

EDITORIALS ON CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS: A STUDY OF METADISOURSE MARKERS AND MEDIA ACTIVISM

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Abstract

This study aimed to expound on the cruciality of language in digital communication in line with the emerging linguistic controversy on how language reinforces and perpetuates power online. This is in pursuit of exploring how online editorials establish and organize the texts through the utilization of Metadiscourse markers in a call for media activism such as mass mobilization and political action in promoting social and political change incorporated from the language use. A Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis was used in analyzing the corpora. The analysis of the three editorials revealed that it employs a significant frequency of Interactive markers over the utilization of Interactional metadiscourse markers. Garnered the highest frequency count among them are the Code glosses which paved the organization of statements between paragraphs and the Boosters which appeal for certainty to convince the readers. The metadiscourse markers in the editorials selected have contributed a profound degree to ensuring the cohesion and coherence of the text which strengthened the foundation of the means to call for mass mobilization and political action.

Keywords: *corpus analysis , editorials , media activism, metadiscourse*

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INTRODUCTION

Language in digital communication is crucial and given that it is now associated with various political and societal media activists, the cruciality of language arises (Seargeant, 2023; Syaputri et al., 2022; Udupa & Dattatreyan, 2023). One of the platforms used by people attempting to engaged and get involved in immersing to media activism is usually done through Editorials. This study aims to explore how the editorial's use of language reinforces media activism. As defined, editorial is a vehicle of thought. It is a powerful tool to public opinion as it propagates ideas, ideologies, and philosophies in the minds of people (Kleinberg &

Toomey, 2023; Shahid et al., 2021). Editorials express ideologies and comment on contemporary, social, political, and economic issues (Bakuuro & Diedong, 2021; Ceron, 2023). It also has many functions: to provide analysis on a specific topic, criticize certain people and organization, persuade the reader or entertain.

In relation to that, this study focused on editorials specifically editorials discussing confidential funds being the latest political issue happening today in the country. It is a relevant issue in regards to the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and Department of Education Philippines (DepEd) utilization of confidential funds. As its name suggests, confidential funds are for confidential expenses related to activities in government agencies that are intended to support their mandate or operations (Gregorio, X. (2022, October 5)). This type of government fund may be a subject for corruption as it lacks transparency for how the fund is used.

This study explored on how editorials discuss the issue on Confidential funds in an attempt for mass mobilization and political action. This controversial issue has reached every surface of the Philippines and became a hot topic among citizens both offline and online. Moreover, since the topic became relevant, many media want to express their own opinion and sentiments, thus, leading to the publication of numerous editorials on the internet that aim to inform, critic, ignite discussion, and influence the public perception in regards to the topic of OVP's usage of confidential funds. These editorials contribute to the public understanding and awareness, and help foster a critical perspective on potential misuse and corruption within the involved government agencies. Therefore, editorial can be categorized as a form of media activism.

One of the aims of this paper is to determine the metadiscourse markers within the different editorials on confidential funds issue. Metadiscourse is seen as a means to control how writers mark their presence, negotiate knowledge claims, and engage with their audience. Editorialists utilize metadiscourse to organize their texts to achieve their ulterior purposes (Garzone, 2020; Shahid et al., 2021). Authors use metadiscourse to guide their audience. To accomplish this objective, the researchers will make use of the Metadiscourse Model proposed by Hyland & Jiang (2022). A Corpus-Assistive Discourse Analysis is also utilized to further assist the

study of the large number of texts or corpora.

Hyland classified Metadiscourse into two major categories: Interactive and Interactional Metadiscourse. The interactive resources (e.g., transitions, frame markers, endophoric markers, evidentials, and code glosses) and on the other hand, interactional resources (e.g., hedges, boosters, attitude markers, engagement markers, and self-mentions). This study looked into how these metadiscourse markers help in constructing mass mobilization and political action on editorials in regards to the topic of media activism. Mass mobilization enables a large number of people to participate in a certain issue or activity. On the other hand, political action is an activity that aims to influence people to participate in the political process or political issue (Syaputri et al., 2021). These two exist in editorials through the strategic use of language and techniques that attempt to shape public opinion. Both of these aspects are portions of activism. The pursuit of this study would make a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge in regards to metadiscourse and metadiscourse markers.

