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Martin Körner

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Jméno a příjmení: **Martin Körner**
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Cílem této bakalářské práce je zmapovat výskyt souslednosti časové v nepřímé řeči v jazyce novinových zpráv. V teoretické části autor nejprve představí koncept nepřímé řeči a charakterizuje ji z hlediska funkce a formy (např. pozice uvozovací věty, deiktická orientace). Dále krátce představí téma vyjadřování času a deiktických posunů v nepřímé řeči obecně, detailněji pak vysvětlí souslednost časovou z hlediska gramatického a pragmatického. Okomentuje též případy, kdy k souslednosti časové nedochází. Pro účely analýzy sestaví korpus čítající dostatečné množství výskytů nepřímé řeči; výskyt či absenci souslednosti časové interpretuje na gramatické, pragmatické a stylistické rovině, zejména v souvislosti s komunikačním cílem žánru novinové zprávy.

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PhDr. Zuzana Nádraská, Ph.D.

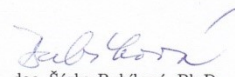
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prof. PhDr. Karel Rýdl, CSc.
děkan



doc. Šárka Bubíková, Ph.D.
vedoucí katedry

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ANNOTATION

This bachelor thesis focuses its attention on the analysis of application or eventually non-application of backshift in indirect speech in the discourse of newspaper reports. The theoretical part starts with a brief overview of the English tense system. Furthermore, it provides a definition of indirect speech and its characteristics, including the conditions under which the phenomenon of backshift is or is not applied, and eventually introduces the discourse of newspaper reports. The practical part of the paper deals with the analysis of indirect speech occurrences selected from online versions of British daily newspapers. It especially focuses on the frequency with which individual types of indirect speech occur and the reasons behind the application or non-application of the phenomenon of backshifting.

KEYWORDS

Indirect speech, backshift, tense, newspaper reports

NÁZEV

Souslednost časová v nepřímé řeči v diskurzu novinových článků

ANOTACE

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá analýzou aplikace či případné neaplikace časové souslednosti v nepřímém projevu v jazyce novinových zpráv. Teoretická část nejprve v krátkosti představuje anglický systém slovesných časů. Dále pak definuje nepřímou řeč a její specifika, včetně podmínek za kterých dochází či nedochází k aplikaci časové souslednosti. Nakonec ještě představí diskurz novinových článků. Praktická část této práce se zabývá analýzou výskytů nepřímé řeči vybraných z elektronických verzí britských deníků. Analýza se zaměřuje konkrétně na četnost výskytů jednotlivých druhů nepřímé řeči a důvody pro použití nebo nepoužití časové souslednosti.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA

Nepřímá řeč, časová souslednost, slovesný čas, novinové články

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0 INTRODUCTION

This bachelor thesis deals with the phenomenon of backshifting in indirect speech in the language of newspaper reports, which is different to the language we use to communicate with our surroundings. The aim is to analyse the occurrences of indirect forms of reported language, selected for the purpose of the this paper from online versions of British daily newspapers, on grammatical, stylistic and pragmatic level in order to establish the circumstances under which the backshift is applied and under which it is not.

The paper is divided into two main sections. The first one is intended to provide the theoretical background for the analysis and consists of several subsections. It starts with a brief introduction of the English tense system. Next, the concept of indirect speech is addressed. It is characterised especially in terms of its forms and functions. Then, the focus is moved on the phenomenon of backshift of verb tense forms in indirect discourse. The issue is discussed from the point of view of various linguists. Individual approaches are compared with each other. Besides the conditions under which the tense is backshifted, also those under which no backshift is applied are commented on. Moreover, shifts of other sentence elements connected with indirect reporting are described. Last but not least, the discourse of newspaper reports is being dealt with and since the examples selected for the analytical part come exclusively from serious British daily newspapers, namely the *Guardian* and the *Independent*, the type of language and typical features used in such press are addressed.

The analytical part of this thesis is concerned with mapping the application or non-application of backshift in indirect discourse of newspaper reports. For the purpose of the analysis, a corpus of 200 samples of non-direct forms of reported language was compiled. The samples were gathered from randomly selected articles published in the online versions of the aforementioned newspapers during the period from 1 February to 31 March 2017. The chosen articles cover a whole range of various fields including politics, sport, environmental issues, etc. The analysed instances of indirect statements with backshifted and non-backshifted verb tense forms are evaluated from grammatical, stylistic and pragmatic point of view, all with respect to the communicative goal of the genre of newspaper reports.

1 ENGLISH TENSE SYSTEM

Since this thesis is concerned with the backshift of tense forms in indirect speech in newspaper reports, it might perhaps be useful to begin the paper with a concise definition of tense and a brief overview of the English tense system.

Most linguistic publications appeal to the reader not to confuse tense with time. The difference between them is probably best explained by Declerck who stresses that the concept of time is related to way we perceive the world around us and exists separately from linguistics, while in case of tense we talk about a grammatical category connected with different verb forms that we use to specify the time when something happened. (Declerck 2004, 94) Whereas individual linguists agree on this definition, their opinions about the number of tenses the English language has vary. For instance, Biber et al. believe that there are only two tenses in English because verbs can only be inflected to express past or present tense (sometimes also called non-past tense). Other categories of the tense system are then created by combining these tenses with modal auxiliaries. (Biber et al. 1999, 453) The same view is taken by Quirk et al., who also claim that in terms of morphology there are no more than two tenses in English. (Quirk et al. 1991, 176) On the other hand, Declerck argues that there is no reason why tenses could not be expressed any other way than morphologically. He holds the opinion that English has as many tenses as can be formed either by means of morphological inflections or by the use of auxiliaries. (Declerck 2004, 96)

In accordance with Declerck's theory, English has the following list tenses, which is supplemented by corresponding forms of the verb *work* for illustration:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Present tense | <i>works/is working</i> |
| 2. Past tense | <i>worked/was working</i> |
| 3. Present perfect tense | <i>has worked/has been working</i> |
| 4. Past perfect tense | <i>had worked/had been working</i> |
| 5. Future tense | <i>will work/will be working</i> |
| 6. Future perfect tense | <i>will have worked/will have been working</i> |
| 7. Conditional tense | <i>would work/would be working</i> |
| 8. Conditional perfect tense | <i>would have worked/would have been working</i> |

On top of that, Declerck distinguishes between absolute tenses and relative tenses. Put simply, he works with the theory that there are two distinct ways of using tenses in English in terms of their time references (see chapter 3.1). (Declerck 2004, 97) For the purposes of this paper, both of the mentioned approaches to tense will be taken into account, since not only their views on the number tenses in but also the way these linguists deal with shifts of verb tense forms in indirect speech are different.

2 REPORTED SPEECH

Having discussed the English tense system, we can move on to another topic, which is the reported speech. Quirk et al. state that when we want to report someone's language, there are two main ways in which it can be done. Firstly, the reporter can repeat the exact words the original speaker has used, in which case the reported utterance is embedded in quotation marks. Secondly, the reporter may use his or her own words to relay the content of the original message to the hearer or reader. (Quirk et al. 1991, 2020) The former method is called direct speech and the latter is called indirect speech. In both cases the reported message is usually introduced by a clause, which signals that the words belong to someone else and provides some background information. However, Quirk et al. mention that each of these methods has its subcategory in which the signalling clause is missing. They call them free direct speech and free indirect speech. (Quirk et al. 1991, 1021) While in case of free direct speech the boundaries of the reported language are still clearly marked by quotation marks, in case of free indirect speech the situation is a little more complicated (see chapter 2.3).

2.1 Indirect speech

The methods of reporting other people's language have been identified, focus may be turned to indirect speech. Although the definition of indirect speech varies from linguist to linguist, the basic idea remains the same. The definition by Quirk et al. says that indirect speech "conveys in the words of a subsequent reporter what has been said or written by the original speaker or writer." At the same time they add that the original author may be the reporter himself. (Quirk et al. 1991, 1021) Although, they do not differ in terms of form and function, some linguists like Semino and Short treat indirect speech and indirect writing as separate categories and add indirect thought as a third category of reported language. However, the problem with indirect thought is that it reports someone's mental state and, therefore, cannot be directly perceived. The result is just the closest possible representation, in the words of the reporter, of what was thought. (Semino and Short 2004, 127)

So much for the basic definition of indirect speech, now it is time to look at its structure. Indirect speech usually takes the form of a complex sentence consisting of a reporting clause and a reported one, unless we are talking about free indirect speech where the reporting clause is omitted. As described in Quirk et al., reporting clause is "referring to the speaker and the act of communication in speech or writing" (e.g. *he said, he wrote*) or possibly mental events

(e.g. *he thought*), but may also refer “to the person or persons spoken to” (e.g. *he told them*), as well as “to the manner of speaking or to the circumstances of the speech act” (e.g. *she whispered, she said while biting her nails*). (Quirk et al. 1991, 1020) Thompson and Yiyun add that that the choice of the reporting verb may also signal the attitude of the original speaker or the subsequent reporter towards the validity of the message. (Thompson and Yiyun 1991, 372-373) In addition to that, Semino and Short object that sometimes “the reporting clause includes verbs that indicate the perspective of the receiver rather than the producer of the utterance.” As an example they mention the verbs *hear* and *learn*. (Semino and Short 2004, 81) Thompson also suggests that besides the traditional reporting clause, there are more ways to introduce the report and mentions adjectives, adjuncts and nouns as other possible options. (Thompson 1996, 518-524) Nonetheless, such reporting signals do not contain a finite verb tense form and, therefore, are not relevant for the purposes of this paper.

Concerning the other half of the sentence, the reported clause, Quirk et al. state that it “refers to the utterance itself.” (Quirk et al. 1991, 1020) The structure of the clause depends to a large extent on the type of sentence that is being reported. Quirk et al. provide the following summary of possible constructions:

INDIRECT STATEMENT:	<i>that</i> -clause
INDIRECT QUESTION:	dependent <i>wh</i> -clause
INDIRECT EXCLAMATION:	dependent <i>wh</i> -clause
	<i>that</i> -clause
INDIRECT DIRECTIVE:	{ <i>to</i> -infinitive clause (without subject)

(Quirk et al. 1991, 1029)

In newspaper discourse, indirect speech is usually used to report statements and thus takes the form of a nominal *that*-clause. However, regarding the conjunction *that*, Biber et al. claim that it is often omitted from the reported clause and although it is predominantly the case of conversations, this phenomenon also appears, to a lesser extent, in news reports. (Biber et al. 1999, 12) Besides statements, *that*-clauses may be used for reporting directives (e.g. requests, invitations, suggestions, etc.), in which case they typically contain a modal verb. (Thompson 1996, 516) Another structure used for indirect directives, such as commands and orders, is a *to*-infinitive clause. Nevertheless, since such a clause starts with a verb in an infinitive form, no shift in tense is possible. For this reason, occurrences of *to*-infinitive clauses will not be

included in the analysis. Similarly, the instances of an *-ing* participle will be omitted, as it is also a non-finite verb form that cannot be backshifted. The last type of clause mentioned in the summary is a *wh*-clause. This type of clause is used for reporting someone's questions or exclamations. It is usually in the form of a statement and begins with a *wh*-word. However, Thompson implies that not all the questions can be reported in this way and mentions a *whether/if*-clause as another structure used when reporting interrogative sentences. (Thompson 1996, 516) Quirk et al. also address this sentence structure, which is used to make indirect reports of *yes-no* questions or alternative questions, but they do not include it in the overview.

In relation to the structure of reported clauses, Semino and Short also make a mention of what they call a "quotation phenomena", which means that the reported clause of indirect representation contains one or a whole stretch of directly quoted words enclosed by quotation marks. (Semino and Short 204, 54) However, Thompson argues that the fact that a passage of text is placed within quotation marks does not necessarily mean that it is a word-by-word representation of what someone said or wrote. Thompson, who refers to Tannen's earlier work, claims that there are two main functions of text put between inverted commas. The first one is that the reporter wants to emphasise that the original utterance is faithful and the second one is that he or she wants to convey the message in a manner as close as possible to the original event of speech. He recognises one more function which is that for some reason the reporter may want to distance himself from the quoted piece of language. (Thompson 1996, 512-513) Besides that, Thompson 1996 says that inverted commas may be used to highlight some specialised terms that may not be known to the reader. (Thomson 1996, 509) Nevertheless, Semino and Short state that a direct quote embedded in an indirect reported clause influences neither the grammar nor semantics of indirect reports. (Semino and Short 2004, 55) Therefore, such sentences will be included in the analysis.

2.2 Position of a reporting clause

Although the clause, which provides the information about the original speaker or another source of the reported material, is relatively often placed at the beginning of the sentence, it is not always the case. In fact, its position may vary depending on the type of discourse and, with regards to newspaper reports, Biber et al. claim that it is the final position which is preferred. (Biber et al. 1999, 923) In addition to the two mentioned positions, the reporting

clause can sometimes appear in the middle of a sentence in a so-called medial position. Each position then serves a slightly different purpose.

2.2.1 Initial position

Initial position of the reporting clause means that it precedes the reported clause. Biber et al. state that this position is advantageous as it allows left expansion of the reporting clause of different kinds, including adverbials of time and place or *ing*-clauses. (Biber et al. 1999, 924) According to Biber et al., in vast majority of cases reporting clauses that are placed in the initial position take the subject-verb order. They add that regarding indirect reports, similar rules to subject-verb inversion in general apply, meaning more communicative importance is put on the element that is placed last. (Biber et al. 1999, 922-925) Biber et al. demonstrate their findings on examples of direct speech; however, the rules apply to indirect speech as well. Thompson also suggests that the position of the reporting clause is connected to the relation between the theme and the focus where the focus indicates which information in the sentence is new. (Thompson 1996, 518-519) In this case, the information that is new is the content of the message.

