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Abstract: This article deals with the use of light verbs in American and British newspapers and its characteristics and possible reasons for choosing them over lexical verbs. First, it examines the syntactic and semantic properties of light verbs. Secondly, it observes which type is more used in newspapers and the possible reasons for this. Finally, it compares the use of light verbs in *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* by analyzing ten articles from each newspaper. The results of the analysis highlight that *make* and *take* are the most utilized. Furthermore, *make* is the one that appears more frequently in both newspapers. The results suggest that the main reason for using light verbs is their capacity to modify the action.

Keywords: Light verb, Delexical Verb, Deverbal Noun, Semantic Content

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Light Verbs in American and British Newspapers

O. Introduction

Typically, when reading a British or American newspaper, non-native speakers of English may be struck at finding constructions such as *look at* along with *take a look at*. Although they seem similar, various differences can be found if their semantic and syntactic traits are studied in depth. *Take a look at* consists of a *light verb* followed by a noun phrase (NP). This phenomenon is present not only in spoken and informal language (everyday speech) but also in written media. Thus, its use has been studied by several linguists such as A. Wierzbicka, K. Kearns, J. Grimshaw or D. Crystal, who have analyzed their functional and formal features. Apart from these studies, many contrastive analyses have been carried out by linguists to compare the use of light verbs in English and a second language, being that Japanese, Serbian, among others. These studies have revealed some similarities between the use and structure of light verbs in different languages, e.g., the English light verb *do* has been compared to the Japanese light verb *suru*.

Nevertheless, although different aspects of this field have been covered, the use of light verbs in Anglo-American newspapers remains unnoticed despite the fact that English can be considered one of the most important tools in written press (Crystal, 1998). Studies concerning the analysis of the metaphorical use of language have been carried out, but less attention has been paid to light verbs and its use in newspapers.

After having reviewed the most relevant studies on light verb realized by Grimshaw (1990), Kearns (2002), Downing & Locke (2006) and Kreidler (1998), I have found a lack of information in the field of light verbs concerning their use in mass media. With this in mind, this research paper aims first to study the use of the grammatical construction of light verb + NP in American and British newspapers in order to analyze its main characteristics and the possible reasons for using it. Secondly, to observe which types of delexical verbs appear more frequently. Finally, this paper explore if there is any difference in the use of this construction between American and British newspapers.

This study draws on the analysis of thirty-five articles extracted from different American and British newspapers to find whether they use delexical verbs and, if it is the case, to analyze them. This paper is organized into five different sections. Following this introductory part, Section 1 focuses on the theoretical aspects of light verbs and explains their main characteristics and the most relevant theories on this field. Section 2 offers an explanation of the methodology and materials utilized. The next section analyzes the taxonomies of the examples of light-verb constructions found throughout the corpus. Section 3 also examines certain examples that can be grouped as a different category, an *in-between* category. Additionally, it presents a comparison between the examples found in *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*. Finally, the last section presents a review of the principal conclusions extracted from this study.

1. Theoretical Background

The verbal group contains a lexical verb, which can be accompanied by an auxiliary(s), acting as the head of the group. It has the semantic content, being the main element in the verb phrase (VP). But, in contrast to lexical verb, light verb challenges this conception of verb as the principal contributor to the meaning of the clause.

The term *light verb* was first coined by the Danish linguist Otto Jespersen in 1954 to refer to constructions formed by V + NP as *take a look at*. Since then, this phenomenon has been studied by several linguists such as Grimshaw (1990), Wierzbicka (1988) or Kearns (2002). Depending on the author, light verbs are subject to diverse rules and restrictions. This lack of consensus regarding the formal traits of this specific type of construction is also

applied when determining which verbs are considered as light and which ones are not. That is, whereas Downing & Locke (2006) include *have*, *take*, *make*, *do*, *give* and *ask* + NP as light verbs, Kearns (2002) does not consider *ask* as a light verb. However, although light verbs can comprise constructions so different from each other, contrary to expectations, they show a systematic behavior, as Wierzbicka (1988) argued.

As the label of *delexical* implies, those verbs classified as delexical do not contribute to the meaning of the sentence. They have undergone a process of delexicalization so that they have been deprived (almost entirely) of meaning. *Light* is a less radical label since it means that the verb is *lexically light*, that is, the verb still has meaning, although this is reduced. Since *light* is less radical, it is more frequently used. But, despite this slight difference in meaning, both will be used as synonyms throughout this research.

1.1. The Light-Verb Construction

Firstly, I will explain the structure of light verbs to deeply understand this phenomenon. This construction consists of a light verb: *take*, *make*, *have*, *give* and *do* and a deverbal noun: a noun derived from the lexical verb that has the semantic content of the phrase, as if it was the verb of the construction. Consequently, the deverbal noun usually maintains the same argument structure as the lexical verb although its syntactic realization in a light-verb construction can be different. Thus, the arguments taken by the deverbal noun may be presented in a syntactic form similar to the verb or it may differ from the form taken in a grammatical structure headed by the lexical verb. As the following examples illustrate, the argument taken by *look* as prepositional object (PO), *at whether activities* (1a), presents different syntactic realizations depending on whether the verb is lexical or light. The prepositional phrase (PP) *at whether activities* in (1a) covers the syntactic function of prepositional complement whereas in (1b), it is functioning as PO in itself.

(1a) *The government will take a careful look at whether activities* (NYT; Fountain and Broder)¹

(1b) The government will look carefully at whether activities.

In the following examples, the argument structure differs in both sentences. Whereas in (2a) the syntactic function DO is realized by the deverbal noun *effect* and *on the company* has the syntactic function of prepositional complement, in (2b) the syntactic function DO falls on the NP *the company*.

(2a) *It will have a big negative effect on the company* (NYT; Wyatt)

(2b) It will affect the company negatively.

Deverbal nouns are similar to verb not only on the argument structures but also on the forms since they can take the same form of the verb (3a) or they can be the result of the addition of a suffix to the lexical verb (3b).

(3a) Take a look at

Look at

(3b) Do destruction²

Destruct

As Kreidler (1998) argues, nouns derived from verbs do not only denote the action and contain the semantic meaning (both actions are transferred from the lexical verb). Also, they can be the product or result of the action, the agent that carries out the act as well as the entity affected by the act or the place where the action occurs. Thus, a deverbal noun can belong to five different categories: action, effect, agent, affected or location. Both action and effect nouns are equivalent to the two categories proposed by Grimshaw (1990). She proposed a distinction between those deverbal nouns that constitute an event nominal

¹In order to identify appropriately the articles and the newspapers where the example has been extracted from, the initial of the newspapers followed by the last name of the writers have been added in parenthesis (see methodology section).

²As example (3b) illustrates, there are certain examples where the use of a delexical construction requires a modifier to sound grammatically correct, e.g., *do a severe destruction*.

(action noun) and those that are considered result nominal (effected noun). The event nominal, the only type that can take arguments as well as denote an action is not preceded by an indefinite article (a frequent characteristic of light verb construction), being identical to the lexical verb. By contrast, a result nominal usually takes a suffix. Another trait to differentiate both types is that the event represents a process, whereas a result nominal denotes an entity, the result of an action. As a curiosity, applying this criterion, the majority of examples analyzed here can be considered result nominal.

(4a) Make a spill (result nominal)

(4b) Make progress (event nominal)

Nevertheless, Kreidler (1998) established a type of noun that can refer to both, the event and the result. He defines it as a verb-noun pair in which the verb denotes a concrete action while the noun refers just to a brief moment in the process so that the noun constitutes both the event and the result. Some examples are *push*, *kick*, *plunge* or *sigh*. Along with it, certain nouns can be seen also as denoting the event and result of the action even if the result does not refer just to an instance, as the previous nouns, but to a longer action, e.g., *leak*, *look*, *talk*. Other nouns, derived from verbs, refer to communication and denote both the event and the result. That is, the action of saying and the product of what is said: *agreement*, *warning* or *announcement*. *Step* or *walk* belongs to a different group of deverbal nouns that concerns not only to the event and the result of the action but also to the place involved.

