UCLouvain
Faculté de philosophie, arts et lettres – FIAL

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The Final Farewell: A Corpus-Assisted Discourse Study on the Demise of Queen Elizabeth II in Tabloids vs. Broadsheets

Auteur : Anaïs SCHRAMKE
Promotrice : Fanny MEUNIER
Année académique 2023-2024
Master [120] en langues et lettres modernes, orientation germaniques, à finalité didactique

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Abstract (EN)

The announcement of Queen Elizabeth II's passing on 8 September 2022 sparked worldwide reactions, including extensive coverage by British and international newspapers. This master's thesis thus aims to investigate the thematic portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II's death in British broadsheets and tabloids. The study seeks to answer two primary research questions: (1) How is the coverage of the Queen's passing linguistically portrayed in the British written press? (2) What are differences in the themes covered by tabloid and broadsheet newspapers? To achieve this, the research employs Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) techniques, combining quantitative methods like frequency, keyword and collocation analyses with qualitative discourse analysis. The findings indicate that while both broadsheets and tabloids cover similar themes (death and tribute, locations and ceremonial events, members of the Royal Family…), their presentation styles differ significantly. Broadsheets adopt a more formal and collective tone, focusing on national and reflective themes, while tabloids emphasise personal stories and sensationalism, often using an emotional and accessible language. These results align with the broader characteristics distinctions between the two types of newspapers. Moreover, this study includes a pilot study evaluating the potential of ChatGPT as a tool for conducting CADS analyses. The results of these preliminary tests indicate that while ChatGPT can perform some of the analyses used in CADS, further investigation is required to determine its effectiveness and reliability as a methodological tool. The study highlights the contrasting editorial approaches of British newspapers and themes foregrounded when reporting on the Queen's passing. Additionally, it suggests future research, including the global reception of the Queen's death and its portrayal in international media, as well as a usage of the collected corpora in didactic projects to explore cultural aspects of language.

Keywords: *Queen Elizabeth II, death, tabloids vs. broadsheets, newspapers, Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS), thematic analysis, ChatGPT…*

Abstract (FR)

L’annonce du décès de la reine Élisabeth II, le 8 septembre 2022, a suscité des réactions dans le monde entier et a été largement couverte par les journaux britanniques et internationaux. Ce mémoire vise donc à étudier la représentation thématique de la mort de la reine Élisabeth II dans la presse de qualité (broadsheets) et la presse populaire (tabloids). L’étude cherche à répondre à deux questions de recherche : (1) Comment la couverture du décès de la Reine est-elle présentée linguistiquement dans la presse écrite britannique ? (2) Quelles sont les différences entre les thèmes traités par les tabloids et les broadsheets ? Pour ce faire, des techniques de Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS), combinant des méthodes quantitatives telles que l’analyse des fréquences, des mots-clés et des collocations avec une analyse qualitative du discours. Les résultats indiquent que si les broadsheets et les tabloids couvrent des thèmes similaires (décès et hommage, lieux et cérémonies, membres de la famille royale...), leurs styles de présentation diffèrent considérablement. Les broadsheets adoptent un ton plus formel et plus collectif, se concentrant sur des thèmes nationaux et réflectifs, tandis que les tabloids mettent l’accent sur les histoires personnelles et le sensationnalisme, en utilisant souvent un langage émotionnel et accessible. Ces résultats correspondent aux différentes caractéristiques générales entre les deux types de journaux. De plus, ce mémoire comprend une étude pilote évaluant le potentiel de ChatGPT en tant qu’outil pour effectuer des analyses en CADS. Les résultats de ces tests indiquent que si ChatGPT peut effectuer certaines des analyses utilisées en CADS, des recherches supplémentaires sont nécessaires pour déterminer son efficacité et sa fiabilité en tant qu’outil méthodologique. L’étude met en évidence les approches éditoriales contrastées des journaux britanniques et les thèmes mis en avant lors de la couverture du décès de la Reine. En outre, elle suggère des recherches futures, notamment sur la réception globale du décès de la Reine et sa représentation dans les médias internationaux, ainsi que sur l’utilisation des corpus collectés dans des projets didactiques afin d’explorer les aspects culturels de la langue.

Mots-clés : *Reine Elisabeth II, décès, tabloids vs. broadsheets, journaux, Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS), analyse thématique, ChatGPT...*

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List of abbreviations

BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BNC	British National Corpus
BrdA corpus	Broadsheets Articles corpus
BrdH corpus	Broadsheets Headlines corpus
CADS	Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies
CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
CL	Corpus Linguistics
DS	Discourse Studies
FLOB corpus	Freiburg – LOB Corpus of British English
TabA corpus	Tabloids Articles corpus
TabH corpus	Tabloids Headlines corpus

- In addition to the sources mentioned in the bibliography, the following generative AI tools were used to improve the writing quality of the present dissertation: ChatGPT and DeepL Write for suggesting alternative formulations for a limited number of extracts; the suggestions were then adapted to the style and spirit of this document.

1. Introduction

"The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon. The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow." - Thursday, 8 September 2022, the announcement displayed outside the gates of Buckingham Palace created a significant shock. Although the days leading up to the announcement had been filled with rumours and concerns about the health of Queen Elizabeth II, who was widely regarded as an unassailable figure, no one was prepared for this news. The death of the Queen led to extensive journalistic coverage all around the world. Every survey shows that Queen Elizabeth II is the "most famous head of state on earth" but also "arguably the best-loved and most respected" (Brandreth, 2024, Kp[1].1). The death of the Queen had a worldwide impact and far-reaching consequences. As a result, a considerable number of newspapers published articles on the announcement, the responses it generated, and on the events that followed the death of the British monarch. The extensive coverage of this historic event is what prompted the commencement of this MA thesis.

The journalistic field in the United Kingdom is divided by two types of newspapers, namely broadsheets (quality press) and tabloids (popular press). While broadsheets are characterised by serious journalism and in-depth news coverage, tabloids tend to focus on sensationalist news, entertainment, and celebrity gossip (Bastos, 2019). This piqued my interest in determining whether the two types of newspapers presented the event in a similar manner and which aspects they chose to prioritise. This MA thesis will hence focus on the following research questions:

- How is the coverage of the Queen's passing linguistically portrayed in the British written press?
- What are the differences in the themes covered by tabloid and broadsheet newspapers?