2.2.2 Final position

Final position of the reporting clause means that the attribution follows the reported message. In such a case, the conjunction *that* is left out and the reporting clause is separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma. Biber et al. say that unlike reporting clauses placed in the initial position, final reporting clauses frequently contain right expansions. Adverbials of time and manner, specification of the addressee and *ing*-clauses are amongst the most common expansions. (Biber et al. 1999, 924) Biber et al. also state that in final reporting clauses an inverted subject-verb order is fairly common in news reports and add that the reason for using inversion might be that it is easier to post-modify the subject when it is placed at the end of the clause. (Biber et al. 1999, 925) Regarding the relation between the theme and the focus, in this case, the reported clause is moved from its unmarked position to the front of the sentence, which would mean that the information in the reported clause is given less importance than the clause identifying the source. However, Biber et al. claim that, in fact, when the reporting clause is placed at the end of the sentence, it receives less stress than the reported utterance. (Biber et al. 1999, 924)

2.2.3 Medial position

Medial position of the reporting clause means that the signalling clause interrupts the reported utterance. Just like those placed at the end of the sentence, medial reporting clauses do not make a use of the conjunction *that* and are separated from reported material by commas. Thompson says that the reason for moving the attribution in the medial position is to imitate the original act of communication. (Thompson 1996, 517) However, according to the corpus compiled by Biber et al., authors of news reports tend to place reporting clauses in the medial position much less frequently than in the initial or final position. They claim that the reason is that the reporting clause placed in the middle of a sentence disrupts the information flow of the reported message and also offers fewer options for expansion. They add that reporting clauses in the medial position, like those in the final position, often contain an inverted subject-verb order. (Biber et al. 1999, 921-923)

2.3 Free indirect speech

Except for the fact that the position of the reporting clause can vary, Quirk et al. state that sometimes the reporting clause may be omitted completely from indirect speech. Such form of indirect reporting is called free indirect speech. They add that when there is no reporting clause, the only signal that the reported words are not directly repeated after the author of the original utterance is “the backshift of the verb, together with equivalent shifts in personal pronouns, demonstratives, and time and place references.” (Quirk et al. 1991, 1032) However, Semino and Short claim that there are no prototypical features of free indirect speech and that it is rather a combination of the deictic and other features which normally appear in indirect discourse as well as those which are connected with the direct one, resulting in a structure in which is difficult to recognise whether the words belong to the original speaker or to the reporter. (Semino and Short 2004, 11-13)

3 BACKSHIFT

Having covered the English tense system and the structure of indirect reports, attention can be turned to the phenomenon of backshifting. As was already mentioned, indirect speech does not repeat the original speaker's exact words. Otherwise speaking, indirect reporting always involves some changes in wording. While some of these changes are optional, for example, using synonyms, others are required. The term backshift refers particularly to the adjustment of tenses of verbs. However, Comrie adds that "apart from tense, all the other elements sensitive in the speaker's original utterance to his deictic centre are shifted to correspond to the deictic centre of the person reporting this utterance." (Comrie 1985, 108) These sensitive elements include personal pronouns, adverbials of time and place, and demonstratives. Quirk et al. imply that besides changes in tense of verbs and the mentioned deictic expressions, some "further changes may be required to identify references in the original utterance that may not be known to the person receiving the report, for example, the identity of persons or things referred to by pronouns." (Quirk et al. 1991, 2026)

3.1 Backshift of tenses

Backshift of tenses in indirect speech is a complicated issue discussed across linguistic publications and the views of individual linguists diverge. However, the basic approach to this issue provided in most grammar books seems to be the sequence of tenses rule. For example, Quirk et al. define it as a "relationship of verb forms in the reporting and reported clauses" of an indirect statement made at the time when the time references of the original utterance are no longer valid. (Quirk et al. 1991, 1026) In other words, when the verb in the reporting clause is in the past tense and the content of the original message is no longer relevant at the time of reporting, the tense of the verbs in the reported clause is shifted back into the past. Quirk et al. provide the following table to illustrate the changes:

DIRECT SPEECH	BACKSHIFTED IN INDIRECT SPEECH
(i) present	~ past
(ii) past	~ past or past perfective
(iii) present perfective	} ~ past perfective
(iv) past perfective	

(Quirk et al. 1991, 1026)

Nevertheless, the overview makes no mention of how to treat future tenses. Comrie, who devotes considerable attention to this issue, claims that when switching from direct to indirect speech, future tense is replaced by conditional future tense which is used to express future in the past. (Comrie 1985, 109)

Here, it should be noted that the tense in indirect speech does not have to be the subject to backshift every time. Quirk et al. summarise some conditions under which the sequence of tenses rule does not apply. Firstly, there is no backshift when the verb in the reporting clause is in the present tense. Secondly, as indicated in the overview above, the past perfect tense remains unchanged in indirect speech because it places the situation prior to a certain time in the past, which means that it expresses “past in the past” and no further shift is thus possible. Furthermore, backshift is optional in utterances that contain universal truths (e.g. aphorisms, proverbs, physical laws, etc.) or in those whose time-reference is still valid at the time of reporting, for example, when the original statement is reported within a few moments. However, the validity may be much longer. Quirk et al. also mention that if the reported clause, which is subordinate to the reporting clause, itself contains a subordinate clause, the current validity may apply only to the last clause. They give the following example for illustration: *They reminded us that they had frequently denied that the drug has any therapeutic value.* (Quirk et al. 1991, 1028) Finally, the tense may be preserved if “the context makes the relative time references clear,” as in the sentence, *Ann explained that the exhibition finished/had finished the preceding week.* (Quirk et al. 1991, 1027)

Nevertheless, this set of grammatical rules in which the choice of tenses in the subordinate clause is governed by the tense of the verb in the main clause, has a number of opponents. For example, Sakita argues that the rule is being dealt with as “a purely syntactic operation” mechanically applied without considering semantic and pragmatic information which, according to him, are crucial for successful communication. (Sakita 2002, 159-161) Sakita provides several examples to demonstrate that when the rule is applied in this manner, it sometimes predicts incorrect forms of indirect reports. In his book, Sakita frequently refers to Declerck, who is one of the biggest critics of sequence of tenses approach. Declerck points in particular to the fact that there are too many cases which the sequence of tenses does not cover. He mentions, for example, backshift after reporting verb in present tense, backshifting in free indirect speech, etc. (Declerck 1991, 173-176) However, unlike Sakita, Declerck tries to offer some alternative approach to the formal sequence of tenses.

As was already mentioned, Declerck (1991; 2006) works with the theory, proposed earlier by other grammarians, for example Comrie (1985), that tenses in English can be divided into absolute and relative tenses. Nevertheless, before going further, it is important to explain what these terms mean. The definition by Comrie says that an absolute tense is a “tense, whereby the reference point for the location of a situation in time is the present moment.” (Comrie 1985, 56) Declerck adds that regarding the reported speech, the reference point is usually the time of speaking, which he calls the “temporal zero-point”. (Declerck 2006, 16) As for the relative tense, Comrie states that it is a “tense, where the reference point for location of a situation is some point in time given by the context,” which Declerck calls the “orientation time” and which, according to him, is different from the zero-time. Furthermore, Declerck adds that the function of relative tense is to express one of the temporal relations of anteriority, simultaneity or posteriority. (Comrie 1985, 56; Declerck 2006, 16-25)

Back to Declerck’s theory, he believes that it is distinguishing between the absolute and relative past tense which explains why some verb forms are backshifted in indirect speech while others are retained because only absolute tense forms can be shifted back. To illustrate how this theory works in practice, Declerck uses the following example: “*I told Bill that Jane was angry with Jim,*” which can be reported as: *Jill said that she told/had told Bill that Jane was angry with Jim.* (Declerck 2006, 390) He explains the choice of tense forms in subordinate clauses as follows. Because the absolute past tense form of the verb *told* locates the situation to the past, i.e. prior to the act of saying (the temporal zero-point), it is logical to shift the tense back. However, he adds that since the situation of the subordinate clause cannot be interpreted as simultaneous with the act of reporting, it is also possible to use simple past instead of past perfect. On the other hand, the relative past tense form *was angry* should not be affected by the reporting because it expresses simultaneity with telling Bill about the situation and as Declerck states “indirect binding is never possible in complement clauses depending on a verb of communication.” (Declerck 2006, 394)

However, even Declerck’s approach is a target for criticism by some linguists and Declerck himself admits that just like the sequence of tenses rule, the hypothesis that reported clauses in indirect speech may either use relative or absolute tenses does not cover all the possible cases and sometimes predicts incorrect forms of indirect reports. Nonetheless, he believes that it fails less often. (Declerck 1991, 182) The best way to deal with the application or non-application of backshift in indirect discourse thus seems to be the combination of both of the discussed approaches. Therefore, the analysis in the practical part of this thesis will be based

on the sequence of tenses rule and in cases, where it will not be possible to provide a satisfactory explanation of the choice of certain verb forms through this rule, Declerck's approach will be incorporated to help. This should ensure the achievement of the best possible results.

3.2 Backshift of modal verbs

A separate issue concerning the changes in verb tense, which needs to be addressed, is backshift of modal verbs. Unlike full verbs, modal verbs do not carry any lexical meaning and "function only as auxiliaries." (Quirk et al. 1991, 120) As their name suggests, they add a special meaning in terms of modality to the verb they accompany. In other terms, they are used to express obligation, permission, possibility, necessity, etc. According to Quirk et al., there are nine central modal auxiliaries in English: *can, may, will, shall, could, might, would, should* and *must*; four marginal modals: *dare, need, ought to* and *used to*; and two modal idioms: *had better* and *would rather/sooner*. (Quirk et al. 1991, 127) Modal auxiliaries do not have proper past tense forms but it is possible to use the verbs *could, might, would* and *should* as past equivalents of the verbs *can, may, will* and *shall*. Nevertheless, if the original message already contains the "past forms", they remain unchanged in the indirect report. Similarly, the verbs *dare* and *need*, when used as auxiliary, and the verbs *ought to, used to, had betted* and *would rather/sooner* have only one form and, therefore, cannot be backshifted in indirect speech. The form of the verb *must* then depends on whether the original statement was an obligation or a deduction. In case of deduction it preserves its form in indirect speech, if it is used in its obligational sense, Quirk et al. say; it may be replaced by *had to*. (Quirk et al. 1991, 1031-1032)

3.3 Shift of other sentence elements

So far, it has only been dealt with tense-related changes, however, as has already been mentioned, indirect speech involves some other adjustments necessary to be made in order to preserve the meaning of the original utterance. These adjustments relate to all words and phrases "which depend for their interpretation on the immediate physical context in which they were uttered." (Yule 2006, 99) Yule refers to such words as deictic expressions and divides them into three basic categories which include person deixis, temporal deixis, and spatial deixis. (Yule 1996, 9) These categories are expressed by means of personal pronouns,

time adverbials, adverbs of place and demonstratives. Quirk et al. basically agree with Yule and try to define some general conditions under which the changes of deictic expressions take place, with the main attention being paid to shifts of pronouns.

3.3.1 Pronouns

Quirk et al. state that in case the identities of the speaker and the addressee in the original utterance differ from those in the reported one, 1st and 2nd person pronouns need to be replaced by 3rd person forms. They use the following pair of sentences to illustrate this point: ‘*I like your tie,*’ she told John. ~ She told John that *she* liked *his* tie. They add that sometimes it is advisable to use nouns instead of 3rd person pronouns in order to make the reported utterance clearer for the receiver of the message. Quirk et al. also claim that in some reporting situations, the 1st and 2nd person pronouns are used as appropriate forms. (Quirk et al. 1991, 1028-1029) It follows from the examples they provide that it is the case when the reporter is the same person as the original speaker and also when the reporter reports an utterance about himself or about the person to whom the reported message is conveyed. Depending on the point of view, each sentence can thus be reported in a variety of different ways.

3.3.2 Adverbials of time

Another adjustment that may need to be made is a shift of time adverbials. According to Quirk et al., adverbials of time are replaced in cases where “the time relationship between time references in the indirect speech and the time of the utterance has changed between the original utterance and the reported utterance.” (Quirk et al. 1991, 1029) Common changes which take place in indirect speech include: *today* ~ *that day*, *now* ~ *then*, *yesterday* ~ *the previous day/the day before*, *next month* ~ *last month*, etc. It is also worth mentioning that regarding the adverb *now*, Thomson claims that if it is clear from the context that it refers to a past situation, it may remain unchanged. (Thompson 1994, 115) It should, however, be emphasised here that the choice of the suitable adverbial depends to a large extent on the length of the time period that has elapsed since the original utterance was given.

3.3.3 Adverbials of place and demonstratives

In addition to shifts of pronouns and time adverbials, it may also be necessary to change expressions that locate the utterance in space, i.e. adverbs of place and demonstratives. According to the condition formulated by Quirk et al., these expressions become the subject to change if the place where the original words were uttered is different from where they are reported. Adverbs of place usually change in the following way: *here* ~ *there* or, possibly, *there* ~ *here* if the report is made at the place to which is referred in the original utterance. Quirk et al. add that sometimes it may be necessary to specify the place by name. As for demonstratives, their shift is governed by similar rules. It means that if the relative distance is greater at the time of reporting, demonstratives are changed as follows: *this* ~ *that*, *these* ~ *those*, or the other way round, if the relative distance becomes smaller. (Quirk et al. 1991, 1029)

4 DISCOURSE OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS

Having discussed the English tense system, indirect speech and the issue of backshifting, one more topic has still to be addressed and that is the discourse of newspaper reports. Although the word newspaper gives the impression of a medium whose main focus is to provide information about current events, Reah argues that news articles actually represent only a part of the content which newspapers provide, the rest consisting of various comments or analyses, advertisements, etc. The amount of space which is devoted to the actual news depends, besides other things, on the category the newspaper belongs to. Reah recognises the following three categories: the broadsheet newspapers, the middle-range tabloids and the tabloids. The press which falls within the first of the mentioned categories, such as the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, the *Telegraph* and the *Times*, contains a higher number of news articles than their tabloid counterparts, which focus more on entertainment. (Reah 2002, 1-2) Broadsheet newspapers are also considered to be more serious and their articles are based on reliable sources of information, while the sources of stories published in tabloids are often questionable. For these reasons, newspapers classified as broadsheet were selected for the analytical part of this thesis, more precisely their online versions.

Regarding the news article itself, there are certain writing conventions the reporter should follow. The basic elements of a well written news report are best summarised by Cotter. She says that the reporter should avoid being too wordy. Individual sentences, as well as paragraphs should be short and to the point. The author of the article should always chose words that best express the desired meaning. The text must not contain any mistakes and the presented information must be accurate and verifiable, for this purpose, news reports usually contain a significant number of quotes. In order to be objective and impartial, the reporter should include various views on the given issue. Cotter also mentions that reporters should avoid extensive use of passive voice and opt for active verbs instead. (Cotter 2010, 136-137) Moreover, Reah claims that newspaper articles usually eliminate the use of specialised words in order to be understandable to a common reader. (Reah 2002, 7) However, as Cotter points out, in reality most of these rules are violated. (Cotter 2010, 136)

The basic rules for writing newspaper reports have been defined, the focus may be shifted to the structure. In order to attract the attention of the reader, news reporters use a particular structure which Cotter calls an “inverted pyramid.” It means that the information which is considered by the reporter to be the most important comes first and towards the end

the importance of the presented facts gradually decreases. (Cotter 2010, 139-140) Each newspaper article begins with a headline. It is the first part of the report that the reader sees and on which basis he or she decides whether to continue reading. Therefore, headlines need to be short, catchy and maximally informative. Reah claims that for this reason headline writers often use only lexical words and omit grammatical ones, moreover, sometimes they omit also lexical verbs and describe the action by means of noun phrases, which causes that the result is often ambiguous. (Reah 2002, 19-21) A headline may or may not be followed by a subheadline, which Cotter describes as a secondary headline which specifies or adds information that could not be mentioned in a headline usually due to a limited space. (Cotter 2010, 100) Another structural element, which is considered to be the most important part of each newspaper article, is a lead. Cotter states that the lead is usually the first paragraph consisting of one or two sentences of a total length up to thirty-five words whose main purpose is to catch the readers' attention and to outline the structure of the whole article. It immediately provides the reader with all the available facts in descending order of their importance. (Cotter 2010, 151-153) The last part of a news report is a body. It is organised into several paragraphs and gives more details about the facts summarised in the lead paragraph.