Regarding the entire construction, it is also subject to a possible distinction between two different categories, as proposed by Kearns (2002), *vague action verb* (VAV) and *true light verb* (TLV). This distinction is based on five different properties: passivization, wh-movement, pronominalization, definiteness and the complement noun phrase. Whereas a TLV does not fulfill the third first former conditions, a VAV does. So to speak, a clause containing a VAV can be passivized so that the DO -in this case, the deverbal noun- becomes the subject in the passive clause.

(5) *We communicate and don't make mistakes* (NYT; Gross)

(5a) We communicate and mistakes are not made (VAV)

Also, the NP in a vague action verb can be the focus of a wh-clause as well as can be substituted by the pronoun *one*.

(5b) Which mistakes do we make? (VAV)

The third condition that differentiates TLV and VAV is pronominalization: a VAV can be pronominalized:

(5c) We communicate and make mistakes but I don't make one.

According to Kearns (2002), the deverbal noun in a TLV construction has to be introduced obligatorily by an indefinite article. She points out that the semantic content of the construction depends, to some extent, on the article that introduces the NP. Thus, if it is the article *a*, the meaning of the construction will differ from the same construction in which *a* is replaced by *the*. In this case, Kearns argues that it «accentuates the agency of the subject as separate content» (Kearns 24). On the contrary, if *make* appears followed by *a*, the semantic content can be provided, to a certain extent, by the verb.

Finally, the last condition that Kearns (2002) proposes to distinguish a TLV from a VAV concerns the nominal complement. As she states, the deverbal noun, or *stem* noun in the case of TLV, must be identical to the lexical verb and it cannot appear freely in a different linguistic environment. By contrast, the deverbal noun in a VAV construction can take suffixes and appear in different environments. Thus, taking into account this criterion, the light verb used in a VAV functions as a full transitive verb so that it can provide certain semantic content.

Downing & Locke (2006) also point out the behavior of a light verb that differs from its behavior when used as lexical verb. It is the case of the verb *give*, when behaving as light verb it cannot be used with a prepositional counterpart with *to* even though it is considered a *three-place* verb. This is demonstrated in the following example:

(6a) *Their efforts are intended to give scientists and engineers as early a warning as possible.* (G; Jones and agencies)

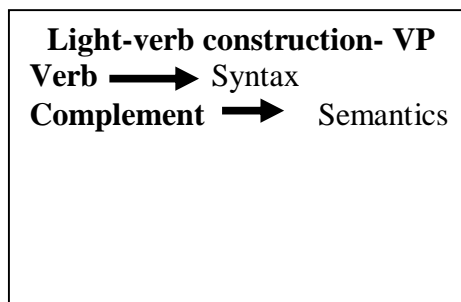
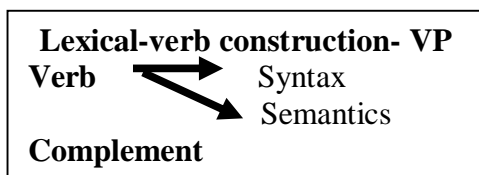
(6b) *Their efforts are intended to give as early a warning as possible to scientist and engineers.

The nominal complement in a light-verb construction is associated in semantics with the role of range. According to Downing & Locke (2006), it is a nominalized extension of the verb. Although range is regarded as a circumstance by many linguists, in a delexical-verb construction, its contribution to the meaning of the sentence is indispensable. Without it, the sentence would be semantically incomplete. That is, as the verb has undergone a process of delexicalization (the meaning has been transferred to the nominal complement), it is the range which denotes the process or event whereas the light verb continues functioning as the syntactic of predicator.

(7) *We communicate and don't make mistakes* (NYT; Gross)

In this sentence, the lexical verb *to mistake* has been substituted for *to make mistakes* so that it is *mistakes*, the deverbal noun, which denotes the action and carries the semantic content in the clause. Meanwhile, it is the verb *make* which realizes the syntactic function of predicator, instead of the verb *mistake*.

The following images represent the main differences explained above between a lexical-verb and a light-verb construction. On the one hand, in a lexical-verb construction, it is the verb which determines the syntax and the semantics of the phrase. On the other hand, in a light-verb construction, these two functions are divided: the light verb just determines the syntax of the phrase, releasing the semantic content to the deverbal noun.



It is also important to explain the syntactic structure of a light verb. Delexical construction can realize the syntactic function of direct object (DO). This type of DOs may be considered unusual Range DOs (Downing and Locke, 2006). That is, as DO, it fulfills the condition of being placed after the predicator or indirect object (IO) as well as being the subject in the passive form of the sentence or being realized by a NP. However, it is this last fact which may be controversial. Although it is a NP, the head of this phrase is a deverbal noun that contains almost entirely the semantic content of the clause. Thus, the noun is the most important element in the VP, in detriment of the verb.

Regarding the syntactic distinction proposed by Kearns (2002) between TLV and VAV, a TLV construction can be considered a simple predicate. It entails that every argument in the construction depends on the deverbal noun whereas in a VAV construction there can be certain arguments that depend on the NP as well as some others that belong to the verb.

1.2. Light Verbs vs Lexical Verbs: Reasons for Choosing a Light Verb

A heavy modification cannot be achieved by means different from this type of construction. Downing & Locke (2006) state that the possibility to be modified is what privileges the use of light verbs over lexical ones. Also, Kearns (2002) points out that choosing a TLV construction may be due to a desire to turn out a common expression into a more casual one. Thus, the

modified expression may minimize the action or be used as a hedge. However, she argues that this last possibility does not apply to VAV, i.e., choosing a VAV construction is not a matter of making the expression more casual since both expressions, lexical and VAV, do not differ in casualty.

However, Wierzbicka (1988) proposes a different reason to explain the cases of *take* and *have* + *V*. She resorts to nationality and culture to base her analysis on. Thus, in the chapter *Why can you have a drink when you can't *have an eat?* (Wierzbicka, 1988), she carries out an analysis of the main characteristics of *take* as light verb, which differ from the ones of *have*. One of the points is that the different uses of *take a + v* and *have a + v* in American and Australian English highlight the differences in the character of their native speakers. Although it may be true, in my corpus I have found that American and British newspapers utilize both light verbs independently of their nationalities. Indeed, in an article published in the American newspaper *The New York Times* the following sentence appears:

(10) *Recent polls show that about 65 percent of Americans take a favorable view of Mrs. Clinton, while only about 30 percent have a negative one* (NYT; Silver)

As shown, the constructions *take a view* and *have a view* appear in the same sentence as an alternative one to the other so that one can argue that this particular use does not entail a difference in meaning or in the character of the writer.

1.3. In-Between Category

Taking into account the condition proposed by Kearns (2002) to determine whether a delexical verb is a TLV or a VAV concerning the definiteness of the deverbal noun as well as its semantic content, a new category can be introduced. It is neither a light nor a lexical verb.

This type does not contain any article to introduce the NP of the construction. Additionally, the process of delexicalization does not take place completely. These verbs cannot be treated as delexical since they do not present all the characteristics of them but neither they can be treated as lexical because the noun that accompanies the verb contributes significantly to the meaning of the construction. Therefore, these verbs should be regarded as an independent category located in the middle of the spectrum, showing characteristics of lexical and delexical verbs.

Some constructions of this category mainly deal with duration of an event (*take time*, *take years* and *take days*). Particularly, the NPs that appear with *take* are the elements that carry the most important information even though they are not deverbal nouns. According to Downing & Locke (2006), the circumstantial element of the clause (*days*, *time*, *years*) becomes complement (obligatory element in the clause) so that they complete the meaning.

Additionally, there are some cases which do not deal with the duration of an activity. The noun is not a deverbal noun but it has most of the semantic content of the clause even though the verb contains also part of it. Some cases that belong to this type are the followings: *take part* or *take place*. Although the nouns are identical to the lexical verb, they are not deverbal noun since the meanings entailed by the noun and the verb are different (there is no transference of semantic content).

