

A study of "Bei-sentence" in crime news headlines in the new media context

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Abstract. New media play an important role in news communication, and in order to attract readers' attention, they often use quilt sentences in crime news headlines frequently, and such usage has triggered extensive discussions. In the context of linguistics, a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis is used to study the structural features, semantic features and predicate components of the Bei-sentence in crime news headlines, which can explore the use of the Bei-sentence and related linguistic features in crime news headlines in the new media context. In addition, the linguistic features and functions of the Bei-sentence have a significant impact on the meaning expression and readers' emotion of the headlines. The improper use of new media language may cause secondary harm to victims and also undermine the justice of social news. The new research perspective of combining social phenomena with linguistic theories helps to deeply understand the characteristics of crime news headlines in the new media context and helps to improve readers' media literacy.

Keywords: new media language; crime news; Bei-sentence; headline language.

With the advent of the new media era, media reports are emerging one after another. News headlines, especially crime news, are much higher in terms of social groups and social responsibilities than other ordinary news, and the reasonable use of Bei-sentences can highlight the seriousness of criminal incidents; However, if Bei-sentences are abused, they may have a wider range of adverse effects.

At present, there are relatively few linguistic studies on crime news headlines, and the research on the words and phrases in crime news headlines in the context of new media is limited and scattered. In the past, research mainly focused on the news headlines of traditional media, and the research on crime news headlines in the context of new media was not perfect, and there was a lack of systematic analysis and solution. In addition, there is a lot of research on the ontology of the written sentence, but the application of the word in the headline of crime news is also relatively insufficient.

This paper aims to systematically explore the use of Bei-sentences in crime news headlines and related linguistic characteristics in the context of new media from the perspective of linguistics. Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis methods, starting from new media platforms such as Weibo and WeChat public accounts, a large number of criminal news headline corpus in the past three years were collected and analyzed, and self-made as a corpus. Under the research method of quantitative analysis, data such as the frequency and location distribution of Bei-sentences in crime news headlines are counted to reveal the trends and patterns of their use. At the same time, qualitative analysis is carried out to deeply interpret the semantic meaning and pragmatic function of the Bei-sentences, and their impact on the meaning expression of the title and the reader's emotion.

1. Structural characteristics of Bei-sentences in headlines of new media crime news

The word "bei" refers to the passive subject-predicate clause that uses the preposition "bei" and the like to lead to the action or uses "bei" alone before the central word of the predicate, which is a kind of subject statement and a kind of Bei-sentence (all verb sentences where the subject is subject

are Bei-sentences). The sentence structure of the word "bei" discussed in this article is limited to the word "bei" marked by "bei", and the Bei-sentence marked by "call, give and give" is not within the scope of discussion.

Through the search and collection of new media platforms such as Weibo and WeChat public accounts with "be" as the marked word, a total of 284 crime news headlines in the past three years can be obtained, the author built its own corpus and used Python software for natural language processing, and after three rounds of manual screening, summarized the structural characteristics of the Bei-sentences in the new media crime news headlines from the perspective of whether there is an act and whether there is a subject of the incident.

1.1 Whether or not there is any action

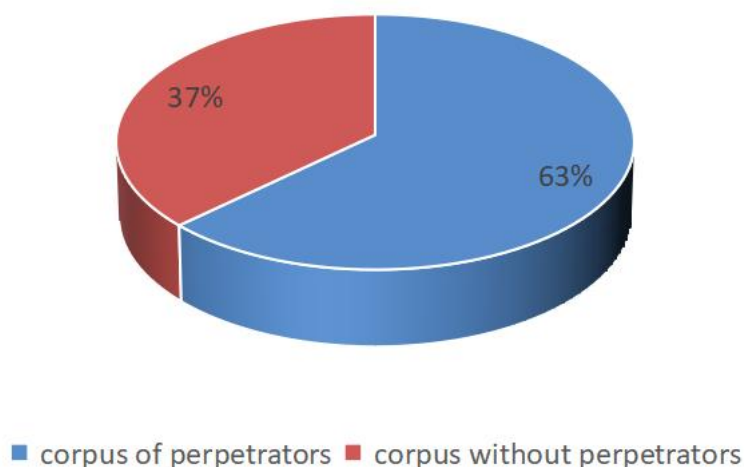


Figure 1 The proportion of new media crime news headlines in the corpus of Bei-sentences

Figure 1 shows the proportion of perpetrators in the corpus of new media crime news headlines, of which 179 are the corpus of perpetrators, accounting for about 37%; There were 105 corpus without perpetrators, accounting for 63%.