Here it needs to be mentioned that only indirect utterances from the body parts of newspaper articles will be included in the final analysis. In case headlines, subheadlines or lead paragraphs contained any form of indirect speech, it would be skipped because these structural parts of news reports are subjected to special writing conventions and the reported speech contained therein is rather a blend of several statements from the article. Moreover, in order to attract the reader, they are usually in the present tense regardless of whether they refer to present or past events.

Concerning the body of newspaper reports, it was already mentioned that it usually contains a relatively large number of direct quotes, which Cotter says are "essential" to each "well-formed news story". Nevertheless, she adds that sometimes the reporter cannot use the direct quotation either because it is too long or because he or she missed a part of it and, in such a case, partial quotes or paraphrases need to be incorporated. According to Cotter, reported material has two main functions in newspaper discourse. The first is to summarise the information the report is dealing with and the second is to illustrate different perspectives on some issue. In order to preserve neutral character of a news article, reported statements should predominantly be introduced by the verb *say* or possibly *add*. (Cotter 2010, 148-149)

However, both Fowler and Bell argue that the problem with neutrality in the media is that reporters prefer citing authoritative sources of information, such as politicians, managers and other people with a higher social status. Views of ordinary people tend to be overlooked and are brought into play only when they witness some event or are participants of legal proceedings. (Fowler 1991, 22; Bell 1991, 191) In connection with the reported language Cotter also mentions that reporting clauses usually precede or follow the quoted material but may also appear in the middle of the sentence especially if the reported utterance is long. The reasons for different placements are often of stylistic character. (Cotter 2010, 150) Concerning, the reported language which is not accompanied by the attribution, i.e. free indirect speech, Semino and Short claim that it does not occur much in newspaper discourse. The reason is that it is more difficult for the reader to identify the source of the utterance. (Semino and Short 2004, 83)

As for the medium through which the reports are delivered, no major differences between printed newspapers and news published online have been spotted in the literature. Cotter only mentions that unlike printed press, Internet has the advantage of “hypertext links, real-time interaction and immediacy” (Cotter 2010, 28)

4.1 Backshift in newspaper reports

In the context of indirect language representations used in newspaper discourse, a mention should also be made of backshifting. Backshift of tenses in news reports is governed by the same rules as in any other type of discourse (see chapter 3.1). However, in cases where the shift of tense is optional, the decision whether to apply this phenomenon depends on the intention of the reporter. For example, when the original utterance contains verbs in the past tense and it is clear from the context that the event described happened before the original act of speaking, the reporter may leave the verbs in the past tense, or opt for the past perfect tense if he or she wants to emphasise the fact that the situation took place prior to the original statement. There could be many other motivations for application or non-application of backshift. Attempts will be made to identify at least some of them in the analytical part of this thesis.

5 ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction to the analysis

As a reminder, the aim of this thesis is to analyse the application and non-application of backshift in indirect forms of representation in the discourse of newspaper reports. Besides the frequency of occurrence of backshifted and non-backshifted forms, factors which influence the decision of the reporter whether to shift the tense of verbs or to leave it unchanged are examined. The analysis takes into account grammatical, as well as stylistic and pragmatic reasons. Where possible, samples are accompanied by a short excerpt from the text which helps to explain the use of certain verb forms. In order to identify whether there is any difference between them in terms of backshifting, individual samples of indirect reports are labelled according to whether they represent the act of speaking, thinking or writing.

Just like the theoretical part of this paper, the analytical one is divided into several chapters. It begins with an overview of the results of the analysis. In particular, the number of backshifted and non-backshifted occurrences of indirect reports and the frequency at which individual categories of indirect discourse appear in the corpus are being dealt with. A comparison is also made between the newspapers from which the samples were gathered. Besides that, occurrences of other phenomena discussed in the theoretical part, such as the position of the reporting clause, are mentioned here. For better illustration the results are expressed as a percentage of the total number of samples. A separate chapter is then devoted to indirect reports with backshifted tense, which are examined there in more detail. Attempts are also made to find the possible reasons for the application of backshift. In the same manner is later being dealt with examples where the original tense is retained.

For the purposes of the analysis a corpus of 200 occurrences of indirect speech, writing and thought from newspaper articles has been compiled. The samples come from randomly chosen reports from two of the British broadsheet newspapers mentioned in the previous chapter, namely the *Guardian* and the *Independent*. These two newspapers were selected because of the fact that they publish all their news articles online with free access for all. Each of the newspapers constitutes half of the data corpus, i.e. 100 samples of indirect reports. The data were gathered during the period of two months from 1 February to 31 March 2017.

5.2 Overview of the results of the analysis

Concerning the presence or absence of backshift in indirect speech, writing and thought found in the discourse of newspaper reports, the overall results of the analysis show that mostly the verbs in the reported clause were retained in the original tense, more precisely in 106 out of 200 samples, which is 16 samples more than those in which the tense of verbs was backshifted (see Table 1 below).

However, it needs to be mentioned here that there is a substantial difference with respect to the newspaper from which the samples were gathered. While in indirect reports coming from the *Independent* the tense of verbs in the reported clause was backshifted only in 32 instances and in other 66 instances the verbs were left in the original tense, the articles that were collected from the *Guardian* contained 58 samples of indirect reports with backshifted tense and 40 samples with non-backshifted tense. Nonetheless, in order to draw some conclusion from these findings, it would be necessary to compare corresponding articles from both newspapers.

Besides utterances with backshifted and non-backshifted tenses of verbs, the data corpus contains 4 samples which have been classified as ambiguous, since even with the help of the context it was not possible to conclusively determine whether the original tense was backshifted or retained. In this case, each of the newspapers contained 2 occurrences.

The reasons behind application and non-application of backshift are discussed in more detail in later chapters.

Table 1 - Backshift of tenses

Tense backshifted	90	45%
Tense not backshifted	106	53%
Tense ambiguity	4	2%
Total	200	100%

It has already been mentioned in the theoretical part of this paper that apart from backshift of tenses, indirect reports require adjustment of all the other expressions used in the original utterance whose meaning depends on the context. In other words, 1st and 2nd person pronouns, adverbs of time and place and demonstratives need to be changed to correspond to the

perspective of the reporter. However, to analyse which expressions are shifted in an indirect report, its direct counterpart is needed, otherwise, it is very difficult to distinguish between the phrases which appeared in the original statement and those which were added by the reporter. It thus needs to be borne in mind that the following results are of a rather indicative nature since not all of the changes can be supported by a direct quotation.

The most commonly occurring change in the analysed corpus is the shift of personal pronouns. With regard to singular pronouns, 20 instances of *I* changing to *he* or *she*, 14 instances of *my* changing to *his* or *her* and 2 instances of *me* changing to *him* or *her* have been found. With respect to plural pronouns, the situation is a little bit more complicated. Normally the pronouns *we* are replaced by *they* (4 instances), *our* by *their* (4 instances) and *us* by *them* (1 instance) as in (1). However, if they are used instead of some company or organisation, like in the example (2), *we* changes to *it* (11 instances) and *our* changes to *its* (1 instance).

- 1) In a post on the Find Steven Cook Facebook group, the family said they **would be bringing** their son home to say their “farewells”. (appendix 2, example 26)
- 2) The Board of England Boxing **confirmed** that a boxer had died after a bout at an event it **had sanctioned** in Derby.
“We are extremely saddened by this and would like to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the person involved in this terrible and shocking incident,” it said in a statement. (Appendix 2, example 29)

It is interesting to note that sometimes a mixture of pronouns reflecting the perspective of the original speaker and those reflecting the perspective of the subsequent reporter can be found within a single sentence. This phenomenon is exclusively the case of indirect reports which contain a piece of directly quoted information as in (3).

- 3) Even after his \$400,000 donation, Mr Jennings Sr said he **planned** on raising more funds for the charity through recycling “until the undertaker turns my toes up”.
“I just hope I can keep on going as long as I can,” he said. “As long as my health can keep up... It feels great. That’s worth more than money.” (Appendix 2, example 59)

Regarding the references to time, all the instances found in the data corpus are either expressed by means of what Yule calls “non-deictic temporal references” (Yule 1996, 14), i.e. expressions whose meaning can be understood even without knowing the context, see the example (4), or are fixed with the publication date of the article as in the example (5).

- 4) The number of prospective buyers **increased** 14 per cent in the final quarter of 2016 compared to results from a year earlier, Knight Frank reported. (Appendix 2, example 132)
- 5) His spokesperson Fraser P Seitel said the banker **died** peacefully in his sleep in his Pocantico Hills home in New York on Monday morning. (Appendix 2, example 139)

Similarly, place references are, in most cases, expressed non-deictically, such as in the example (5).

Having discussed the shifts that take place in indirect representation, attention can now be turned to the forms of indirect reports found in the discourse of newspaper articles. The most widespread type in the data corpus is indirect speech with 130 instances (65.5%), followed by 38 instances (19%) of indirect speech with quotation. On the other hand, indirect writing, either with or without quotation, account for 24 instances (11.5%) and only 3 samples (1.5%) have been identified as indirect thought (see Table 2). While the lack of indirect thoughts in the discourse of news reports was predictable, the huge difference between the use of spoken and written sources of information was not expected. However, Semino and Short, who came to a similar result during their research, claim the reason is that a considerable part of what is being reported in newspapers is concerned with various political speeches, discussions, press conferences, etc. In addition, even accidents, disasters, crime stories and other events that are non-verbal in character are reported through direct participants or various witnesses. (Semino and Short 2004, 61)

With respect to indirect forms of representation which are not introduced by the reporting clause, only 5 samples of free indirect speech have been spotted. Free indirect writing and free indirect thought do not appear in the corpus at all. The reason why they are so infrequent in newspaper reports is, according to Semino and Short, the fact that the absence of attribution makes it often difficult for the reader to recognise who is the source of the words. (Semino and Short 2004, 83) On that account, instances found in the data corpus are accompanied with a surrounding text which provides hints that rather than the reporter, the utterance belongs to some other speaker, as in the example below.

- 6) The federal environment department said on Wednesday the attack occurred on Sunday, when the victim and three friends went to the La Encrucijada reserve to fish. The 18-year-old man **was carried off** by the reptile, but his companions **escaped**. (Appendix 2, example 192)

Regarding the example (6), the indication that the sentence is free indirect speech is the fact that it directly follows the indirect statement and provides additional information on the same topic. Moreover, the sentence begins with a definite article, which serves as an anaphoric reference to the victim, and it also continues to use the simple past tense. The reporting clause is omitted only in order to avoid repetition. The other examples of free indirect speech found in the data corpus are of a similar character to the one just described.

Table 2 - Forms of indirect discourse

Indirect speech	128	64%
Indirect speech with quotation	38	19%
Indirect writing	15	7.5%
Indirect writing with quotation	11	5.5%
Free indirect speech	5	2.5%
Indirect thought	3	1.5%
Total	200	100%

Concerning the newspapers which the samples were gathered from, the differences in numbers of occurrences of individual types of indirect representation are not as large as in case of the application of backshift, perhaps with the exception of indirect writing and free indirect speech. In the *Guardian* 3 instances of indirect writing and 4 instances of free indirect speech has been found, whereas the *Independent* contained 10 instances of indirect writing and only one instance of free indirect speech.

As has been mentioned, only 5 out of 200 analysed occurrences of indirect representation do not contain any attribution. In the remaining samples, reporting clause is predominantly placed at the beginning of the sentence (77.5%). This is at odds with the findings of Biber et al., who claim that the final position is preferred in news. (Biber et al. 1999, 923-924) However, reporting clauses placed after the reported message account for only 38 instances (19%), which is approximately four times less than those found at the beginning of the sentence. Furthermore, Biber et al. state that regarding the final position, inverted subject-verb order is “strongly preferred” in news. (Biber et al. 1999, 925) Even this phenomenon cannot be confirmed as only 5 out of the 38 instances of final reporting clauses contain inversion. The dissimilarity is probably related to the fact that Biber et al. do not focus exclusively on

indirect speech but include direct reports in their corpus as well. The only thing that seems to be consistent regardless of the type of reported language is a relatively rare occurrence of reporting clauses in the medial position. Only 2 instances (1%) of attribution interrupting the reported message have been found in the data corpus.

Table 3 - Position of a reporting clause

Initial position	155	77.5%
Medial position	2	1%
Final position	38	19%
No reporting clause	5	2.5%
Total	200	100%

Based on what has been observed, the low number of occurrences with postponed attribution may be related to the fact that reporters often include different points of view on the topic. In order to avoid confusion about who is being quoted, each new speaker is introduced at the beginning of the sentence. If the reporter continues to provide utterances from the same person in a quick succession, then he or she moves the reporting clause either in the medial or final position to avoid repetition. This is also the reason why initial reporting clauses often contain the full name of a person, company or other organisation as in (7), while in medial and final reporting clauses personal pronouns are used instead like in (8).

- 7) Father Luc Dini, a community leader and head of the local tourism council, said a ban on foreign food imports would improve the health and wellbeing of islanders. (Appendix 2, example 198)
- 8) “At the moment we have an infiltration of junk food from overseas,” he said.
[...]
The most popular imported foods consumed in Torba were rice, sweets, tinned fish and biscuits, he said. (Appendix 2, example 45)

Nonetheless, there may be other reasons for placing the reporting clause in a position other than the initial one. For example, it has been noticed that sometimes when reporters put the attribution after the reported message, they do it because they want to highlight the speaker. In such a case, the final reporting clause usually contains an inverted subject-verb order as in the example (9). On the other hand, the reporting clause may also be put at the end of the sentence for the opposite reason. This may be the case when the source is unimportant or is

not specific enough like in (10). Biber et al. claim that final reporting clauses usually receive less stress than the reported message, which is the main communicative point of indirect report. (Biber et al. 1999, 924) Another reason to postpone the attribution found in the corpus is connected to the end-weight principle. In other words, longer structures are placed at the end, which makes the sentence easier to understand. Such instances always contain inversion; otherwise, the reporting verb would be too far from the actual utterance. See example (11).

- 9) The victims **range** in age from as young as three or four-years-old to adults in their 30s and 40s, said Dr Elder. (Appendix 2, example 136)
- 10) The poachers **fled** before they **could remove** the animal's second horn, either because they **were disturbed** or because their equipment **failed**, police said. (Appendix 2, example 111)
- 11) According to residents, about 50 houses with about seven people living in each of them were built on the rubbish.
People **had built** the houses about two to three years ago, said Berhanu Degefe, a rubbish collector who lives at the dump but whose home was not destroyed. (Appendix 2, example 41)

It needs to be mentioned here that the decision of the reporter to place the attribution inside or after the reported message may be based on more than one of the above discussed reasons. However, no relation between the application of backshift and the position of the reporting has been found.

5.3 Tense backshifted

Having provided the overview of the results found during the analysis of the data corpus, it is time to focus separately on the occurrences of indirect reports in which the tense of verb forms is backshifted.

As has already been mentioned in the previous chapter, the tense of verbs in the reported clause is shifted back in 90 out of 200 analysed samples of indirect discourse. Majority of them (54 instances) are cases of indirect speech, which is logical as it is the most commonly found type of reporting. The second most backshifted type is indirect speech with quotation (24 instances), followed by indirect writing with quotation (9 instances). Reports of written sources which do not contain a section of directly quoted text account for the smallest number of samples with backshifted tense (3 instances).