Finally, a third type is the construction composed by the verb *give* followed by a noun (deverbal or not) related to communication such as *conference*, *speech*, *interview*...Even though it can be identical to the lexical verb, the meaning is different in a lexical and a delexical construction. Furthermore, the element that is emphasized changes in both constructions: *give an interview* vs. *interview*.

2. Methodology

To carry out this research, I have followed a mixed method, combining qualitative as well as quantitative analysis. Thus, thirty-five news articles (see *appendix*) have been analyzed to discover whether they contain examples of light verbs. They have been extracted from *The New York Times* (NYT), *The Guardian* (G), *The Chicago Sun Times* (CST), *The Economist* (E)

and *The New Yorker* (NY), from their online edition during different and non-consecutive days. The number of examples amounts to forty-one.

To analyze the semantic and syntactic properties as well as to categorize the different examples of light verbs, I have done a qualitative analysis, according to the following steps:

- I. Reviewing the literature in the field of light verb.
- II. Scanning the news articles to find delexical-verb constructions (observation).
- III. Categorizing the examples into three different types, according to their syntactic structure: *V+DO*, *V+DO +PC* and *V+IO+DO (+PC)*.
- IV. Analyzing the semantic and syntactic traits of the construction.
- V. Change from qualitative to quantitative analysis to observe how many times each light-verb construction is used. This quantitative analysis is a univariate analysis: the unique categorical variable is the frequency of use of each light verb.

In order to do the comparison, just twenty out of the thirty-five articles (see *appendix*) have been considered, extracted from the American *NYT* and from the British *G*, ten from each newspaper. In this case, the number of examples is twenty-one. They have been chosen for this comparative study because they are on the top of the list of most influential and important newspapers. Indeed, as Crystal affirms, *The New York Times* was in the top five as it was published in the *Book of Lists* (1977). Additionally, both share the same ideology. The steps taken are the followings:

- I. Scanning the articles to find delexical constructions.
- II. Making a table to show the number of times each light verb appears. This analysis is bivariate, that is, it has an independent variable (categorical): the newspapers and a dependent one: the number of times each light verb is used in each newspaper. This variable is discrete.

To identify the source of each example, I have added a tag in parenthesis. In it, it can be found the initials referred to each newspaper, e.g., NYT (*The New York Times*), G (*The Guardian*), etc... followed by the last name of the writer(s) of the article.

3. Analysis and Results

This section focuses on the analysis of the examples of light verbs found in the corpus. The number of examples amounts to forty-one, not including those classified as *in-between* verbs.

According to this corpus, it can be stated that these types of British and American written press do use delexical verbs in their articles. The next step leads us to the analysis of the different types of construction according to the syntactic and semantic taxonomies. Secondly, I will focus on the analysis of the NP in the light-verb construction and its main components. Thirdly, the possible differences in meaning between a lexical and a delexical construction will be explained. After it, I will revise the *in-between* verbs. Later, the focus will be on the frequency of use of light verbs and *in-between* verbs in newspapers. Finally, I will compare the use of delexical verbs in *NYT* and *G*.

3.1. Taxonomy of Light-Verb Constructions According to their Syntactic Characteristics

Three main types of light-verb construction can be found in this corpus. The first one includes those constructions composed of V + DO. Secondly, a sub-type of the former category which presents a prepositional complement that follows the DO. Finally, a different structure that includes an indirect object (IO), which is placed between the verb and the DO, i.e., V + IO + DO (+PC).

The type of complements that accompanies the light verbs is determined by the deverbal noun derived from the lexical verb and not by the verb, as in lexical constructions. Likewise, the transitivity of the lexical verb determines the syntactic structure of the delexical-verb constructions. If the lexical verb is intransitive, the structure corresponds to the first type, V + DO since the deverbal noun will not require any extra complement. In the

case in which the lexical verb was transitive, the syntactic structure will add a prepositional complement, following the DO and specifying the deverbal noun. Finally, there is an exception to the statement that the syntactic structure is determined by the deverbal noun and not by the light verb. The light verb *give* determines the syntactic structure of the sentence in which it appears instead of the deverbal noun. Thus, as *give* is a ditransitive verb, it requires a DO and IO (even though it can be implicitly stated).

Type one: V + DO

This construction consists of a delexical verb (*take, make, do, have, give*) followed by a NP, commonly introduced by an article (definite or indefinite), functioning as the DO in the clause. The original lexical verb from which the deverbal noun comes from was intransitive. Comparing the lexical and the delexical constructions, the syntactic transformation results in the inclusion of a NP as DO in which the head is the deverbal noun. In the following examples, it can be noticed that the lexical verb was intransitive, e.g. *to spill* (although transitive, it can be used as intransitive) or *to mistake* whereas the delexical construction has turned it into a transitive one. As the previous lexical verbs are intransitive, the deverbal noun does not require any other complement to be syntactically complete.

(1a) *Making a spill unlikely* (NYT; Fountain and Broder)

(1b) To spill

(2a) *Don't make mistakes* (NYT; Gross)

(2b) To mistake

Type two: V + DO + PC

One could think that this category can be included in the former construction but I have separated it from the previous category since, by contrast to it, the NP that functions as DO is followed by a PP functioning as a prepositional complement. This structure occurs just when the lexical verb was transitive so that the DO in the lexical construction becomes the prepositional complement of the new DO (deverbal noun) in the delexical construction. Likewise, the semantic content and syntactic properties that the lexical verb possessed previously are transferred to the deverbal noun.

As seen in the following examples, the prepositional complement specifies the meaning of the deverbal noun, not of the light verb. Example (1a) demonstrates how the syntactic properties of the lexical verb have been transferred to the deverbal noun: the preposition (*on*) that introduces the prepositional complement *on cancer* is a requisite that must appear whenever the verb *to impact* is used. The prepositional complement *on cancer* follows the DO *an important impact*. In the case of example (2a), it highlights the semantic importance of the PC *of all the documents*; following the NP headed by *possession*, specifying and completing the meaning of the clause.

(1a) *It is unlikely to have an important impact on cancer* (G; Boseley)

(1b) To impact on cancer

(2a) *The IPCC takes possession of all the documents* (G; Laville)

(2b) To possess all the documents

There can be some exceptions (3a) in which, even if the lexical verb is transitive, the prepositional complement does not appear. It may occur because the deverbal noun functions as an intransitive even though the denotation employed is lexically realized by a transitive verb. Thus, in these specific cases, the syntactic structure of the lexical verb has not been transferred to the deverbal noun.

(3a) *Her favorability ratings have taken a hit*³ (NYT; Silver)

(3b) *Her favorability ratings hit

(3c) Battles in congress have hit her favorability ratings

Example (3c) denotes the same meaning as (3a), using the lexical verb as a transitive one. The reason to explain this specific category is that the author uses the delexical construction to highlight a concrete element in the clause, i.e., the subject of a light verb.

³ Preserving the same meaning entails changing the semantic structure completely.

Thus, the information the author wants to point out is that *her favorability ratings* have been hit in opposition to the lexical construction, which emphasizes that they were the battles in congress what hit *her favorability ratings*.

Type three: V + IO + DO (+ PC)

This is a rather unusual construction in the language of newspapers since it just occurs when two scenarios take place: first, when the light verb *to give* (ditransitive verb) appears and when the lexical verb is ditransitive.

A ditransitive verb requires two objects, DO and IO, to be semantically and syntactically complete. Thus, the syntactic construction is composed of a NP functioning as IO followed by the DO. This results in the displacement of the main semantic element far from the verb. It is remarkable that this delexical construction is due to the verb *give*, even if the lexical verb is transitive or intransitive. Likewise, the syntactic structure is ruled by the delexical verb *give*. The following example shows how this type of construction requires a direct (*a warning*) and indirect object (*scientists and engineers*) to be syntactically and semantically complete. Sometimes, the IO may be just implicitly stated, as in (2a) where the IO would be *us*.