Try to compare the following three headings:

(1) A female coffee cup of Shanghai Overseas Chinese University was put into a foreign body (Caijing WeChat public account 2022/6/13)

(2) Shocking! Female students at home and abroad are suspected of being thrown by boys as "aphrodisiac foreign objects", and the consequences are very serious... (ScienceView WeChat public account 2022/6/13)

(3) The boy throws a foreign object into the girl's cup, and the police report! (North News WeChat public account 2022/6/14)

As shown above, example (3) is a normal active sentence, which directly names the perpetrator - a male student from Shanghai Overseas Chinese University, and the recipient - a female student, clearly expressing the relationship between the actor and the recipient of the action. In example (1), the title adopts a Bei-sentence without doing anything, which conceals the perpetrator of the crime of throwing a foreign object, that is, the perpetrator, and the action of the coffee cup being placed with a foreign object occurs on a girl. This sentence is converted into a normal active sentence, such as: "An unmentioned person or group of people put a foreign object into the coffee cup of a female student at Shanghai Overseas Chinese University." In Example (2), the title adopts a Bei-sentence to indicate that the perpetrator is a boy. Similarly, the action of being put into an "aphrodisiac foreign object" by a boy occurs in a female student, and it can be converted into a normal active sentence, such as: "The boy is suspected of putting an 'aphrodisiac foreign object' on the female student at the top and abroad, and the consequences are very serious." Both sentences use the words to emphasize the victim, that is, the victim's personal information, and the criminal act suffered,

which has the advantage of concisely conveying the core information of the criminal incident, capturing people's gossip psychology and attracting the attention of readers.

Through the above examples, it can be seen that the Bei-sentences of the undone crime in the headlines of crime news have the following characteristics and effects: First, the Bei-sentences of the undone do the following characteristics and effects: First, the words of the undone do the focus on the subject, that is, the object or victim of the criminal act. By omitting the expression of the perpetrator, the news headline directly emphasizes the identity and experience of the subject, helping readers quickly understand the identity of the victim of the news, and stimulate their sympathy and attention to the incident. Secondly, the unmotivated sentence directly emphasizes the crime itself in the title, rather than focusing on the perpetrator, omitting the information of the perpetrator, and highlighting the seriousness of the incident and social concern. This approach conveys the core message of the crime within a limited headline word count, sparking the reader's interest and curiosity, prompting them to read further or pay attention to the details of the event. In addition, the words that do not do the harm protect the personal privacy of the perpetrator to a certain extent. In some sensitive or complex criminal incidents, the disclosure of the identity of the perpetrator may involve issues such as personal privacy, legal process or public opinion. By using the undone word, news headlines can protect the privacy of the perpetrator by avoiding direct disclosure of their identity.

However, for crime news reports using the words of no harm as the title, there is a suspicion of concealing the perpetrator, and the executor or perpetrator of the action is not clearly pointed out, so that the reader cannot directly understand the specific identity of the perpetrator, such a reporting method may lead to incomplete information and inaccurate understanding of the event, and make the reader's focus on the criminal act and the victim, that is, the victim, and public opinion may cause secondary harm to the victim.

1.2 Whether there is a subject of the subject

1.2.1 No subject

Of the 284 corpus collected, only 2.1% were unserved and did not serve. This type of corpus is usually used to describe the general criminal situation, methods, etc., and generally does not have a specific target person. The Bei-sentences characteristic of this structure are mainly used to present a general situation or to draw the attention of the public to a certain criminal act. For example:

(1) ##How to effectively retain evidence after being sexually # (Weibo 2023/5/10)

(2) 2.45 million were deceived in 9 seconds! Reminder again! (Jiangxi Public Security WeChat public account 2023/5/28)

(3) The whole body was swollen, and the beating caused vomiting blood..... Illegal "summer camp" behind the SOS note (Youth Shandong WeChat public account 2021/8/17)

