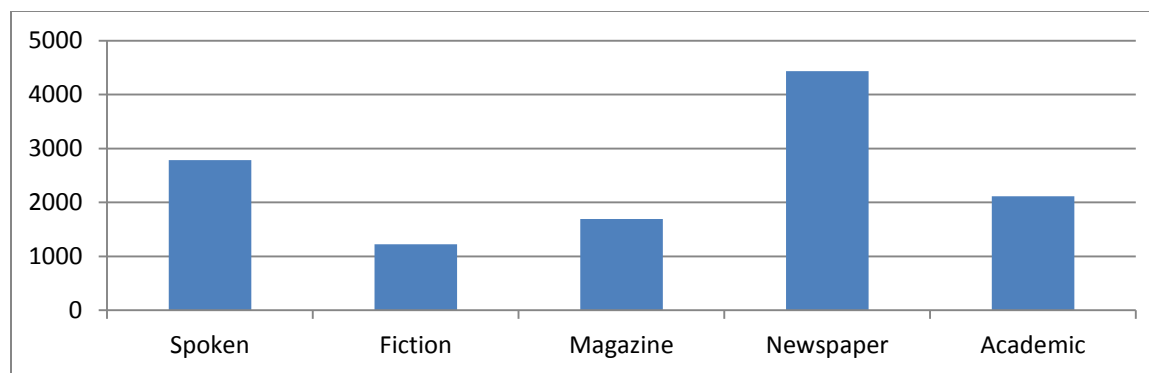
**Figure 3:** The raw frequency of the adjective *injured* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

According to Corpus of Contemporary American English this adjective mostly occurs in newspaper (2,009), including editorial section, news section, money section, sports section, and miscellaneous section. The adjective *injured* also appears in following registers: spoken (956), magazine (888), fiction (841), and academic (688).

### ***Homeless:***

The research analysis revealed that *homeless* is the most frequent adjective used in media texts formed adding a suffix *-less*. The suffix *-less* has a negative meaning, since it is usually used to express the failure or incapacity. The context where the adjective occurs is neither natural neither man-made disaster, it appears in CNN article reporting tragedy of a young sportsman's lifestyle before his death: "*There were times when homeless shelters turned away the family based on sheer numbers alone*" (Kramer, 2016). Thus, despite the fact that the adjective does not report any natural hazards, like earthquake, tsunami, etc., it may appear in describing personal tragedy, such as death.

The figure bellow shows the frequency of the most common adjective formed by adding a suffix *-less* used in reporting disasters and tragedies from the gathered CNN media texts (Figure 4).



**Figure 4:** The raw frequency of the adjective *useless* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

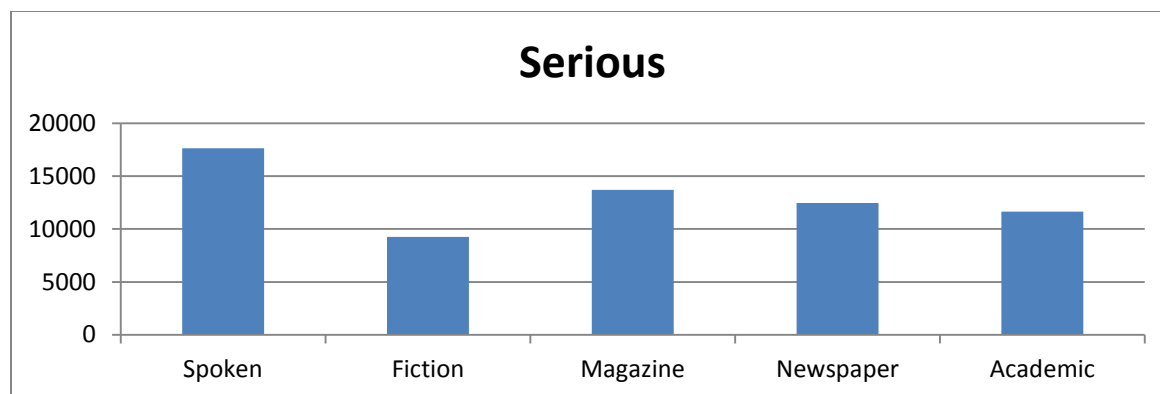
In accordance with Corpus of Contemporary American English, the adjective *homeless* mostly occurs in newspaper section (4,436). In the other sections, such as spoken (2,785), academic (2,113), magazine (1,695), and fiction (1,227) registers this particular adjective is less frequent.

#### ***Serious:***

The research shows that the adjective formed by adding a suffix *-ious* that occurs in media texts reporting tragedies and disasters most frequently is *serious*. This particular adjective might have both: positive and negative meaning, depending on the context. The positive meaning of *serious* is used to describe a Ukrainian victim's personality: "*But then when they saw I was serious about it, they let me get on with it*" (Saunders, 2017). It can be assumed that they let the girl go only because of her dignity. On the contrary to the previous example, the adjective *serious* can have a negative connotation. In the example, "*The boy was flown to Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital suffering serious bite wounds.*" (*Days of anguish over a river tragedy in Australia*, 2017) it can be seen that the adjective *serious* has a negative meaning, because the verb *suffering* and the noun *wounds* is related to pain. So, it can be concluded that the adjective *serious* is frequently used in media texts, since it might have the positive as well as negative meaning in reporting tragedies and disasters.

Figure 5 presents the frequency of the adjective *serious* formed with a suffix *-ious* gathered from BBC news and CNN news websites.





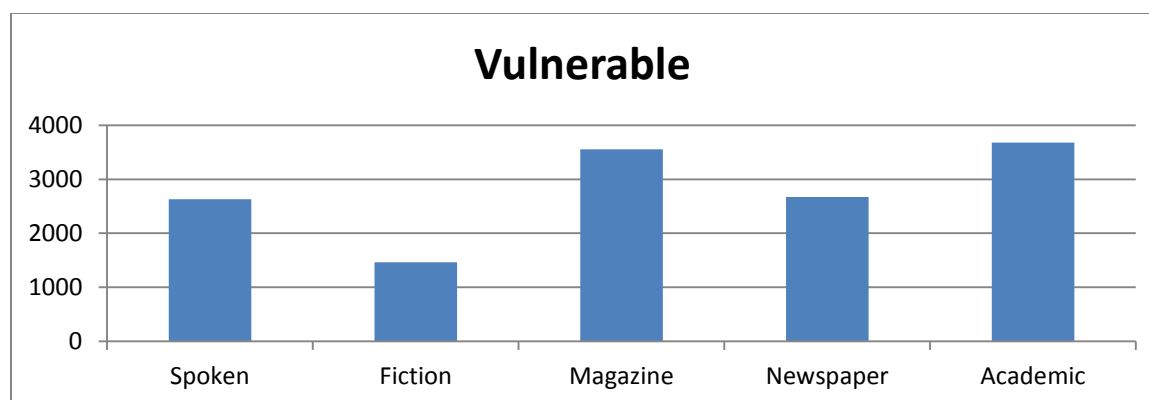
**Figure 5:** The raw frequency of the adjective *serious* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

According to the results, the highest frequency of this adjective has been set in the spoken section (17,621). The sections where low frequency was determined are the magazine (13,691), the newspaper (12,468), and the academic sections (11,651). The adjective *serious* rarely appears in the fiction section (9,260).