(1a) *Their efforts (...) to give scientists and engineers as early a warning as possible*⁴ (G; Jones and agencies)

(1b) To warn the scientists and engineers

(2a) *They gave no indications about which ones (...) (NYT; Liptak)*

(2b) To indicate (us)

3.2. Taxonomy of Light-Verb Constructions According to the Semantic Analysis

As stated previously, some authors consider the deverbal noun as functioning as range even though different semantic analyses can be carried out depending on the degree of delexicalization that we apply to each light verb. If a delexical verb contains a minimum of semantic charge, the deverbal noun is the range. By contrast, if it has, to some extent, semantic content, the deverbal noun is the effected/affected.

Although the most common structure is the one that maintains the same subject (1, 2 and 3), other light-verb constructions entail a change of subject. Consequently, the entire semantic structure when utilized as delexical or lexical construction to emphasize a specific element in the clause, as explained previously.

Type one: V + DO

(1) *The justices (...) took no action on requests* (NYT; Liptak)

Agent Material P⁵. Range/Effectuated Location

The justices did not act on request

Agent Material P⁶. Location

Type two: V + DO + PC

(2) *50 percent of Americans took a favorable view of Mrs. Clinton* (NYT; Silver)

Agent Material P. Range/Effectuated Effectuated/Affected

50 percent of Americans view Mrs. Clinton favorably
 Behavior Physiological P. Effectuated Manner

Type three: V + IO + DO (+ PC)

⁴ The idiom *as early as possible* is sectioned so that the first part of the expression has been inserted between the DO and the IO, which is followed by the second part of it. This type of construction aims to highlight the urgency of the action, to set the focus of attention on the time constraint.

⁵ Material process with a light semantic charge since it is the range which possesses the semantic content.

⁶As the material process to act does contain the full semantic content, a range is not necessary.

(3) *for giving* *Obama* *a «slap in the face»* (NYorker; Remnick)
 Material P. Recipient Range/Effectuated

For slapping *Obama* *in the face*
 Material P. Affected Location

According to these properties, certain light-verb constructions are used with the aim of emphasizing an element in the clause different from the usual one, e.g., the DO or PC (examples 1, 2 and 3).

3.3. Analysis of the Noun Phrase in Light-Verb Constructions

3.3.1. Deverbal Noun

As the deverbal noun is derived from the lexical verb, it contains its semantic content. That is, a deverbal noun expresses the action carried out by the subject. Additionally, the syntactic structure is also determined, to a certain extent, by the deverbal noun and the syntactic features inherited from the lexical verb, as shown in previous sections, such as transitivity or intransitivity. However, it should not be forgotten that, syntactically, the head of the phrase is still the light verb.

3.3.1.1 Modification of the Deverbal Noun

Apart from the features inherited from the lexical verb, as noun, it can be easily modified by adjectives or PPs which introduce modifications, specifying both the noun and the action. The modification can be realized by an adjective(s) and/or a PP. The flexibility to be qualified allows the speaker to modify the process, introducing certain specifications and particularities to the noun so that the action is more specifically described than the one expressed by a lexical verb. The adjectival modification is commoner and more frequently found since it can introduce nuances to the deverbal noun. Another type consists in adding a new prepositional phrase into the clause, following the NP. This type can only be found in the structure V + DO + PC. or V + IO + DO (+ PC). This possibility of specifying the meaning can be the main reason for choosing a light verb construction, as Downing & Locke (2006) stated. In example (1), the adjective *careful* entails the idea of looking in an exhaustive manner, specifying the meaning of *a look*. Additionally, the PP that follows the NP, *at whether activities*, modifies the deverbal noun by adding a specification. However, in this case, it is the semantic connotation of the light verb *to take* which marks the difference to choose this type of construction since, a lexical structure could have also specified the idea, although not so precisely, of looking thoroughly.

(1) *The government will take a careful look at whether activities (...)* (NYT; Fountain and Broder)

The following examples illustrate how the use of adjectives specifies the meaning of the NP and of the clause.

(2) *They still do a lot of regional destruction*⁷ (G; Laville)

(3) *I applaud the BBC for making this swift decision*⁸ (G; Hickman)

Likewise, the idea argued by Wierzbicka (1988) and Kearns (2002) that one of the main reasons for choosing a light verb over a lexical one is a matter of trivialization is challenged. In an article extracted from *The Guardian*, the light-verb constructions *to have an effect* and *to have an impact* appear together with their corresponding lexical constructions *to affect* and *to impact*, respectively. Therefore, the writer's intention when choosing a light and a lexical verb is not to write the information in a more casual style. On

⁷The adjective *regional* sets a limit regarding the scope of *destruction* occurred. The preposition *a lot of* adds the meaning of «many», accentuating the degree of the *destruction*.

⁸ In this case, the determiner *this* adds a distance specification, remarking that the *decision* referred to by the light verb is a specific one. Indeed, it refers to the decision that is mentioned nearest to this clause.

the contrary, the main purpose may be to qualify and to add specifications to the action. Hence, as stated by Downing & Locke (2006), using examples (4a) and (5a) in opposition to (4b) and (5b) allows the writer to be more specific, to add certain modification and connotation to the action so that it is a more precise statement.

(4a) *That could have an effect on their stress levels* (G; Boseley)

(4b) *Stress at work can affect people's health* (G; Boseley)

(5a) *It is unlikely to have an important impact on cancer burden* (G; Boseley)

(5b) *It can impact the heart* (G; Boseley)

3.3.2 The Article

According to Kearns (2002), the deverbal noun should be introduced by an indefinite article (examples 1 and 2), but this condition is not met in most of the example analyzed here. This rule may be violated by adding a definite article *the* (5) or by omitting the article. This last possibility may be due to two reasons, i.e., the deverbal noun presents a plural number (4) or the construction lacks the article (3).

As seen below, plurality does not entail any significant difference in meaning regarding the same example used in singular. It just adds a new specification of the deverbal noun concerning its number. Likewise, the article *the* implies that the deverbal noun is known by the writer and refers to a particular entity. This flexibility illustrates how light-verb construction can be easily modified regarding the quantification of the deverbal noun.

(1) *Congress is preparing to take a closer look at the overall program* (NYT; Wyatt)

(2) *The White House is making a big mistake* (NYorker; Colbert)

(3) *The IPCC takes possession of all the documents* (G; Laville)⁹

(4) *The country was making advances that could eventually allow it to lob a nuclear-tipped missile*¹⁰ (NYT; MacFaquhar and Perlez)

(5) *Explanation to make the sale*¹¹ (NYT; Cardwell)

Also, instead of using an indefinite article, the deverbal noun can be introduced by a quantifier (6).

(6) *It's time for him to take some risks* (NYorker; Colbert)

3.4. Differences in Meaning Between Lexical and Delexical Constructions

Although lexical and delexical constructions share, to some extent, the essential meaning, certain light verbs present some connotations. The different connotation between a light-verb construction that uses the verb *take* and its correspondent lexical construction is, mainly, the idea of determination to undertake the action. That is, the verb *take* implies volition to do the action. Consciously, the subject is determined to act. By contrast, the lexical construction lacks this implication.

In (1a), the volition of valuing Mrs. Clinton is implied by the use of the light verb *take*.

(1a) *About 65 percent of Americans take a favorable view of Mrs. Clinton* (NYT; Silver)

(1b) *About 65 percent of Americans view Mrs. Clinton favorably.*

In the case of the light verb *make*, the main connotation is that the focus of attention is on the process, not on the result. This construction emphasizes the idea of carrying out the action.

(2a) *The report makes a broader point about the relationship* (NYT; Gillis)

(2b) *The report points out the relationship broadly*

⁹ This example shows that the light verb *to take + possession* does not require any article, neither *a* nor *the*.

¹⁰ As *advances* is plural, the indefinite article *a* is not required. In singular, the construction would be *to make an advance*, where the condition would be met.

¹¹ In this case, the article *the* means that the deverbal noun *sale* refers to a particular sale, previously mentioned.

Sentences (2a) and (2b) show the contrast between the connotation and the lack of it. In (2a), the emphasis falls on the action of the report *making a point*. In (2b), the focus of attention is set in the result, in the relationship.