This study prompted for additional exploration on metadiscourse and how metadiscourse markers from editorials can construct mass mobilization and political action. The subject for analysis were the selective editorials that are published online that discuss the issue of OVP and DepEd confidential funds. This study would also contribute to the existing body of knowledge on media activism and its role in promoting social and political change. In relation to this, the researchers sought to answer the following questions: (a) What metadiscourse markers were utilized in the editorials selected? and (b) How do metadiscourse markers from the editorials help construct mass mobilization and political action on the issue of confidential funds?

METHOD

The study conducted is an approach to Qualitative research design. A qualitative study attempts to examine and explain thematically a phenomenon that is happening in the real world other than the quantifiable data in the study of quantitative research (Mbanaso et al., 2023). Social studies as an example are most

likely a dominant field that utilize a qualitative approach in order to interpret and analyze the entities in the study of human and society. Tenny et al. (2022) states that qualitative research' strength is its potential "to explain processes and patterns of human behavior that can be difficult to quantify". It is through qualitative data that allows the interpretation of themes and patterns that are fundamental in a qualitative study. Hence, the study will utilize a qualitative research design in order to examine metadiscourse and the construct of media activism in editorials.

Upon Google searching of the Top News & Media Publishers Websites in Philippines, Inquirer.net ranks second to the list as of September 2023 as posted in Similarweb. Inquirer.net is considered as the official news website of the Inquirer Group of Companies which is also known to be associated with different umbrella composing the IGC. The website of Inquirer features 24/7 different breaking news and latest issues that is relevant to the Filipinos and to the world. They also indulge themselves in offering multimedia features as well as in creating social media presence and engaging platforms in order to allow readers to have easy channel navigation anytime, anywhere. For the methodology of the study, it began with collecting relative editorials uploaded online in Inquirer.net website which are accessible to the public from the internet. After the collection process, the researchers selected three editorials from the website of Inquirer.net that serves as data for analysis. The criteria for selection of data are as follows:

- a. The editorial article must be related and timely to the prevailing confidential funds issue in the Philippines.
- b. The editorial article is from Inquirer.net Website
- c. The editorial article is in English.
- d. The selection is limited to three editorial articles that must be relevant to the study.

And upon collection and selection of editorial articles that serves as basis for analysis, the three editorial articles selected are the following:

1. A wealth of secrets by Philippine Daily Inquirer, posted August 12, 2023
2. Restrain use of secret funds by Philippine Daily Inquirer, posted September 18, 2023

3. A rare win for transparency by Philippine Daily Inquirer, posted October 14, 2023

A softcopy of these three editorials were compiled as data for the analysis. Metadiscourse theory of Hyland & Jiang (2022) is the main theory that facilitated the interpretation and analysis. Moreover, a Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis is also being utilized to further analyze the data to obtain the objectives of the study. Method of analysis began with finding the interactive metadiscourse markers and secondly, the interactional metadiscourse markers employed in the editorials, as well as the conduct of quantifying the frequency of each metadiscourse marker through an assistive electronic corpora or corpus analysis software that plays a fundamental part in corpus linguistics. It was run through utilizing AntConc Application Software to obtain frequency, and conduct corpus-discourse analysis. AntConc is a popular tool used by researchers in an attempt of pursuing corpus analysis as it allows them to calculate frequency that assist in observing patterns in text or language. Basically, the primary goal is to look for the presence of different metadiscourse markers used in the editorials, obtain frequency through AntConc, rank and table them, and from there, it was subjected for analysis. The aim is to analyze and explain thematically what are the metadiscourse markers present in the selected editorials, and how this help linguistically in the construct of mass mobilization and political action on the issue of confidential funds today.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study is in pursuit of identifying metadiscourse markers utilized in the three selected editorials and further discuss on how these metadiscourse markers contribute in constructing mass mobilization and political action specifically from the target issue. This is in pursuit of studying how language reinforces power and perpetuates influence in digital communication. The study chose studying online media activism.

According to Abdelwahab, A. F. (2020), metadiscourse is considered a rhetorical strategy that facilitates the organization of discourse including the establishment of the relationship between the author and the reader. This

metadiscourse is present in editorials, hence, the target data was editorials coming from the selected source, and in order to obtain a comprehensive analysis on how it functions, this study targeted a recent issue to test its function in the construction of media activism from its discourse.