The objective of this investigation is three-fold: firstly, to examine how a significant event was portrayed in the British written press; secondly, to contrast the manner in which tabloid and broadsheet newspapers reported on a single event; and thirdly, to identify the themes that were addressed in the reporting of the death of

[1] Kp refers to the Kindle version pages

Queen Elizabeth II. This paper will therefore examine articles published in four different British newspapers between 6 September 2022, when the Queen appointed Liz Truss as prime minister, and 20 September 2022, the day following the Queen's funeral. The focus will be made on two broadsheets (*The Guardian* and *The Independent*) and two tabloids (the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*).

This study is set in the field of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) which combines Corpus Linguistics (CL) methods with a more traditional way of analysing discourse. Using corpus linguistics techniques such as frequency, keyword, and collocation analyses combined to occasional probes into the newspaper articles will help in the identification of possible similarities and/or differences in the themes covered by each type of newspapers. In the analytical process, it was decided to separate the analysis of the headlines from that of the articles, as they do not exhibit the same purpose and type of language (see section 6). Therefore, the analyses will be divided into two parts: first, an analysis of the headlines in each broadsheet and tabloid, and second, an analysis of the articles in both types of newspapers.

The first part of this thesis provides a theoretical framework that is essential for contextualising this research. Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 will offer a comprehensive overview of the British Monarchy, including an account of the Queen's life and her significance to the United Kingdom. Additionally, these sections will elucidate the relationship between the monarchy, the Queen, and the media. Section 6 will delineate the characteristics of newspapers, followed by section 7, which concludes this theoretical framework with an explanation of the origins, developments, and advantages of CADS. The second part (section 8) of this thesis details the methodology, including the data collection, the analytical steps, and the tools used. Additionally, it includes details about a pilot study assessing the potential of ChatGPT as a replacement tool for conducting CADS analyses. The third part presents the analyses of the corpora in sections 9 and 10, with results discussed and summarized in section 11. Section 12 is devoted to the discussion of the tests performed with ChatGPT. Finally, section 13 concludes this MA thesis by answering the initial research questions and suggesting directions for further research.

THEORETICAL PART

2. The British Monarchy

It is widely acknowledged that the British monarchy is one of the most well-known monarchies in the world, whereas other monarchies do not have this worldwide impact. This is due to a number of factors, including its historical significance, its global influence and its cultural impact. The image of this renowned family is easily recognizable across the world. This phenomenon can be attributed, at least in part, to the extensive coverage that the British Royal Family receives in the media, be it in high-quality, well-researched press, or in less formal media outlets that cover more trivial matters. The following sections present a brief overview of the monarchy in the United Kingdom, including an examination of its role and functions.

2.1. The role of the British Monarchy

The official website of the British Royal Family (https://www.royal.uk/) provides information about the role of the British Monarchy. The monarchy represents the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom and has its origins in the early medieval period. However, its most recognizable form began in 1066 with William the Conqueror, the first Norman king. Subsequently, a succession of dynasties assumed control over the United Kingdom. The current monarchy is the House of Windsor, which started in 1910 with George V.

The British Monarchy, in its current state, is a constitutional monarchy. This implies that, while the sovereign is head of state, the capacity to enact and implement legislation is vested in an elected parliament. Therefore, the head of state in the United Kingdom does not assume either a political or an executive role. Moreover, in a constitutional monarchy, the primary function of the monarch is to represent the state in its entirety as the “Head of Nation”. Hence, the monarch is responsible for fulfilling constitutional and representational duties and serves as a unifying force, instilling a sense of national identity, unity and pride. It provides a sense of stability and continuity, thereby reinforcing the collective consciousness of the nation.

The monarch's functions also include appointing the Prime Minister, as well as the other ministers; opening a session of parliament; and giving royal assent to bills passed by parliament, thereby making them into laws.

The King or the Queen meets with the Prime Minister at Buckingham Palace on a weekly basis to discuss political matters. However, the monarch does not issue orders; rather, they adopt a neutral approach and simply suggest potential courses of action.

The Head of the Nation of the United Kingdom also holds the position of Head of State in 14 other countries around the world, qualified as the realms: including Australia, Canada, Jamaica and New Zealand. Additionally, the Head of State represents and is the Head of the Commonwealth, an international association of 54 states, spanning many religions and cultures, that were mainly former British colonies and dependencies.

2.2. The British Royal Family

As a preliminary note, it should be pointed out that the present dissertation focusses on the representation of Queen Elizabeth II's death in British press. Thus, the portrayal of the British Royal Family depicted in the sections below is showing its state at the time when Queen Elizabeth II was still alive and at the head of the UK and Commonwealth. Her reign lasted from 6 February 1952 to 8 September 2022. King Charles started his reign on 8 September 2022 and was crowned on 6 May 2023.

The British Royal Family is led by Queen Elizabeth II. In her role, she is supported by other members of the British Royal Family. The most prominent members are The Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen's husband (Prince Philip); The Prince of Wales, her son (Prince Charles), The Duchess of Cornwall, Charles' wife (Camilla); The Duke of Cambridge, Charles' first son (Prince William); The Duchess of Cambridge, William's wife (Catherine); The Duke of Sussex, Charles' second son (Prince Harry); and The Duchess of Sussex, Harry's wife (Meghan Markle). In January 2020, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle stepped down as senior royals.

The role of the British Royal Family is to support the Queen in her working life. The different members carry out over 2,000 official engagements in the UK and overseas.

Furthermore, these engagements afford the various members the opportunity to be exposed to the public through the press, thereby increasing their visibility. The engagements can be categorised in three groups. The first encompasses overseas visits, during which they embody the monarchy and represent the kingdom. The second comprises the support of the charity sectors, covering a range of subjects, including education, the environment, hospitals, and housing. The third group includes the support of the Armed Forces, by regularly visiting soldiers, sailors, and airmen in the UK and abroad.

3. Queen Elizabeth II

Following a brief presentation and overview of the British Royal Family's role, the focus of this theoretical part shifts to the central figure of this study: Queen Elizabeth II. The following sections focus on key dates of her reign. Then, they consider the more private part of her life, before presenting the period and the events leading up to her death and funeral in September 2022.

3.1. Life's key dates

Future Queen Elizabeth II was born as Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary in Mayfair on 21 April 1926, as the first child of the future King George VI. At that time, she was not supposed to access to the throne, only standing third in the line of succession, but everything changed in December 1936 when King Edward VIII (her uncle) abdicated. This resulted in Elizabeth's father becoming the next in line to the throne, thus also making her the next in line.

After her father's accession to the throne in 1936, she started studying constitutional history and law to prepare herself for her future role. In 1940, at the age of fourteen, Elizabeth delivered her first public speech on the BBC's Children's Hour to provide reassurance to children who had been separated from their parents during the Blitz. In November 1947, she married Prince Philip Mountbatten of Greece and Denmark at Westminster Abbey.