The use of the light verb *give* emphasizes the process of acting also, not the result. It highlights the action implied by the deverbal noun. Example (3a) expresses the process of slapping in the face, emphasizing the action, not the result (the slap).

(3a) *for giving Obama a «slap in the face»* (NYorker; Remnick)

(3b) For slapping Obama in the face

3.5. In-Between Category

As explained before, there are certain verbs which are set in a middle position in the lexical spectrum: the *in-between* category.

Lexical verbs

In-between category

Light verbs

These are specific verbs that share characteristics with both, lexical and light verbs. For example, they consist of a light verb, usually *take*, and a NP (which can be a deverbal noun) that carries the semantic content. However, this *semi-light* verb contains part of the semantic content of the lexical verb.

Most of these types refer to expressions of duration of actions (*days, weeks, months, years* and *time*) so that the noun that accompanies the semi-light verb is not a deverbal one. These expressions cannot be substituted by a lexical verb because the meaning entailed by these clauses is made up of the noun and the verbal meanings. Both elements are important and contribute to the meaning, although the noun remains being the most important one. Some examples are the following:

(1) *It may take days or weeks to determine independently* (NYT; MacFaquhar and Perlez)

(2) *Owens defended the time it has taken the IPCC to conclude its inquiry* (G; Laville)

There is a second type that shows different characteristics. One of them is that the noun is not related to expressions of time and it is derived from a verb.

(3) *Alvarez (...) decided to take Bielema's place for the bowl game* (NYT; Gross)

(4) *Steps can be taken* (G; Jones and agencies)

Example (3) shows a construction that consists of the light verb *take* + *noun*, following the structure V + DO + PC. Although the main semantic content of the phrase is on the NP *Bielema's place*, the verb also contributes to the meaning of the clause. One of the consequences of using the in-between construction is that in it, the agent Alvarez is the one who controls the action, the one who deliberately acts to take *Bielema's place* (the affected). The focus, then, is on Alvarez and his deliberate action. This trait of deliberated action is expressed through the verb *to take*.

The third type involves expressions which are made up of a light verb, usually *give*, and a NP. The noun is related to communication and it can or cannot be derived from a lexical verb. The verb *give* has not the sense of transference.

(5) *To give a serious, sturdy speech of a certain kind* (NYorker; Remnick)

(6) *Mrs. Clinton gave an unusual news conference* (NYT; Silver)

In examples (5) and (6), the nouns *speech* and *conference* are not derived from verbs, so there is no possible substitution for a single lexical verb.

(7) *She began her day by giving an interview to a journalist* (NYT; Collins)

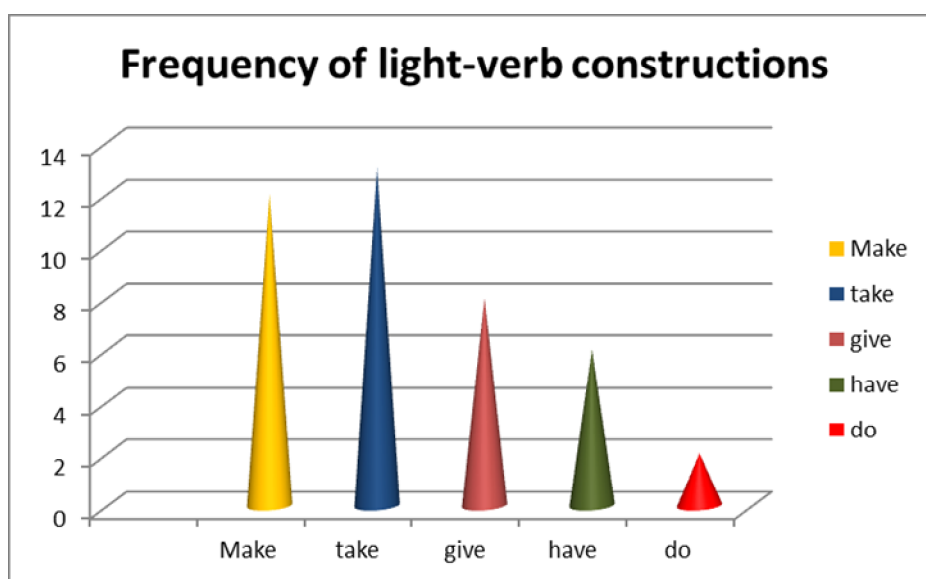
Example (7) uses a noun that is similar to a lexical verb, *interview*, but it is not derived from the verb. This construction allows the speaker to emphasize the subject and the process of acting. Expressing the same message by a lexical construction requires a passive clause (*be interviewed*) in order to emphasize the same element but the structure would change completely.

One of the main reasons for choosing this construction is that these types of expressions do not have a lexical substitution. So to speak, they cannot be substituted for a

single lexical verb preserving the same meaning. In the second and third type, even though the nouns can be derived from a lexical verb, the meaning expressed by the lexical verb is different from the one conveyed by the construction. Therefore, the expressions explained above have become idiomatic expressions; they cannot be replaced by an equivalent lexical verb to convey the same meaning.

3.6. Frequency of Light Verbs

As shown in figure 1, the light verbs the most used in American and British newspapers are *make* and *take*. They are the most popular whereas the light verb *do* is rarely used. This may be explained by the fact that the light verbs *make* and *take* add certain connotations of acting deliberately, as explained above. *Take* suggests that the subject decides to carry out the action whereas *make* highlights the process of act.



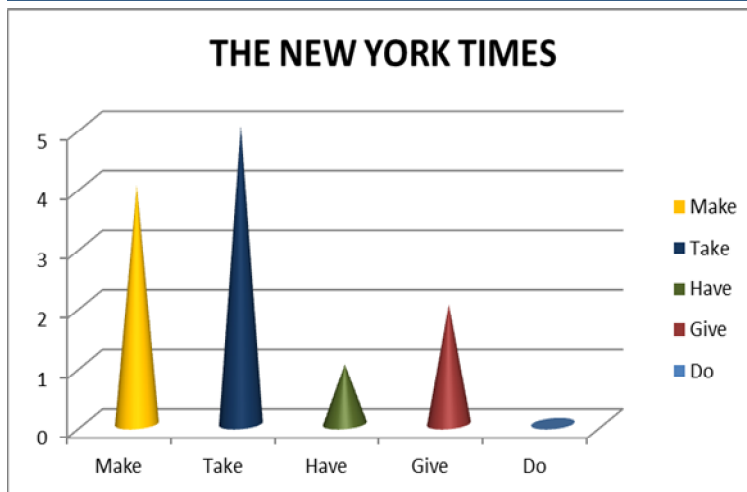
(Fig. 1)

3.7. Differences in the Types of Delexical Verbs Used in *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*

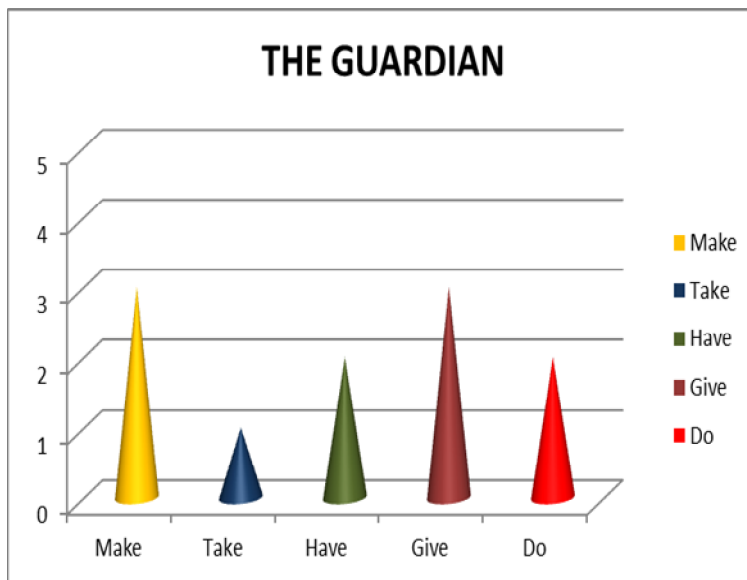
As *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* are two of the most important newspapers in the Anglo-Saxon culture, in this section I will examine if there is a remarkable difference in the type of delexical verb used by them. The corpus consists of twenty articles, ten from each newspaper and the number of examples amounts to twenty-one.