Both the Interactive Metadiscourse markers and Interactional Metadiscourse markers were identified and analyzed in the process. It began with a manual finding of metadiscourse markers present in the three editorials, followed by obtaining an analysis through the lens of corpus linguistics for the further study of its discourse. Metadiscourse markers then ran through Antconc software, following an analysis from Concordance and attainment of frequency to elaborate the objectives of the study. Tables were presented per data, and undergone analysis, implying and by linking them to conclude the study.

First, one among the editorials selected is the *A wealth of secrets* by Philippine Daily Inquirer, posted August 12 of 2023. As indicated, it is one among the three editorials that is related to the prevailing issue on Confidential funds in the Philippines.

Moreover, here are the Metadiscourse markers present.

I. A wealth of secrets

Table 1: Metadiscourse marks in *A wealth of secrets* by Philippine Daily

| | Metadiscourse Markers | Frequency |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Interactive | | |
| Code glosses | Once again | 1 |
| | Not to be outdone | 1 |
| | Barring unforeseen X | 1 |
| | But perhaps | 1 |
| | Under a X | 1 |
| | The operative word here is | 1 |
| | In fact | 1 |
| | Responding to | 1 |
| | To be clear | 1 |
| | especially | 1 |
| | To be fair | 1 |
| | who | 5 |
| Endophoric markers | - | - |
| Evidentials | As X | 1 |
| | X define | 1 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----|
| | X reasoned | 1 |
| Transition markers | and | 26 |
| | but | 5 |
| | in the same way | 1 |
| | as | 3 |
| | while | 2 |
| | which | 2 |
| | because | 1 |
| | The latter | 2 |
| | That logic | 1 |
| | when | 2 |
| Frame markers | that | 9 |
| | Still | 1 |
| | For now | 1 |
| Total of Interactive markers | 28 | |
| Interactional | | |
| Attitude markers | They must | 2 |
| Self-mention | - | - |
| Engagement markers | our | 5 |
| | we | 2 |
| | Let's not forget | 1 |
| Hedges | however | 2 |
| Boosters | actually | 1 |
| | similarly | 1 |
| | No doubt | 1 |
| Total of Interactional markers | 8 | |

Presented above in Table 1 is the metadiscourse markers available that were significantly employed in the first selected editorial. A list of them including the number of times they were used is indicated. Upon identifying these metadiscourse markers, about 28 Interactive metadiscourse markers and 8 Interactional metadiscourse markers were found facilitating the organization of messages corresponding to the editorial on *A wealth of secrets* as per targeting the issue on Confidential funds.

A relative number of different Code glosses were found including *Once again*, *But perhaps*, *In fact*, *To be clear*, *especially*, *To be fair*, and *who*. These perhaps are some of the common Code glosses that facilitate the intent of providing or supplying information in a text rhetorically. Similar to the rest, the utilization of Code glosses depends on the style and choices of words upon the construction of text. A few distinct Code glosses were also utilized including *Not to be outdone*, *Barring unforeseen*, *Under a X*, *The operative word here is*, and *Responding to*.

These are words that strike confusion regarding the way how they function, however, upon analyzing the text, they were used to introduce and supply information in the editorial. See how some function in the following excerpts.

²*Not to be outdone, the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and the Department of Education (DepEd)—now sister agencies by virtue of their concurrent leader Vice President Sara Duterte—have requested a combined P650 million in confidential outlay for the second year in a row.*

⁷*Under a joint 2015 budget and audit circular, agencies must present plans and submit a quarterly accomplishment report on CIF use, while the Commission on Audit (COA) performs a postaudit of the liquidation of disbursements based on the offices' own submissions.*

Two of Code glosses distinct in this editorial are presented above. These two contribute in organizing the distribution of information. The uniqueness of Code glosses is that it varies depending on how you intend to construct the provision of information. Choices of words are flexible to such a similar extent to the utilization of metadiscourse markers.

In an attempt to appeal to facts and convince readers, the editorial established supporting details that were cited from a relevant source. The use of Evidential, a type of Interactive metadiscourse markers were also present including the: *As X, X define* and *X reasoned*. These are utilized to cite involved people.

A significant number of Transition markers were also found in the editorial as listed in Table 1. They play a key part in ensuring the consistency of the transition and the flow of information. The Transition marker *and* garners about 26 frequency count, *that* is 9 and 5 for *but*. They are not simply termed as conjunctions but a Transition marker that facilitates the organization of information between clauses.