Following her father's rather early death (at the age of 56), Elizabeth – then twenty-five years old - became Queen Elizabeth II. The coronation took place in Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953. She was anointed by the archbishop and took

her oath “to maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine worship, discipline, and government thereof, as the law established in England.” After the celebrations, she set out for a tour of the Commonwealth accompanied by Philip.

The following years of her reign were stable. She executed her various state duties, such as formally consenting to make bills into Acts of Parliament, or laws through her renowned red boxes, which contained the State papers presented to the Queen every morning of her reign. Furthermore, her meetings with the total of fifteen different prime ministers working under her reign were also part of her weekly schedule. She was able to encourage or warn them while remaining politically neutral. She fulfilled her role as Queen in a discreet but present way. Since her coronation she has followed the rule of “never complain, never explain”. She was careful to distance herself from the vicissitudes of current affairs and the culture of clash, refusing to speak out publicly about the scandals shaking the crown (Robert, 2023, p.39).

In 1992, the British people and the world witnessed the Queen’s first speech taking her emotional state into account, detaching herself from her rule of “never complain, never explain”. This year saw the marriages for three of her four children (Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward) end. Additionally, a fire almost destroyed the Windsor Castle that the Queen cherished. The Queen called this year “annus horribilis”, showing her despair following these events.

The year 2002 marked her fifty years of reign with the Golden Jubilee. This year was also marked by the deaths of Elizabeth’s mother and sister. Five years later, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-living British Monarch, overtaking Queen Victoria’s reign. In May 2011, Elizabeth visited Ireland: a historic event, being the first monarch visiting the country since its independence in 1921. 2012 marks her Diamond Jubilee with sixty years on the throne. Followed by the Platinum Jubilee in 2022, marking her 70th anniversary of accession to the throne. September 8, 2022, the Queen died at Balmoral Castle at the age of 96. Her death was followed by an outpouring of grief across the country and the world. Her funeral was held on 19 September 2022.

3.2. Private life

Most of us know about – or at least have been able to witness – the official life of Queen Elizabeth II. She is remembered as someone devoted to her work, which gave her the nickname of “working queen” (see website). During her entire life, the identity of the woman behind the crown was never fully revealed (Robert, 2023, p.7). “Discretion, self-control and modesty” (Robert, 2023, p.39) were her watchwords. The Queen followed a strict schedule at Buckingham Palace. According to figures released by the palace, the Queen assured over 21,000 public engagements during her seventy-year reign (Robert, 2023, p.51). However, she also spent her weekends in a more relaxed way. She enjoyed spending far less formal time at the castles of Balmoral and Windsor. She was able to enjoy the company of Philip and their four children (Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward). Given her demanding schedule, she entrusted the education of their children to Philip, who represented their family. Over the course of its history, the royal family has expanded through the addition of new family members through marriage and birth.

The Queen remained discreet about her private life, but certain elements could not escape the public’s attention when it came to knowing more about this fascinating character. She was, for instance keen to ensure that her official outings were not overlooked, as evidenced by her brightly coloured wardrobe. This deliberate choice of strong colours enables her to be seen from a distance (Robert, 2023, p.54). Similarly, her collection of hats allowed her to stand out in a crowd of people (Longford, 1984, p.478).

When she had the opportunity, the Queen pursued her passion for horses and horse racing shows, where she could often be seen at. Her love for animals was also evidenced by her passion for her corgis, her lifelong faithful companions at Buckingham Palace. Concerning her religious beliefs, Christian faith played a significant role in her daily life. We may observe her reflections on the subject of faith, particularly during her annual Christmas broadcasts.

In recent years, the popular Netflix series “The Crown” launched in 2016 has provided audiences around the world with a unique opportunity to gain more insights into the private life of Queen Elizabeth II. In the years leading up to her death, her popularity reached an all-time high, and this kind of series is likely to have played some

role in this. Nevertheless, it is important to note that The Crown is a fictional series, based on real events, and that the creators never received any acceptance or endorsement from the royal household. The real person of Elizabeth will never be fully known to the general audience.

3.3. The image of the Queen

"Aucune personnalité ne peut se vanter d'être plus célèbre que la reine" [No celebrity can boast of being more famous than the Queen] (Robert, 2023, p.56). The Queen's fame and influence can never be called into question. Her exceptionally long reign and life made that "no one in the history of the world has been painted from life more often or photographed more frequently than Elizabeth II" (Brandreth, 2023, Kp.2). The various depictions on stage, on screen, in plays, in films, and in series attest to this phenomenon. A plethora of praising adjectives has been employed by various biographers to describe the Queen and her reign. She is described as someone who stands out for her courage (Longford, 1984, p.475), as a "global figure" (Brandreth, 2023, Kp.1) and arguably the "best-loved and most respected" (Brandreth, 2023, Kp.1). She leaves behind the memory of an exemplary monarch (Robert, 2023, p.14) who acted like an insurmountable rock (Robert, 2023, p.100), who served as a stabilising force.

A further point of interest is the British Royal Family's website (https://www.royal.uk/), which offers an insight into the portrayal of the Queen. As an official website, it is written and managed by the Royal Household at Buckingham Palace. The depiction of the Queen on the website is not entirely objective, although this is to be expected from an official website. Some adjectives are employed to qualify the Queen's life, but they are in general far more modest and less numerous compared to the unofficial biographies. They describe the late Queen as someone who was a "much loved and accepted figure across the globe".

Moreover, the Queen's jubilees[2], also attest to her popularity. Whilst the two first jubilees (the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the Ruby Jubilee in 1992) were low-profile events, the four following ones, the Golden Jubilee (2002), the Diamond Jubilee

[2] a celebration marking a significant anniversary of a monarch"s reign

(2012), the Sapphire Jubilee (2017), and the Platinum Jubilee (2022) which marked the 70th anniversary of accession to the throne, were much larger-scale events.

3.4. Events leading to the Queen's death

Since the death of her husband (often described as being her rock and her strength), on 9 April 2021, concerns about the Queen's health have arisen. Later in 2021, Elizabeth was admitted to a London hospital for a night and underwent several health tests. In accordance with the medical advice she had received, she cancelled a number of major engagements that were scheduled to take place in the following months.