In title (1), it is not clearly indicated who is the victim and the perpetrator, but the reader is told that this article is mainly about the method of retaining evidence after sexual assault. Similarly, headings (2) do not specify who was committed and what was done, but rather remind the public again to be wary of similar scams. Title (3) also does not specifically describe the victims and actions, but focuses on revealing the seriousness of the summer camp violations behind them. The words and phrases of this structural feature play a role in publicizing and warning in the headlines of new media crime news. They not only provide a general description of criminal conduct, but also highlight the importance and harmfulness of the issues involved. Although there is no specific recipient and target of the incident, through such a sentence structure, the news headline can still attract the public's attention and reflection, prompting them to remain vigilant and take corresponding precautions.

In general, there are relatively few unaffected Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news, but they still have a certain expressive function in specific situations. By providing universal descriptions or warnings, they arouse public attention and reflection, and raise social awareness to deal with potential criminal threats.

1.2.2 There is a subject of the subject

From the corpus analysis, it can be seen that most of the new media crime news headlines have the existence of affection. From the analysis of its components, it can be seen that the subject is mainly composed of nouns, pronouns, noun phrases, etc. For example:

(1) She was killed by online violence just because she dyed her beautiful hair (News brother WeChat public account 2023/2/20)

(2) The woman was killed by her husband's domestic violence! Relatives: I really regret persuading her not to divorce (China News Network WeChat public account 2022/4/15)

(3) Female reporter was beaten to death by male colleagues, family questioned "perpetrator sentenced to 15 years in prison", the court's latest response (Southern Metropolis Daily WeChat public account 2021/4/5)

(4) #Guangdong 13-year-old girl suspected of being sexually assaulted by neighbors#(Weibo 2023/5/21)

In the title (1), the subject is the pronoun "she", which can concisely convey the gender of the victim in the title, and also resonate and concern the reader. In headline (2), the subject is "woman", which is a generic term used to refer specifically to the woman who died of domestic violence in this news. The subject in heading (3) is a noun phrase consisting of a gender word "female" and the professional word "journalist", which serves to indicate the gender and professional identity of the victim. In heading (4), the subject is a noun phrase that qualifies "girl" with a place name "Guangdong" and age "13 years", which is used to specifically describe the identity and background of the girl who has been violated. Here 13 years old is used as a modifier, which shows that it can highlight the seriousness and particularity of the incident.

Through the analysis of the above corpus, it can be seen that the subject of the Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news can be pronouns, nouns, noun phrases and other forms. The purpose of these components is to specifically describe the identity, background and characteristics of the victim, so as to resonate and concern the reader. The pronoun acts as the subject of the subject, and this concise and clear expression can convey key information and attract the reader's attention in a limited title space; Nouns acting as subject can provide more detail and context. In addition, the use of noun phrases enriches the description of the subject.

This composition of the subject makes the news headline more vivid and vivid, provides more specific and accurate information, and also highlights the impact of criminal acts on victims and social relations, so that readers can better understand the identity and characteristics of victims of criminal incidents, help readers better understand the identity and experience of victims, arouse readers' sympathy and resonance, and deepen the condemnation and concern for criminal acts. This language structure makes the new media crime news headlines not only convey information, but also have a certain appeal and social warning effect.

2. the semantic characteristics and predicate components of the Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news

2.1 Semantic characteristics

In 1943, Wang Li conducted the earliest semantic study of the Chinese word "be", arguing that the word "be" comes from one of its verb meanings, that is, "suffer" and "suffer". The semantic color of the Bei-sentence only indicates an undesirable or undesirable situation, and its semantic color is mainly related to the verb, and when the verb itself has an unpleasant or undesirable meaning, the entire sentence will also have this semantic color. Huang Borong and Liao Xudong also pointed out in *Modern Chinese* (2017) that the word "be" in Chinese indicates the action of the subject being disposed of by others, and the result is often unsatisfactory pragmatic overtones, and in a few cases wishful or neutral. In contemporary times, Xia Yun and other scholars have found in

their research that the proportion of neutral and positive semantic features in the word "be" in modern Chinese is close to the balance with the negative semantic features.