If considered from a grammatical point of view, the most common reason for backshift is the application of the sequence of tenses rule, meaning that the shift of tenses in the reported clause is triggered by the past tense of the reporting verb. This is true in all the 90 occurrences in which the phenomenon of backshift is applied. However, it does not have to be the sole explanation. For example, sometimes the tense of verbs is shifted back despite the continuing validity of the original statement. In the following paragraphs, attempts are made to formulate other reasons for backshifting especially with regard to temporal relations between the situations, times and dates mentioned in the reports, and also the intended meaning that the reporter may be trying to communicate.

Regarding the indirect speech, it is worth mentioning that, based on what has been observed during the analysis, the reasons for shifting the tense back are basically the same for both types, with and without quotation. Therefore, they are dealt with together in this chapter. In most of the samples the backshifted verbs in the reported clause are in the past tense (41 instances), just like the verb in the reporting clause, see the example below.

- 12) The sister and brother-in-law of Troadec have been remanded in custody, sources close to the case said.
Pierre Sennes, a Nantes prosecutor, confirmed that two people were in custody but declined to give their identities. (Appendix 2, example 1)

Since the utterance in (12) does not contain any time reference, the event of the two people being in custody is interpreted as simultaneous with the act of Pierre Sennes making his statement. The application of backshift may either signal that the two people were released before the report was made and the statement is thus out-of-date or there may be a doubt whether or not they are still detained. Another possible interpretation could be that the reporter is not interested in what is true at the moment of reporting and simply provides a content of the original message in a neutral way.

The second most frequently found tense in the reported clauses of indirect speech is the past perfect tense (18 occurrences). It is used to express anteriority of an event with respect to a certain time in the past usually established by the act of speaking. Reporters make a use of the past perfect tense when they want to emphasise that the event or action described in the reported clause was completed before the speaker gave the utterance. In case the simple past tense was used, the action could be misinterpreted as happening concurrently with the event of speaking, which the reporter wants to avoid like in (13).

- 13) Shaked made clear she **had pushed** the candidacy of the judges as part of a wider effort to push back judicial oversight of political decisions, including an outpost legalisation bill expected to come before the court. (Appendix 2, example 4)

There are also 3 instances in the data corpus in which both the above discussed tenses occur in combination, meaning some of the situations described in the reported clause are simultaneous with the original act of speech, whereas others happened before as in (14).

- 14) Strauch insisted they **had** information about certain works belonging to the Mosse family but **were** unwilling to cooperate because they **had sold** confiscated items.
“We’ve been in touch with the major auction houses, and they do know where some of these works are. But they are not going to tell us because they sold them,” Strauch said. (Appendix 2, example 16)

Nonetheless, in this case the application of backshift may rather signal reporter’s disagreement with the accusation brought by Strauch against the auction houses. By inclusion of the direct quotation the reporter distances herself from the content of the message. The difference of opinions is also indicated by the fact that the reporter chooses the verb *insisted*, instead of the neutral reporting verb *said*. By the use of this verb the reporter suggests that the manner in which the original author presented the information was of a rather assertive nature.

Another tense found in indirect reports of someone’s speech is a conditional tense. It has been spotted 14 times (7 times in combination with the past tense). Mostly, the reported clause contained the verb *would* (12 instances) but also the verb *could* has been found (2 instance). The verb *would* is usually used in indirect speech as a past equivalent of *will* to express future in the past or it may be used in a conditional sentence to express that something was possible to happen in the future from the point of view of the original speaker like in (15). On the other hand, the verb *could*, when used in indirect speech, usually expresses ability, possibility or permission, as it represents a past form of the verbs *can* or *may*, see the example (16).

- 15) Thornberry confirmed that the three-line whip **would remain** in place even if no **amendments were passed**: “We have said consistently, since the result, that we will not frustrate the will of the British people, and they want to leave.” (Appendix 2, example 50)

16) The prime minister said there **was** a real possibility his opponent, the nationalist anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders, **could** win the parliamentary election.

“There is a real risk that on March 16 we can wake up in this country and Geert Wilders is leading the biggest party and that will send a signal to the rest of the world,” he warned. (Appendix 2, example 71)

The reason for shifting the tense back in the example (15) may be the fact that there is a doubt that the Labour Party, which Mrs Thornberry is a member of, could eventually change its mind and vote differently or, possibly, it already happened before the report was made. Backshift may also signal that the reporters of the article disagree with the position adopted by the Labour Party and want to distance themselves from their practices. They could also be trying to influence the reader’s opinion about the party by suggesting that their actions are senseless. On the other hand, backshift in (16) cannot be related to expiry of the validity of the original statement since, as can be seen in the subsequent direct speech, the concern expressed by the prime minister about being defeated in the upcoming election relates to the date of 16 March and the article was published on 13 March. The reason to shift the tense thus may be the fact that the reporter considers the situation unrealistic.

Before moving on to the reports of written sources, it is interesting to mention that, concerning the samples of indirect speech with quotation, it has been noticed during the analysis that the occurrences with backshifted tense contain longer passages of directly quoted text than the samples where backshift is not applied. It is not uncommon that only the subject and the verb are not enclosed within quotation marks, as in the example (17).

17) Green party co-leader Jonathan Bartley said the policies **were** a “slap in the face for the millions of people in this country desperate for bold plans to reduce rents and make their housing affordable”. (Appendix 2, example 75)

The most likely reason why reporters use such structures is the need to adjust the tense in order to make it correspond to their deictic centre because what was said is no longer valid but at the same time they want the report to be as close as possible to the original statement.

Having covered the occurrences of backshift in indirect speech and indirect speech with quotation, it is time to look at the written forms of reporting. It is interesting that only 3 out of all 15 instances of indirect writing found in the data corpus contained backshifted verbs in the reported clause. Based on what has been observed, the lack of backshift in reports of written sources could possibly be connected to the fact that unlike in case of indirect speech,

the original utterance of indirect writing is recorded and can still be found in an unchanged form. Reporters usually tend to shift the tense only in cases where the record is temporary, see the following example:

- 18) The FIGC, announcing next week's event, said: "During the ceremony a special Golden Bench will be given to Claudio Ranieri, the protagonist of the extraordinary journey by Leicester, with whom he won the Premier League."
[...]
The federation added on its website that Ranieri **would** also **give** a keynote speech on the same day for the gathering of coaches from the country's professional clubs.
(Appendix 2, example 65)

When the reported source of information is a post published on a website as in (18), there is a possibility that at any time it could be deleted, updated or otherwise adjusted. This assumption is also supported by the occurrences of indirect writing with quotation where 6 out of the 9 samples with backshifted tense were originally published on a website or a Facebook page. However, the number of samples is still too small and a further analysis would be necessary to draw a definite conclusion. Concerning the remaining 3 instances, the reason for adjusting the tense is different in each case. For instance, in (19) the application of backshift is associated with a particular calendar date specified in the reporting clause, which is contextually dependent on the date when the report was published. In this case the publication date was 5 March. The time reference in the main clause thus locates the original utterance nine days prior to the act of reporting.

- 19) Police said in a bulletin dated 24 February that the 21-year-old **was suspected of** "putting in place a macabre plan aimed at snuffing out the members of his family and maybe himself". (Appendix 2, example 2)

To sum up this chapter, the analysis shows that besides the sequence of tenses rule, which can be accounted for all the 90 occurrences of indirect reports with backshifted tense, there may be other semantically or pragmatically motivated reasons to adjust the tense of verbs in the reported clause. During the analysis the following factors have been identified to potentially influence the decision of the reporter. Firstly, there may be a doubt whether the original statement is still valid. Secondly, the reporter wants to emphasise the fact that the reported situation was completed before the original statement was made. Next, the reporter wants to distance himself or herself from the words in the report. Sometimes the reason may be to express disagreement with the speaker, or the reporter may want to suggest that the source of

the reported information is not entirely reliable. The reporter's decision to shift the tense may also be influenced by the fact he or she does not believe or feels unsure that what was said is true or in case the original utterance refers to the future, backshift may signal that the reporter does not expect the situation to happen. However, backshift does not necessarily need to carry any hidden meaning and the adjustment of tenses may simply be a sign of the reporter's desire to be neutral. It needs to be mentioned that it is very difficult to retrospectively identify the real reason why a particular report was backshifted; moreover, sometimes the application of backshift may be a result of multiple factors.

5.4 Tense not backshifted

So far, the reasons behind the reporter's choice to adjust the tense of verbs in indirect utterances found in the discourse of newspaper reports have been addressed. Now it is time to comment on the possible motivations that may lead the reporter to decide not to apply the phenomenon of backshifting.

It has already been revealed in the overview above that in more than a half of the analysed occurrences of indirect speech, writing and thought (106 out of 200) the reporters preserve the tense contained in the original utterance. The most widespread form of indirect representation with non-backshifted verb forms is again indirect speech (73 instances). Concerning the other forms, the original tense was retained in 13 samples of indirect speech with quotation, 10 occurrences of indirect writing, 5 samples of free indirect speech, 3 occurrences of indirect thought and 2 instances of indirect writing with quotation.

In only 14 cases the use of the original tense is the result of the present or present perfect tense of the verb in the reporting clause and thus a continuing applicability. Speech presentation accounts for 9 instances and other 2 instances are cases of indirect writing. The remaining 3 occurrences are reports of somebody's thoughts. They are also the only 3 samples of indirect thoughts found in the entire corpus. It thus seems that, regarding the discourse of news reports, present tense in reporting clauses of thought representation is preferred over the past tense. A possible explanation could be that in case of reporting what someone said or wrote the reporter is referring to a single event happening at a certain point in time, whilst in case of thoughts the report concerns a state of mind which is generally extending over a longer period of time. However, it should be mentioned that no serious conclusion can be drawn from such a low number of samples.

Concerning the occurrences with past reporting verb, most of the analysed samples of indirect speech, both with or without quotation, contained verbs in the reported clause in the past tense (41 instances). Sometimes past tense appeared in combination with other tenses (5 instances). This, however, means that keeping of the original tense in the indirect report is not a result of a continuing applicability as the situation was already past when the original speaker spoke. In 15 cases the tense is retained because the report contains a clear time reference which prevents the situation in the reported clause from being misinterpreted as happening simultaneously with the act of speaking and, therefore, the original past tense may be retained as in the following example:

20) Ruling in favour of the world's largest online retailer, he said it **was** legal for Amazon to have funnelled its European sales through a low-tax Luxembourg sub-company in 2005 and 2006, instead of the US. (Appendix 2, example 125)

The remaining occurrences of indirect speech with past verbs in the reported clause do not contain any adverbials of time themselves but often the time is specified in the preceding text or it is clear from the overall context of the article that the reported situation could not happen concurrently with the act of speaking. See the example (21).

21) Amazon said that if it **had lost** it **could have had been forced** to pay a US tax bill as high as \$1.5bn and potentially **faced** "significant" tax liabilities in the years to come. (Appendix 2, example 126)

This report comes from the same article as the example (20), which it directly follows. It means that the statement is Amazon's reaction to their victory in the court case. Therefore, the third conditional here cannot be a backshifted version of a second conditional because at the time when the utterance was produced it was clear that the situation could no longer happen.

The second most frequently found tense in non-backshifted occurrences of indirect speech is the present tense (10 instances). In 3 of these instances it is mixed with some other tenses. Regarding the use of present tense in indirect reports, it entails that the original statement was still valid at the time of reporting. It has been observed that in all the instances with verbs in the present tense, backshift is not applied because the original statement is dealing with something that is a fact, and the situation is not expected to change within a short time horizon. This is best seen in the example (22).

- 22) The US, it said, **is** Britain's most valuable tourism source market, with 4.3 million visits recorded in 2016, up 7 per cent on the previous year. (Appendix 2, example 162)

As for other tenses expressing continuing applicability of the original utterance, 5 instances of present perfect tense, either on its own or in combination with other tenses, and 6 occurrences of future tense have been found in the data corpus. Future tense usually does not change in indirect speech when the reporter wants to point out that the situation the original speaker was talking about has not happened yet as in (23). However, future tense in the example (24) may rather signal reporter's agreement with the original speaker's opinion, which is highlighted by being enclosed in quotation marks. With respect to the present perfect tense, the reason why reporters do not shift it back is to emphasise that the actions described took place before the original act of speaking but consequences of those actions can still be seen at the time of reporting. See the example (25)

- 23) Chancellor Philip Hammond this month announced, as part of a sugar tax, that soft drinks with more than 5g of sugar per 100ml **will be levied** at 18p per litre. (Appendix 2, example 159)
- 24) A government plan to cut housing benefit payments for people under age 21 **will be** a "straightforward disaster," he said. (Appendix 2, example 147)
- 25) Police said three men **have been** detained following the shooting in San Pedro de Macoris, east of the capital of Santo Domingo. (Appendix 2, example 170)

There are also 6 samples of non-backshifted indirect speech containing past perfect tense, usually in combination with past tense, as in the example (26).

- 26) As a US air force pilot Grebenc **flew** in war zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan, where his role **was** to carry out mid-air fuel transfers, and he **had been involved** in training young pilots, the court heard. (Appendix 2, example 104)

Application of backshift in this example would be redundant as the context of the article makes it clear that at the time when the statement was made the situations were past (there is a mention of Grebenc as a former US air force pilot). Moreover, since only the verbs that are in the past tense could be backshifted, the resulting sentence could lead to confusion about the sequence of the events.

Concerning the reports of written sources with the past reporting verb in which backshift is not applied, the analysed occurrences seem to support the assumption made in the previous subchapter that there is a tendency to shift only the sources with temporary status, i.e. those

published online. In 9 out of 12 non-backshifted instances of indirect writing, either with or without quotation, the original version is recorded on a paper. In only 3 cases, the utterance was published on a website or Twitter. These occurrences are not backshifted because 2 of them contain a time reference, which is contextually dependent for its interpretation on the date when the article was published as in (27), and in the remaining sample the reporter probably wants to emphasise the fact that the event has not yet taken place and, therefore, the statement is still valid, see the example (28)

- 27) The centre’s website said an “amateur open boxing show” **was being held** at the venue from 7-11pm on Friday, organised by the South Normanton School of Boxing. (Appendix 2, example 107)
- 28) A statement on the Teenage Cancer Trust website said that the only people who **should** profit from the event at the Royal Albert Hall **are** young people with cancer. (Appendix 2, example 176)

The last form of indirect language representation that needs to be addressed is free indirect speech. It is interesting to mention that in none of the 5 occurrences found in the data corpus is the tense shifted back. It thus seems that backshift does not necessarily have to be a criterion for a sentence to be classified as free indirect speech, as it is claimed by Quirk et al. (Quirk et al. 1991, 1032)

It has already been mentioned earlier that the samples in the corpus were identified as free indirect speech on the basis of the fact that they either directly precede or follow an indirect statement while providing additional information on the same topic. The lack of backshift could be connected to the fact that even in the reports they accompany the tense happens to not be shifted back as in (29). However, the data corpus does not contain a sufficient number of occurrences to draw any conclusion.