In June 2022, she made limited public appearances during the four-day holiday weekend celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. On 6 September 2022, the Queen gathered with Boris Johnson and Liz Truss at her Scottish summer residence to hand over the power of the outgoing prime minister to her successor. This ceremony, typically held at Buckingham Palace in London, was relocated to Balmoral for the first time in the Queen's reign due to her declining mobility. The images of this meeting have been made available for public viewing. The pictures depict a smiling monarch with a grey patch on her right hand. This may be attributed to the medical examinations she had undergone or to the treatments she had received. These pictures caused great concern in the UK and across the world. This was the Queen's last appearance before her death.

On Thursday, 8 September 2022, at approximately midday, rumours began to circulate. In a brief statement, Buckingham Palace announced that the Queen's doctors had expressed concern about her health and had recommended that she be placed under medical supervision. On the previous evening, Elizabeth had to cancel a scheduled video conference meeting. Before Buckingham's first statement was made public, her closest friends and family rushed to her bedside. At the end of the morning, Charles, accompanied by his wife Camilla, left Scotland aboard the royal helicopter, joining Anne at their mother's bedside. Six hours later, the news that everyone was dreading had come: Elizabeth II died peacefully of natural causes at 3.10pm at the age of 96 at Balmoral Castle.

3.5. Death announcement and funeral

The public announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II was displayed at the gates of Buckingham Palace on 8 September 2022 at 6.30pm. It was simply written that:

> The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon. The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow.

In every corner of the kingdom, a well-prepared and anticipated operation was put in place, one the Queen herself had overseen all the details during her lifetime. The operations had a name: Operation London Bridge. The British and many tourists present in London started to gather at the gates of Buckingham Palace. The media spread the news all over the world and many messages of condolence were posted on different social media. Scenes of great sadness and devastation could be witnessed all over the United Kingdom.

The Queen's funeral took place ten days later. As she had died at Balmoral Castle, the government launched "Operation Unicorn", the name given to the formal plans in the eventuality that Queen Elizabeth II should die at Balmoral. The monarch's remains were taken to the Palace of Holyrood in Edinburgh first, and then to St Giles Cathedral.

A few days later, the royal coffin reached London aboard the British royal train. The military procession crossed the streets of the capital to the sound of the bells of Big Ben, as far as Westminster Hall. It was there that, for three days, the public and her loved ones would be able to pay her a final tribute.

On the morning of the funeral, on 19 September, the ceremony was held at Westminster Abbey. Her funeral was watched live by billions of television viewers, and one million of them in the streets of London. On this day of national mourning, no one was working, and the shops and stock exchanges remained closed. The British politician and writer Gyles Brandreth was asked why so many people wished to be present at the Queen's funeral. He responded that the attendees were there to witness a historic event. Her reign had encompassed the lives of all. But most of all, they came because she had been a remarkable human being (Brandreth, 2023, Kp.28).

Queen Elizabeth II now lies in the Royal crypt of the Saint-George chapel, beside her parents, her sister Margaret, and her husband Prince Philip.

4. The Monarchy and the Media

It is inevitable for a monarchy and the media to be connected, whether for positive or negative reasons. As stated by Krunke (2020, in Hazell, 2020, p.213), it may appear challenging to justify the presence of a non-elected head of state within the government structure of a modern democracy. However, some legitimization arguments can be raised to justify this presence. The monarchy contributes to society through royal visits and patronage, and it boosts the country's economy, notably in terms of tourist attraction (Hazell, 2020, p.213). In order to showcase its societal value, the monarchy relies significantly on the media (Hazell, 2020, p.214). The media possess the capacity to enhance the Royal Family's reputation, but also that of undermining it. Nevertheless, the monarchy has no choice but to collaborate with the media. Consequently, the following sections are dedicated to the relationship that the Queen was required to establish with the media.

4.1. The Queen's attitude towards the media

During her long life and reign, Queen Elizabeth II facilitated a transformation in the utilisation of media by the monarchy. She was able to use the media mostly to her advantage, avoiding the scandals that affected other members of the Royal Family. She has succeeded in responding to the paradox that the monarchy has to represent continuity, stability and tradition, and its necessity to also embody modernity and reflect contemporary values (Hazell & Morris, 2020, p.3).

Queen Elizabeth II made her first mediatic big move in 1953, during her coronation ceremony. The coronation was typically broadcast on radio all around the world. The Queen sought to take this a step further by broadcasting the ceremony live on television. This enabled an estimated 27 million people in Britain to view the ceremony on television, while 11 million listened to it on the radio, and to witness the splendour and significance of the coronation. Brandreth claims that "never before in human history had so many people witnessed the same event at the same time" (2023, Kp.342). Elizabeth was clearly aware of the power of imagery, as it enabled the public

to get access to an ancient and inherently rather distant institution. This was a way to control the royal narrative and maintain its importance.

The queen followed a very strict daily routine. One of its earliest steps was the reading of newspapers. From *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, the *Daily Express*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Mirror*, to the *Independent*, no headline could escape her attention (Robert, 2023, p.22). The British Monarchy also has had a long-lasting and strong connection to the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), which can be considered as the first weapon of mass communication of the British Royal Family. The Queen has learnt to maintain a neutral relationship with the press, which could either help or hinder her.

In June 1969, Elizabeth II gave the world a closer insight into her life at Buckingham Palace. 30 million viewers tuned in to the "Royal Family" reality show. The BBC show gave audiences a view of a year in the private and public life of the Queen and her family. The objective of this programme was to present the professional work of the family. However, a gap was also bridged as the audiences came to understand that the British Royal Family was, in fact, an ordinary family. The British public felt, once again, a sense of connection with this ancient institution.

Later that same year, the United Kingdom witnessed a revolution in the media (Robert, 2023, p.28). The Australian Rupert Murdoch bought the daily *The Sun* and the Sunday weekly *News of the World*. His main objective was to sell as much as possible, and the Crown represented a golden financial windfall. An outspoken anti-monarchist, the Australian spent thirty years stirring up trouble in relations between the media and the royal family. It was the advent of an aggressive, cruel and immoral tabloid press. Therefore, the Royal Rota[3], an accreditation system created and overseen since the 1980s by the News Media Association, was designed to provide a framework for these relationships.

When information became more readily available on computers and smartphones, the Royal Family established its own website[4]. It then created an account on Twitter[5], where official announcements were published. They also decided

[3] See section 4.2 for more details.
[4] https://www.royal.uk/
[5] https://twitter.com/RoyalFamily

to take a YouTube[6] account, which they used to broadcast important events of their lives. Their official Instagram[7] account also served as a vehicle of their image to the public. The use of these different forms of media was designed to create and reinforce the impression that the family was at the service of the nation.