As per the search for Endophoric markers which refers to a metadiscourse marker entailing an occurrence of pre-existing source data, there is no certain employment of this found in the editorial. Moreover, in concluding the message of the editorial, Frame markers *Still* and *For now* were used.

¹⁷*The Senate, to be fair, has attempted intermittently to examine CIF spending, but to this day, any result or accomplishment of its “select oversight committee” remains a mystery. Still, it is heartening to hear Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri’s promise to open hearings on CIF.*

¹⁸*For now, however, the public's only line of defense in keeping in check the increasingly powerful offices in charge of these funds are our overworked state auditors, who are compelled by their own rules to do so—in secret. They must perform that task with courage and honor.*

Moreover, the utilization of Interactional markers is present in the editorial. A frequent employment of Engagement markers was found including *our* with 5 frequency count, *we*, and *Let's not forget*. These facilitate an attempt to involve the readers in the topic of issue to signify a means of purpose.

¹⁶*No doubt, CIF helps preserve order and keep our nation safe from threats*

¹*Let's not forget, too, that President Marcos is the concurrent agriculture secretary, and for next year, the Department of Agriculture wants P50 million for secret expenses that are notably absent from its 2023 budget.*

⁴*But perhaps more galling is the likelihood that our taxpayers won't ever know how these mysterious funds are going to be spent, in the same way we remain clueless about their use or misuse over the years—even before the Rodrigo Duterte presidency when Malacañang's share never exceeded P1 billion.*

Attitude marker *They must* was also found indicating a proposition regarding the issue, whereas there is no Self-mention marker found as there is no occurrence of the writer's solely stance. Besides, Boosters were found that contribute in marking certainty of the topic being discussed, the markers *actually*, *similarly* and *no doubt*. Lastly, a single Hedges is also found, the *however* which is the means of recognizing uncertainty or different views.

Moving to the second editorial, a total of 27 Interactive markers and a total of only 3 Interactional markers were found in the second editorial. In the lens of Interactive markers accompanying the text, Code glosses, Evidentials and Transition markers are the leading metadiscourse markers driving the organization and the flow of the editorial. Whereas, only a few of Interactional markers were found and it can be viewed that the editorial mostly made use of Interactive metadiscourse in the course of descriptive editorial other than associating a persuasive editorial.

II. Restrain use of secret funds

Table 2: Metadiscourse marks in *Restrain use of secret funds* by Philippine

| | Metadiscourse Markers | Frequency |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Interactive | | |
| Code glosses | Under the X | 1 |
| | Such | 5 |
| | such as | 1 |
| | in effect | 1 |
| | adding that | 1 |
| | From the looks of it | 1 |
| Endophoric markers | This | 6 |
| Evidentials | X has lamented | 1 |
| | X argued | 1 |
| | X has promised | 1 |
| | X also agrees | 1 |
| | X has repeatedly cited | 1 |
| | According to X | 1 |
| | as X has pointed out | 1 |
| Transition markers | and | 27 |
| | but | 1 |
| | because | 3 |
| | even | 1 |
| | which | 2 |
| | as | 4 |
| | otherwise | 2 |
| | or | 5 |
| | that | 13 |
| | while | 1 |
| | Given this | 1 |
| Frame markers | In short | 1 |
| | At the end of the day | 1 |
| Total of Interactive markers | | 27 |
| Interactional | | |
| Attitude markers | must | 4 |
| | should | 3 |
| Self-mention | - | - |
| Engagement markers | - | - |
| Hedges | - | - |
| Boosters | respectively | 1 |
| Total of Interactional markers | | 3 |

Code glosses found are markers that facilitate the supply of examples relative from the given context, and markers that construct the organization of the explanation. These are the *such* and *adding that*. While some of them, the *Under the X*, *in effect* and *From the looks of it* were used to introduce and elaborate the information being presented.