### ***Vulnerable:***

According to the research, *vulnerable* is the most frequent adjective formed with a suffix *-able* gathered from CNN website describing tragedies and disasters. This particular adjective is commonly used in defining susceptible and insecure people who are shocked about certain traumatic events. It goes without saying that people who have survived a particular disaster suffer from stress, depression, or deprivation. The example “*Vulnerable people, out of reach of life-saving assistance due to the conflict, are paying the ultimate price...*” (Jones, 2017) appears in describing man-made disaster in Africa. The adjective *vulnerable* is also used in reporting natural hazards, such as flooding in Paris: “*The works in vulnerable locations will be evacuated to higher levels as the Louvre responds to rapidly rising floodwaters in the French capital*” (Hume & Jordan, 2016). In this case the phrase *vulnerable locations* describe the places where the water might break and harm the arts. So, the adjective *vulnerable* occurs in CNN media texts describing man-made disasters as well as natural hazards.

Figure 6 shows the frequency of the most common adjective formed with a suffix *-able* gathered from CNN online article.



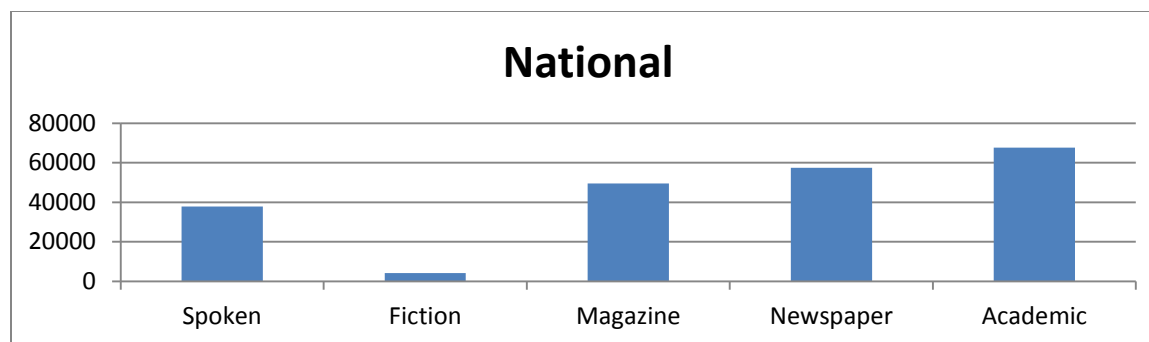
**Figure 6:** The raw frequency of the adjective *vulnerable* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

The corpus based analysis reveals that the adjective *vulnerable* most frequently used in academic (3,681) and magazine (3,555) sections. As it seen in the figure above, the frequency between other sections are quite similar: in newspaper register (2,670) the frequency of an adjective vulnerable is lightly higher than in spoken section (2,630). The fiction register has the lowest frequency (1,465) which is almost three times lower than the highest one.

### ***National:***

The adjective formed with a suffix *-al* that mainly occurs in media texts describing catastrophes is *national*. This adjective, similar to adjectives analysed before *social* and *public*, is related with people. It mostly occurs in the context of politics or economics, for example *national association*, *national council*, *national committee*, but this particular word is also used in reporting disasters and tragedies. In the example “*Buncrana in County Donegal became the focus of national media attention...*” (*Buncrana pier tragedy: 'Everyone felt it personally'*, 2017), it shows the scope of a disaster, that people were attracted not only locally but also nationally.

The figure bellow presents the frequency of the adjective *national* gathered from CNN media text describing tragedies and disasters (*Figure 7*).



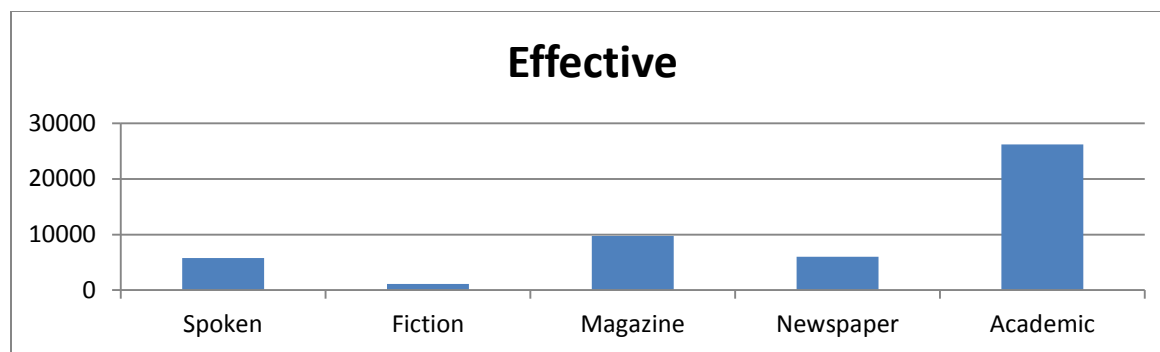
**Figure 7:** The raw frequency of the adjective *national* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

This adjective seems to be most frequent in the academic section (67,561), specifically in history, law as well as politics. Other sections: newspaper (57,460), magazine (49,420), spoken (37,867), fiction (4,061). As it can be seen from Figure 7, the adjective *national* occurs several times less in the fiction section comparing to the mentioned registers.

### ***Effective:***

Another most common adjective in media texts formed with a suffix *-ive* is *effective*. Usually, this particular adjective has a positive meaning, even reporting disasters and tragedies, since it shows the progression. It is worth mentioning that the adjective gathered from BBC news article has a negative as well positive meaning. In the example "*Stalin's closing of the Ukrainian border was so effective, nobody knew*" (Saunders, 2017). This particular adjective has a positive meaning describing Stalin's tactics, although the dictator's politics had serious consequences on people. So, in this case the adjective *effective* is used to describe man-made disasters, such as dictatorial government that had a negative impact on society.

The following figure depicts the frequency of the adjective *effective* gathered from BBC news article describing a man-made disaster (*Figure 8*).