However, on the basis of the quantitative statistics of the Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news, we found that among the 256 corpus information, the semantic characteristics of the specific corpus showed a 100% tendency of [+negative] [+unsatisfactory], that is, expressing the meaning [+ "lossy", which is the most typical written sentence, such as, "Solve the case!" Hangzhou missing woman was killed by her husband and thrown into a septic tank", and this semantic feature is actually related to the predicate component in the sentence.

This shows that in the context of new media, news tends to choose to use words when reporting crime news to convey negative and unfortunate semantic colors to attract readers' attention and emotional resonance. By highlighting negative events such as crime, violence, and injury, the headlines try to create a negative, tragic image in news coverage.

2.2 The frequency distribution of Bei-sentences

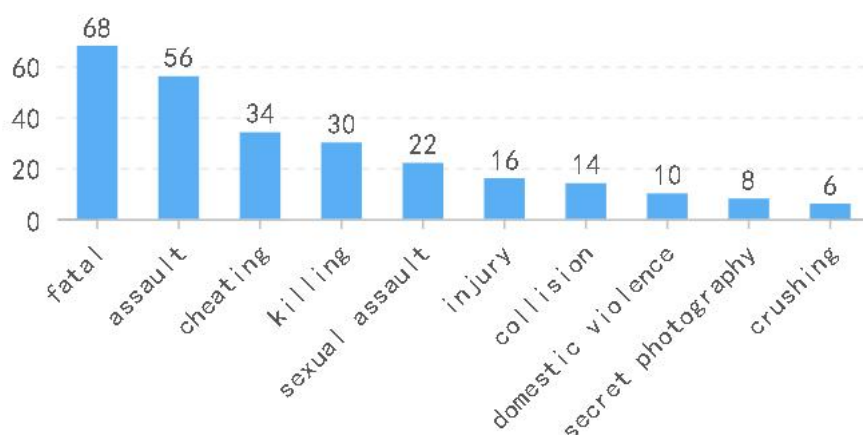


Figure 3-2 New media crime news headlines are in the top 10 verbs by Bei-sentences

As shown in Figure 3-2, the verbs in the top ten words of the Bei-sentences' new media crime news headline are mainly fatal (death, death, harm), assault (beating, beating), cheating, killing, sexual assault (sexual assault, assault, rape), injury, collision, domestic violence, secret photography, crushing. The corresponding examples are as follows:

Wenzhou female entrepreneur was killed by her boyfriend's boxing, and the second trial was held (People's Court Daily WeChat public account 2020/9/30)

(2) Shanxi police reported that "a young woman was beaten"! (Global Network WeChat public account 2022/6/15)

(3) Many college students in the UK who seek to support female college students have been deceived miserably (Global Times WeChat public account 2021/11/19)

(4) 12306 Response to man killed with knife on train (Weibo 2023/5/8)

(5) Many students were drugged and sexually assaulted in the dormitory building, and the Canadian police intervened! (Global Network WeChat public account 2021/9/16)

(6) The female doctor was pricked by a needle! The police report is coming... (China Youth Daily WeChat public account 2022/4/15)

(7) Wuhan primary school student killed in school(Weibo 2023/5/28)

(8) The woman was killed by her husband's domestic violence! Relatives: I really regret persuading her not to divorce (China News Network WeChat public account 2022-04-15)

(9) Female tourists said they were suspected of being secretly photographed by employees, and Universal Studios Beijing responded (Global Network WeChat public account 2021/9/26)

(10) A female student of the University of International Business and Economics was crushed to death by an express car (Global Times WeChat public account 2021/9/6)

These verbs are all disposable, with the meaning of "unpleasant" and "unsatisfactory", which leads to the semantic characteristics of the new media crime news headline as a whole being negative and unsatisfactory.

2.3 Predicate component

Through corpus statistics, it can be seen that in the context of new media, the predicate component of the condemned Bei-sentences as the title of crime news is mostly composed of verbs and other components before and after, or the use of conjunctive phrases, so as to further describe and reproduce the news scene in detail, and the occurrence of the verb alone after the word "be" only accounts for 17.6% of the collected corpus. That is, in such Bei-sentence titles, the verb that acts as a predicate component may be preceded by a predicate modification, or a complement or other component after the verb for further clarification, or other components before and after the verb, or a conjunction phrase may be used.