4.2. The Royal Rota

Following the 1969 media revolution mentioned in the previous section, the British monarchy decided to introduce certain rules. The Royal Rota has been created in order to ensure the safety of the journalists. Due to space and security restrictions, all media can rarely have equal access to an event. A rota, or pool system, has therefore been introduced. The Royal Rota follows the following principle:

> Representatives from each relevant media sector are offered the opportunity to cover an event, on the understanding that they will share all material obtained, with other members of their sector who request it.[8]

The UK media outlets part of this association are: *The Daily Express*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Mirror*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Sun*.

The Royal Rota has set a number of obligations[9] for holders of the pass:

> Newspapers are issued with royal rota passes on the understanding that they will fully meet the obligations for the rota system by providing an immediate service by electronic transfer and, if required, by prints or duplicate transparencies. They must also maintain a central library which is easily accessible.
>
> A rota pass holder is to take a reasonable selection of pictures, fully illustrating the parts of the event covered by the rota passes. A rota pass holder must produce a reasonable amount of copy covering the full scope of the passes allocated. All material must be adequately captioned, ordered in advance (where possible) and collected.
>
> All material, particularly original negatives and colour transparencies, must be available in the UK for a period of at least five years. Newspapers, wire services, periodicals, agencies and independents holding rota passes are expected to exchange material direct with each other free of charge.
>
> All pictures taken on a rota pass, whether issued or not, shall be classified as rota pictures and marked as such in the appropriate library of the copyright holder. Recipients of rota pictures supplied by newspapers for publication should not pass

[6] https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTkC3Jt91QkqNAE4FGWkEIQ
[7] https://www.instagram.com/theroyalfamily/
[8] https://newsmediauk.org/industry-services/royal-rota/
[9] https://newsmediauk.org/industry-services/royal-rota/

> such pictures to third parties. Rota material should not be sold exclusively, or labelled as such when reproduced.
>
> Photographers employed by host organisations to cover an engagement are not permitted to make their work available to the press in competition with the work of rota photographers. Newspapers securing facilities and being unable to use them must inform the NMA as soon as possible before the visit so that the passes may be reallocated.
>
> Rota holders are reminded that reporters and photographers nominated to represent them at royal events should be suitably dressed for the occasion. For formal royal rota occasions taking place indoors, lounge suit with shirt and tie for men, discreet day attire for women. Failure to comply with this requirement is liable to be treated as a breach of the rota obligations and may lead to admission being refused. Passes must be worn where they can be easily seen.

In theory, the system seems logical, but of the member newspapers, only the *Telegraph* is not a tabloid. And even if they publish, or have published, incriminating articles, they retain their right to practise (Robert, 2023, p.29). Members of the Royal Family have to deal with this, at the risk of having negative stories about them spread across the front pages of the tabloids.

5. Previous studies on the Queen and the media

Following the presentation of the link between the monarchy/the Queen and the media, it is important to acknowledge previous works on the representation of the Queen in different forms of media. The first section presents two studies that have been made on the analysis of two of the Queen's Jubilees in the British press. The second section focuses on studies on the analysis of different forms of media that have been published following the Queen's death.

5.1. The Jubilees

The Jubilees were major events in the life of Queen Elizabeth II. These events have gathered millions of people all around the UK and have had a global outreach. The preparations and celebrations were of course tackled in the British press, which published numerous newspaper articles. The first study focuses on the Diamond Jubilee of 2012 (Griessenauer, 2013), while the second focuses on the Platinum Jubilee of 2022 (Coombs-Hoar, 2023).

Griessenauer's (2013) objective was to explore the representation of Elizabeth II and the Royal Family in British quality newspapers and tabloids during the Diamond

Jubilee of 2012. The questions raised were whether the press coverage of the event was positive or negative, whether a difference could be identified between the two newspaper types, and an investigation on how the Royal Family is represented in the British online media. The analysis was conducted using a corpus-based approach and critical discourse analysis method. The results show that differences in the way the two newspaper types reported the event were present. The two types wrote positively about the event, but differences in style and lexical choices were acknowledged. Another difference was that the tabloid newspapers tended to use an emotional approach to enhance the feeling of closeness with the Royal Family. The quality newspapers used more neutral words. While the tabloid newspapers tended to highly praise the event, the quality newspapers raised questions on the cost of those celebrations.

Coombs-Hoar's (2023) study also compared quality newspapers and tabloid newspapers in the depiction of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This time, the articles were analysed manually. The results show that the tabloid press tended to use more visual aids to catch the reader's attention. The focus was also on the use of idiomatic expressions in both newspaper categories. A larger number of idiomatic expressions have been found in the tabloid newspapers than in the quality press. Moreover, the popular press made better use of play on words, creating catchy titles and phrases. The two newspaper types used different linguistic paths to present the same information.

5.2. The Queen's Death

In this section, four studies surrounding the Queen's death are discussed. The first two studies (Kadhim & Al-Tememi, 2023; Mentari & Susiati, 2024) focus on condolence messages that were made following the Queen's death. The other two studies (Unruh, 2023; Mintah, 2024) focus on former British colonies' attitude towards the announcement of the Queen's death.

Kadhim & Al-Tememi (2023) investigated the speech act of condolence on the Queen's death and its influence by cross-cultural factors. They analysed - quantitatively and qualitatively – the written comments and messages made by presidents, vice presidents, prime ministers, kings, and ministers of foreign affairs or

their delegates. The results show that the prevalent illocutionary act used in the messages was “assertive”, which represents the sender’s supportive state of mind and also commits the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. Furthermore, expressions of sympathy were largely acknowledged, they represented the core of the speech act. A final finding shows that women’s condoling messages tended to be more sympathetic, emotional, soft-hearted, and associative than men.

Mentari & Susiati (2024) analysed the speech acts and condolence strategies expressed by Facebook users under BBC posts. The approach was qualitative, and comments were analysed manually. They used Zunin & Zunin’s (1991) typology of condolence strategies to classify the different comments. The results show that the prevalent condolence strategy was “taking note of the quality of the deceased”, which revealed the society’s appreciation for the Queen.

Unruh’s (2023) study is dedicated to the re-evaluation of the relationship between the United Kingdom and Ireland. More precisely, the study aims at analysing Irish Twitter posts that had been posted following the announcement of the Queen’s death in order to find how Irish people reacted and what their feelings were and if the reconciliation process was working. A corpus of tweets was created, and the data was analysed manually following the “appraisal” theory developed by Martin & White (2017). The results showed that the Irish attitude towards the Queen and the monarchy was more negative than positive. The tweets mostly judged and criticised the Queen’s behaviour during her reign, addressing what she presumably did wrong. The tweets were often implying that her actions were connected to colonialism and imperialism. They accused the entire Royal Family for not speaking up and paying any reparations. Some tweets even celebrated the monarch’s death. Nevertheless, some tweets adopted a positive attitude towards the Queen’s death.