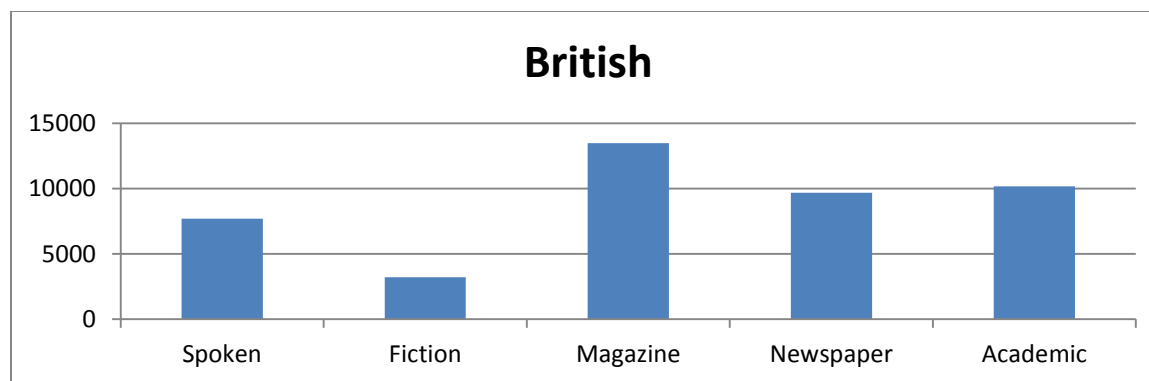
**Figure 8:** The raw frequency of the adjective *effective* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

The research findings revealed that the adjective most frequently occurs in the academic register (26,159). The second most frequent section is magazine (9,740). Lower frequency of this word was determined in newspaper (5,990) and spoken (5,764) sections. The adjective *effective* is rarely used in fiction (1114), almost five times less than in other sections.

### ***British:***

The most frequent adjective formed by adding a suffix *-ish* is *British*. The appearance of this adjective is not unexpected, since the research was carried out using the English press. The adjective gathered from CNN media text is used to report the 9/11 tragedy in the USA. In the example “*Not since the British people had burned down the White House in 1814 almost two centuries earlier had America's enemies succeeded in attacking the continental United States.*” (Bergen, 2016) the adjective *British* occurs in describing the tragic event that happened in 1814 which is compared to 9/11 tragedy in this particular article. Thus, it can be concluded that this particular adjective is used to report man-made disaster which took place in the USA.

The following Figure 9 presents the frequency of the most common adjective formed with a suffix *-ish* gathered from CCN media texts.



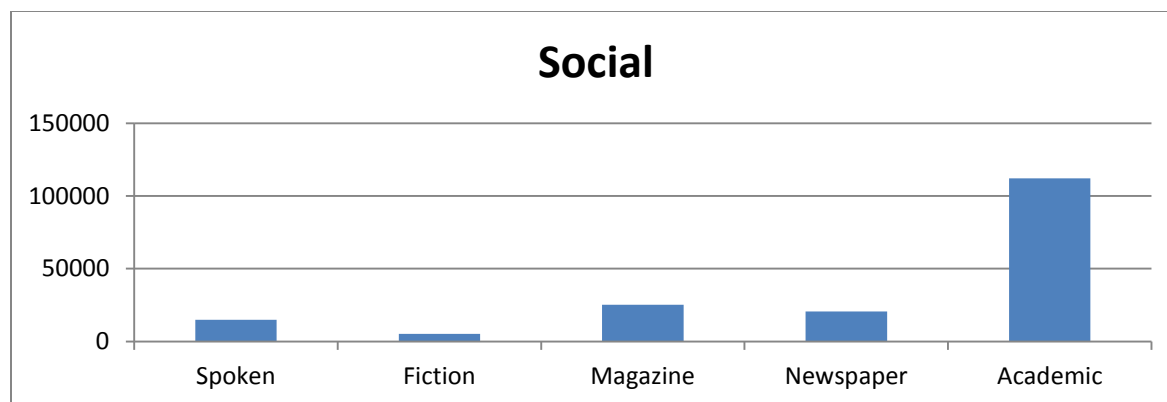
**Figure 9:** The raw frequency of the adjective *British* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

The research findings show the frequency of the word *British* as followed: magazine section (13,480), academic section (10,177), newspaper section (9,689), spoken section (7,698), and the lowest frequency determined in the fiction section (3,218). Although, according to the Corpus of Contemporary American English, this adjective most frequently appears in cultural context, *British* can be used in news contexts delivering information about tragedies and disasters.

### ***Social:***

The word *social* is the most frequent adjective formed with a suffix *-ial*. This particular word is usually related to society or community. Thus, it can often appear in media texts reporting sudden events that have a certain influence on people. According to the research data, the adjective *social* gathered from CNN article is used to describe the effective tool for transferring the news to people about the natural disaster, in this particular case – earthquake. For example: “...they found only the building's top story and roof visible above the snow, Italy's Mountain Rescue Service said on social media” (Nadeau, Veselinovic & Dewan, 2017). Thus, although there is no direct link between the adjective *social* and the certain tragedy, it is commonly used to report the news around the world using *social media*.

The following figure bellow shows the frequency of the adjective *social* gathered from CNN media text reporting a natural disaster (Figure 10).



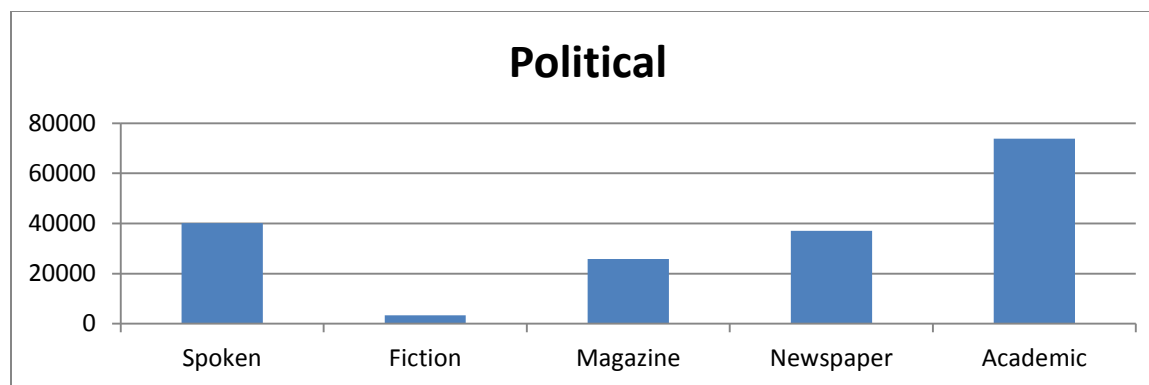
**Figure 10:** The raw frequency of the adjective *social* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

As shown in the Figure 10 the adjective *social* is most frequently appears in the academic section (112,028), following the magazine section (25,158), newspaper section (20,752), spoken section (15,026), and almost three times less frequent *social* used in the fiction section (5,164). Nevertheless, according to the corpus, *social* mostly occurs in the academic section, it is principally used in the geographical context which might be related to catastrophes as well.

