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The *Guardian USA* Baseball Headlines from a Syntactic Perspective

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Keywords: Syntax, baseball headlines, verbal constructions, non-verbal constructions, present indicative, noun phrases.

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The Guardian USA Baseball Headlines from a Syntactic Perspective

Sara Quintero Ramírez

Abstract- The objective of this paper is to identify the main syntactic characteristics examined in a corpus of 100 baseball headlines from the sports section, more specifically the Major League Baseball (MLB) section, of the daily newspaper *The Guardian USA* in its electronic version. Newspaper headlines are distinctive because they are brief texts that summarize the content of the article they precede. Baseball headlines in *The Guardian USA* respect these characteristics. Furthermore, they display specific syntactic features that are analyzed in this article. The main results of the study were firstly that this newspaper favors the use of verbal constructions in its headlines rather than non-verbal constructions. On the one hand, the present tense third person was the verbal construction most commonly used. On the other hand, in the non-verbal constructions, the most common headline was the one constituted by two noun phrases which were linked by a colon.

Keywords: Syntax, baseball headlines, verbal constructions, non-verbal constructions, present indicative, noun phrases.

I. Introduction

The aim of this study is to describe syntactically a corpus of 100 headlines of the sports section, more precisely the Major League Baseball (MLB) section, of *The Guardian USA* newspaper in its electronic version. We have carried out similar research about general sports headlines in Spanish (Quintero Ramírez, 2013a), English (Quintero Ramírez, 2015), and French with different *corpora*, for the reason that we consider that sports headlines display specific syntactic characteristics. Moreover, we believe that each language has a particular way of presenting sports headlines. It is also our belief that each sport stimulates journalists and editors to write the headlines in a more particular way.

In order to attain the referred objective of the study, this paper is organized as follows. First, a literature review section is introduced. In this section, two significant topics are examined, news headlines and the importance of sports discourse. Next, a methodology section is presented. In this section, there are also two main themes, a) how we set up the corpus of the study, and b) the procedure we followed in order to analyze the corpus. Then, the corpus is analyzed according to the syntactic factors presented in the literature review. Finally, conclusions of this study are drawn.

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II. Literature Review

a) Newspaper headlines

Newspaper articles have the specific task of informing the readers about any event in politics, economy, culture, fashion, entertainment, sports, etc. As a rule of newspaper writing, every article must be preceded by a headline (Mouillaud, 1982: 75). Newspaper headlines are defined as summaries of the news that are written in the body of the article (Alarcos Llorach, 1977; van Dijk, 1990; Herrera Cecilia, 2006; Castro Ferrer, 2011). For Runjić-Stoilova & Galić (2013: 275), "[n]ewspaper headlines are specific types of texts in which one or more words announce the following text. The headline takes the central place in the text: it is graphically separated from the text body and often classified in the group of *small texts*". Moreover, Pou Amérigo (2001: 145) asserts that newspaper headlines represent the first contact between the reader and the newspaper (in its printed and online versions). Sports headlines, and more specifically baseball headlines are not the exception.

Ifantidou (2004: 699) states that "headlines seek to perform two functions: (a) summarize and (b) attract attention to the full-text newspaper article."In spite of these two main purposes, regularly many skilled readers do not feel completely attracted to the article and they feel satisfied with the information they read in the headlines. Consequently, they prefer to spend their time skimming the newspaper headlines rather than reading the entire articles (Dor, 2003: 695). This happens essentially because of the massive quantity of information that is published in the newspapers and also because of the lack of time readers claim to have (Lozano Ascencio *et al.*, 2011).

Therefore, we have decided to examine newspaper headlines in this study because of the importance of this text genre and also because "[n]ewspaper headlines are an interesting field to research, given the specific kind of linguistic phenomena that can be observed in this particular register." (Bucaria, 2004: 280). Actually, in previous studies we have observed that newspaper headlines display some specific syntactic characteristics that are not appropriate in other texts (see Quintero Ramírez, 2013a).