⁶*Under the circular, the CIF may be used for purchases of information for programs, activities, and projects relevant to national security and peace and order; rental of transport vehicles for confidential activities, or rentals and incidental expenses related to the maintenance of safe houses.*

⁵*Such wide-ranging guidelines, in effect, provide the legal basis for any state agency to ask for CIF.*

⁸*From the looks of it, there is no stopping Congress from granting the CIF requested in the proposed 2024 budget.*

A number of Evidentials were also found and much to say, the editorial utilized Evidentials to cite source or facts taken from a source and also to establish authorial command. Some of the Evidentials found are the following:

³*According to the circular, only agencies expressly allotted a CIF in the national budget are entitled to such funds. Vice President Sara Duterte had repeatedly cited the circular at Senate budget hearings as the legal basis for the entitlement of the Office of the Vice President and the Department of Education (DepEd), which she heads as concurrent education secretary, to P500 million and P150 million in CIF, respectively.*

⁷*Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel has lamented that it is a huge mistake that the executive department is seeking a considerable amount of CIF in its proposed 2024 national budget while many Filipinos are suffering from calamities. The senator argued that this budgetary decision of the Marcos administration only proves that it does not have a genuine understanding of the real needs of and the challenges being faced by the country.*

The use of Transition markers is also common in this editorial such as the utilization of *and* garnering of 27 frequency count, *that, or, as*, and many more listed in Table 2. The metadiscourse marker *This* was also concluded functioning as Endophoric marker as it directs and acts as reference. As defined by Hyland (2005, as cited in Zali, et al., 2021), Endophoric marker is used to refer to some parts in the text in an attempt to make additional statements, arguments and to steer the audience with interpretation. *This* here refers to the existing topic in the text functioning as an Endophoric marker as to refer to the previous topic in the text that led the establishment of argument.

²*The troubling trend of agencies seeking CIF, at times even if their mandates do not seem to call for one, has been legitimized in the national budget proposal with nary a resistance from Congress. This has now put into question the eight-year-old Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2015-01 promulgated by the Commission on Audit (COA), the budget and management, interior and local government and defense departments, and the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations which sets the guidelines on the entitlement, release, use, reporting, and audit of CIF as allowed by the General Appropriations Act.*

Moreover, to conclude the editorial, it makes use of the Frame markers *In short* and *At the end of the day* which are commonly known to be metadiscourse markers that facilitate the wrapping up of the topic being discussed.

For Interactional markers, as per the observation, it is noticed that there is only a few of them existing and used in the text. Self-mention, Engagement markers and hedges are not found in any part of the text. There is an existence of the *we*, however, it is not functioning as an Engagement marker as it is found from the quoted statement. But perhaps, there are two Attitude markers found which are the *must* and *should* that impose proposition. At last, there are Boosters found, but only the marker *respectively* as part of immersing certainty of the statement discussed.

Lastly, third among the three editorials selected is the *A rare win of transparency*, and the utilization of metadiscourse markers is evident upon the review and analysis of the editorial. There is 32 Interactive metadiscourse markers and 11 Interactional markers found. The presence of these varieties of metadiscourse markers is by far noticeable in the text contributing a significant degree in the organization of the text or sentences in the editorial.

III. A rare win of transparency

Table 3: Metadiscourse markes in *A rare win of transparency* by Philippine

| | Metadiscourse Markers | Frequency |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Interactive | Code glosses | |
| | including | 2 |
| | Let's recall | 1 |
| | This means | 1 |
| | Rather | 1 |
| | who | 1 |
| | Beyond X | 1 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | particularly | 1 |
| | another | 2 |
| | especially | 1 |
| | To say | 1 |
| | known | 1 |
| Endophoric markers | This is | 1 |
| Evidentials | X repeatedly said | 1 |
| | X changed | 1 |
| | Bus as X say | 1 |
| | as X has proposed | 1 |
| | as X rightly pointed out | 1 |
| | as X argues | 1 |
| Transition markers | In earlier X | 1 |
| | Besides the two | 1 |
| | and | 19 |
| | which | 1 |
| | such as | 1 |
| | such | 1 |
| | But as X turned | 1 |
| | but | 3 |
| | by far | 1 |
| | as | 4 |
| | that | 8 |
| | while | 3 |
| | because | 2 |
| Frame markers | Thus | 1 |
| Total of Interactive markers | | 32 |
| Interactional | | |
| Attitude markers | - | - |
| Self-mention | - | - |
| Engagement markers | our | 5 |
| | we | 3 |
| | Let's not forget | 1 |
| Hedges | should not | 1 |
| | however | 1 |
| Boosters | We applaud | 1 |
| | We must acknowledge | 1 |
| | We must | 1 |
| | must | 2 |
| | should | 1 |
| | All well and good | 1 |
| Total of Interactional markers | | 11 |

Majority of the Code glosses found are markers that intend to provide examples or information relative to the given context. Some of these are *including*, *who*, *another*, *particularly*, *especially* and *Rather*. Besides, there are others that were used to introduce, supply and explain information or statements.