### ***Political:***

The most frequent adjective formed with a suffix –ical *political* was determined by analyzing CNN media texts reporting tragedies and disasters. Politics is a crucial factor for tragedies and disasters, since political organizations are usually involved in the welfare of society. From the example, “*Indeed, bin Laden's principal political goal was to overthrow the Saudi royal family*” (Bergen, 2016) it can be concluded that the well-being of the people does not come first to Bin Laden, he would rather destroy the royal family which might affect many people and cause a lot of damage. So, the adjective *political* gathered from CNN media text is used to report man-made disasters, in this particular case – the danger of bin Laden’s political power.

The following Figure 11 depicts the frequency of the most common adjective formed with a suffix –ical gathered from CCN news website article describing tragedies and disasters.



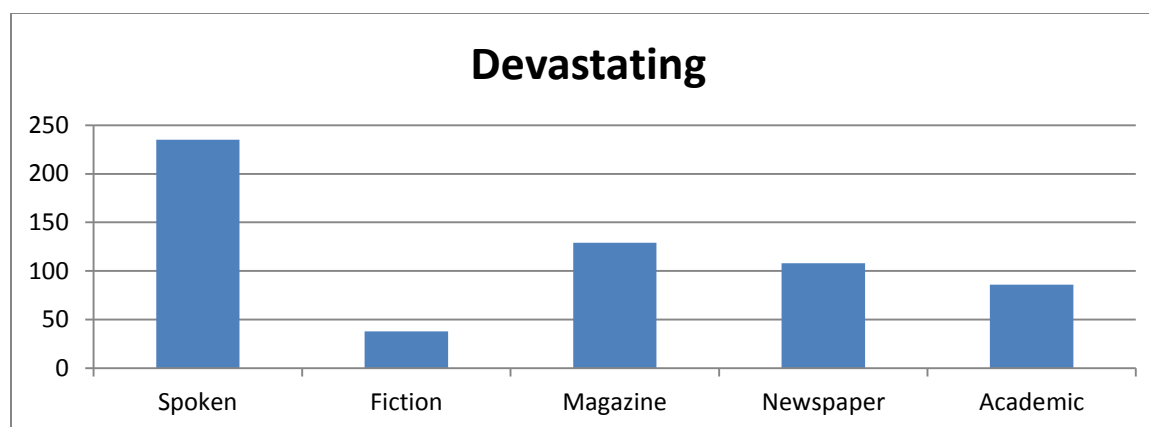
**Figure 11:** The raw frequency of the adjective *political* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

According to research analysis of the empirical data the adjective is most commonly used in the academic section (73,875), specifically in historical and political contexts. Other sections are spoken (40,179), newspaper (37,133), and magazine (25,782). The substantially lower frequency of the adjective *political* was discovered in the fiction section (3,412).

### ***Devastating:***

The most common adjective formed by adding a suffix *-ing* determined in CNN and BBC news media texts is *devastating*. It goes without saying that this particular adjective has a negative meaning which is commonly used expressing shocking events, such as natural hazards: “Rescuers in southern Colombia were scrambling Sunday to reach more than 100 people who are missing after devastating mudslides tore through entire communities”(Dewan, Deaton & Castillo, 2017). In this particular example *devastating* occurs in describing the mudslide which killed many people in Colombia. While, the adjective gathered from BBC news is used to express suffering and anguish after disastrous events, for example “It was the suddenness and swiftness of it, the devastating loss of life and the heroics” (Buncrana pier tragedy: ‘Everyone felt it personally’, 2017). It is used to emphasise the pain of the loss after the tragic event. So, the adjective gathered from English news websites describing man-made as well as natural disasters is used to emphasise the experiences of the victims.

The figure bellow represents the frequency of the adjective *devastating* gathered from media texts reporting tragedies and disasters (Figure 12).



**Figure 12:** The raw frequency of the adjective *likely* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

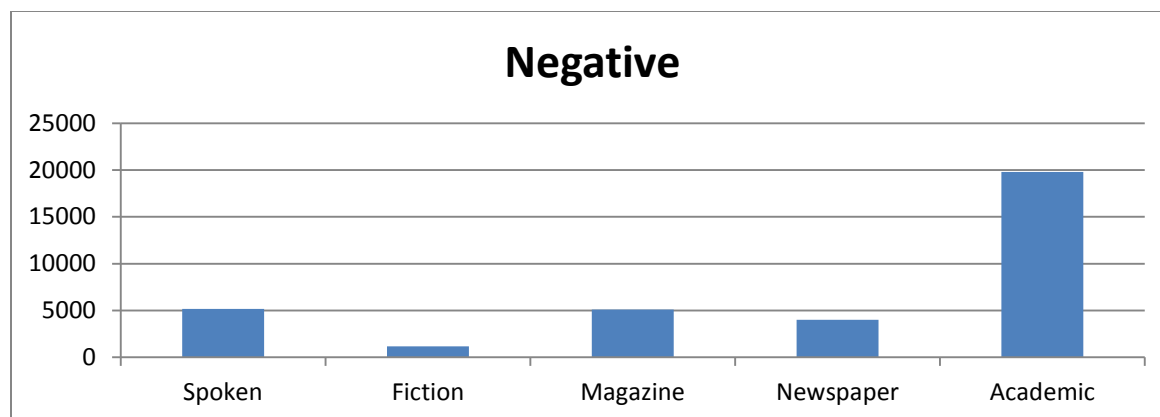
The research findings show that frequency of the adjective *devastating* in spoken section (235) is the highest. While the frequency of other sections drops from the highest to the lowest: magazine (129), newspaper (108), academic (86), and fiction (38) sections.

### ***Negative:***

The adjective *negative* in CNN or BBC news media texts is one of the most frequent ones used describing tragedies and disasters. It goes without saying that with the adjective *negative* can express only unfavourable situations or negative feelings, which are expected in the contexts of catastrophes. The adjective *negative* is used in reporting devastating events, for instance in the example “An earlier version of this story misstated the potential negative impact to gross domestic product growth from the rupee ban” (Iyengar, 2016), this particular adjective appears in describing the crisis in India that became a disaster to local people. Thus, it can be concluded that the adjective *negative* gathered from CNN article is used to describe the economic problems in India that leads to a large number of negative consequences.

The following Figure 13 shows the frequency of the most common adjective formed by adding a suffix *-ive* gathered from media texts reporting tragedies and disasters.