In relation to syntactic features newspaper headlines display, Bucaria (2004), Herrero Cecilia (2006)

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and Tahar (2012) affirm that headlines are distinguished for their brevity and conciseness due to space restrictions. These two important features provoke ellipsis of particular grammar categories (Bucaria, 2004; Nadal Palazón, 2012; Quintero Ramírez, 2013a), the incidence of noun phrases (Nadal Palazón, 2012), and the prevalence of short verbal constructions in the present indicative third person (Alcoba Rueda, 1985; Zorrilla Barroso, 1996; Quintero Ramírez, 2013a) instead of other tenses, moods and persons.

b) Sports discourse

Sports discourse is a variety of language; in other words, it is a specialized discourse that displays precise characteristics that must be distinguished from those of other specialized languages such as the discourse in philosophy, religion, politics and advertising (Groppaldi, 2009: 107). Sports journalists, commentators and experts have a tendency to use creativity in their discourse in order to attract the audience (Curvadic & Vargas, 2010: 218).

Sports discourse has been the main subject of a considerable amount of linguistic research. Undoubtedly, football discourse has been one of the most studied (Nomdedeu, 2004; Mapelli, 2004, 2009 & 2010; Medina Montero, 2007 & 2009; Segura Soto, 2009; Morales, 2009; Gómez Torrego, 2010; Saiz Noeda, 2010; Corado Valenzuela, 2011; etc.) However, other sports have been analyzed from a linguistic perspective too. Armañanzas (2008) and Armañanzas & Sánchez (2009) have studied boxing discourse. Mathon & Boulakia (2009) and Augendre *et al*. (2014) have focused on rugby discourse. Finally Lanzagorta (2009), Rodríguez Juliá (2011), and Quintero Ramírez (2013b & 2013c) have concentrated on baseball discourse.

In this particular study, we focus on baseball headlines because even if baseball is a widely publicized sport especially in throughout America and Japan, it has not been studied extensively. Hence, as we have seen throughout this literature review section, baseball headlines are an interesting linguistic phenomenon that can be studied from a syntactic perspective.

III. Research Methodology

a) Corpus formation

For this study, we considered a corpus of 100 baseball headlines, all of them from *The Guardian USA* in its online version. The baseball headlines considered for the corpus were published from January to November 2014.

In the corpus, we observed a considerable amount of headlines that belong to a specific section. Indeed, the baseball segment of *The Guardian USA* presents three sections:

a) *as it happened!*, is a section that synthetizes the main actions of a baseball game and sometimes even the postgame; the sub-titles of the section include the exact time where the events took place, *i.e.*, *9:36 p.m. RUN! Giants 3-2 Royals, top 4th.*

b) *Sportblog*, is a section that offers some stimulating themes in order to provoke the reaction of the audience. People can write any comment on any subject highlighted in the section[1]; for example, *Derek Jeter to end New York Yankees career in Boston Red Sox territory*.

c) *MLB: five things we learned*, presents the most recent news related to Major League Baseball. As the section name clearly states, five important baseball summaries are revealed here; for example, in *Major League Baseball has a new pope – but can it fight off the MLS heretics?* section of 15 August 2014, there are other four subtitles presented: *The great plate debate, Bronx tales, A Royal roll, And finally*.

All this elucidation is noteworthy because the name of the section is included in the headline. Nevertheless, we have not considered it as part of the corpus because that would change the whole syntactic configuration of many of our headlines, especially those with a non-verbal structure.

b) Analysis procedure

For the analysis, we considered the ideas presented in the theoretical framework and the previous research on headlines (Alcoba Rueda, 1985; Zorrilla Barroso, 1996; Bucaria, 2004; Nadal Palazón, 2012; Quintero Ramírez, 2013a; etc.). Therefore, the initial way to classify the headlines is in two main groups: a) verbal constructions and b) non-verbal constructions. On the one hand, the headlines constituted by verbs are analyzed according to the tense, mood, person and number. Moreover, they are examined in relation to the modality expressed, *i.e.*, affirmative, interrogative, negative, injunctive, etc. Furthermore, we comment on the arguments and adjuncts of the verb: direct object complements, circumstantial complements, etc. On the other hand, the non-verbal constructions are analyzed according to the type of phrases the headline presents, *i.e.*, noun phrases, prepositional phrases, infinitive phrases, and others. In addition, we comment on the different grammatical categories that constitute the phrases. Hence, the method we adopted to analyze the corpus is composed as follows:

1) Verbal constructions
   a. Tense, mood, person and number
   b. Modality
   c. Verb arguments and adjuncts
   d. Other observations
2) Non-verbal constructions
   a. Noun phrases

[1] This is the most commented section of the baseball segment of *The Guardian USA*.