- 29) Degefe blamed the collapse on a new biogas plant being constructed on top of the hill. Bulldozers **could be seen** on top of the hill pushing piles of rubbish around. Degefe said they were levelling ground for the plant, increasing pressure on the hillside and causing the collapse. (Appendix 2, example 196)

To sum up the reasons for retaining the original tense in indirect reports, it has been found during the analysis that there are several factors that may influence reporter’s choice not to apply the phenomenon of backshift. One of the reasons may be a continuing applicability of the original words. Next, the tense does not have to be shifted when the reported utterance

contains adverbials specifying the point in time when the situation happened. Sometimes the reason may be that the reporter wants to point out that what the original speaker said is a fact. In case of the future tense, the reason for non-application of backshift may be reporter's desire to emphasise that the situation described has not happened yet, or the reporter may want to express his or her agreement with the original speaker. As far as indirect writing is concerned, it seems that the choice to preserve the original tense could be related to the permanency of the source the information was extracted from. Finally, it has been observed that the decision whether or not to shift the tense in free indirect speech could be influenced by the tense of verbs in the reported clause of the indirect utterance which it accompanies.

6 CONCLUSION

The aim of this thesis was to analyse the phenomenon of backshifting in the occurrences of indirect language representation found in the discourse of newspaper reports. Except for the frequency of application or non-application, the intention was to find out and explain possible reasons behind the choice of the reporter to adjust the tense of verbs or to leave it unchanged. The issue was examined mainly from the pragmatic point of view, focusing on an implied meaning that the reporter may be trying to communicate with a potential reader, but grammatical and stylistic reasons were considered as well. The results obtained were illustrated on selected examples. The analysed data were divided into categories according to whether they represent speech, writing or thought, and then according to whether they contain attribution and direct quotations.

The first part of the thesis provided a theoretical background for the analysis. Firstly, an overview of English tense system was presented. Next, indirect speech and all its attributes relevant for the purposes of the analysis were discussed. A great deal of attention was then devoted to the phenomenon of backshift. Two main approaches to shifts of tenses in indirect forms of reporting were introduced and compared with each other. Both of them were later taken into account when analysing the application of backshift in the occurrences found in newspaper reports. Besides changes relating to tenses of verbs, other adjustments that may need to be made in indirect reports were addressed. Finally, main features of the discourse of newspaper reports were dealt with.

In the analytical part, the theoretical information presented in the first part of this thesis was put into practice. The data corpus that was compiled for the purposes of the research consists of 200 occurrences of indirect representation. Samples for the analysis were gathered during the period from 1 February to 31 March 2017 from the Internet versions of two British broadsheet newspapers, the *Guardian* and the *Independent*. These newspapers were chosen primarily for their reputation of accurate and reliable sources of information. The reason why the occurrences were collected from articles published online is the fact that they are easily accessible from the Czech Republic.

To sum up the results of the analysis, it was found that in 90 out of 200 samples (45%) the tense of verbs was backshifted, whilst in 106 occurrence (53%) verbs were left in the tense used by the original speaker. In the remaining 4 instances (2%), it was not possible to clearly

identify whether the phenomenon of backshift was applied or not. However, the obtained results cannot be interpreted as a preference of news reporters to keep the tense of the original statement. It needs to be reminded here that the samples were gathered from randomly chosen articles and, moreover, there were major differences in the ratio of backshifted and non-backshifted occurrences depending on the newspaper. While the tense was backshifted in 32 out of 100 samples coming from the *Independent*, in the other 100 samples that were gathered from the *Guardian* the tense was backshifted 58 times.

With regards to the reasons behind the application of backshift in indirect reports in newspaper discourse, it was found that the sequence of tenses rule was relevant for all the 90 occurrences in which the original tense was shifted back. It was also the only reason that could be expressed in numbers because as far as pragmatics is concerned, it is very difficult to retrospectively identify the intended meaning that the reporter may be trying to communicate through the adjustment of tenses of verbs. Nevertheless, based on the studied samples, several motivations that may influence the decision of the reporter to apply the phenomenon of backshifting have been deduced. Firstly, there could be a doubt about the validity of the original utterance or the reporter may not believe the speaker. Next, the backshift may signal that the reporter wants to distance himself or herself from the reported message due to the disagreement with the opinion expressed by the speaker. In cases where past perfect tense is used instead of the original past tense, the reason may be that the reporter wants to emphasise that the situation described was completed before the act of speaking. On the other hand, when future tense is replaced by conditional past tense, it may be a signal of the reporter's disbelief that something will happen. It has also been noticed during the analysis that regarding indirect reports of written utterances, reporters are more likely to apply backshift when the original statement is published on the Internet.

Concerning the samples in which backshift was not applied, several reasons have been identified that may be behind this decision. The most frequent reason appeared to be the fact that either there was a clear time reference or the overall context of the article made it not possible for a certain tense to be misinterpreted for another one. Next, by retaining the original tense the reporter may suggest that the original statement was still valid at the time of reporting. When future tense is preserved from the original statement, it may indicate that the situation has not happened yet but is expected to happen. Another reason for non-application of backshift noticed may be that the reporter wants to express his or her agreement with the original words. With respect to occurrences of indirect writing, it has been observed that the

decision to keep the original tense may be connected to the fact that the utterance is permanently recorded. Finally, the analysis showed that free indirect speech does not have to be subject to backshift but the choice of tense may be related to the tense used in the preceding or following indirect report.

All the presented reasons for application and non-application of backshift were substantiated by selected examples.

7 RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá problematikou časové souslednosti v nepřímé řeči v diskurzu novinových článků. Jejím cílem je zmapovat výskyt časové souslednosti v jazyce novinových reportáží a okomentovat faktory ovlivňující její uplatnění či neuplatnění s ohledem na komunikační cíl daného žánru. Pro tyto účely byl sestaven datový korpus čítající 200 výskytů nepřímých forem jazykové reprezentace shromážděných z britských deníků.

Práce je rozdělena do dvou částí. Teoretická část práce sestává ze čtyř hlavních kapitol. V úvodní kapitole je nejprve objasněn rozdíl mezi slovesným časem a časem jakožto fyzikální veličinou existující nezávisle na jazyce. Dále jsou zde zmíněny dva rozdílné pohledy na tvoření slovesného času v anglickém jazyce, zjištěné při studiu odborné literatury. Nakonec je uveden přehled anglických slovesných časů.

Druhá kapitola je věnována nepřímé řeči. Ta je nejprve v krátkosti porovnána s řečí přímou a následně už řešena samostatně v první podkapitole. Nejdříve jsou definovány formy nepřímé reprezentace podle toho, zda bylo původní sdělení v mluvené či psané formě, popřípadě zda se jednalo o myšlenku. Dále je popsána jejich struktura, která se liší v závislosti na tom, zda jde o nepřímé sdělení, otázku, rozkaz nebo zvolání. Poté jsou okomentovány případy, kdy vedlejší věta nepřímé řeči obsahuje doslovně odcitovanou pasáž. Druhá podkapitola se zabývá pozicí uvozovací věty, tedy té části nepřímé jazykové reprezentace, která identifikuje původního autora a také způsob jakým byla informace sdělena. Jednotlivé pozice jsou pak popsány z hlediska jejich funkce a charakteristických jazykových prvků. Poslední podkapitola pojednává o nepřímých formách reprodukováného jazyka, ve kterých je uvozovací věta vynechána.

Ve třetí kapitole je řešena časová souslednost. Problematika časové souslednosti je poměrně komplikovaná záležitost, ke které existuje více přístupů. Nejdříve je představen tradiční přístup k posouvání slovesných časů v nepřímých zprávách. Ten spočívá v tom, že pokud je sloveso v uvozovací větě v minulém čase a platnost původního výroku již vypršela, je potřeba, aby reportér upravil slovesa ve vedlejší větě tak, že posune jejich čas vždy o jeden krok nazpět. To znamená, že přítomný čas je v nepřímé řeči nahrazen časem minulým a minulý čas časem předminulým. Existují však i výjimky, kdy k časovému posunu nedochází. Jednou z nich je situace, kdy je sloveso v uvozovací větě v přítomném čase. Dále pak zůstává slovesný čas zachován, pokud je původní sdělení v době reportáže stále platné. To může být například v případě, kdy jsou jeho obsahem různá fakta, obecné pravdy a podobně. Ke

zpětnému posunu také nemusí dojít, pokud je reprodukována řeč uskutečněna v krátkém časovém intervalu po vyslovení původního výroku nebo když nepřímá reportáž obsahuje jasné časové reference, které znemožňují, aby například minulý čas v nepřímém projevu byl nesprávně interpretován jako posunutý přítomný čas. Tento přístup má mnoho zastánců, ale také kritiků. Jedním z hlavních oponentů je Declerck, který poukazuje zejména na to, že tento přístup vnímá časovou souslednost jako čistě gramatickou operaci a nezohledňuje sémantickou a pragmatickou stránku jazyka. Samostatné podkapitoly jsou pak věnovány posunu slovesného času u modálních sloves a posunu dalších deiktických prvků, tedy slov, jejichž interpretace je přímo závislá na kontextu, ve kterém byla pronesena.

Čtvrtá a zároveň poslední kapitola teoretické části práce je zaměřena na diskurz novinových reportáží. V této kapitole jsou popsány základní charakteristické prvky jazyka novinových zpráv a dále pak celková struktura novinového článku. Rovněž jsou zde zmíněny důvody, pro které se nepřímé reportáže v novinových článcích využívají. V samostatné podkapitole je shrnut zpětný posun slovesných časů v nepřímých formách jazykové reprezentace.

V analytické části jsou nabyté teoretické znalosti převedeny do praxe. Nejprve jsou v krátkém úvodu shrnuty hlavní cíle a poté je představena organizace analytické části. Dále je zde popsán datový korpus, který byl za účelem výzkumu sestaven. Ten čítá 200 výskytů nepřímých forem jazykových reprezentací. Jednotlivé výskyty pro analýzu byly shromážděny z reportáží uveřejněných v elektronických verzích Britského kvalitního tisku, konkrétně *the Guardian* a *the Independent*, v období od 1. února do 31. března 2017. Internetové verze byly zvoleny především pro jejich snadnou dostupnost z České republiky.

Samotná analýza začíná přehledem zjištěných výsledků. Pokud jde o časovou souslednost, její aplikace byla zaznamenána v 90 zkoumaných vzorcích nepřímého diskurzu (45%), v dalších 106 případech (53%) časová souslednost uplatněna nebyla. Ve zbylých čtyřech vzorcích (2%) nebylo možno jednoznačně určit, zda byl původní slovesný čas zpětně posunut či nikoliv, a to ani při zvážení širšího kontextu dané novinové reportáže. Nicméně, byly zjištěny poměrně značné rozdíly mezi uplatněním a neuplatněním časové souslednosti v závislosti na tom, ze kterých novin byly výskyty shromážděny. Zatímco ve vzorcích pocházejících z *the Independent* byl slovesný čas posunut pouze v 32 ze 100 zkoumaných případů, u vzorků shromážděných z článků uveřejněných v *the Guardian* výsledky dopadly opačně. Ze 100 výskytů byl slovesný čas zpětně posunut v 58 případech.

Dále byl zkoumán výskyt jednotlivých forem nepřímé reprezentace. Výsledky analýzy jednoznačně ukázaly, že nejrozšířenějším typem používaným v novinových článcích je nepřímá řeč s celkovým počtem 128 výskytů (64%), z toho v 54 případech byla uplatněna časová souslednost. Druhou nejrozšířenější formou byla nepřímá řeč obsahující pasáž přímo odcitovaného textu, která byla zaznamenána ve 38 případech (19%). Zde byl zpětný posun slovesného času uplatněn ve 24 výskytech. Dále následovala nepřímá forma psaného projevu. Ta byla zaznamenána celkem 15krát (7,5%), z toho u pouhých 3 vzorků byla aplikována časová souslednost. Naproti tomu z 11 vzorků (5,5%) nepřímého psaní obsahujících přímou citaci, byl slovesný čas posunut v 9 případech.

Kromě výše zmíněných bylo v datovém korpusu objeveno 5 vzorků (2,5%) volné nepřímé řeči a 3 vzorky (1,5 %) nepřímé reprodukce myšlenky, přičemž ani v jednom ze vzorků nebyl slovesný čas zpětně posunut. Zatímco u nepřímé myšlenky nejde o nic až tak neobvyklého, u volné nepřímé řeči bylo toto zjištění překvapující, neboť například Quirk a kol. uvádí aplikaci časové souslednosti jako jedno z hlavních kritérií tohoto typu nepřímé jazykové reprezentace.

Během analýzy byla zjištěna ještě další zajímavá fakta. Například co se týče pozice uvozovací věty, bylo zaznamenáno, že autoři novinových reportáží mají tendenci umisťovat ji před reprodukovanou zprávu. Z 200 zkoumaných vzorků byla uvozovací věta nalezena v iniciální pozici ve 155 případech (77,5%), což je ovšem v rozporu se zjištěními Bibera a kol., kteří ve své práci tvrdí, že autoři novinových zpráv upřednostňují finální pozici. Ta však byla v datovém korpusu objevena pouze 38krát (19%). Zde je však třeba zdůraznit, že Biber a kol. zahrnují do své analýzy kromě nepřímých také přímé formy jazykové reprezentace, u kterých lze rozpoznat, že se jedná o reprodukované sdělení, i když je uvozující věta umístěna až na konci, neboť přímá řeč je vždy ohraničena uvozovkami. Na druhou stranu, při analýze korpusu bylo pozorováno, že finální pozice uvozovací věty je u nepřímých forem většinou zvolena, pokud reportér do článku zařadí více sdělení od stejného mluvčího, která na sebe navazují. Pokud se však mluvčí v článku často střídají, je uvozovací věta ve většině případů umístěna na začátku. Ve dvou vzorcích (1%) pak byla uvozovací věta nalezena v mediální pozici

V další části analýzy byly podrobněji zkoumány výskyty nepřímé reprezentace, u nichž byl zjištěn posun slovesného času. Pozornost byla zaměřena především na faktory, které mohou mít vliv na rozhodnutí reportéra slovesný čas zpětně posunout. Během analýzy bylo identifikováno hned několik činitelů. Za prvé bylo zjištěno, že všech 90 analyzovaných

výskytů lze vysvětlit pomocí tradiční časové souslednosti, kdy je změna tvaru slovesa ve vedlejší větě nepřímé reprezentace důsledkem použití minulého času slovesa ve větě uvozovací. Jako jeden z dalších možných důvodů, který může vést k uplatnění časové souslednosti, byla shledána skutečnost, že si reportér není zcela jistý, zda platnost původního výroku již nevypršela. Pokud se reportér rozhodne pro nahrazení původního minulého času časem předminulým, může se snažit zdůraznit skutečnost, že situace nebo akce, která je obsahem sdělení, byla dokončena ještě před tím, než se o ní původní mluvčí zmínil. Dalším důvodem k aplikaci časové souslednosti může být fakt, že se reportér snaží od původního výroku distancovat, například proto, že s ním nesouhlasí. Může také naznačovat, že autor původního výroku není zcela spolehlivým zdrojem informací a snažit se tak ovlivnit názor čtenáře na tohoto mluvčího. Časovou souslednost může reportér uplatnit také v situaci, kdy nevěří anebo si není zcela jistý, že je původní výrok pravdivý. V případě, že se původní prohlášení týká budoucnosti, může zpětný posun znamenat, že si reportér nemyslí nebo neočekává, že by situace skutečně nastala.