The following figures (2 and 3) point out that the light verb *make* is used very frequently in both newspapers. The verb *give* as a light verb is also used by *NYT* as well as by *G*, where it appears repeatedly. For the rest of light verbs (*have*, *take* and *do*), there is almost no coincidence in their use. Likewise, none of the articles extracted from *NYT* shows a delexical construction consisting of the verbs *do* whereas the articles from *G* just provide an example of the verb *take*, frequently used by *NYT*. A remarkable data is the number of times (five) the verb *take* appears in *NYT*, being the most clearly utilized.

Once can state that both newspapers present almost the same number of light verbs, although *The Guardian* uses a larger variety of different light verbs.

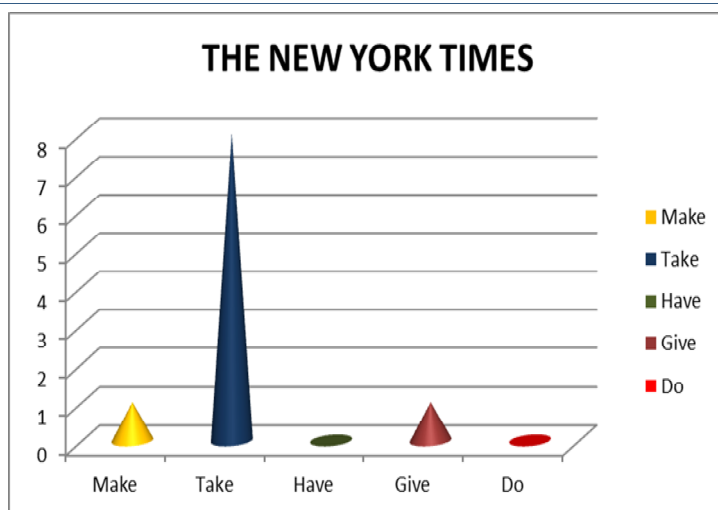


(Fig. 2)

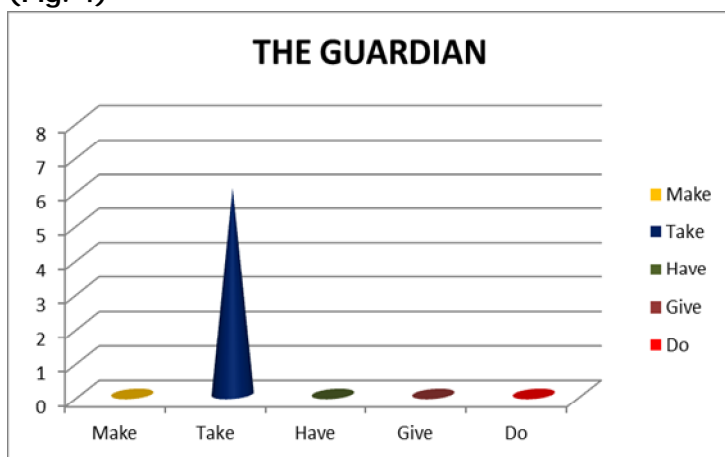


(Fig. 3)

With regard to the in-between construction, one can appreciate the similarity in the use of this type of construction in both newspapers (fig. 4 and 5). The two of them contain examples of this phenomenon, using, almost exclusively as semi-light verb, *take*. In this case, it is *NYT* which presents a larger variety in the type of semi-light verbs used.



(Fig. 4)



(Fig. 5)

3.8 A Personal Proposal for the Classification of Light-Verb Constructions

After having analyzed the examples extracted from the corpus and having considered the conditions proposed by Kearns to classify a construction as TLV or VAV, I have come to the conclusion that a light-verb construction should meet two main conditions to be categorized as a delexical construction. Firstly, it should be introduced by one of the verbs *make*, *take*, *have*, *do* and *give* and secondly, it must have a lexical substitution. That is, it can be replaced by the lexical verb without changing neither the essential meaning of the construction nor the structure .

- (1a) *The justices (...) took no action on requests* (NYT; Liptak)
 (1b) The justices (...) did not act on requests
 (2a) *The White House is making a big mistake* (NYorker; Kolbert)
 (2b) The White House is mistaking.

4. Conclusion

As the previous analysis has revealed, light-verb constructions are useful due to their capacity to be specified, to describe the action more precisely. Also, delexical verbs allow speaker to emphasize an element or to add a connotation to the action (the main reason why *make* and *take* are the most frequently used). Another property of light verbs is that they can be substituted by a lexical construction, preserving the essential meaning. On the contrary, the in-between category, in which the verb retains certain semantic content,

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cannot be substituted by a lexical verb to convey the same meaning. Thus, it becomes a significantly important grammatical construction.

Regarding the frequency of light verbs, *make* is one of the light verbs that appears more frequently. This fact is highlighted by the comparison between the use of light verbs in NYT and G. Both newspapers use this verb similarly whereas the use of the rest of light verbs differs significantly. That is, *The New York Times'* articles mainly contain the light verb *take*, followed by *make* and *have*, challenging the idea of Wierzbicka (1988) that the use of *take* and *have* depends, to some extent, on the nationality of the writer. *The Guardian* resorts to *have*, *give* and *do* (apart from *make*).

Future studies on this topic may focus on comparing the differences in the use of different light verbs in press in Anglo-Saxon countries and in those countries where English is not the L1 since the main comparative studies carried out up to 2012 have paid attention, mainly, to the differences in the structure and use of light verbs out of context. Also, it may be interesting to observe and analyze the differences in the use of light verbs in spoken and written production.

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Bioprofile of the author: Beatriz Martín Sánchez, graduated in English Studies at Complutense University UCM (Madrid, Spain). Linguistics has been her area of specialization, specially, psycholinguistics and the analysis of discourse being her end-of-degree project a study on the use of delexical verbs in American and British newspapers. In order to continue her academic training in the fields of Linguistics, Beatriz has applied for a Master's Course in Translation in the Public Services in Universidad de Alcalá de Henares (UAH).

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APPENDIX

Web Pages and Extracts from the Articles

THE NEW YORK TIMES

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/01/business/energy-environment/solar-industry-borrows-a-page-and-a-party-from-tupperware.html?_r=0>

Author: Cardwell

Just as Tupperware failed to fly off store shelves without a salesperson showing customers how to work the airtight seal, which inspired the party-plan model, solar panels often require demonstration and explanation **to make the sale**.

"People here are real big on references," said Joe Wallace, one of the Peapers' guests, who said that he and his wife had thought about installing solar for a long time but decided to take the plunge only after learning more from their neighbors.

<<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/new-concerns-over-apps-for-children/?ref=technology>>

Author: Singer

The app, introduced this year, is an animated, location-based game in which children collect, **take care of** and trade colorful virtual pets called Mobbles.

<<http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/why-hillary-clinton-would-be-strong-in-2016-its-not-her-favorability-ratings/?ref=politics>>

Author: Silver

But if Mrs. Clinton runs for president in 2016, one thing is almost certain: she won't be as popular as she is right now. Recent polls show that about 65 percent of Americans **take a favorable view** of Mrs. Clinton, while only about 30 percent **have a negative one**. Those are remarkably high numbers for a politician in an era when many public officials are distrusted or disliked.

Over the course of her long career, the public's views of Mrs. Clinton have shifted along with her public role. When she has been actively engaged in the hand-to-hand combat that characterizes election campaigns and battles in Congress, her favorability ratings **have taken a hit**, only to recover later.

Mrs. Clinton, like her husband, began the 1992 campaign as a relatively unknown figure, but grew more popular as the campaign wore on. By the time Bill Clinton was inaugurated in January, 1993, about 50 percent of Americans **took a favorable view of** Mrs. Clinton against 20 percent who **had an unfavorable one**.

But Mrs. Clinton **took a far more active role** in seeking to affect public policy than most first ladies. In September 1993, she appeared before Congressional committees in an effort to advance the health care bill that she and Mr. Clinton had helped to design.