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b. Prepositional phrases
c. Infinitive phrases
d. Other phrases

IV. Analysis

From the corpus of 100 baseball headlines, there were 63 verbal constructions and 37 non-verbal constructions. 7 of the verbal headlines included two verbs, hence there were 70 verbal phrases. From these verbal phrases, 63 were in the present tense, 4 in the simple past, 1 in the present perfect, 1 in the simple future and 1 in the imperative. From the headlines written with non-verbal constructions, 20 revealed the following pattern: *noun phrase + : (colon) + noun phrase*; 6 headlines were written with two noun phrases linked by the conjunction *and*; 6 other headlines were written with *a noun phrase + an infinitive phrase*; 3 headlines had the following pattern: *noun phrase + a past participle phrase;* and finally, 2 headlines adopted this configuration: *noun phrase + prepositional phrase*. Tables 1, 2 and 3 synthetize the data presented in the paragraph.

Table 1 : Baseball headlines' syntactic configuration

Syntactic configuration	Frequencies
Verbal construction	63
Non-verbal construction	37
Total	100

Table 2 : Baseball headlines with verbal constructions

Verbal phrases in baseball headlines	Frequencies
Present tense	63
Past tense	4
Present perfect	1
Simple future	1
Imperative	1
Total	70

Table 3 : Baseball headlines with non-verbal constructions

Non-verbal baseball headlines	Frequencies
Noun phrase +: + noun phrase	20
Noun phrase + *and* + noun phrase	6
Noun phrase + infinitive phrase	6
Noun phrase + past participle phrase	3
Noun phrase + prepositional phrase	2
Total	37

a) Baseball headlines with verbal constructions

As it can be noted in table 1, the baseball segment from *The Guardian USA* has a strong preference for the use of verbal constructions in its headlines. As it has been stated before, there were 70 verbal phrases from which 63 were conjugated in the present indicative third person, 4 phrases were conjugated in the past tense third person as in example (1), 1 headline with two verbs displayed a present perfect third person singular in the main sentence and a simple future third person singular in the subordinate sentence as in example (2), and 1 single baseball headline was conjugated in the imperative as in example (3).

From the 64 phrases in the present tense, 42 were in the third person singular as in example (4); whereas 22 were in third person plural as in example (5). From the 4 phrases in past tense, 3 had a single subject as in example (1) and only 1 had a plural subject. Most of the headlines were affirmative as in examples (1), (4) and (5), with only a very small number of exceptions in the interrogative mood as in example (2). Indeed, from the 63 verbal constructions, 53 were in the affirmative mood, whereas only 10 were in the interrogative mood. No verbal construction was in negative mood.

(1) Major League Baseball's (brief) return to Montreal was a runaway success [30 Mar 2014]
(2) Has Alex Rodriguez finally accepted he won't be playing baseball this year? [17 Jan 2014]
(3) MLB Postseason 2014: share your photos and experiences [30 Sept 2014]
(4) Derek Jeter gets his day at Yankee Stadium [7 Sept 2014]
(5) San Francisco Giants win World Series with game 7 win over Kansas City [30 Oct 2014]

In our corpus, 90% of the verbal constructions were conjugated in the present indicative. This is not surprising nor unexpected, since Alcoba Rueda (1983: 114) asserts that the present indicative is very recurrent in newspaper headlines for the reason that it is a tenseless form. Therefore, the present indicative is used in newspaper headlines for referring any past, present or future information. It does not matter if the article is written in other moods and tenses. According to Zorrilla Barroso (1996: 102), the indicative present is a very common trait in any newspaper headline because it offers the headline an impression of immediateness and realism; these characteristics attract the attention of the reader.

Moreover, we have noted that the subjects of the verbal constructions that are singular refer to a baseball player as in examples (2) and (4), a baseball manager as in example (9), a place as in example (6) or a specific situation as in example (7); whereas the subjects in plural refer to a baseball team as in example (5) or a group of things as in example (8). When the headline mentions a baseball team, this is referred to in different ways, the reference could be made through the name of the city they represent and the nickname as we can note in example (5) *San Francisco Giants* and in example (9) *Tampa Bay Rays*; through the name of the city they represent as in example (5) *Kansas City*; the nickname preceded by the determiner *the* as in example (10) *The Cardinals*; and finally, the nickname without any

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determiner as in example (11) *Orioles, Nationals* and *Angels.*