Mintah (2024) is also considering anti-imperial sentiments following the Queen’s death, but here the focus is on Ghana. Using the linguistic Appraisal System’s Attitude, the study investigates fifteen selected print and radio media organisations in Ghana. The findings indicate that the newspapers leaned toward a positive judgement appraisal. That implies that the media organisations endear the Queen to the readers to appreciate her. The samples analysed showed that Ghana and Britain cultivate a

relationship of friendship and cordiality. The media therefore show no hostility to Britain and the Queen.

The four studies previously mentioned can assist in the assessment of how the Queen was perceived and evaluated following her death. The findings of Kadhim & Al-Tememi (2023), Mentari & Susiati (2024), and Mintah (2024) indicated a positive response to comments made in the wake of the Queen's passing. In contrast, Unruh (2023) demonstrated that Irish reactions indicated a negative perception of the Queen and the Royal Family, suggesting that the resentment from the UK's colonial presence in Ireland is still evident.

6. Newspapers

This section aims to provide an insight into the journalistic landscape in the UK, as well as the distinction between broadsheet newspapers (also called quality press) and tabloid newspapers (also called popular press). Different aspects and features of the newspaper genre will be tackled, such as the language of the news, the audiences, the news values, the specific type of text that headlines are, the objectivity, and finally sensationalism.

6.1. British Newspapers

Before investigating the insights of newspapers, it is important to understand what they really are. According to Reah (2002, p.2), the term *newspaper* is used to describe a publication containing articles about current news and some analyses or comments about it. The content of newspapers can be divided into different genres that are not always "mutually compatible" ones (Conboy, 2007, p.8). Conboy (2007) divides the newspaper content into two main categories: "hard news", where overt opinion is not expected, and "specialist news, soft news, news features, opinion pieces and editorials", where opinion can be more or less emphasised. Hard news is expected to be "factual, reliable, well-informed and without overt comment from the journalist" (Conboy, 2007, p.9). However, opinion can still be transmitted, but not in an explicit way. The specialist section contains topics such as "sports, fashion and entertainment" (Conboy, 2007, p.9). The language used in these pieces of news can express "traces of opinion" (Conboy, 2007, p.9) as well as "judgement of taste" (Conboy, 2007, p.9). Bell (1991, p.14) adds that a further differentiation between hard and soft news is the

concept of immediacy. In contrast to hard news, which is related to recent and immediate events, soft news is not time-bound to immediacy. However, the boundaries between the two types of news might remain unclear.

Mass media and particularly newspapers are of great importance in the average UK household. Around 2008, 80% of British households would buy a copy of one of the main UK's newspapers every day (O'Driscoll, 2008, p.151). However, the development of the internet and online newspapers is leading to sweeping changes in the newspaper industry. The last few decades have seen fewer households buying print news. According to the 2023 statistics[10], British people now get their news from television in first place, followed by the internet in second place. Some newspapers have even abandoned their print editions, only keeping their online versions. The transition from print to online publishing presented a significant challenge for UK newspapers. In light of this, it seems imperative that they further adapt their communication platforms to social media. Platforms such as Facebook or Twitter seem more suitable for reporting news and sharing written articles. However, if they want to touch a younger audience, papers should also use platforms such as TikTok. The *Daily Mail* was the first to overcome that obstacle and is now one of the news leading sites on the platform.

Newspapers have a lot of power within the UK and are sometimes referred to the "fourth estate" (O'Driscoll, 2008, p.153), next to the Commons, the Lords and the monarch. The British press derives its power from the fact that the government lacks influence in this news business, as it is controlled by a few large multinational companies (O'Driscoll, 2008, p.153).

6.2. Newspaper language

The language of the news, also referred to as "journalese", is a category of its own. Bell (1991, p.9) claims that "news media form a kind of speech community, producing their own variety of language". This specificity is particularly linked to several profession-specific factors such as the "constraints of the medium, journalist's consideration of audience, and their language attitudes" (Cotter, 2010a, p.25). The constraints of the medium include the time to the deadline of the news article imposed

[10] https://www.statista.com/topics/5932/newspaper-industry-uk/#topicOverview

on the journalists, the space that is allotted to the story news and the protocols imposed by the specific newspapers (Cotter, 2010b, p.219). In addition, journalese is also influenced by the economic imperatives of the papers to retain their audience in a competitive news market (Conboy, 2007, p.8). Indeed, pushed by capitalists interests, the newspapers' main goal is to sell as many copies as possible (O'Driscoll, 2008, 153).

Newspaper language is distinct from face-to-face conversation, exhibiting a number of defining characteristics. These include the presence of multiple organisers, a mass simultaneous and fragmented audience, an absence of feedback, and general accessibility to the public (Bell, 1991, p.2). The newspaper must create a unified entity comprising articles written by disparate authors, yet one that is sufficiently compelling to attract a large audience.

An important feature of news writing is that journalists are not simply reporting news, they are telling a story, they are "professional storytellers of our age" (Bell, 1991, p.147). Conboy (2007, p.141) discusses the notion of narrative that is evident in the news story structure. He identifies with White's (1984) definition of the narrative, which posits that it is the "transformation of knowing into telling" (Conboy, 2007, p.141). The news article, or news story, follows a specific hierarchy of elements, creating an "inverted pyramid shape of a conventional story" (Cotter, 2010a, p.26). The most important element comes first and is followed by less important one.

Each type of speech produced by a speaker is supposed to be designed according to the hearers (Bell, 1991, p.105), or in the present case, the readers. The news story text is therefore produced in accordance with the audience. It is evident that the writer is unable to ascertain the identity of the intended reader. Nevertheless, it is imperative to construct a presumed audience in accordance with the specific characteristics of the newspaper in question. This implies that the various journalists contributing to the newspaper must adopt a "linguistic style they expect their stereotyped audience to be familiar with in order to attract them" (Fritz, 2009, p.5). Consequently, it is essential that writers consider the linguistic style that is most readily comprehensible and appealing to the public they seek to engage. The language style may vary from an accessible, informal register to a more complex, formal one, depending on the presumed audience.

Bell's assertion that the language used in newspapers is distinct from that used in face-to-face communication is nuanced by Fowler (1991). It is said that journalese has to adopt characteristics of oral discourse (cited in Fritz, 2009, p.10-11). While the newspaper in print/written format adopts a stance of detachment and "formality and authority", a face-to-face conversation implies involvement and "familiarity and solidarity" (Fowler, 1991, cited in Fritz, 2009, p.59). Fowler posits that the newspapers must emulate oral discourse in order to attract a readership. It can be argued that individuals will feel a greater sense of connection to the speech in question if it is perceived to be similar to their everyday speech and conversation.