Adding to the pressure was the Whitewater investigation. In April 1994, Mrs. Clinton **gave an unusual news conference** in an effort to respond to her critics.

<<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/water-pollution-and-the-farm-economy/>>

Author: Gillis

While it focuses on water quality in Iowa, the report **makes a broader point about** the relationship between agriculture and the environment. When the Clean Water Act was adopted in 1972, farms were largely exempted from its requirements.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/15/opinion/collins-looking-for-america.html>>

Author: Collins

On Friday morning, McCarthy said, she began her day by **giving an interview** to a journalist who was writing a general story about "how victims feel when a tragedy happens."

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We will undoubtedly have arguments about whether tougher regulation on gun sales or extra bullet capacity would **have made a difference** in Connecticut.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/01/us/supreme-court-takes-up-question-of-patents-in-gene-research.html>>

Author: Liptak

The Supreme Court announced on Friday that it would decide whether human genes may be patented. The justices considered but **took no action** on requests that the court hear one or more cases concerning same-sex marriage.

The justices were also scheduled to consider on Friday 10 closely watched appeals in cases concerning same-sex marriage, but they **gave no indications** about which ones, if any, they will hear.

<<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/solar-installations-surge-on-lower-costs-and-government-support/?ref=science>>

Author: Hurdle

Further growth is anticipated in the fourth quarter, which has historically been the strongest of the year for photovoltaic installations, according to the industry association and GTM Research, a clean-energy consulting firm that **took part** in the call.

THE NEW YORKER

<http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2012/12/10/121210taco_talk_kolbert>

Author: Kolbert

In either case, the White House is **making a big mistake**. Pigovian taxes are rarely politically popular—something they have in common with virtually all taxes. But, as Obama embarks on his second term, it's time for him to **take some risks**. Several countries, including Australia and Sweden, already have a carbon tax.

<<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2012/12/hillary-is-running-a-dispatch-from-the-saban-forum.html>>

Author: Remnick

All kinds of circumstances could intervene between now and 2016 to derail her—politics, health, family matters, a renewed Clinton fatigue—but Hillary's numbers are enormous, her ambition equal to her capacities, and she was in high political gear. She proceeded **to give a serious, sturdy speech of a certain kind**; if not quite AIPAC-ready, it was a speech extremely careful not to ruffle anyone's delicate feelings or becloud her last days as secretary of state.

Olmert, who has a legacy to defend and an ego to feed, was clear and alive, but even when he was right on the issues, he undermined himself with his bombast. He rightly slammed Netanyahu **for giving Obama a "slap in the face"** over the weekend and mocked the prime minister for pretending to be friends with Obama after being his "enemy" in the Presidential campaign just a few weeks ago.

He accurately, if generally, described how, earlier in the day, Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and Obama's former chief of staff, had spoken angrily and bluntly about the way Netanyahu has repeatedly betrayed the friendship of the United States, lecturing Obama in the Oval Office and now, after the U.S. had underwritten the Iron Dome anti-missile system, supported the operation in Gaza, and voted Israel's way in the U.N., embarrassing the Obama Administration **by taking punitive actions against the Palestinian Authority**.

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THE ECONOMIST

<<http://www.economist.com/news/21567361-google-apple-facebook-and-amazon-are-each-others-throats-all-sorts-ways-another-game?spc=scode&spv=xm&ah=9d7f7ab945510a56fa6d37c30b6f1709>>

Author: Parkins

In digital music, the tables are reversed, with Amazon's Cloud Player music service struggling **to make a dent** in iTunes' huge market share. In video both firms are trying to make headway against Netflix, which has been turning itself from a DVD renter to a video streamer.

<<http://www.economist.com/news/21566420-what-expect-next-big-report-climate-change-warming-up>>

Author: Morton

So the new IPCC report will **give a fuller and richer sense** of how the climate works, but not greater certainty on how precisely it may behave over the coming decades and centuries.

THE GUARDIAN

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/dec/11/census-religion-decline-rise-born-abroad>>

Author: Booth

The ONS's use of the term "foreign-born" does not **give a full picture** of the changing nature of citizenship. About 60% of foreign-born residents become British citizens within five years of arrival.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/dec/17/white-house-obama-gun-control-newtown>>

Author: MacAskill

"It's time to move beyond rhetoric. We need to sit down and **have a common sense discussion** and move in a reasonable way. This has changed the dialogue and it should move beyond dialogue – we need action,"

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/dec/18/home-schooled-children-postcode-lottery>>

Author: Walker

The MPs also flagged up glaring disparities in the services provided to non-school pupils. One parent **gave the example** of being forced to pay £350 a year for swimming lessons for her child which are free to those in school.

THE CHICAGO SUN TIMES

<<http://www.suntimes.com/16951312-761/federal-appeals-court-tosses-state-ban-on-carrying-concealed-weapons.html>>

Authors: Mckinney and Spielman

"We're going **to take the time** the court has given us to carefully review the ruling and to consult with the attorney general's office before we determine what legislative action we take on concealed carry."

CONTRASTIVE CORPUS

THE NEW YORK TIMES

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/02/sports/ncaafotball/stanford-holds-off-wisconsin-in-rose-bowl.html?ref=sports>>

Author: Gross

We play defense, we run the ball, we blitz, we tackle, we play physical, we run the ball," he said, repeating himself. "When we do it the right way, and we communicate and don't **make mistakes**, it looks great."

Yet Stanford, ranked eighth, jumped to a 14-0 lead **by taking chances**. Wisconsin (8-6) trailed, 17-14, at halftime.

Wisconsin seniors had pleaded for Alvarez, the athletic director, to step in for Bret Bielema, who had left for Arkansas, to coach them in the Rose Bowl. Alvarez hired Utah State Coach

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Gary Andersen but decided **to take Bielema's place** for the bowl game. Six assistants who will move on to new jobs stayed to assist Alvarez.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/02/business/energy-environment/breakaway-oil-rig-runs-aground-in-gulf-of-alaska.html?pagewanted=2&ref=science>>

Authors: Broder and Fountain

The official said the fuel tanks on the vessel were well protected inside the hull, **making a spill** unlikely.

Hopefully something good will come out of this latest incident, and the government will **take a careful look** at whether activities such as this can be conducted safely, and if so, what changes are needed to make that possible."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/11/us/rising-voice-of-gun-ownership-is-female.html?pagewanted=2&_r=0&ref=us>

Author: Goode

Ms. Tartaro, the magazine editor, said that women's interest in guns began increasing in the 1980s, when women began moving into previously male-dominated professions like law enforcement and the military and began **taking charge of** their own finances and living arrangements.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/10/nyregion/winter-storm-northeast.html?pagewanted=2&ref=science>>

Authors: Kleinfiedl and Santora

Outside his office, **measurements have been taken** since 1949, and this storm beat them all with 30.9 inches.

Many people in New York City woke up early to snap photos of snow-topped streetlamps and **make fresh tracks** on their way to find the best hill to go sledding. Or they looked to pick up income.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/10/world/middleeast/egypt-court-orders-block-on-youtube-over-anti-islam-video.html?ref=technology>>

Author: The associated press

No examples found.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/12/us/politics/sharp-slowdown-in-us-health-care-costs.html?ref=us>>

Author: Lowrey

Doctors, nurses and hospitals **have also taken steps** to reduce wasteful treatments. Many of the changes predate the 2010 [health care overhaul](#), but the law has also contributed to the changes by offering some financial incentives, health care experts say.

"Premature celebration never **makes sense** when it comes to health care," he added.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/13/world/asia/north-korea-nuclear-test.html?pagewanted=2&ref=earth>>

Authors: Macfaquhar and Perlez

Even the strongest sanctions and increasing isolation have not caused the North to back off its nuclear program, which the leadership sees as both a deterrent to possible American aggression, and which **gives the impoverished country's governing elite a success** it can show its suffering people.

Even before Pyongyang conducted Tuesday's test, the Obama administration had already threatened **to take additional action** to penalize the North through the United Nations.