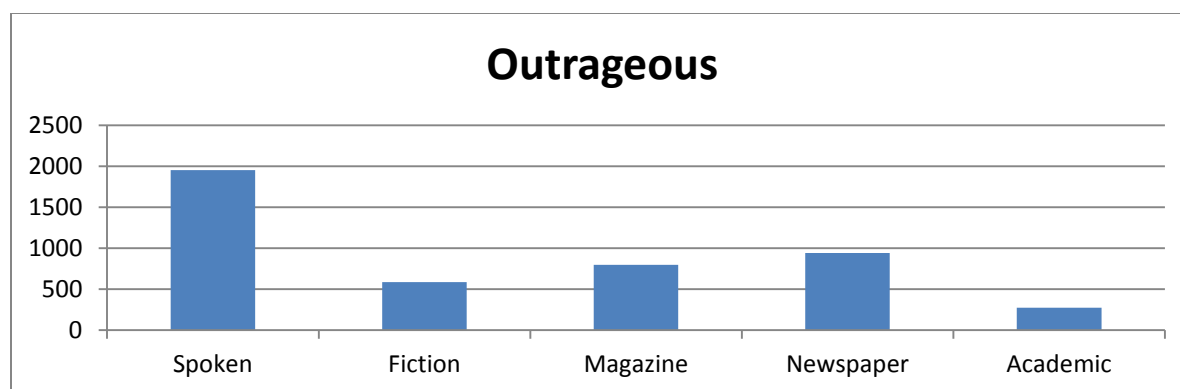
**Figure 13:** The raw frequency of the adjective *negative* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

According to Corpus of Contemporary American English, frequency of the adjective *negative* is significantly higher in academic (19,800) than in other sections. Spoken (5,163), magazine (5,094), and newspaper (4,015) sections slightly differ from each other, yet in the fiction register *negative* occurs very rarely (1,149).

### ***Outrageous:***

By analyzing the media texts describing tragedies and disasters the adjective *outrageous* was determined as a most common word formed by adding a suffix *-eous*. The adjective can be described as having the meaning of being cruel and abusive. Since tragedies and disasters cause great suffering this particular adjective is often used in the media texts reporting catastrophic events.

The following figure bellow depicts the frequency of the adjective *outrageous* gathered from the news website describing tragedies and disasters (*Figure 14*).



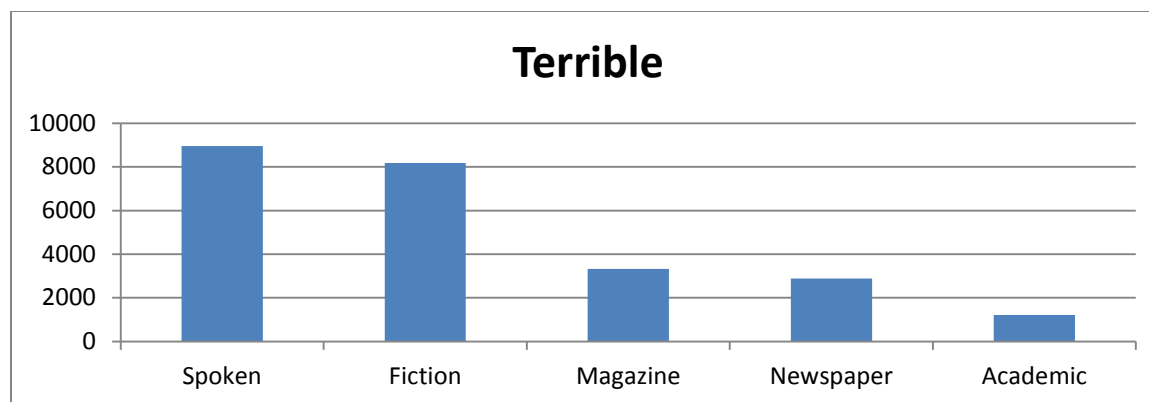
**Figure 14:** The raw frequency of the adjective *outrageous* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

The research findings revealed that *outrageous* has significantly highest frequency in spoken section (1,951), while in the academic register (276) *outrageous* occurs very rarely. Other sections marginally vary from each other: newspaper (941), magazine (797), and fiction (586). The highest frequency in spoken section is not surprising, since this particular adjective has a strong meaning in describing unusual or shocking events.

### ***Terrible:***

The adjective suffix *-ible* is commonly used in the English language and as equally important as the suffix *-able*. The most common word in media texts formed by a suffix *-ible* is the adjective *terrible*. It has a negative connotation and people usually connect the adjective *terrible* with horrible things, such as *terrible tragedy*, *terrible situation*. The adjective *terrible*, gathered from CNN article, describes the cruel al Qaeda's moves against people: "*Despite the fact, that after 9/11 it was obvious to al Qaeda insiders that their organization had taken a terrible beating...*" (Bergen, 2016). Thus, it can be concluded that this particular adjective is used to report not only tragic natural hazards or man-made disasters but also the actions of a terrorist group that cause danger to people.

Figure 15 bellow depicts the frequency of the adjective *terrible* gathered from the news website reporting tragedies and disasters.



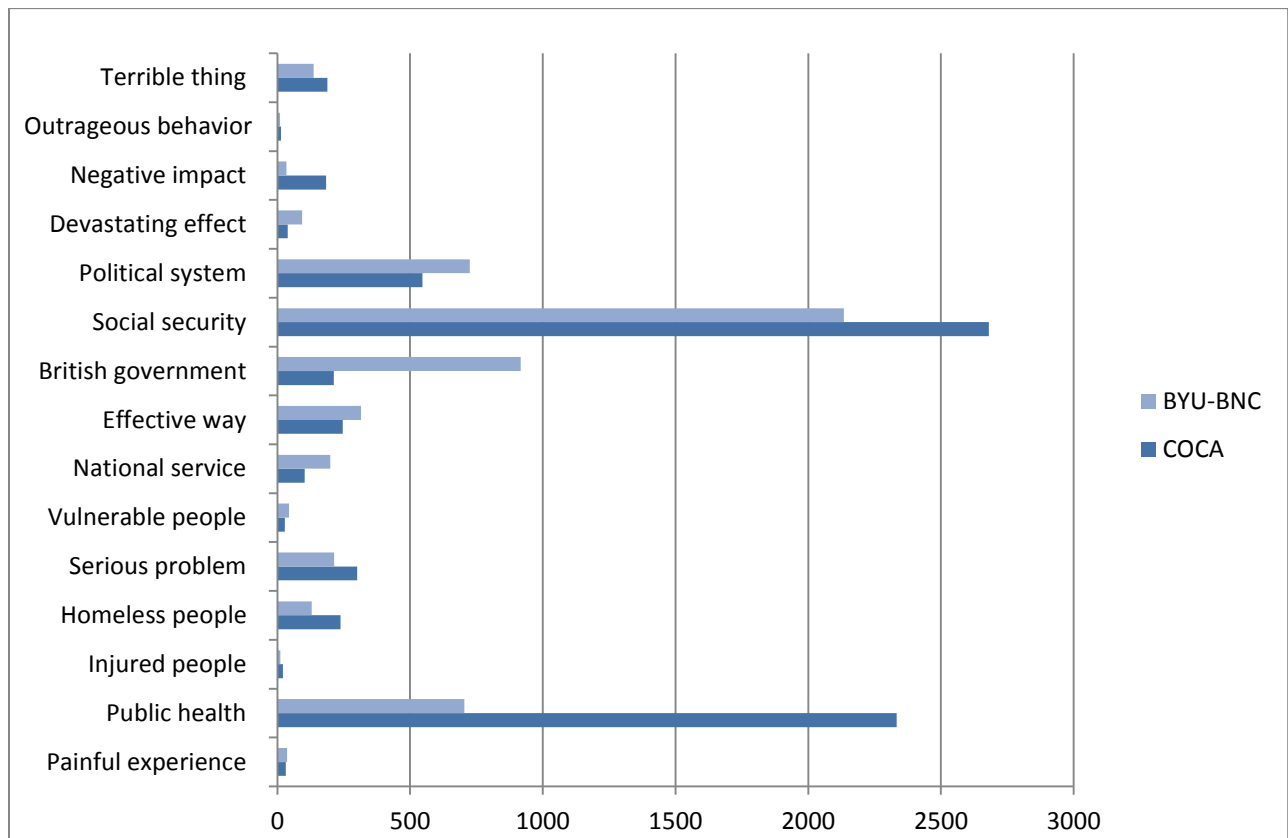
**Figure 15:** The raw frequency of the adjective *terrible* according to the data base of the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English)