2.3.1 Verbs are preceded by adverbs

For example:

- (1) Man killed by strangers [with knives] on train (Weibo 2023/5/7)
- (2) The girl was sexually assaulted by netizens [twice] [after being], how terrible is the glass of water that leaves the line of sight (Hangzhou Intermediate Court WeChat public account 2020/7/18)
- (3) The female anchor of the network was lured by the man [in the name of "pretending to be his girlfriend"] and was imprisoned and tortured!] This move saved her! (Nanguo Metropolis Daily WeChat public account 2018/11/11)

In the above example, the component in square brackets is an adverb, which is used to modify the verb, supplement the state and manner of the action, etc., and describe the way and method of the crime.

2.3.2 The verb is followed by a complement or other component

For example:

- (1) Italian star was deceived by "supermodel" < miserably > (Global Times WeChat public account 2021/12/2)
- (2) Woman said she was secretly photographed in Nike fitting room for 4 minutes< > 3 times (Weibo 2023/5/7)
- (3) Wuhan primary school student was hit < killed > school (Weibo 2023/6/2)

In the above example, the elements in angle brackets are complements to supplement the results, effects, etc. of the action, and to describe the consequences of the crime on the victim.

2.3.3 There are components before and after the verb

For example: a girl's hand accidentally touches the] teacher and is [< into the classroom > (Weibo 2023/5/26).

Some news headlines are concise and clear, using explanations of the manners, methods and results of criminal acts that are preceded and followed by verbs, but such examples are relatively rare, but they are also objective.

2.3.4 Use conjunction phrases

For example:

- (1) Solve the case! Hangzhou missing woman was killed by her husband 1 body, 2 corpses thrown into septic tank 3 (Shenyang net WeChat public account 2020/7/25)
- (2) 13-year-old girl is bullied 1 kneeling on the ground 2 and saying "sorry" 3! Just now, the official report is coming (City Morning News WeChat public account 2023/3/24)

Although both of the above new media crime news headlines use conjunction phrases after the word "be", the predicate phrases used are different. In the first example, all three predicate phrases are the perpetrator, that is, the actions made by the perpetrator; In the second example, only Action 1 "bullying" is the behavior of the abuser that is directly described, and both

Action 2 and Action 3 are the actions that the victim, that is, the victim is forced to complete. The use of conjunction phrases in crime news headlines can describe a series of criminal acts, reflect the vile cruelty of the abuser, and arouse the reader's sympathy for the victim. However, overly detailed predicate word descriptions can also lead to kitsch and entertaining news, causing secondary harm to victims.

3. The pragmatic characteristics and functions of Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news

3.1 Pragmatic characteristics

In terms of pragmatic color, the Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news show obvious negative and unsatisfactory semantic colors. This feature is fully reflected in the corpus provided above. For example, the words that appear in the title, such as "controlled by the scumbag mentally", "jumped off the building by boyfriend's domestic violence", "beaten to death by classmates", etc., all express the unfortunate experience experienced by the victim, highlighting the negative impact and seriousness of the news incident.

In terms of tone and tone, the Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news usually adopt the sentence distribution of declarative sentences and exclamatory sentences.

The use of declarative sentences helps to objectively state the occurrence and outcome of events. As a tool for information transmission, the main purpose of news headlines is to provide accurate and concise factual information. By using declarative sentences, headings can express the events and results described in the words in a concise way, highlighting the objectivity and authenticity of the events. For example, in the title of the corpus "Woman was crushed by a truck and her helmet saved her life" (New North WeChat public account 2023/5/28), the form of a declarative sentence directly conveys the occurrence of the incident and the fact that the woman saved her life, so that readers can quickly understand the basic situation of the incident.

The use of exclamatory sentences can enhance the impact and emotional tension of the headline, attract the reader's attention and increase the highlights of the news headline. Through the use of exclamatory sentences, titles can be presented with strong emotional colors, highlighting the seriousness, urgency and shocking character of the event. For example, in the corpus the caption "Chinese woman stabbed by Korean boyfriend! 8-year-old son died" (Global Network WeChat public account 2022/11/30), the form of exclamation sentences highlights the tragic and touching degree of the incident, causing strong emotional resonance among readers.