Dále bylo zpozorováno, že v nepřímých reportážích psaného projevu reportéři uplatňují časovou souslednost především v případech, kdy je původní sdělení uveřejněno například na webové stránce nebo na Facebooku. Možným důvodem může být skutečnost, že na rozdíl od výroků, které jsou permanentně zaznamenány na papíře, u těch, které jsou uveřejněny na internetu, musí reportér počítat s rizikem, že mohou být kdykoli smazány, aktualizovány, nebo jinak změněny.

Je třeba dodat, že někdy může za aplikací časové souslednosti stát kombinace více faktorů, jindy naopak může být reportérovým úmyslem pouze podat objektivní zprávu o tom, co bylo v minulosti vyřčeno nebo napsáno.

V poslední kapitole analytické části je pozornost soustředěna na rozbor důvodů u vzorků nepřímé jazykové reprezentace, ve kterých časová souslednost uplatněna nebyla. V první řadě k aplikaci časové souslednosti nedochází, pokud je sloveso v uvozovací větě v přítomném nebo předpřítomném čase. Takových výskytů bylo v korpusu nalezeno celkem 14. Zajímavé je, že mezi ně patří i všechny 3 vzorky nepřímé reprezentace myšlenek. Důvodem by mohlo být, že na rozdíl od reprezentace řeči, která byla vyslovena v jednom určitém okamžiku, mentální stavy mají trvalejší charakter. Na konkrétní závěr je ale počet výskytů příliš malý. Důvodem, proč někdy nedochází k uplatnění časové souslednosti, může být také skutečnost, že reportér chce zdůraznit pokračující platnost původního výroku. Dalším ze zjištěných

důvodů je, že reprodukováná zpráva obsahuje buď konkrétní datum, nebo příslovce času, anebo celkový kontext článku dostatečně specifikuje dobu, ke které se událost vztahuje, takže nemůže dojít k nesprávné interpretaci použitých slovesných časů. Pokud jde o nalezené výskyty volné nepřímé řeči, důvodem, proč ani v jednom z nalezených vzorků nebyla aplikována časová souslednost, se zdá být skutečnost, že jejich slovesný čas se řídí časem, který je použitý v nepřímé řeči, kterou volná nepřímá řeč doplňuje.

Je však třeba zdůraznit, že aplikace časové souslednosti je velmi široké téma, přičemž analýza byla prováděna na vzorku pouhých 200 výskytů nepřímých jazykových reportáží. Pro potvrzení nebo vyvrácení zjištěných výsledků by tak bylo třeba dalšího výzkumu.

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9 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Alphabetical list of used abbreviations

Abbreviations used for labelling individual occurrences in the corpus were adopted from Semino and Short.

FIS	Free Indirect Speech
IS	Indirect Speech
IS-q	Indirect Speech with quotation
IT	Indirect Thought
IW	Indirect Writing
IW-q	Indirect Writing with quotation

Appendix B: The data corpus

Tense backshifted

1. The sister and brother-in-law of Troadec have been remanded in custody, sources close to the case said.
Pierre Sennes, a Nantes prosecutor, confirmed that two people were in custody but declined to give their identities. (A1)

IS, tense backshifted
2. Police said in a bulletin dated 24 February that the 21-year-old was suspected of “putting in place a macabre plan aimed at snuffing out the members of his family and maybe himself”. (A1)

IW-q, tense backshifted
3. Aluf Benn, editor-in-chief of the daily paper Haaretz, said in a front-page article it was the most important victory yet for the coalition government led by the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.
“The appointment of four new justices to the supreme court is the most important achievement in the political and social revolution being pursued by Benjamin Netanyahu’s current government,” he wrote. (A10)

IW, tense backshifted

4. Shaked made clear she **had pushed** the candidacy of the judges as part of a wider effort to push back judicial oversight of political decisions, including an outpost legalisation bill expected to come before the court. (A10)

IS, tense backshifted

5. Yedidya Stern, a law professor and vice-president of the Israel Democracy Institute, a research centre aimed at strengthening the foundations of Israeli democracy, said the four appointees **were** “good and efficient judges”. (A10)

IS-q, tense backshifted

6. But he said the big question **was** “whether the supreme court, with these people, will continue to be a bulwark” against anti-democratic elements in Israeli society. (A10)

IS-q, tense backshifted

7. Sotheby’s said its forthcoming sales of impressionist, modern and surrealist works **had** a combined estimate of £233m. (A11)

IS, tense backshifted

8. Alex Branczik, head of contemporary art for Sotheby’s Europe, said the art market **had been defying** predictions of a downswing.

[...]

“We are incredibly positive and confident about the market. If we get the material then the demand is as strong as ever, if not stronger.” (A11)

IS, tense backshifted

9. The sale last June, days after the Brexit vote, **had been** particularly strong, he added.

[...]

“The results of that sale were extraordinary ... people were coming to the London sales to shop. But the prices achieved were far higher than could be explained by currency fluctuation,” he said (A11)

IS, tense backshifted

10. The department said it **would erect** crocodile warning signs. (A7)

IS, tense backshifted

11. Dambar Parajuli, president of the Expedition Operators Association of Nepal, said on Wednesday the bags **had been sent** to camp two, a large camping site established in 2014 after an avalanche killed 16 Nepalese guides, leading to the cancellation of the climbing season. (A36)

IS, tense backshifted

12. Veteran guide Russell Brice said the tents and supplies left by rescued climbers **needed** to be removed. (A36)

IS, tense backshifted

13. A group of hiking companies that sponsor climbers said it **was trying** to bolster coordination between teams at high camps to avoid long queues of climbers in the mountain's "death zone".

"This will reduce crowding, minimise risks and improve safety," Parajuli said. (A36)

IS-q, tense backshifted

14. Roger Strauch, Mosse's step-great-grandson and a member of the Mosse Foundation, said the project **was not** about retribution towards Germany but about discovering the truth. "Our first priority is to ensure the remembrance of the Mosse family," he said. "The second is to make use of the tremendous provenance talent in Germany, who are deeply dedicated to finding the truth about what happened to these works." (A13)

IS, tense backshifted

15. Strauch said major art institutions **had signalled** their readiness to be involved in the project. (A13)

IS, tense backshifted

16. Strauch insisted they **had** information about certain works belonging to the Mosse family but **were** unwilling to cooperate because they **had sold** confiscated items.

"We've been in touch with the major auction houses, and they do know where some of these works are. But they are not going to tell us because they sold them," Strauch said. (A13)

IS, tense backshifted

17. Strauch said the process **would be** awkward and difficult but **was** "the important next step in our work". (A13)

IS-q, tense backshifted

18. The Department of National Parks of Thailand, the anti-trafficking group Freeland and Panthera, a wildcat conservation organisation, said only 221 Indochinese tigers **were estimated** to remain in just two Asian countries, Thailand and neighbouring Myanmar. (A19)

IS, tense backshifted

19. The group said it **had been tracking** the tiger population since 1999 and, for the first time last year, camera traps **had photographed** six cubs from four mothers. (A19)

IS, tense backshifted

20. Alan Rabinowitz, the chief executive officer of Panthera, said in a video call from New York that Thailand **had** “one of the best-protected and best tiger areas left in the world”. “Thailand has shown that you can protect tigers and bring them back. They can do this now in the eastern forest complex as they have done in the western forest complex,” he added. (A19)

IS-q, tense backshifted

21. Panthera said on its website that only 8% of tiger sites **had** a confirmed breeding population, meaning the photos **were** “a huge – and rare – win”. (A19)

IW-q, tense backshifted

22. The fisherman, who quit school after sixth grade, said he **planned** to rest after flying home to General Santos on Thursday, but vowed never to set foot on a boat again. “Maybe I will go back to school instead,” he added. (A2)

IS, tense backshifted

23. David McKie, defending Grebenc, said his client **was** extremely remorseful. He said: “He has asked me to express his remorse and apologies to the court and passengers for his irresponsibility and what was a significant misjudgment on his part. He takes full responsibility for his actions.” (A28)

IS, tense backshifted

24. However, he said Grebenc **recognised** the seriousness of his actions. He said: “He recognises that he ought to have stopped drinking at an earlier point that evening and his failure to do so will have catastrophic consequences for him, his career and for his family.” (A28)

IS, tense backshifted

25. Despite appeals broadcast on British and Greek television the student was never found but Cheshire police said on Friday that the Greek authorities **had confirmed** to them that the remains **were** Cook’s following the conclusion of a forensic examination. (A35)

IS, tense backshifted

26. In a post on the Find Steven Cook Facebook group, the family said they **would be bringing** their son home to say their “farewells”. (A35)

IW-q, tense backshifted

27. Cheshire police said their first priority **was** to have the remains flown back to the UK as soon as possible, with Greek authorities remaining in charge of the investigation into his death, although it is not yet clear if it is a murder inquiry. (A35)

IS, tense backshifted

28. A police spokesman said there **did not appear** to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, but appealed for anyone with footage of the bout or information that might help to contact the investigations team. (A29)

IS, tense backshifted

29. The Board of England Boxing confirmed that a boxer **had died** after a bout at an event it **had sanctioned** in Derby.

“We are extremely saddened by this and would like to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the person involved in this terrible and shocking incident,” it said in a statement. (A29)

IS, tense backshifted

30. The board **had set up** its own investigation into what happened, it said, and asked coaches, officials and volunteers present to cooperate with the police. (A29)

IS, tense backshifted

31. With Hollande beside his hospital bed, Théo made a televised appeal for his neighbourhood to stay calm and “stay united”. He said he **did not want** a war on the estate and that he **trusted** the justice system. (A12)

IS, tense backshifted

32. With Hollande beside his hospital bed, Théo made a televised appeal for his neighbourhood to stay calm and “stay united”. He said he did not want a war on the estate and that he trusted the justice system. Théo’s sister, a professional handball player, **said the family wanted** justice and calm, not “incidents”. (A12)

IS-q, tense backshifted

33. Shortly after, he was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery to repair his rectum. Doctors said he **would be** incapacitated for three months. (A12)

IS, tense backshifted

34. Sebastian Roché, a sociologist specialising in French policing, told Le Parisien newspaper that in recent years politicians **had done** little to address the decaying relationship between police and young people or to tackle the tensions and racial discrimination on housing estates. He said: “The crucial question is how to treat citizens in an equal way? No government on the right or left has seized on this question.” (A12)

IS, tense backshifted

35. With less than three months until the French presidential election, tension over policing in France has become a political issue. The far-right Front National’s Marine Le Pen, who polls show will make it to the final presidential runoff in May, has large support among police – more than half the police and military vote Front National. Questioned over Théo’s case, she said her principle was to “support the police” unless the justice system **proved** a crime **had taken place**. (A12)

IS-q, tense backshifted

36. Park director Thierry Duguet said the attack was “unbelievable” and that Vince **had been** one of the most popular attractions at the zoo. “It’s extremely shocking,” Duguet told 20 Minutes newspaper. “An act of such extreme violence has never happened before in Europe.” (A48)

IW-q, tense backshifted

37. The zoo announced the news on its Facebook page. It said the two other rhinos in the enclosure, Gracie, 37, and Bruno, five, **had** “escaped the massacre” and **were** unharmed. (A48)

IW-q, tense backshifted

38. The zoo announced the news on its Facebook page. It said the two other rhinos in the enclosure, Gracie, 37, and Bruno, five, had “escaped the massacre” and were unharmed. [...]
It said the animal’s second horn **had been** partially **cut** “leaving us to think the criminals were disturbed or their equipment failed”. (A48)

IW-q, tense backshifted

39. In Zimbabwe last autumn, the authorities announced they **would remove** the horns of 700 adult rhinoceros to dissuade attacks from poachers. (A48)

IS, tense backshifted

40. At least 46 people have died and dozens more have been injured in a giant landslide at Ethiopia’s largest rubbish dump outside Addis Ababa, a tragedy squatters living there blamed on a biogas plant being built nearby. [...]
Dagmawit Moges, head of the city communications bureau, **said 46 people had died** – 32 female and 14 male, including some children. (A3)

IS, tense backshifted

41. According to residents, about 50 houses with about seven people living in each of them were built on the rubbish.
People **had built** the houses about two to three years ago, **said Berhanu Degefe**, a rubbish collector who lives at the dump but whose home was not destroyed. (A3)

IS, tense backshifted

42. A pirate confirmed the release **had been made** without a ransom payment.
[...]
“After we came to know that the Somali traders hired the oil tanker, we released it without a ransom,” pirate Abdullahi told Reuters. (A31)
- IS, tense backshifted
43. But the pirates said they **had agreed** to forego a ransom after learning that Somali businessmen **had hired** the Aris 13, which was taking oil from Djibouti to the Somali capital, Mogadishu.
[...]
“After we came to know that the Somali traders hired the oil tanker, we released it without a ransom,” pirate Abdullahi told Reuters. (A31)
- IS, tense backshifted
44. “It is easy to boil noodles or rice, but they have almost no nutritional value and there is no need to eat imported food when we have so much local food grown organically on our islands.”
Dini said his province **had** an abundance of locally grown or sourced food to sustain its population including fish, crabs, shellfish, taro, yams, paw paw and pineapple. (A34)
- IS, tense backshifted
45. “At the moment we have an infiltration of junk food from overseas,” he said.
[...]
The most popular imported foods consumed in Torba **were** rice, sweets, tinned fish and biscuits, he said. (A34)
- IS, tense backshifted
46. Beginning this week and with the backing of local chiefs Dini has ordered tourism bungalows to serve guests only locally grown, organic food, with a plan to introduce legislation within the next two years banning the importation of all foreign food. Torba aims to be Vanuatu’s first organic province by the year 2020.
Dini said the central government in Port Vila **was** supportive of his plan and keen to observe how the ban **would be tolerated** by locals and visitors. (A34)
- IS, tense backshifted
47. Jo Stevens and Tulip Siddiq have already resigned from the frontbench in order to vote against Brexit, and there has been speculation about Rachael Maskell, the shadow environment secretary, who said she **would make** a statement later on Wednesday. (A43)
- IS, tense backshifted
48. On Wednesday morning Emily Thornberry, the shadow foreign secretary, said Labour’s fight to shape Brexit **would begin** in earnest after article 50 **was triggered**. (A43)
- IS, tense backshifted

49. “We wanted to stay in the European Union, and we were pretty united around that,” Thornberry said of Labour’s view. “But we lost. The country decided that we should leave the European Union. It was a very serious vote.”
The battle now, she told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, **was to persuade May to go for a Brexit that would not damage the UK economy.** (A43)

IS, tense backshifted

50. Thornberry confirmed that the three-line whip **would remain** in place even if no amendments **were passed**: “We have said consistently, since the result, that we will not frustrate the will of the British people, and they want to leave.” (A43)

IS, tense backshifted

51. The Brexit secretary, David Davis, opened the debate by urging MPs to deliver the will of the people. He said the “point of no return” **had** already **passed**, adding that there would be “no attempts to remain inside the EU, no attempts to rejoin it by the back door and no second referendum”. (A43)

IS-q, tense backshifted

52. Davis said people **were watching** to see if politicians **would keep** their word. “Now we must honour our side of the agreement to vote to deliver on the result. We are considering a very simple question: do we trust the people or not?” (A43)

IS, tense backshifted

53. The country’s SBU security service said on Wednesday it **had banned** Yulia Samoilova from Ukraine for three years for her violations of Ukrainian legislation. (A46)

IS, tense backshifted

54. Susana Jamaladynova, who goes by the stage name Jamala, won with her song 1944 about the deportation by Soviet authorities of the Crimean Tatar population to Central Asia. The singer, from the minority Crimean Tatar population that largely opposed Russian annexation, **said before the contest that the song was about both the events of 1944 and 2014.** (A46)

IS, tense backshifted

55. Up to 70,000 people are to be evacuated from the Greek city of Thessaloniki ahead of an operation to defuse an unexploded second world war bomb.
[...]
More than 300 disabled people and bedbound patients **were to be the first evacuated on Saturday using 20 ambulances,** authorities from Greece’s second city said. (A4)

IS, tense backshifted

56. Up to 70,000 people are to be evacuated from the Greek city of Thessaloniki ahead of an operation to defuse an unexploded second world war bomb.