(6) MLB: a frosty mug of a playoff picture, and New York hosts a Jeter-palooza [24 Sept 2014]
(7) Rare 1937 footage shows FDR walking at all-star baseball game [16 May 2014]
(8) Rain clouds gather as Derek Jeter prepares for last Yankee Stadium game [25 Sept 2014]
(9) Joe Maddon unexpectedly leaves Tampa Bay Rays with immediate effect [24 Oct 2014]
(10) The Cardinals need to reclaim spirit of '64 to heal St Louis' racial tensions [11 Oct 2014]
(11) Orioles and Nationals capture division flags, Angels reach the playoffs [17 Sept 2014]

Syntactic configuration

After having presented general syntactic data, we present the specific syntactic configuration that the previously mentioned examples display. Baseball headline (1) is conjugated in the past tense third person singular. The subject of the headline is a specific situation of the MLB, this is *Major League Baseball's (brief) return to Montreal*, the verb *to be* is conjugated in the past tense and the complement is a noun phrase formed by the indefinite determiner *a* followed by the word *runaway* that in this context functions as an adjective, and finally the noun *success*.

Headline (2) is a complex sentence in an interrogative modality. The main clause configuration is the following: *auxiliary verb + subject + circumstantial complement of time + verb.* The auxiliary verb *to have* is conjugated in the present indicative third person singular. The full name of the baseball player *Alex Rodriguez* represents the subject. The adverb *finally* is the circumstantial complement of time. The past participle of the verb *to accept* completes the present perfect tense of the first clause. The subordinate clause reflects the following organization: *subject + verbal periphrasis + direct object complement + circumstantial complement of time + question mark*. The singular third person pronoun *he* is the subject. The contraction *won't,* formed by the auxiliary verb *will* and the negative adverb *not,* followed by the bare infinitive *be* and the *–ING form* of the verb *to play* constitute the continuous form of the verbal periphrasis in the simple future. The common noun *baseball* functions as the direct object complement. Finally, the noun phrase *this year* represents the circumstantial complement of time.

Example (3) is the only headline that presents a verbal construction in imperative mood; hence this headline calls for audience participation, since imperatives that use the bare infinitive form of the verb imply a second person subject. The headline presents the following configuration: *noun phrase+ : (colon) + verb in imperative mood + direct object complement*. The noun phrase *MLB Postseason 2014* represents the event in which the headline is enunciated (a frame of reference according to Nadal Palazón, 2012). The verb *to share* is presented in its bare form. Finally, the noun phrase formed by the possessive determiner *your* and the nouns *photos* and *experiences* linked by the conjunction *and* represents the direct object complement.

The syntactic configuration of baseball headline (4) is one of the most common in our corpus: *subject + verb + direct object complement + circumstantial complement of place*. The subject of the headline is the full name of the baseball player *Derek Jeter*. The verb *to get* is conjugated in the present indicative third person singular. The direct object complement is made up of a noun phrase formed by the possessive determiner *his* and the common noun *day*. Finally, the circumstantial complement consists of the preposition *at* and the noun phrase *Yankee Stadium*.

The headline (5) has the following pattern: *subject + verb + direct object complement + circumstantial complement of means.* The subject is a third person plural because it is represented by a team, in this specific case the *San Francisco Giants.* However, in the circumstantial complement of means, the team *Kansas City* is referred to only by the name of the city and not by the nickname of the team, *Royals*. Moreover, the word *win* is used twice; the first time it functions as a verb, while the second time it functions as a noun in the circumstantial complement.

Headline (6) presents the following configuration: *noun phrase + : (colon) + noun phrase + conjunction 'and' + verbal sentence*; and the verbal sentence is constituted by *subject + verb + direct object complement*. The subject of this verb construction is a place, the city of *New York*. The direct object complement is formed by a noun phrase, *i.e.*, the indefinite determiner *a* and the noun *Jeter-palooza*. This noun is designed in a creative way by the last name of the baseball player *Jeter* and the suffix *–palooza* in order to indicate a day of celebration for the alluded player. Creativity is a very common trait in sports discourse in order to attract and entertain the audience (Quintero Ramírez, 2013: 178). Indeed, Yanes Mesa (2006: 1-2) affirms that newspaper readers look for creative texts in the daily news.