3.2 Pragmatic functions

The Bei-sentences have a clear message structure and expression focus in the headlines of new media crime news, so as to convey and emphasize the information and attract the attention of readers. By making Bei-sentences the core part of the headline, the headline is able to directly convey the theme and focus of the news event. The words put the victim at the center of the sentence, highlighting the importance of their encounter and the key message of the news event. In the collected corpus, the Bei-sentences basically use the victim as the subject, indicating the identity and experience of the victim in the incident. This expression helps the reader quickly understand the main content of the incident and provokes sympathy and concern for what happened to the victim.

For example:

(1) A 13-year-old girl was burned to death by pouring gasoline on her refusal to be raped (Global Network WeChat public account 2020/10/18)

Information structure: The 13-year-old girl is the main subject of the incident, and being poured with gasoline and burned to death is the result of the incident.

Express the focus: the tragic end suffered by a young girl for refusing to be raped.

(2) Shock! The woman's secretly taken photo of the skirt was "watched" by tens of thousands of people... (New Evening News WeChat public account 2022/1/9)

Information structure: The woman's secretly taken skirt photo is the main subject of the incident, and being watched by tens of thousands of people is the result of the incident.

Express the focus: The shocking situation of the woman being secretly photographed and a large number of onlookers.

(3) Stab people in the street with knives! A woman next to Wenchang Road was stabbed, and the suspect was captured on the spot (Nanguo Jinbao WeChat public account 2020-07-13)

Information structure: The stabbing of the woman is the main subject of the incident, and the capture of the suspect is the result of the incident.

Express: the injuries suffered by the woman and the arrest of the suspect.

Through these examples, it can be seen that the Bei-sentences play a role in highlighting the subject of the incident and the focus of attention in the headlines of new media crime news. They put the victim, victim, or misfortuned character at the heart of the title to grab the reader's attention and resonate. This expression is designed to resonate emotionally with the reader, convey the brutality and seriousness of the event, and provide key details of the event to satisfy the reader's curiosity about the news content, thereby attracting more clicks and attention.

In addition, the pragmatic function of the spoken Bei-sentence also includes arousing the emotional resonance of the reader and creating a news effect. The use of negative, unsatisfactory Bei-sentences in the title can evoke emotional responses such as anger, sympathy, fear, etc. This emotional resonance helps to improve the communication effect of news and attract the attention of readers, so as to achieve the traffic effect of new media and the communication effect of vicious events.

In summary, the Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news have obvious pragmatic characteristics and functions. Its pragmatic color is manifested as negative and unsatisfactory semantic color, while the tone and tone mostly adopt the sentence class distribution of declarative sentences and exclamatory sentences. In terms of pragmatic function, the words can accurately convey the key information of the news event and trigger the emotional resonance of the reader. At the same time, it can also highlight the importance and suffering of victims, arousing readers' attention and sympathy. The combined use of these pragmatic features and functions makes new media crime news headlines more attractive and influential, and achieves the communication goal.

4. Conclusion

From the perspective of structural characteristics, most of the Bei-sentences in the current new media crime news headlines do not do anything, but basically have the subject of the subject, and the subject is mainly composed of pronouns, nouns, noun phrases, etc. At the semantic level, the semantic feature has a tendency of 100% [+ negative] [+ unsatisfactory], that is, it expresses the meaning of "lossy", which is related to the dispositive predicate component in the sentence with the meaning of "unpleasant" and "unsatisfactory"; [+ At the pragmatic level, it presents obvious negative and unsatisfactory semantic colors, mostly used in declarative sentences and exclamatory sentences, causing strong emotional resonance of readers. /b18>In terms of pragmatic function, the words can accurately convey the key information of news events, arouse readers' attention and emotional resonance. The combined use of these pragmatic features and functions makes new media crime news headlines more attractive and influential, and achieves the communication goal.

Starting from the research on the Bei-sentences in the headlines of new media crime news, on the one hand, it can enrich and supplement the applied research and interdisciplinary research of the Bei-sentences at the theoretical level, and on the other hand, it can help readers enhance their ability to identify media reports, realize the impact of media language and rhetorical devices on information transmission, and improve media literacy. At the same time, the research and analysis

of this issue also hopes to strengthen the consideration of social responsibility and social impact of media personnel when formulating titles.

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