6.3. Audience

As mentioned in the previous section, it is of great importance for newspapers to be aware of the specific kind of audience that they wish to attract. In order to identify a stereotyped reader profile, market research is conducted (Reah, 2002, p.35). This is crucial for newspapers, as they are financially dependent on their readers (Fritz, 2009, p.2). As a way of achieving a high number of sales, it is essential that everything that is included in the newspaper is audience-oriented (Johansson, 2007, p.28).

The market research is twofold. Firstly, the content must be designed in a manner that will capture the attention and generate interest among the target readers (Fritz, 2009, p.4). In order to meet the audience's expectations, specific kinds of news will be selected. Secondly, the presentation and the language employed must also be designed to appeal to the intended readership (Fritz, 2009, p.7). Every aspect must be cautiously considered in order to ensure alignment with the audience's language and interests. From the choice of advertising to the selection of pictures, everything has to be in accordance with the readers. The results of the various market research conducted must provide some insight into the "nationality, the social standing, or education attainment of the readers" (Conboy, 2007, p.26).

A comprehensive analysis conducted by Jucker (1989, cited in Bell, 1991, p.109) identified three distinct groupings of readership profiles: an upmarket, a midmarket, and a downmarket readership. Each category is distinguished from the others by the social distance between the audience types. It has been demonstrated that the readership profiles of newspapers remain stable over time (Bell, 1991, p.110). Despite fluctuations in the number of readers over time, the types of readers tend to

remain the same (Bell, 1991, p.110). Andersen (2003, p.607) posits that women, those with higher education levels, and members of the salariat classes are more likely than others to be broadsheet readers. However, tabloid readers are typically from lower socioeconomic strata, younger, and less educated.

The political positioning is also a factor in the choice in newspapers made by the readers (O'Driscoll, 2008, p.153). Each paper is able to attract a specific audience with a predictable political outlook, which the journalists are aware of. Nevertheless, the political stance of the newspaper should not be overtly expressed, yet there are still some indications of it. Furthermore, a significant proportion of readers are not particularly interested in political content (O'Driscoll, 2008, p.153). Newspapers present their news in a way that is designed to lead the ideological stance of the readers (Reah, 2002, p.50).

6.4. News value

In order to attract the desired audience, newspapers also have to carefully select the content that will be of interest to their audience. The selection is based on the news value or newsworthiness of the information, which is determined by its importance or interest (Cotter, 2010a, p.28). This includes a long and complex process, initiated by a "systematic sorting and selecting of events and topics according to a socially constructed set of categories" (Hall, 1978, cited in Conboy, 2007, p.11). Once again, the stereotyped audience is of great importance in selecting that news. The news value can be assessed at different levels, including the "nature of events reported", the "nature of news market" and "the qualities of news text" (Bednarek & Caple, 2012, cited in Molek-Kozakowska, 2013, p.176).

Bell (1991, p.156-158) identified eleven factors that contribute to the newsworthiness of an event. These include negativity, recency, proximity, consonance, unambiguity, unexpectedness, superlativeness, relevance, personalisation, eliteness, facticity, and quality of attribution. It is not necessarily the case that all of these factors are present in the selection of one news item. In the context of the present study, the factor of negativity, which posits that one of the most crucial factors of the news is its negative nature and will therefore capture the audience's attention, is clearly represented in the nature of the event: the death of the Queen. Nevertheless, it is possible that even if newspapers are reporting negative

news, they may present it positively, recalling the Queen's popularity and her contributions during her reign and lifetime. The proximity factor is also worthy of consideration in this research, given that the death of the Queen had a worldwide impact, extending beyond the confines of local news. However, the analysis presented here will only incorporate the British news, which is more local in scope. The factor of eliteness, which implies that the "news actors play an important role in news decisions" (Bell, 1991, p.158), is also of great importance, as the Queen is clearly part of the elite landscape of the United Kingdom.

News values differ according to the newspapers as they have to meet their audience's interest. Conboy asserts that "few events in the world are inevitably news items for every news organisation" (2007, p.30). In the case of the death of the Queen, this news has been reported in all kinds of newspapers, regardless of the different types of audience. This once again proves the relevance of this event.

6.5. Headlines

Headlines are an integral component of a news story, often serving as the first aspect of the text that a reader notices and reads. Consequently, headlines have to adopt a specific structure to capture the reader's attention. However, they are also subject to a number of limitations that curtail the writer's flexibility (Reah, 2002, p.13). Headlines must be concise yet containing enough information, providing readers with a clear understanding of the article's subject (Cotter, 2010a, p.26). The headline is intended to be entirely derived from the news article (Bell, 1991, p.187). Moreover, journalistic tendencies attempt to create headlines that are as attractive as possible (Bell, 1991, p.189). However, this can sometimes result in confusion and ambiguity (Reah, 2002, p.13), making the content of the article less readily apparent.

As outlined by Conboy (2007, p.13), headlines serve three principal functions. Firstly, headlines serve to briefly summarise the main information of the news article. Secondly, they are designed to "attract attention". Thirdly, they play a significant role in the newspaper's audience appeal strategy, by frequently serving as an early indicator of the news values of the publication through their content and style. Furthermore, they also usually allow a classification (Reah, 2002, p.14) of the type of news presented (among others sport, international affairs, and economy). Headlines also typically give indications about the newspaper's attitude towards the addressed

content (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013, p.180), which can already influence the reader's perceptions of the subject (Reah, 2002, p.28).

The headline is the final written unit of a news text. The article is usually written in the order "lead[11]-body-headline" (Bell, 1991, p.186). The headline is not created by the author of the news story but by other news workers, who derive it from the lead (Bell, 1991, p.186). The choice of words is particularly relevant as they have to be "short, attention getting and effective" (Reah, 2002, p.15).