Example (7) consists of a subject that represents a specific situation: *rare 1937 footage*. The subject is followed by the verb *to show* conjugated in the present indicative third person singular, a direct object complement constituted by the initials of Franklin D. Roosevelt *FDR*, followed by a *–ING form* that functions as a circumstantial complement of manner, and finally, a circumstantial complement of place represented by the preposition *at* and the noun phrase *all-star baseball game*.

Baseball headline (8) has two verbal clauses; the main clause is organized by *subject + verb*, whereas the subordinated clause is formed by *subject*

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+ verb + circumstantial complement of purpose. The noun phrase *rain clouds* represents the subject of the main clause; the verb *to gather* is conjugated in the present indicative third person plural. The subject of the subordinated clause contains the full name of the baseball player *Derek Jeter*, the verb *to prepare* is conjugated in the present indicative third person singular; and the circumstantial complement consists of the preposition *for* and the noun phrase *last Yankee Stadium game*. The linking word between the two clauses is the conjunction *as*.

Headline (9) displays the following configuration: *subject + circumstantial complement of manner + verb + direct object complement + circumstantial complement of consequence*. The subject is formed by the full name of the baseball manager *Joe Maddon*; the adverb *unexpectedly* represents the circumstantial complement of manner; the verb *to leave* is conjugated in the present indicative third person singular; the direct object complement is represented by the full name of the baseball team *Tampa Bay Rays*; and finally the circumstantial complement of consequence is formed by the preposition *with* and the noun phrase *immediate effect*.

Example (10) presents the following syntactic configuration: *subject + verbal periphrasis + direct object complement + circumstantial complement of purpose*. The subject of the headline is represented by a noun phrase formed by the definite determiner *the* and the nickname of the baseball team *Cardinals*. The verbal periphrasis is formed by the auxiliary verb *need* followed by the full infinitive *to reclaim*; the auxiliary verb is conjugated in the present indicative third person plural. The noun phrase *spirit of '64* represents the direct object complement. The infinitive phrase *to heal St Louis' racial tensions* is a circumstantial complement of purpose.

Finally, headline (11) presents two verbal clauses, linked by a comma. Both sentences display the same syntactic configuration, *i.e., subject + verb + direct object complement*. The nicknames of the baseball teams *Orioles* and *Nationals* linked by the conjunction *and* represent the subject of the first clause. The verb *to capture* is conjugated in the present indicative third person plural. The noun phrase *division flags* is the direct object complement. The nickname of the baseball team *Angels* is the subject of the second clause. The verb *to reach* is conjugated in the present indicative third person singular. Finally, the noun phrase *the playoffs* represents the direct object complement.

b) Non-verbal baseball headlines

As it has been stated before, there were 37 non-verbal baseball headlines in the corpus from which 20 had two noun phrases separated by a colon, *i.e.*, *noun phrase + : (colon) + noun phrase* as in example (12). Nadal Palazón (2012: 177-178) states that one constant syntactic feature in headlines is the presence of two noun phrases linked by a colon. The first noun phrase can be considered a reference frame, *i.e.*, it refers to a place or to a specific theme that will be mentioned in the headline and in the body of the article. In example (12), the reference frame is presented in the second noun phrase and it refers to the event in which the game took place.

Moreover, 6 headlines were written by two noun phrases linked by the conjunction *and* as in example (13), and 6 other headlines were constituted by a *noun phrase + an infinitive phrase* as in (14). Furthermore, 3 headlines had the following pattern: *noun phrase + past participle phrase* as in example (15). Most of the headlines formed by two noun phrases separated by a colon belong to the – *as it happened!* section. That is one of the reasons why we did not consider the name of the sections as part of the headlines. Finally, 2 baseball headlines displayed the following configuration: *noun phrase + prepositional phrase* as in example (16).

(12) San Francisco Giants 0 – 10 Kansas City Royals: 2014 World Series [28 Oct 2014]
(13) Wes Wekler's doping ban and other drugs-in-sports classics [3 Sept 2014]
(14) Derek Jeter to retire from Major League Baseball after 2014 season [12 Feb 2014]
(15) Mets and Yankees' Subway Series played out with background of change [15 May 2014]
(16) San Francisco Giants in marathon victory over Washington Nationals [5 Oct 2014]

Syntactic configuration

Headline (12) presents two noun phrases linked by a colon. The first noun phrase is formed by the final score of the match between San Francisco and Kansas City; both teams are referred to by their full names, *i.e.*, the name of the city and its nickname: *San Francisco Giants* and *Kansas City Royals*. The second noun phrase consists of the name of the event in which the game took place, (the reference frame according to Nadal Palazón, 2012: 177-178), *i.e., 2014 World Series.*

Headline (13) is very similar to the one analyzed in (12), the only difference between them is that in this example the noun phrases are not linked by a punctuation mark but by the conjunction *and*. In example (12), the conjunction *and* would not be an appropriate choice because the two noun phrases do not represent two parallel issues as in (13), where the first noun phrase announces the Wes Wekler's drugs case and the second noun phrase refers to other famous drug-in-sports cases.