It may **take days or weeks** to determine independently if the test, was successful. American officials will also be looking for signs of whether the North, for the first time, conducted a test of a uranium weapon, based on a uranium enrichment capability it has been pursuing for a decade.

Some believe that the country may have been planning two simultaneous tests, but it could **take time** to sort out the data.

Martín Sánchez, Beatriz. "Light Verbs in American and British Newspapers." *JACLR: Journal of Artistic Creation and Literary Research* 1.2 (2013): pages
 <<https://www.ucm.es/siim/journal-of-artistic-creation-and-literary-research>>
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By conducting a test just before he leaves office, the North could have been both sending a message and **giving his successor, Park Geun-hye, the chance to** restore relations after the breach a test will undoubtedly cause.

It may **take outside experts days or weeks** to determine if the latest blast moved the program to a "higher level," as Pyongyang recently promised.

But arms experts declared a recent rocket launching a success, suggesting the country was **making advances** that could eventually allow it to lob a nuclear-tipped missile as far as the United States mainland.

giving signals to Iran — which the West believes is pursuing a nuclear weapon despite its denials — that it could try the same path.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/12/technology/waste-is-seen-in-program-to-give-internet-access-to-rural-us.html?pagewanted=2&ref=technology&_r=0>

Author: Wyatt

Congress is preparing **to take a closer look at the overall program**. Representative Cory Gardner, a Colorado Republican whose district includes Agate, said in an interview Monday that the House subcommittee overseeing the grant program was preparing for a hearing into possible program waste.

"We employ local people," he said. "If Eagle-Net takes away these institutions, **it will have a big negative effect on the company.**"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/14/us/to-lower-suicide-rates-new-focus-turns-to-guns.html?pagewanted=2&_r=0&ref=us>

Author: Tavernise

In a 2001 study of 13- to 34-year-olds in Houston who had attempted suicide but were saved by medical intervention, researchers from the C.D.C. found that, for more than two-thirds of them, the time that elapsed between deciding to act and **taking action** was an hour or less.

"If you use a gun," Dr. Miller said, "you usually don't get a second chance."

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/14/nyregion/next-bloomberg-target-plastic-foam-cups.html?ref=science>>

Author: Grynbaum

He will also propose **taking the first steps toward** city collection of food waste for composting, starting with a pilot program on Staten Island.

THE GUARDIAN

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2013/jan/02/hillsborough-disaster-inquiry-challenge-police>>

Author: Laville

Task of collating **documentation could take months**, admits Dame Anne Owers, amid calls for commission to be scrapped

The building will be equipped with special security systems to secure the evidence before the IPCC **takes possession of** all the documents and begins interviewing. In the months ahead the team will:

Owers – who was appointed by the home secretary, Theresa May, as part-time chair last April – has increased her commitment to four days a week to **take charge of** the Hillsborough inquiry.

We are **doing a review** of the way that we deal with cases of death in custody. We are going out and talking to families about their experiences and about what they think could have been done differently.

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Owens defended **the time it has taken** the IPCC to conclude its inquiry into the shooting of Duggan, which sparked the riots in summer 2011.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/11/overnight-snow-rain-uk>>

Author: Press association

No examples found.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2013/feb/08/asteroid-will-miss-earth-says-nasa>>

Authors: Jones and agencies

"Although they wouldn't cause a global catastrophe if they impact the Earth, **they still do a lot of regional destruction**," said Lindley Johnson, who oversees the Near-Earth Object Observations Programme at Nasa headquarters in Washington DC.

Nasa finds and tracks all near-Earth objects that are 1km or larger in diameter. Their efforts are intended to **give scientists and engineers as early a warning as possible** so that **steps can be taken** to avert the kind of catastrophe that did for the dinosaurs.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2013/feb/08/bbc-global-warming-attenborough-africa?intcmp=122>>

Authors: Macfaquhar and Perlez

But I was also curious about why Attenborough would have used a somewhat obscure factoid buried deep within a report published by an NGO as long ago as 2006 to **make such an arresting statement** within a primetime BBC natural history programme in 2013.

Personally, I find it bizarre - and frustrating - that an otherwise exemplary series, **which took years** to film, has been tainted - in my mind, at least - by such a sloppy piece of research. Why rely primarily on a seven-year-old report published an NGO?

The BBC has informed me that it is now removing this reference from tomorrow's repeat of the episode. It **gave me this statement**:

I applaud the BBC for **making this swift decision**.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2013/feb/12/barclays-cuts-3700-jobs-strategic-review>>

Author: Treanor

Jenkins said: "It will **take years** before people change their impression of us. I'm not daunted by that at all".

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/11/wind-power-capacity-grew-2012?intcmp=122>>

Author: Carrington

No examples found.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/feb/07/stress-work-not-trigger-cancers>>

Author: Boseley

Those who were considered underweight or morbidly obese were excluded from the study, since that could **have an effect** on their stress levels.

Thus, though reducing work stress would undoubtedly improve the psychological and physical wellbeing of the working individuals as well as the working population, it is unlikely **to have an important impact** on cancer burden at a population level.

But it is not unreasonable to assume that stress at work **can affect** people's health. The scientists found, as others have, that it **can impact** the heart.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/feb/14/horsemeat-scandal-bute-food-chain>>

Authors: Carrington and Meikles

She said a person would have to eat more than 500 horsemeat burgers to get a harmful dose and that the doses people may have received if bute had got into food were "less than 1% of any dose that had ever **given an adverse effect**".

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The VRC said bute had "the potential for serious adverse effects in consumers, such as blood dyscrasia [a rare but life-threatening condition]".

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/feb/13/lung-cancer-women-breast-cancer>>

Author: Press Association

Sara Hiom, director of early diagnosis at Cancer Research UK, said: "This research should remind us that **while great progress is being made in** the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the UK, we mustn't be complacent.

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/dec/30/jobseekers-dole-nudge-unit-psychology>>

Author: Boffey

No examples found.

TABLES OF CONSTRUCTIONS ANALYZED IN THIS RESEARCH

LIGHT-VERB CONSTRUCTIONS	
Make the sale	Give a warning
Make a point	Give the example
Make a difference	Give signals
Make a mistake (x2)	Give indications
Make a dent	Give a slap
Make a spill	Give a statement
Make advances	Give an effect
Make a statement	Give a success
Make a decision	Have a discussion
Make track	Have an impact
Make progress	Have an effect (x2)
Take the plunge	Have a view (x2)
Take a view of (x2)	Do a destruction
Take a hit	Do a review
Take a risk	
Take a look at (x2)	
Take action (x4)	
Take measurements	
Take possession of	

Table 1.

IN-BETWEEN CONSTRUCTIONS	
Make sense	Take steps (x3)
Take part	Take care of
Take charge of (x2)	Give the chance
Take chance	Give a news conference
Take somebody's place	Give an interview
Take the time (x3)	Give a sense
Take days or weeks (x2)	Give a speech
Take months	Give a picture
Take years (x2)	

Table 2.

CONTRASTIVE CORPUS: LIGHT-VERB CONSTRUCTIONS	
Make a spill (NYT)	Give a warning (G)
Make advances (NYT)	Give signals (NYT)
Make a statement (G)	Give a statement (G)
Make a mistake (NYT)	Give an effect (G)
Make a decision (G)	Give a success (NYT)
Make track (NYT)	Have an impact (G)
Make progress (G)	Have an effect (x2) (G) (NTY)
Take a look at (x2) (NYT)	Do a destruction (G)
Take action (x2) (NTY)	Do a review (G)
Take measurements (NYT)	
Take possession of (G)	

Table 3.

CONTRASTIVE CORPUS: IN-BETWEEN CONSTRUCTIONS	
Make sense (NYT)	Take the time (x2) (G) (NYT)
Take steps (x3) (G) (NYT)	Take days or weeks (x2) (NYT)
Take charge of (x2) (G) (NYT)	Take months (G)
Take chance (NYT)	Take years (x2) (G)
Take somebody's place (NYT)	Give the chance (NYT)

Table 4.