[...]

Evacuation **was** “obligatory”, the regional security chief Apostolos Tzitzikostas said. (A4)

IS-q, tense backshifted

57. He added that the operation **was** unprecedented in Greece, “where a bomb of this size has never been found in an area this densely populated”. (A4)

IS-q, tense backshifted

58. Regional authorities said the entire operation **would take** up to eight hours. (A4)

IS, tense backshifted

59. Even after his \$400,000 donation, Mr Jennings Sr said he **planned** on raising more funds for the charity through recycling “until the undertaker turns my toes up”.

“I just hope I can keep on going as long as I can,” he said. “As long as my health can keep up... It feels great. That’s worth more than money.” (A15)

IS-q, tense backshifted

60. Mr Chatuphon said it **was** unhelpful for the public to point blame, telling the *Bangkok Post*: “If everyone keeps looking for people to find fault with, officials will be discouraged and eventually will dare not do any work.” (A44)

IS, tense backshifted

61. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has celebrated a controversial trade deal with the European Union.

[...]

Addressing the EU parliament a day after the pact was formally approved, Mr Trudeau said the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (Ceta) deal **would** create jobs and boost the middle class on both sides of the Atlantic. (A23)

IS, tense backshifted

62. He presented the pact as a "blue-print" for future trade deals and said it **was** the outcome of Europe and Canada's shared history and values. (A23)

IS, tense backshifted

63. Mark Dearn, senior trade campaigner at anti-poverty charity War on Want, warned the deal **would** “worsen inequality and increase social tensions across the continent.”

He said: “Worse still, Ceta’s ‘corporate court’ process destroys equality before the law and will give big business new powers to sue [the UK's] government.” (A23)

IS-q, tense backshifted

64. Laurens Ankersmit, a lawyer for environmental law organisation ClientEarth, warned the European Parliament had “placed a greater value in business interests than a commitment to the rule of law”. (A23)

IS-q, tense backshifted

65. The FIGC, announcing next week's event, said: "During the ceremony a special Golden Bench will be given to Claudio Ranieri, the protagonist of the extraordinary journey by Leicester, with whom he won the Premier League."

[...]

The federation added on its website that Ranieri would also give a keynote speech on the same day for the gathering of coaches from the country's professional clubs. (A39)

IW, tense backshifted

66. Police Chief Michael Harrison said the male driver was being investigated for driving while intoxicated. (A42)

IS, tense backshifted

67. He did not rule out terrorism but said the early signs appeared to rule it out. (A42)

IS, tense backshifted

68. Harrison said the officer, who was on duty, was undergoing tests to determine the extent of her injuries. (A42)

IS, tense backshifted

69. She was in "good spirits," he said. (A42)

IS-q, tense backshifted

70. The prime minister said there was a real possibility his opponent, the nationalist anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders, could win the parliamentary election.

"There is a real risk that on March 16 we can wake up in this country and Geert Wilders is leading the biggest party and that will send a signal to the rest of the world," he warned. (A25)

IS, tense backshifted

71. Wilson also had sought the death penalty in state court. Talking with AP on Friday, she said she was confident the federal case against Roof would be upheld.

"I think it is highly unlikely that anything will be disturbed on appeal in federal court," she said. (A20)

IS, tense backshifted

72. Mr De Haven's sister Denelle Wicht posted on Facebook that her 70-year-old brother had been killed "on a once in a lifetime trip to Australia" with friends. (A33)

IW-q, tense backshifted

73. Though critics were not united in what policies they wanted to see from the Government, observers from across the political spectrum said the paper was a disappointment or “missed opportunity” to fix the crisis.

[...]

“This is an unambitious and disappointing paper.”

[...]

Ben Southwood, head of research at the free market Adam Smith Institute, criticised the paper for not making changes to the planning system and described it as a “missed opportunity”.

“Like many others, we’re disappointed: there’s very little today that tackles the green belt, height restrictions, or perverse incentives that make people oppose development. (A40)

IS-q, tense backshifted

74. John Healey, Labour’s shadow housing secretary, said the plan was “feeble beyond belief”.

“Really, is this it? When the housing minister himself admits the Government’s record on housing is ‘feeble’ and ‘embarrassing’ we’d hoped for better. In fact we needed better,” he said in his response to the papers launch in the House of Commons. (A40)

IS-q, tense backshifted

75. Green party co-leader Jonathan Bartley said the policies were a “slap in the face for the millions of people in this country desperate for bold plans to reduce rents and make their housing affordable”. (A40)

IS-q, tense backshifted

76. Mr Nilsson-Wright said the incursion could be seen as "an attempt to push back against that reported confirmation by the Americans. It's both a test of the US administration and it's also an attempt to consistently maintain China's policy of pushing at the limits of Japanese territorial defence." (A24)

IS-q, tense backshifted

77. The force said the changes were “proportionate and necessary” but that there was “no specific threat to Windsor” ahead of the next Changing The Guard on Wednesday. Assistant Chief Constable Dave Hardcastle said: “While there is no intelligence to indicate a specific threat to Windsor, recent events in Westminster clearly highlight the need for extra security measures to be introduced.

“The force believes that it is proportionate and necessary to put in place extra security measures to further protect and support the public and the guard change. (A47)

IS-q, tense backshifted

78. The city's fire and rescue agency confirmed a portion of the Interstate 85 highway had collapsed. (A9)

IS, tense backshifted

79. There were no immediate reports of casualties but Atlanta Fire and Rescue said all lanes were blocked and told residents to avoid the area. (A9)

IS, tense backshifted

80. The governor's office also said no one had been injured. (A9)

IS, tense backshifted

81. Payment provider Worldpay in January said that spending by Chinese visitors had increased by 24 per cent year-on-year over the Christmas period, at least partially as a result of the fall in the pound. (A14)

IS, tense backshifted

82. A spokesman for the HSE said it was "aware and assisting the Metropolitan Police in their investigation and HSE inspectors are attending the site". (A18)

IS-q, tense backshifted

83. It said the "Art-Less" project was conceived as protest against President Trump's controversial executive order banning US entry to travellers from seven majority Muslim countries. (A49)

IS-q, tense backshifted

84. The move comes after widespread condemnation of Mr Trump's travel ban by the museum community.
A statement released by the Association of Art Museum Directors in response to the ban said it was "deeply concerned" with the order and said it put art and academia "in jeopardy". (A49)

IW-q, tense backshifted

85. He has been identified as either "Ringo" or "George" in the British cell known as The Beatles, which included the executioner known as Jihadi John before he was killed in a US drone strike last year.
The group was accused of beheading more than 27 hostages and torturing many more, the State Department said, adding: "Elsheikh was said to have earned a reputation for waterboarding, mock executions, and crucifixions while serving as an Isis jailer." (A16)

IS, tense backshifted

86. A statement on the Teenage Cancer Trust website said that the only people who should profit from the event at the Royal Albert Hall are young people with cancer.
The charity added that it would introduce "additional measures like limiting the number of tickets people can buy, and requiring photo ID to enter the concert".
"Anyone with tickets purchased on the secondary market will not be admitted." (A21)

IW-q, tense backshifted

87. A statement on the Viagogo website said that any person who **bought** tickets from their site **would have to be accompanied** into the venue by the seller, in what appears to be an attempt to pass by the restrictions imposed by the Royal Albert Hall and Teenage Cancer Trust.

The FanFair Alliance, a campaign against secondary ticket touting, said: [...]

"And yet, not only are Viagogo encouraging touts to sell these tickets at vastly inflated prices, none of which goes back to the charity, they attempt to circumvent the terms and conditions by advertising that the buyer will be accompanied into the venue by the seller. (A21)

IW, tense backshifted

88. Representatives for the 'Shape of You' singer said Sheeran and his team **were** "vehemently opposed to the unethical practices that occur in the secondary market".

"We are aware and deeply concerned about the websites in question and have urged all fans not to engage with them in order to avoid being ripped off with higher prices, or, potentially, counterfeit tickets," the statement continued. (A21)

IS-q, tense backshifted

89. Dmitry Peskov told CNN that it **was** "high time for someone in the States to think, 'Are we that weak that a country can interfere in our domestic affairs and influence our electoral system?'" (A32)

IS-q, tense backshifted

90. He added that Russians **had** no wish to interfere and that Russia **wanted** a relationship with a stable government, what he called a "predictable partner". (A32)

IS-q, tense backshifted

Tense not backshifted

Reporting verb in the past tense

91. The sister and brother-in-law of Troadec **have been remanded** in custody, sources close to the case said. (A1)

IS, tense not backshifted

92. The sister and brother-in-law of Troadec have been remanded in custody, sources close to the case said.

The couple **had** already **been questioned** by police at the beginning of the investigation into the disappearance of the Troadec family, the sources said, confirming reports in a local newspaper. (A1)

IS, tense not backshifted

93. In searches at the parents' home in a suburb of Nantes, police **discovered** Sebastien's mobile phone and his mother's watch covered with blood, police said. (A1)

IS, tense not backshifted

94. He **accepted** a second bribe of 4 million yuan from the same person in 2013 to buy another house for his second daughter, the court said. (A30)

IS, tense not backshifted

95. Wang **doled out** construction projects in return for the bribes, it said. (A30)

IS, tense not backshifted

96. The federal environment department said on Wednesday the attack **occurred** on Sunday, when the victim and three friends **went** to the La Encrucijada reserve to fish. (A7)

IS, tense not backshifted

97. The department said experts and fishermen **began working** on Tuesday to locate crocodiles of that length in a swampy area on the Pacific coast of Chiapas state. (A7)

IS, tense not backshifted

98. State prosecutor Jorge Winckler said the clandestine burial pits **appear** to contain the victims of drug cartels killed years ago. (A8)

IS, tense not backshifted

99. Winckler said excavations **have covered** only a third of the lot where the skulls **were found**, and more people **may be buried** there.

"I cannot imagine how many more people are illegally buried there," Winckler said, noting the state has reports of about 2,400 people who are still missing. (A8)

IS, tense not backshifted

100. He said he **survived** on rainwater and moss growing at the hull of his 2.5m (8-foot) long boat, finding respite from the heat of the tropical sun by diving into the water frequently. (A2)

IS, tense not backshifted

101. He said the ships and fishing boats apparently **failed** to see their tiny vessels bobbing about 3km-5km away. (A2)

IS, tense not backshifted

102. When the Japanese fishing vessel Wakaba Maru found him, **Omongos** said he **was** very weak and emaciated, having been reduced to eating moss once every few days. (A2)

IS, tense not backshifted

103. The court heard that on the morning of 27 August, Grebenc and United Airlines colleagues **were brought** to Glasgow airport from the Hilton hotel in the city, where they **had spent** the night, having flown from the US to Scotland the previous day. (A28)

IS, tense not backshifted

104. As a US air force pilot Grebenc **flew** in war zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan, where his role **was** to carry out mid-air fuel transfers, and he **had been involved** in training young pilots, the court heard. (A28)

IS, tense not backshifted

105. McKie told the court his client **was** under pressure at the time of the incident as there **had been** a recent family argument, while two weeks previously doctors **had found** a shadow on his son's lung they **feared might be** cancerous, and the family **had to wait** until September to find out the prognosis. (A28)

IS, tense not backshifted

106. Derbyshire police said officers **were called** to the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, at 10.17pm on Friday. (A29)

IS, tense not backshifted

107. The centre's website said an "amateur open boxing show" **was being held** at the venue from 7-11pm on Friday, organised by the South Normanton School of Boxing. (A29)

IW-q, tense not backshifted

108. He said a police baton **was forced** into his anus and that he **was** then **sprayed** with teargas to the face and mouth and beaten to the head while officers **shouted** insults, including "bitch". (A12)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

109. He said the pain from being sprayed and beaten to the head **seemed** "fleeting" because he **was in such agony** from the baton attack. "I was walking only because they were holding me up," he said. (A12)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

110. The poachers **fled** before they **could remove** the animal's second horn, either because they **were disturbed** or because their equipment **failed**, police said. (A48)

IS, tense not backshifted

111. Poachers have broken into a French zoo, killing a four-year-old white rhinoceros and sawing off its horn.
[...]
The zoo said he **belonged** to a subspecies of southern white rhinoceros that **is** “extremely threatened”. (A48)
- IS-q, tense not backshifted
112. Many of the victims **were** squatters who **scavenged** for a living in the 30-hectare (74-acre) dump, she said. (A3)
- IS, tense not backshifted
113. Musa Suleiman Abdulah, who lost his wooden shack topped with plastic sheeting in the disaster, **said when it happened, he heard** “a big sound”. (A3)
- IS-q, tense not backshifted
114. Degefe blamed the collapse on a new biogas plant being constructed on top of the hill. Bulldozers could be seen on top of the hill pushing piles of rubbish around.
Degefe said they **were levelling** ground for the plant, increasing pressure on the hillside and causing the collapse. (A3)
- IS, tense not backshifted
115. The vessel was hijacked on Monday. Residents living near where it was being held said four civilians **were injured** by stray bullets during Thursday’s gunbattle. (A31)
- IS, tense not backshifted
116. Clarke told colleagues that even his former colleague Enoch Powell, best known for his “Rivers of Blood” speech, **would be surprised** to see what **had become** of the Tories. “If he was here he would probably find it amazing to believe that his party had become Eurosceptic and rather mildly anti-immigrant in a strange way in 2016,” he said. (A43)
- IS, tense not backshifted
117. A spokesperson for the police in Tempe, Arizona, **said the crash happened when** another car “failed to yield” to an Uber car at a left turn. (A41)
- IS-q, tense not backshifted
118. People living in a nearby refugee camp **will also have to be evacuated**, the migration ministry said, without specifying the number affected. (A4)
- IS, tense not backshifted
119. At their request, the refugees **will use** the evacuation as an opportunity to visit the local archaeology museum, the ministry added. (A4)
- IS, tense not backshifted

120. The octogenerian from the US state of Georgia said he **started** the project in 1985, as a way to bond with his son, Brent who was 17-years-old at the time. (A15)

IS, tense not backshifted

121. "They're really proud," Brent said. "I took the cheque down on Mother's Day to a trustee meeting and they said 'well, that will pay a lot of bills'."
He added that he **had** always **planned** to donate the money he raised to a children's charity, ever since a heartbreaking experience as a young man. (A15)

IS, tense not backshifted

122. His father said his son **was able to pay** the down payment on his first home with his own savings earned from recycling. (A15)

IS, tense not backshifted

123. Andreas Kornfeld of Alexander Historical Auctions in Chesapeake City, Maryland, said it **sold** on Sunday afternoon to a person who **bid** by phone. (A5)

IS, tense not backshifted

124. Mr Kornfeld said a porcelain figure of an Alsatian dog, also owned by Hitler, **was also sold** on Sunday to a different bidder for \$24,300 (£19,500). (A5)

IS, tense not backshifted

125. Ruling in favour of the world's largest online retailer, he said it **was legal** for Amazon to have funnelled its European sales through a low-tax Luxembourg sub-company in 2005 and 2006, instead of the US. (A6)

IS, tense not backshifted

126. Amazon said that if it **had lost** it **could have had been forced** to pay a US tax bill as high as \$1.5bn and potentially **faced** "significant" tax liabilities in the years to come. (A6)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

127. Thongchai Saengprathum, secretary of the Khao Yai Foundation, said the officials involved **should face** legal action for negligence and that the bear **should have been driven** by car.
[...]"Officials were also careless in calculating the weight of the bear to give the correct dose of tranquilizer to prevent it from waking up during the operation. It should also have been put in a cage." (A44)

IS, tense not backshifted

128. Wildlife officers in Thailand have launched an investigation after an Asian black bear was accidentally dropped from a helicopter and killed.