¹⁰*Let's recall that during similar proceedings last year, senators had realigned a portion of DepEd's proposed P150 million in confidential funds in the 2023 budget—only for it to be restored by the bicameral conference committee in the final bill.*

¹¹*This means we cannot let our guard down, as the real bargaining occurs at this penultimate stage of the budget cycle, testing the fiscal mettle and political will of our election-minded lawmakers.*

¹²*Beyond legislative wrangling, however, there's more urgent work to be done, particularly in crafting a broad policy against the indiscriminate allocation of CIF.*

¹⁹*To say they are the people's enemy for demanding accountability in government expenditure betrays a fundamental constitutional principle—that public office is a public trust.*

Moving on, similar to the previous editorial, *This* or *This is* functions as Endophoric marker. This is also present in the third editorial. It serves both as reference and Endophoric marker that is used to refer to the aforementioned context to supply additional information in explaining and illustrating.

This is a small but crucial victory for transparency in the use of our taxpayer money. But there's a caveat: the Office of the President's (OP) request for P4.56 billion in confidential and intelligence funds (CIF), by far the largest chunk in the 2024 proposal, has been left untouched by the House and the Senate, a disappointing but expected development.

Evidentials is also present and frequently utilized. The editorial quoted sources in the statements presented in the text and Evidentials were employed to organize the text. Some of them are the following:

⁶*We continue to urge Congress to heed calls to realign this to more prudent causes, because, as Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III rightly pointed out, President Marcos' office better "leave [the sleuthing] to the specialists in the field of intelligence."*

⁸*But as they say, it ain't over till the fat lady sings.*

¹³*CIF use must be restricted to a small number of agencies with legitimate surveillance and intelligence-gathering requirements, as Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman has proposed.*

Similarly, there are also Transition markers found in the editorial similar to the Transition markers found in the previous two editorials including *and*, *such*,

that, while, because and among others. Here, there is the utilization of *Besides the two, But as X turned* and *by far* as Transition markers that facilitate the transition in between main clauses. Moreover, *Thus*, a Frame marker was used to conclude the text.

In view of Interactional markers, both Attitude markers and Self-mention markers were not found upon the analysis of corpora. There are Engagement markers which are commonly present, the *our, we* and *Let's not forget* that direct the engagement of the readers to the topic. Hedges is also noticed present; the *should not* and *however* that establishes the uncertainties and the recognition of different views. A number of Boosters were also found which speak for certainty and help establish opinion on the topic. Some of these are *We applaud, We must acknowledge*, and many more. Furthermore, as to summarize the numbers of metadiscourse markers utilized in the three selected editorials, a table is presented below.

Table 4: Metadiscourse marks in the three Editorials by Philippine Daily

| | Frequency | Rank |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| Interactive | | |
| Code glosses | 27 | 1 |
| Endophoric markers | 2 | 5 |
| Evidentials | 17 | 3 |
| Transition markers | 23 | 2 |
| Frame markers | 5 | 4 |
| Total | 74 | 1 |
| Interactional | | |
| Attitude markers | 3 | 2 |
| Self-mention | 0 | 4 |
| Engagement markers | 3 | 3 |
| Hedges | 2 | 2 |
| Boosters | 10 | 1 |
| Total | 18 | 2 |

In the three selected editorials, the employment of Interactive metadiscourse markers gained a significant frequency count compared to Interactional metadiscourse markers. The utilization of these metadiscourse markers contribute to the construction and organization of sentences in the editorial. By also incorporating Interactive metadiscourse markers over Interactional metadiscourse

markers, an accompanying perspective or concept can be reflected from the editorials.