As we can see from the Figure 15, all sections are descending moderately from highest to lowest. According to the results, the highest frequency of the adjective *terrible* has the spoken section (8,949), fiction (8,178) section has a quite high frequency too. The raw frequency based on statistic data revealed that in spoken section *terrible* occurs more frequent than in fiction sections, yet the difference between those two mentioned registers are no more than several hundred. Other three sections are magazine (3,332), newspaper (2,889), and academic (1,216).

## 2. The adjective and noun phrases from media texts reporting tragedies and disasters

In this section of the empirical part the most common adjective + noun phrases, i.e. adjectives and nouns that they modify were gathered from BBC news and CNN and the frequency of their usage was analyzed. According to the collected data, the most common adjective + noun phrases in media texts describing tragedies and disasters are the following fifteen adjective and noun phrases: *painful experience*, *public health*, *injured people*, *homeless people*, *serious problem*, *vulnerable people*, *national service*, *effective way*, *British government*, *social security*, *political system*, *devastating effect*, *negative impact*, *outrageous behavior*, and *terrible thing*.

The following Figure 1 below presents the frequencies of the adjective + noun phrases gathered from American (COCA) and British (BYU-BNC) corpora.



**Figure 1:** Comparison of most common adjective + noun phrases from media texts reporting tragedies and disasters in COCA and BYU-BNC

### ***Social security:***

Looking at the figure it can be seen that the most frequent *adjective and noun* phrase in both Corpus of Contemporary American English (2681) and British National Corpus (2134) is *social security*. According to COCA, the expression most frequently occurs in spoken section, yet the lowest frequency has the fiction section. However, in British National Corpus this particular phrase is mostly used in the academic section, following non-academic, and miscellaneous. The same as in COCA in BYU-BNC the section having the lowest frequency is fiction. Although, in British National Corpus the expression *social security* is mainly used in the academic register, it also appears in media texts describing tragedies and disasters.

### ***Public health:***

The second most frequent *adjective +noun* phrase in COCA is *public health* (2333). Although, this expression in BYU-BNC (704) appears a few times less than in COCA, it is still commonly used in media texts. Despite that, in COCA and BYU-BNC *public health* most frequently used in the academic register and the lowest frequency has fiction section. Other sections: spoken, non-academic, and miscellaneous.

### ***British government:***

While the *public health* phrase was the second most frequent in COCA, *British government* is the second most common one in BYU-BNC. In American corpus (213) this particular phrase appears approximately four times less than in British (917), which is not unexpected, since the American media texts focus on the local tragedies and disasters, while British press pays attention to their people or in this case government. From the chart, it is easy to see that the difference of usage of this phrase between American and British corpora is significant comparing to the other expressions that have been gathered. Yet, it is not the only one difference, because the register where the phrase appears most frequently in both corpora is diverse too. In COCA *British government* principally occurs in spoken section, while non-academic section was determined as the most frequent one in BYU-BNC. Despite the differences between the corpora, the expression *British government* is often used in media texts describing man-made and natural disasters, since the government is the crucial thing in developing a country and working for people's well-being.

### ***Political system:***

The phrase *political system* is the third most frequent one in COCA. The phrase mostly occurs in academic section, yet spoken, fiction, and magazine sections have a considerable frequency of *political system* too. According to collected data, this particular phrase is one of four most common expressions in BYU-BNC. Despite that, *political system* is more frequent in BYU-BNC (725) than in COCA (546). At first, it looks that *political system* can be related only to a political context.

### ***Effective way:***

Comparing to other expressions that have been discussed the frequency of the phrase *effective way* is significantly lower than already analysed ones (*political system*, *British government*, *public health*, *social security*). The frequency between those two corpora is fairly similar. *Effective way* appears more commonly (315) in BYU-BNC than in the American corpus. While in COCA the phrase has a slightly lower frequency (246). The main difference between corpora is that in COCA the expression is mainly used in spoken language, yet in BYU-BNC *effective way* is very frequent in miscellaneous section that includes advertisement, essay, religion, etc.

### ***Serious problem:***

The low frequency of *serious problem* is determined in American and British corpora which is quite unexpected since this phrase is very commonly used in media texts reporting catastrophic events. The empirical research data analysis shows that in COCA *serious problem* is more frequent (301), than in British corpus (214). This particular expression gives an expression that people are facing a lot of difficulties after tragic events, such as stress, depression, and other mental diseases, which cause serious consequences.

### ***Homeless people:***

The phrase *homeless people* is used as a result of tragedies and disasters. Although in COCA (238) this phrase is used almost twice more often than in BYU-BNC (129), the section where the expression is used the most frequently is the same - it is mainly used in newspaper register reporting international and national tragic events. Other registers are: non-academic,

spoken, academic, magazine. The section that has the lowest frequency in COCA and BYU-BNC is fiction.

### ***Terrible thing:***

The phrase *terrible thing* is quite frequent in both corpora. According to the collected data, the phrase is more frequent in COCA (188) than in British National Corpus (136). The difference of frequency between the registers has been noticed: in COCA the highest frequency has the spoken section, while the expression in BYU-BNC the phrase is mainly used in fiction. Despite the differences in corpora, *terrible thing* is commonly used in media language describing tragedies and disasters.

### ***National service:***

As already mentioned in the first part of the empirical survey, an adjective *national* is mostly used in political contexts. However, the phrase *national service* quite often appears in media texts describing tragedies and disasters. According to empirical data this particular expression is pretty common in both corpora, although the American one has a lower frequency than in British corpus. The difference of frequency in corpora is clearly visible; since in BYU-BNC (199) *national service* is nearly twice as frequent as in COCA (103). The sections where this particular phrase occurs in BYU-BNC are the following: non-academic, newspaper, miscellaneous, magazine, academic, fiction, and spoken, while the registers in COCA are magazine, spoken, newspaper, academic, fiction.