[...]

He also said the bear **was being taken** to a poorly-chosen location. (A44)

IS, tense not backshifted

129. Values **dropped** by an average of 6.7 per cent across the capital's best-performing districts as successive sales tax **increases** damped demand, Knight Frank said in a report on Monday. (A38)

IW, tense not backshifted

130. Values dropped by an average of 6.7 per cent across the capital's best-performing districts as successive sales tax increases damped demand, Knight Frank said in a report on Monday. The lower prices **are luring** buyers back into the market, with sales increasing in the final quarter of 2016, the broker said. (A38)

IW, tense not backshifted

131. More owners **are accepting** the need for discount house prices to make up for the higher transaction costs that buyers face, Tom Bill, the head of London residential research at Knight Frank, wrote in the report. (A38)

IW, tense not backshifted

132. The number of prospective buyers **increased** 14 per cent in the final quarter of 2016 compared to results from a year earlier, Knight Frank reported. (A38)

IW, tense not backshifted

133. The Italian football federation (FIGC) said Ranieri's feat of guiding Leicester to last season's Premier League title **will see** him receive a special 'Golden Bench' honour at a coaching summit. (A39)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

134. His spokesperson Fraser P Seitel said the banker **died** peacefully in his sleep in his Pocantico Hills home in New York on Monday morning. (A22)

IS, tense not backshifted

135. Emergency Services Director, Dr Jeff Elder said 21 people **were taken** to hospital, with five victims in guarded condition. (A42)

IS, tense not backshifted

136. The victims **range** in age from as young as three or four-years-old to adults in their 30s and 40s, said Dr Elder. (A42)

IS, tense not backshifted

137. One woman at the scene told The New Orleans Advocate that a silver truck **whisked** by her just feet away as she **was walking** through the intersection. (A42)

IS, tense not backshifted

138. Twenty-year-old Kourtney McKinnis told the Advocate that the driver of the truck **seemed** almost unaware of what he **had just done**. (A42)

IS, tense not backshifted

139. Solicitor Scarlett Wilson told The Associated Press on Friday that Roof **is** scheduled to enter a guilty plea during a hearing on April 10 in Charleston. (A20)

IW, tense not backshifted

140. The plea on all of his state charges, including nine counts of murder, **comes** in exchange for a sentence of life in prison, the prosecutor said. (A20)

IW, tense not backshifted

141. Authorities said Roof **spent** months planning out his attack on the historic black church, sitting through an hour of Bible study one Wednesday night before opening fire during a closing prayer, while participants' eyes **were** closed. (A20)

IS, tense not backshifted

142. A lack of affordable homes, along with government funding cuts and restrictions on welfare benefits, **has helped** increase the country's homeless population by 6 percent over the last year to 58,000 people, said a report by the housing charity Crisis. (A27)

IW, tense not backshifted

143. Matthew Downie, policy director for Crisis, **said** fast action on housing **is needed** to combat growing homelessness and cuts by the ruling Conservative government. (A27)

IS, tense not backshifted

144. The government **has invested** £550 million over the next three years to help prevent homelessness, a spokesman said. (A27)

IS, tense not backshifted

145. The report said half of local authorities surveyed **found** it difficult to find homes for single young people, and large families **face** similar difficulties due to caps on welfare. (A27)

IW, tense not backshifted

146. Government limits **have left** people ineligible for services that few years ago they **would have received**, Downie said. (A27)

IS, tense not backshifted

147. A government plan to cut housing benefit payments for people under age 21 **will be a “straightforward disaster,” he said.** (A27)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

148. The five **were** on a twin-engine Beechcraft Super King Air that **crashed** about 45 minutes before the Direct Factory Outlet mall in suburban Essendon **was to open,** Police Minister Lisa Neville said. (A33)

IS, tense not backshifted

149. A witness who gave his name as Jason told Australian Broadcasting Corporation that the plane **came in** "really low and fast" before it **exploded** into "a massive fireball" on impact. (A33)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

150. Police Assistant Commissioner Stephen Leane said no one outside the plane **was injured.**

"Looking at the fireball, it is incredibly lucky that no one was at the back of those stores or in the car park of the stores, that no one was even hurt," Mr Leane said. (A33)

IS, tense not backshifted

151. The accident **is** the worst plane crash in the state for the last 30 years, authorities said. (A33)

IS, tense not backshifted

152. Dan Wilson Craw, director of Generation Rent, a tenant pressure group, **said policies on new longer tenancies only reached** the “bare minimum”. (A40)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

153. The Institute of Directors, a business lobby group, **said the policies contained in the paper were not radical enough.**

“We sympathise with anyone trying to reform the planning system, as even minor changes provoke howls of outrage, but we needed more from this White Paper,” Dan Lewis, senior infrastructure policy adviser at the IoD said. (A40)

IS, tense not backshifted

154. The Chinese vessels **spent** two hours in Japanese territorial waters, the Japanese Coast Guard said in a statement. (A24)

IS, tense not backshifted

155. They said it **is** the fourth time this year Chinese ships **have entered** Japan's waters. (A24)

IS, tense not backshifted

156. There **were** 36 similar incursions last year, they added. (A24)

IS, tense not backshifted

157. Barriers **were put** in place around the royal residence in Berkshire on Monday evening to support existing road closures, Thames Valley Police said. (A47)

IS, tense not backshifted

158. Maltesers sharing packs **weigh** 93g, down from 103g, compared with 121g in the autumn, the American multinational said. (A45)

IS, tense not backshifted

159. Chancellor Philip Hammond this month announced, as part of a sugar tax, that soft drinks with more than 5g of sugar per 100ml **will be levied** at 18p per litre. (A45)

IS, tense not backshifted

160. Nestlé also said, on the day of the budget, that it **will cut** 10 per cent sugar from its chocolate in the UK and Ireland by 2018. (A45)

IS, tense not backshifted

161. According to official figures out Friday, 37.3 million inbound visits to the UK were recorded in 2016, up 3 per cent on 2015, with visitors spending a total of £22.2bn, in line with what they spent in 2015.
Visit Britain, the body funded by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport which produced the data, said that North America, Canada and the US particularly **drove** figures. (A14)

IS, tense not backshifted

162. The US, it said, **is** Britain's most valuable tourism source market, with 4.3 million visits recorded in 2016, up 7 per cent on the previous year. (A14)

IS, tense not backshifted

163. The activity known as whole-body vibration **is** less strenuous than climbing a hill or cycling, but **may provide** similar benefits, said researchers at Augusta University in Georgia. (A17)

IS, tense not backshifted

164. The obese mice also **gained** less weight after both types of activity than a third group who **did** no exercise at all, said the study, published in the journal *Endocrinology*. (A17)

IW, tense not backshifted

165. Jenny Santos, 29, **fell** inside the Oculus hub on Saturday morning, police said. (A37)

IS, tense not backshifted

166. Ms Santos, a teacher from New Jersey, **was** trying to retrieve a hat dropped by her twin sister while the two **were** on an escalator at about 5.30am when she **reached** too far over the railing and **tumbled** over the edge, a law enforcement official told AP. (A37)

IS, tense not backshifted

167. Port Authority police spokesman Joseph Pentangelo said the woman **was** taken to a hospital where she **was** pronounced dead. (A37)

IS, tense not backshifted

168. One witness tweeted that he **saw** "a lot of blood" in the area following the accident at Banyard Road shortly after 11am. (A18)

IW-q, tense not backshifted

169. Another man, Charlie Brenland said he **saw** police cordon off the road, adding: "Witnesses and the police said there had been an accident with a worker on one of the trees. (A18)

IS, tense not backshifted

170. Police said three men **have been** detained following the shooting in San Pedro de Macoris, east of the capital of Santo Domingo. (A26)

IS, tense not backshifted

171. Police said a secretary **was** also injured and **is** undergoing surgery. (A26)

IS, tense not backshifted

172. Police said they **do not** yet have a motive for the killings. (A26)

IS, tense not backshifted

173. The Department of State said Choudary and El Shafee Elsheikh **pose** a "significant risk" of terrorism threatening Americans, national security or the country's economy. (A16)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

174. Choudary, a 50-year-old hate preacher, was jailed for supporting Isis last year but is feared to be continuing attempts to radicalise and recruit jihadis in prison. A spokesperson for the US State Department said he **acted** as a "key figure in Isis' recruitment drive" and listed his links to convicted terrorists and extremist networks including the proscribed al-Muhajiroun group. (A16)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

175. His mother, Maha Elgizouli, said the 28-year-old militant **was** a regular Londoner as a child, but **became** radicalised after one of his brothers **was drawn into** gang crime and jailed. (A16)

IS, tense not backshifted

176. A statement on the Teenage Cancer Trust website said that the only people who **should** profit from the event at the Royal Albert Hall **are** young people with cancer. (A21)

IW, tense not backshifted

177. Former Trump adviser Jeffrey Gordon told *The Independent* that he **met** with the ambassador five months before the election to discuss how Moscow and Washington **could** work together to tackle Islamic extremism if Mr Trump was elected. (A32)

IS, tense not backshifted

Reporting verb in the present tense

178. His 31-year-old uncle Reniel Omongos, who was on a second small boat, died after a month.

The nephew believes hunger and exposure **killed** the older man. (A2)

IT, tense not backshifted

179. A rhinoceros horn has an estimated value of between €30,000 and €40,000. Detectives say there **is** an established trade network in illegally poached horn between France and Asia. (A48)

IS, tense not backshifted

180. Clive Lewis, the shadow business secretary, has said he **will vote** with the government on Brexit on Wednesday but **will not back** the two-clause bill next week if Labour **fails** to secure any amendments to it. (A43)

IS, tense not backshifted

181. Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader, has made it clear it **will not be** possible for MPs to stay on the frontbench if they **defy** a three-line whip on the issue. (A43)

IS, tense not backshifted

182. In a letter seen by the Guardian, the shadow Brexit secretary, Keir Starmer, has admitted people **have urged** him to consider resigning to reflect the 75% remain vote in his London constituency, Holborn and St Pancras. (A43)

IW, tense not backshifted

183. Initial police reports suggest the collision **was caused** by a person who **failed** to give way to the self-driving car rather than a malfunction by the Uber vehicle. (A41)

IW, tense not backshifted

184. Some in Kiev have said choosing Samoilova **was** a cynical “provocation”, as Russian authorities **knew** her previous travel to Crimea **would put** her in violation of Ukrainian laws. (A46)

IS, tense not backshifted

185. Mr Trudeau, who is widely admired and recently made headlines for attracting the eye of Ivanka Trump, praised the deal, which critics fear **gives** too much power to multinational companies and **will undermine** the EU's environmental, labour and consumer standards. (A23)

IT, tense not backshifted

186. Mr Wilders, whose Party for Freedom (PVV) has been sliding in polls recently but is still close to running neck and neck with Mr Rutte’s party, **hopes** the clashes between Turkish-Dutch protesters and the police **will help** bolster his chances of victory. (A25)

IT, tense not backshifted

187. Mr Rutte was speaking ahead of a head-to-head debate with Mr Wildres. He has warned an election victory for Mr Wilders **could** plunge the Netherlands into chaos. (A25)

IS, tense not backshifted

188. The government has said the reform **is needed** to ensure that those with jobs **have** the same opportunities as those without work. (A27)

IS, tense not backshifted

189. Experts say the incursion **could be seen** as a provocation on behalf of the Chinese in an attempt to "push the limits" of Japanese and US territorial defence. (A24)

IS-q, tense not backshifted

190. Mars has admitted the sharing pack sizes of the three brands **are shrinking** by up to 15 per cent. (A45)

IS, tense not backshifted

191. But the President has announced he **will** sign a new, similar order to replace it. (A49)

IS, tense not backshifted

No reporting verb

192. The federal environment department said on Wednesday the attack occurred on Sunday, when the victim and three friends went to the La Encrucijada reserve to fish. The 18-year-old man **was carried off** by the reptile, but his companions **escaped**. (A7)

FIS, tense not backshifted

193. His wife **is** a pilot with the US air force and they **live** on an airbase in Mississippi. McKie told the court his client was under pressure at the time of the incident as there had been a recent family argument, while two weeks previously doctors had found a shadow on his son's lung they feared might be cancerous, and the family had to wait until September to find out the prognosis. (A28)

FIS, tense not backshifted

194. Derbyshire police said officers were called to the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, at 10.17pm on Friday. The youth, who **is** from Ripley, near Derby, **was given** medical treatment at the scene but **was pronounced** dead on arrival at Kings Mill hospital in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. (A29)

FIS, tense not backshifted

195. Emergency Services Director, Dr Jeff Elder said 21 people were taken to hospital, with five victims in guarded condition. Another seven **declined** to be hospitalised. (A42)

FIS, tense not backshifted

196. Degefe blamed the collapse on a new biogas plant being constructed on top of the hill. Bulldozers **could be seen** on top of the hill pushing piles of rubbish around. Degefe said they were levelling ground for the plant, increasing pressure on the hillside and causing the collapse. (A3)

FIS, tense not backshifted

Tense ambiguity

197. McKie said his client **had been placed** on a rehabilitation programme by his employers in conjunction with the US Federal Aviation Administration. (A28)

IS, tense ambiguity

198. Father Luc Dini, a community leader and head of the local tourism council, **said a ban** on foreign food imports **would improve** the health and wellbeing of islanders. (A34)

IS, tense ambiguity

199. The US Embassy in Canberra confirmed that four victims **were** American citizens.
(A33)

IS, tense ambiguity

200. A spokeswoman for Airservice Australia said flights in and out of Melbourne's main airport **were not affected**. (A33)

IS, tense ambiguity