The three selected data for analysis are three editorials that all fall under the umbrella of the issue on Confidential funds in the Philippines. However, they discuss different topics relative to the reoccurring issue. The *A wealth of secrets* by Philippine Daily Inquirer which was posted August 12 of 2023 discusses relative details concerning the Confidential and Intelligence funds or CIF including the discussion on its allocation and utilization, lack of transparency, control and oversight. It initially explained the allocation of CIF and its concerning affairs between the people involved and the government as of the rise of the issue. The title of the editorial itself describes its content relative to the open-ended issue as the large amount of CIF tends to lack transparency and oversight, and being described in the editorial as a “wealth of secrets”.

On the other hand, the editorial titled *Restrain use of secret funds* by Philippine Daily Inquirer, posted on the 18th of September 2023, elaborates on the rising issue of CIF as well as the call for transparency, oversight and accountability. It criticizes the deliberation and the provision of CIF, and targets the people involved who are accountable to the issue. The title of the editorial itself manifests a call for action.

Conversely, the third editorial titled *A rare win for transparency* by Philippine Daily Inquirer, posted last October 14 of 2023, discusses the on-going development and progress on the oversight of the CIF during the fire of the issue as well as the need to urgency or call for action. It expounds in detail the concerns and the need for transparency and accountability. The title of the editorial describes how transparency is a rare win due to the lack of transparency and accountability of the people involved in the CIF. All three of them are editorials serving a means for media activism aiming for mass mobilization and political action.

Finally, this study aims to discuss how the utilization of metadiscourse markers helps to construct mass mobilization and political action on the issue of Confidential funds in line with the concept of online media activism. In table 4, the utilization of Interactive metadiscourse markers is used more than the Interactional

metadiscourse markers. Specifically, in the former, the utilization of Code glosses was employed top in the list, followed by Transition markers, Evidentials, Frame markers and Endophoric markers. In the latter, Boosters gained the top, followed by Attitude markers and Engagement markers, Hedges and with literally no use of Self-mention.

The employment of Code glosses led the distribution of ideas in the editorial. In other words, it plays a fundamental part in distributing relative sentences and statements regarding the topic being discussed. It contributes to making the editorial achieve a degree of comprehensiveness and cohesiveness between sentences and paragraphs. The same goal was achieved by the utilization of Transition markers that help connect clauses. The frequent utilization of these Transition markers between clauses contribute to link statements from one another as to persist consistency of the ideas being presented. The Frame markers also initiated the closing of the editorials as to conclude the entire discussion of the issue.

On top of that, the utilization of Evidentials contributes to the provision or presentation of citation and facts from sources which involves statements taken from people related to the deliberation of Confidential funds. This helps the editorial to achieve a level of formality and abundance to appeal to the concerning issue. As an editorial aiming to get the attention of the audience to call for action, it is important to strengthen the distribution of ideas through presenting sources and establishing authorial command of the subject. The utilization of Endophoric markers which did not gain a significant degree of employment, still manage to serve as reference to entail the reoccurring ideas. In general, the utilization of Interactive metadiscourse markers helps to distribute facts, supply information and explain the issue on Confidential funds which paved away the reinforcement of mass mobilization and political action.

On the other hand, the utilization of Boosters helps encourage the audience or the people to get involved in the issue concerning the country as it is one way to mobilize the public and to call for political action. Establishing a foundation for certainty through Boosters contributes to mass mobilization as well as encourages people to be united for political action. Boosters are Interactional markers that help

construct and organize sentences in terms of appealing to the readers. Whereas the utilization of Hedges helps express viewpoints and is attained to provoke uncertainty of the occurring issue. The hedges balanced the perspectives taken regarding the topic being discussed. Besides these, the utilization of Attitude markers and Engagement markers are also considered to have contributed in strengthening the foundation for mass mobilization and political action through supporting the construction of propositions and drawing in conclusion for urgency. The utilization of Interactive metadiscourse markers supported the Interactional metadiscourse to establish a strong foundation to call for mass mobilization and political action through editorial which is a form of media activism.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the Interactive metadiscourse markers and the Interactional metadiscourse markers contribute a fundamental part in organizing and maintaining a degree of cohesion and coherence between the texts. The editorials by Philippine Daily Inquirer manage the distribution and supply of information, as well as succeeded in drawing the readers to get involved in the issue through the utilization of the presence of these metadiscourse markers. This paved away the efficiency of the editorials to call for mass mobilization and political action. Furthermore, this study is an approach to the study of Language and Power, Metadiscourse markers, and Corpus discourse analysis.

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