### ***Negative impact:***

The adjective *negative* in media texts is one of the most frequent ones used describing tragedies and disasters, however the phrase *negative impact* has a quite low frequency in COCA and BYU-BNC. Looking at the chart, it is obvious that the phrase has a considerably, almost three times, higher frequency in American corpus (129) than in BYU-BNC (50). This particular expression can be used in various contexts, like environmental, economical, medical, political, etc. Yet, *negative impact* can also be used in reporting devastating events. The sections where the phrase appears in the corpora are academic, newspaper, magazine, non-academic, miscellaneous.

It is worth mentioning that this phrase does not appear in BYU-BNC in the sections of spoken, fiction, and magazine.

### ***Devastating effect:***

The phrase *devastating effect* is very similar to already discussed one which is *negative impact*. Both expressions have negative meaning, but the adjectives and nouns have slightly different definitions. The previous one focuses on the actions affecting one another while the analysing expression might have significant long term consequences. Although, the phrase *negative impact* and *devastating effect* are similar, the frequency of those two phrases in corpora is totally different. According to the research findings, *devastating effect*, unlike the previous one, has a great frequency in BUY-BNC (93) and a much lower frequency in COCA (39). The sections where the expression occurs are the following: spoken, fiction, magazine, newspaper, academic, non-academic, miscellaneous.

### ***Vulnerable people:***

The expression *vulnerable people* is widely used in media texts, even though this phrase has a low frequency in corpora. In accordance with the results, frequency of *vulnerable people* in BYU-BNC (44) is slightly higher than in COCA (28). The section that has the highest frequency in the corpora is spoken, while the lowest section between COCA and BYU-BNC is different. In the American corpus this particular phrase rarely occurs in the fiction section, while in the British corpus *vulnerable people* in the magazine section does not appear at all. Despite the low frequencies in the corpora, the phrase is commonly used in defining susceptible and insecure people who are shocked about certain traumatic events.

### ***Painful experience:***

Although, the phrase *painful experience* has low frequency in corpora, it is commonly used in media texts describing tragic events. The expression has quite analogous frequency in American and British corpora. It is worth noting that frequency of the expression in BYU-BNC (37) is slightly higher than in COCA (32). The sections where the phrase is used are: spoken, academic, magazine, newspaper, and fiction.



### ***Injured people:***

The phrase *injured people* has low frequency in both corpora, however this phrase is often used in news websites reporting traumatic events. According to the results, the expression has two times higher frequency in COCA (21) than BYU-BNC (11). In American corpus the expression *injured people* is mainly used in spoken section, while in British National Corpus this expression determined in newspaper section. The section that has the lowest frequency differs too. In COCA the least section is academic, while the phrase in the British corpus does not appear in the sections of fiction and magazine. Other sections are spoken, non-academic, and miscellaneous.

### ***Outrageous behaviour:***

The phrase *outrageous behaviour* has lowest frequency in corpora and not as frequently used in media texts as other already analysed expressions. Notwithstanding the low frequencies, in COCA (14) the phrase mainly appears in the spoken section, while in BYU-BNC (10) *outrageous behaviour* is mostly used in magazine section. The adjective *outrageous* has been analysed in the first part of the empirical part as having a cruel and abusive definition. Despite the low frequencies in the corpora, this particular phrase is used in media texts.

## CONCLUSIONS OF THE EMPIRICAL PART

1. The empirical analysis revealed that the most frequently used adjectives formed with the derivational suffixes *-al, -ial, -ful, -ic, -ical, -ing, -ish, -ive, -ative, -less, -eous, -ious, -ous, -able, -ible* gathered from media texts describing tragedies and disasters are the following: *painful, public, injured, homeless, serious, vulnerable, national, effective, British, social, political, devastating, negative, outrageous, and terrible*.
2. The empirical research showed that the most common the adjective + noun phrases gathered from media texts reporting catastrophic events are: *painful experience, public health, injured people, homeless people, serious problem, vulnerable people, national service, effective way, British government, social security, political system, devastating effect, negative impact, outrageous behavior, and terrible thing*.
3. In terms of the semantic classification the context where the adjectives appear the most is man-made disasters. Eight out of fifteen most common adjectives are used to describe unnatural hazards, for example crisis, various accidents, etc. The smaller group of gathered adjectives are used to describe man-made disasters as well as natural hazards. The adjectives gathered from media texts rarely appear in describing natural disasters. Only three following adjectives out of fifteen are used to report natural hazards, like earthquake, landslide.

## CONCLUSION

1. The review on scientific literature of media language has been made. The concept of media linguistics can be described as study on language usage in the media. The major characteristic features of media linguistics are the following: media linguistic is used to interact with other Internet users so people could exchange information between each other, it can be used as a commodity in order to increase marketability, also media linguistics is regarded as rhetoric in order to divert people for their own benefit.
2. The investigation of adjectives based of several linguists has shown that:
  - 2.1. The adjective is a part of speech in English language which characterise words, usually nouns.
  - 2.2. The adjectives can have characteristic features: morphological, syntactic, and semantic. The morphological level focuses on the formation of adjectives. According to scientific literature, adjectives can be formed by using participial forms, adding derivational suffixes, and compounding. From the syntactic point of view adjectives modify nouns and state the possession. Adjective can also be classified into central adjectives that are subdivided into attributive and predicative ones, and peripheral adjectives. From the point of view of semantics, adjectives can be classified into two major sub-types: descriptors (focus on the description of adjectives) and classifiers (focus on the semantic classification of adjectives).
3. In order to carry out the empirical research fifteen most common adjectives formed with derivational suffixes *-al, -ial, -ful, -ic, -ical, -ing, -ish, -ive, -ative, -less, -eous, -ious, -ous, -able, -ible* were gathered from media texts. The research revealed that:
  - 3.1. Two out of fifteen most frequent adjectives gathered from media texts are formed by using participial forms *-ed* and *-ing*. The adjective *devastating* is derived from present participial verb *to devastate* by adding a suffix *-ing*. The adjective characterise the condition of damage that people face after the tragedies, for example *the devastating loss*. While the adjective having a suffix *-ed* is *injured* and it is derived from past participial verb *to injure*. This particular adjective is used describe the status of victims, like *injured people*.

