Grounding in English and Arabic News Discourse
Khalil, E.N.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
# Table of Contents

## Introduction

1. The Foreground-Background Structure as a Textual Phenomenon
   1.1 Aim and Scope of the Study 5
   1.2 The Nature of the FG-BG Structure 7
      1.2.1 Levels of Textualization 12
   1.3 Coherence Phenomenon vs. Grounding Phenomenon 18
      1.3.1 Propositional Coherence 19
      1.3.2 Discourse Grounding 21
         1.3.2.1 Information Importance Rules 25
   1.4 The FG-BG Gradation 26
      1.4.1 Criteria for Grounding-Value Assignment in News Texts 28
      1.4.2 Constraints on Grounding 30
         1.4.2.1 Perspective and Grounding Manifestations 32
         1.4.2.2 Communicative Situation and Relevance 35
   1.5 Earlier Work and the Contribution of the Study 38

## 2. Schematic Manifestations of Text-Level Grounding

2.1 Introduction 55
2.2 Salience and Prominence 56
2.3 Characteristics of Short News Items 59
2.4 Communicative Strategy of Signaling Grounding 61
   2.4.1 Linearity 62
   2.4.2 Staging: News Upstage and News Downstage 63
2.5 Short News Items Schemata 67
   2.5.1 Schematic Salience Mapping Rules 71
2.6 Some Manifestations of News Schematic Salience 72
Conclusion 83

## 3. Syntactic Manifestations of Text-Level Grounding

3.1 Introduction 85
| 3.2 | Text-Level Surface Structure Features of Grounding | 87 |
| 3.2.1 | The Textual Role of Sentence Structure in Signaling the FG-BG Structure | 87 |
| 3.2.2 | The Importance of Sentence-Initial Position | 88 |
| 3.2.2.1 | The Distribution of Entities in Initial Position | 90 |
| 3.2.3 | Prominence in Sentence and Text | 92 |
| 3.3 | Initial Position and Types of Staging | 95 |
| 3.4 | Entities in Initial Position and Unsignaled Grounding Structure | 99 |
| 3.5 | The Role of Sentence-Initial Markers in Signaling Background across Sentence-Boundaries | 103 |
| 3.5.1 | Initial Markers and Difference in the Grounding-Value | 103 |
| 3.5.2 | Signaling Grounding-Relation | 105 |
| 3.6 | Types of Markers | 107 |
| 3.6.1 | Participles | 108 |
| 3.6.2 | Adverbials | 110 |
| 3.7 | Signaling the Background End of the Continuum | 118 |
| Conclusion | | 124 |
| 4. | Initial Position Marking of Grounding: The Case of Arabic News | 127 |
| 4.1 | Introduction | 127 |
| 4.1.1 | Goal, Material and Method | 128 |
| 4.2 | The Observed Phenomenon in Arabic News Texts | 133 |
| 4.2.1 | Spread of the Phenomenon | 136 |
| 4.2.1.1 | The Distribution of Markers in Translated Texts | 136 |
| 4.2.1.2 | The Distribution of Markers in the Random Sample | 138 |
| 4.2.2 | Significance of the Phenomenon | 141 |
| 4.2.2.1 | Markers and Continuity | 145 |
| 4.2.3 | The Arabic Language | 148 |
| 4.3 | Why Arabic News Texts Fail | 150 |
| 4.3.1 | Initial Connectivity Patterns: Differences with English News Texts | 151 |
| 4.3.2 | Grounding Structure Problem: Background Realized as Foreground | 154 |
4.3.3 Sentence-Initial Markers and Communicative Strategy: *De-Foregrounding* 167
4.3.4 News and Editorials: Typological Differences and Sentence-Initial Position 168

Conclusion 174

5. Sentence-Initial Markers 177
   5.1 Introduction 177
   5.2 Types of Sentence-Initial Markers 178
      5.2.1 *Qad* 182
      5.2.2 *Kāna qad* 188
      5.2.3 *Mimmā yuḏkaru anna* 192
      5.2.4 *Fa-* 195
      5.2.5 *Min nāḥiyatin/jihatin uxrā* 198
      5.2.6 *Min al-maʿrūfi anna* 200
      5.2.7 *Fī* + spatio/temporal entity 202
      5.2.8 *Fī nafsi al-waqt* 204
   5.3 Constraints on the Interchangeability of Markers: Recasting Options 206
      5.3.1 Neutralizing an Initial Marker in English 219

Conclusion 224

6. Discussion 227

Major Concepts Used in the Study 243

Transliteration System 248

References 249

Samenvatting 275
Chapter 4: Initial Position Marking of Grounding: The Case of Arabic News

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Goal, Material and Method

4.2 The Ordinal Phrasemark in Arabic

4.2.1 Initial Structure of the Phrasemark

4.2.1.1 The Distribution of Markers

4.2.1.1.1 The Distribution of Markers in Test Texts

4.2.1.1.2 Significance of the Phrasemark

4.2.1.2 Markers and Continuity

4.2.1.2.1 The Arabic Language

4.3 Why Arabic News Texts Fail

4.3.1 Initial Connectivity Failure: Differences in English News Texts

4.3.2 Grounding SomeCore Problems Background Information as Foreground