Headlines (14-16) display two similarities: a) their first constituent is a noun phrase, and b) the verbs that were supposed to form the verbal construction are elided. Nadal Palazón (2012: 179) asserts that another constant feature in headlines is the presence of two noun phrases that elide the verb, especially when they were supposed to form a copula.

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In headline (14), there is the following pattern: *noun phrase + infinitive phrase*. The noun phrase is once again the full name of the baseball player *Derek Jeter*; and the infinitive phrase is constituted by the full infinitive *to retire* + the circumstantial complement of place *from Major League Baseball* + the circumstantial complement of time *after 2014 season*.

Headline (15) presents the following configuration: *noun phrase + past participle phrase*. The noun phrase is *Mets and Yankees' Subway Series*; both teams are referred to by their nicknames, this is due perhaps to the fact that both teams represent the same city: New York. The past participle phrase is constituted by the past participle *played out* + the circumstantial complement of means *with background of change*.

Finally, headline (16) is formed by *noun phrase + prepositional phrase*. The name of the baseball team *San Francisco Giants* functions as the noun phrase of the headline; the prepositional phrase consists of the preposition *in* + the noun phrase *marathon victory over Washington Nationals*. Both teams are referred to in this headline by their full names, that is the name of the city and the nickname: *San Francisco Giants* and *Washington Nationals*.

V. Conclusions

As we have commented throughout the analysis, the baseball section from *The Guardian USA* has a strong tendency to use verbal constructions in its headlines, since we have counted 63 verbal constructions and 37 non-verbal constructions in our corpus. From the 63 verbal headlines, we found 70 verbal clauses; 63 were in the present tense, 4 in the simple past, 1 in the present perfect, 1 in the simple future and 1 in the imperative mood. From the 37 non-verbal headlines, 20 were formed by two noun phrases linked by a colon; 6 were constituted by two noun phrases linked by the conjunction *and*; 6 other headlines were formed by a noun phrase and an infinitive phrase; 3 headlines were written with a noun phrase and a past participle phrase; and finally, 2 headlines used a noun phrase and a prepositional phrase.

Something we observed in the baseball headlines of the corpus is the consistent way to name the baseball players or the managers. Indeed, when the baseball headline refers to a baseball player or manager, he is referred to by his name and last name as in examples (2) *Alex Rodriguez*, (4) *Derek Jeter,* (9) *Joe Maddon*, etc., in spite of the brevity and conciseness that characterize newspaper headlines, (Bucaria, 2004; Herrero Cecilia, 2006).

Nevertheless, when the headline refers to a baseball team, the way to name them is not as consistent as with players and managers. In fact, teams are mentioned in four different ways: a) the name of the city that the team represents and the nickname as we can note in examples (9) *Tampa Bay Rays,* (12) *San Francisco Giants, Kansas City Royals*, (16) *Washington Nationals*, etc.; b) the nickname without any determiner as in examples (11) *Orioles, Nationals* and *Angels*, (15) *Mets and Yankees*, etc., c) the name of the city the team represents as in (5) *Kansas City*, and finally d) the nickname preceded by the determiner *the* as in (10): *The Cardinals*. The first way was by far the most frequent one in our corpus. The second one was the second most frequent. While the third and the fourth ones were not very common in our corpus.

Finally, we reached the objective presented in the introduction of this paper. Indeed, we identified the main syntactic characteristics of 100 baseball headlines of *The Guardian USA*. Nevertheless, we are conscious that these results are not categorical nor conclusive. Consequently, further research about newspaper headlines in baseball and other sports must be done in order to characterize sports discourse. This further research would help to contrast the results and establish the most notable similarities and differences between the headlines of a whole diversity of sports such as boxing, basketball, rugby, tennis, gymnastics, etc.

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