- 3.2. The other adjectives formed with the mentioned derivational suffixes are the following: *national, political, social, public, serious, effective, British, negative, terrible, vulnerable, painful, homeless, and outrageous*.
4. The frequency of usage of the gathered adjective + noun phrases from news websites describing tragedies and disasters was analysed. Two corpora, British (BYU-BNC) and American (COCA), were used in order to determine the frequency of usage. The corpus based analysis of the gathered adjective + noun phrases has shown that:
- 4.1. In COCA the phrases most commonly where used in the spoken register, eight adjective + noun phrases, such as *social security, British government, serious problem, terrible thing, vulnerable people, painful experience, injured people, outrageous behaviour*. Following the academic section, the five phrases that appear in this particular register are *public health, political system, effective way, negative impact, and devastating event*. In newspaper section the phrase appears only once (*homeless people*) as well as in the magazine section (*national service*).
- 4.2. The findings based on the British corpus are slightly different. The register where the adjective + noun phrases appear the most frequent is non-academic, six phrases occur in this particular section, such as *British government, political system, serious problem, national service, negative impact, painful experience*. In the academic register two adjective + noun phrases appear which are: *social security, public health*. In the section of newspaper the phrases *homeless people* and *injured people* occur. The sections where the adjective + noun phrases appear only once are the following: spoken (*vulnerable people*), magazine (*outrageous behaviour*), fiction (*terrible thing*), and miscellaneous (*effective way*). It is worth mentioning that the adjective + noun phrase *devastating event* does not appear in any of the registers in BYU-BNC.
5. The frequency of the most commonly used adjectives and adjective + noun phrases formed with the suffixes: *-al, -ial, -ful, -ic, -ical, -ing, -ish, -ive, -ative, -less, -eous, -ious, -ous, -able, -ible* gathered from the news websites reporting tragedies and disasters using American (COCA) and British (BYU-BNC) corpora is:
- 5.1. According to analysed data the frequencies of the adjectives are the following: *national* (216,381), *political* (180,381), *social* (177,128), *public* (158,538), *serious* (64,961), *effective* (48,767), *British* (44,262), *negative* (35,221), *terrible* (24,564), *vulnerable*

*(14,001), painful (12,624), homeless (12,256), injured (5,382), outrageous (4,551), devastating (596).*

5.2 Although for the fifteen adjective + noun phrases the chosen adjectives were the same, the frequencies of the expressions are different from single adjectives. The frequency of the phrases is the following: *social security (4815), public health (3037), political system (1271), British government (1130), effective way (561), serious problem (515), homeless people (367), terrible thing (324), national service (302), negative impact (217), devastating effect (132), vulnerable people (72), painful experience (69), injured people (32), outrageous behavior (24).*

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## RESUME

La langue des médias, qui est une partie essentielle des médias sociaux, peut être décrite comme une étude sur l'utilisation des langues dans les médias. La linguistique des médias peut être définie comme un outil pour diffuser l'information et les idées, utilisée comme marchandise, et pourrait être considérée comme une rhétorique. Les caractéristiques linguistiques rendent la langue beaucoup plus colorée, de sorte que les gens choisissent d'utiliser des adjectifs, des verbes phrastiques, des pronoms pour rendre leur discours «en vie». Les caractéristiques linguistiques se concentrent sur le lexique qui consiste en idiomes, collocations, adjectifs, etc. Les adjectifs sont l'un des éléments lexicaux qui enrichissent la langue. Les adjectifs sont capables de caractériser les personnes ou les sujets et sont généralement modifiés par des noms ou des pronoms. Ils peuvent être classés au centre et à la périphérie. Cette partie particulière de la parole peut être définie par trois caractéristiques: morphologique, syntaxique et sémantique.

L'objectif de cet article est d'analyser les adjectifs décrivant les tragédies et les catastrophes dans les textes médiatiques des sites Web d'actualités, du CNN américain (The Cable News Network) et de la BBC britannique (British Broadcasting Corporation).

Deux sources ont été choisies pour la collecte de données de recherche, les sites de nouvelles BBC news et CNN. Une approche mixte à base de corpus de méthodes quantitatives et qualitatives a été utilisée pour traiter les données. Les corpus utilisés pour l'analyse sont BYU-BNC et COCA. Au total, quinze adjectifs et quinze collimations adjectifs + nom ont été recueillis pour l'analyse. Les résultats sur les attributions d'adjectifs + les noms sont les plus fréquents.

L'analyse empirique a révélé que les adjectifs les plus fréquemment utilisés se sont formés avec les suffixes dérivés -al, -serveur, -l'homme, -ic, -ical, -ing, -ish, -ive -ative, -less. Les résultats obtenus à partir de textes médiatiques décrivant des tragédies et des catastrophes sont les suivants: douloureux, publics, blessés, sans-abri, sérieux, vulnérables, nationaux, efficaces, britanniques, sociaux, politiques, dévastateurs, négatifs, scandaleux et terrible.

La recherche empirique a montré que les termes les plus courants de l'adjectif + les phrases nominales recueillies à partir des textes médiatiques signalant des événements catastrophiques

sont: expérience douloureuse, santé publique, personnes blessées, sans-abri, problème grave, personnes vulnérables, service national, moyen efficace, gouvernement britannique, social Sécurité, système politique, effet dévastateur, impact négatif, comportement scandaleux et terrible. En ce qui concerne la classification sémantique, le contexte où les adjectifs apparaissent le plus sont les catastrophes causées par l'homme. Huit des quinze adjectifs les plus courants sont utilisés pour décrire les dangers non naturels, le plus petit groupe d'adjectifs recueillis est utilisé pour décrire les catastrophes causées par l'homme ainsi que les dangers naturels. Les adjectifs recueillis à partir des textes médiatiques apparaissent rarement dans la description des catastrophes naturelles.

## APPENDIX 1:

**Table 1:** The adjectives formed by adding derivational suffixes gathered from media texts

<b>-al</b>	<b>-ial</b>	<b>-ful</b>	<b>-ic</b>	<b>-ical</b>	<b>-y</b>	<b>-ish</b>	<b>-ive</b>
Legal	Special	Painful	Psychiatric	Historical	Likely	Selfish	Alive
Final	Commercial	Beautiful	Historic	Economical	Lovely	British	Effective
Annual	Material	Truthful	Dramatic	Theological	Heavy	Spanish	Automotive
National	Official	Dreadful	Cyclonic	Tropical	busy	English	collective
Global	Unofficial	Forceful	Barometric	Critical		Danish	active
Physical	Official	cheerful	Plastic	Logical			
Coastal	Financial		Problematic	Physical			
International	social		Erotic				
Capital			Scientific				
Central			Atmospheric				
Local							
Thermal							
Fatal							

<b>-ative</b>	<b>-ing</b>	<b>-(e)ous</b>	<b>-ious</b>	<b>-able</b>	<b>-ible</b>	<b>-ed</b>
native	Annoying	Dangerous	serious	Uncomfortable	Terrible	Injured
Alternative	Confusing	Glamorous	suspicious	recognisable	possible	Alleged
Appropriative	Depressing	Famous	Conscious	reasonable	responsible	Accused
Negative	Frightening	Religious	Various	bearable	Visible	Labelled
Provocative	Shocking	Anonymous	Obvious		Forcible	Unchanged
	frustrating	Horrendous				Devastated
						Separated
						Manufactured
						Standardised
						Untapped
						Determined

## APPENDIX 2:

**Table 2:** The adjectives + noun phrases gathered from media texts

Social security	Serious problem	Homeless people	Vulnerable people	Painful experience
Public health	Effective way	Terrible thing	Devastating effect	Injured people
Political system	British government	National service	Negative impact	Outrageous behaviour