6.6. Spectrum in journalese

6.6.1. Objectivity

One of the fundamental principles of news writing is the concept of "information level" (Cotter, 2010a, p.26). The principal objective of a newspaper is to share information to its readership. In the current era of journalism, characterised by the prevalence of fake news, audiences have come to recognise the importance of maintaining a certain stance of objectivity and transparency with regard to the sources of information. Furthermore, news reporting is solely supposed to report the news without expressing an opinion. However, media research has demonstrated that the distinction between "fact and opinion" is not a straightforward process (Bell, 1991, p.13): it is an illusion to think that a news story can be entirely objective. Fritz (2009, p.2) claims that this is partly due to news language, which "inherently conveys connotations and values", and therefore creates an impossibility of "purely objective coverage". Although an entire objectivity is impossible to reach, some aspects of it can be attained when the journalist clearly attributes the facts and gives the sources of the information (Conboy, 2007, p.20). Objectivity in a newspaper is in fact a choice and preference made by the newspaper (Conboy, 2007, p.20). Newspapers that opt for objectivity in their reporting will be regarded as belonging to the quality press, while those that do not strive for objectivity will be considered to be part of the more populist press, which is willing to include false details in order to capture the attention of readers.

[11] First paragraph, giving the audience the most important information about the article in a concise and clear way.

6.6.2. Sensationalism

As mentioned in the previous sections, one of the newspapers" main goals is to attract the readers to sell as much as possible. A method becoming increasingly prevalent is the use of sensationalism. The term "sensationalism" is used to describe a strategy employed by the mass media to make their information appear "relevant, urgent or unusual" (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013, p.173-174). These elements will engender a sense of newsworthiness (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013, p.177). The readers may feel intrigued and believe that they are missing important information if they do not read the article, even if the news is perhaps entirely unimportant. One method of creating sensationalism is to use the superlativeness strategy, which is one of the eleven newsworthiness factors identified by Bell (1991, p.157). This results in an impression that the news is worthy of attention. Furthermore, this strategy is designed to elicit an emotional response from the audience (Johansson, 2007, p.22). In contrast to the intellectual engagement of audiences, sensationalism attempts to emotionally engage them. Johansson (2007, p.89) goes further and asserts that journalists will, instead of providing an objective account of information, write "melodramatic" news stories. This implies that a "strong emotionalism; moral polarisation and schematisation; extreme states of being, situations, actions; overt villainy, persecution of the good, and final reward of virtue" (Brooks, 1984, cited in Johansson, 2007, p.89) will be foregrounded in order to make the news appear more compelling and worthy of interest.

Specific topics are subject to sensationalism. They include sport, crime, the royal family, entertainment, show business, and human interest (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013, p. 178). It can be argued that headlines are one of the most susceptible elements of news stories to the influence of sensationalism. As the initial point of contact with the text, headlines are "treated as the main hook for the readers" (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013, p. 180). Nevertheless, the sensationalist treatment of the headline may occasionally result in confusion, with the consequence that the headline is no longer presented as a summary of the news story. Consequently, the headline no longer fulfils its primary function (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013, p. 180).

6.7. Broadsheets vs Tabloids

The British journalistic landscape is characterised by the coexistence of two distinct types of newspapers. The distinction can be made between the so-called “broadsheet” newspapers (also known as “quality” or “elite” newspapers) and those of a “tabloid” nature (also called “popular” newspapers). The opposition between these types of newspapers is generally attributed to differences in the definitions of news, visual impact and typographical means (Bell, 1991, p.20).

The first distinction between broadsheets and tabloids originated from the different paper formats employed by each (Bastos, 2016, p.217). The format of paper used for broadsheets was A1, whereas that used for tabloids was a variety of A3. At this time, the two different designations were employed solely to indicate the printing sizes and not to differentiate between editorial choices (Bastos, 2016, p.217). The newspapers have gradually diverged from one another, following a process of “tabloidization” (Rowe, 2011, p.12). This process represents a decline in the collection, reporting, and analysis of serious news. These were primarily designed to appeal to a more popular audience and as a result of different market liberalism and individualism concessions (Bastos, 2016, p.217). Curran & Seaton (2010, p.90) posit that the polarisation was also attributed to the disparate funding models employed. Typically, advertising accounted for more than two-thirds of the quality press income, which was attained by targeting affluent, specialised consumers. Inversely, the popular press derived more than half of its income from sales, and its success in circulation was what made it valuable to advertisers. Consequently, in order to protect its advertising revenue, one sector had to “select” its readers, while the other needed to establish and maintain a mass circulation.

The purpose of tabloids and broadsheets is to appeal to different types of audiences. On the one hand, broadsheets are editorialised for “better educated readers” (O’Driscoll, 2008, p.152), while on the other hand, tabloids are designed for a less educated readership. Tabloids have a much larger readership than the broadsheets (O’Driscoll, 2008, p.152). The “social expectations” of both newspapers are so divergent that it could be said that the readers “inhabit two different worlds” (Conboy, 2007, p.26). As previously discussed in section 6.3, newspapers’ audiences can be divided into three categories: the upmarket, the midmarket, and the

downmarket. The readership of broadsheets is included in the upmarket category, while that of the tabloids is included in the midmarket and downmarket categories (Jucker, 1989, cited in Bell, 1991, p.109).

As a way to attract their readerships, newspapers will tend to direct their content towards topics that their readers are likely to appreciate. It can be observed that quality newspapers, which target a middle-class readership (upmarket), are more inclined to cover “news about politics or economics, and foreign news” (Fritz, 2009, p.6-7). Tabloid newspapers tend to prioritise “crime-based or personality-based news” (Bignell, 2002, cited in Fritz, 2009, pp.6-7). Nevertheless, research in the field of journalism has demonstrated that the content of broadsheets and tabloids is becoming increasingly similar (Uribe & Gunter, 2004, cited in Bastos, 2019, p2). The conventional categorisation typically posits a binary opposition between broadsheets and tabloids, with the former positioned as superior to the latter (Rowe, 2011, p.458). However, this opposition is gradually evolving towards the concept of a spectrum (Bastos, 2019, pp. 2-3).

In order to align their respective readerships, both newspapers have to adopt different linguistic strategies. As previously mentioned, the language used in news stories should be accessible and comfortable to the intended audience (Fritz, 2009, p.7). To achieve this, as Fritz (2009, p.11-18) notes, newspapers usually attempt to emulate the characteristics of oral discourse. The middle-class readership of broadsheets, who are accustomed to formal language, are less likely to struggle with articles written in a literary style of language. Tabloids communicate a higher level of informality than broadsheets, as they use the oral mode cues more frequently. The use of spoken language traits makes it easier for the working-class readers to identify with it. Kitis & Milapedes (1997, cited in Conboy, 2007, p.10) assert that the divergence in linguistic style is reflected in the use of a more “neutral” linguistic style for the broadsheets and “emotionally charged language” for the tabloids. This can be observed in the manner of reporting employed by both newspapers. Tabloid newspapers typically publish less detailed articles that are frequently overseen by marketing departments and are strongly influenced by demographic appeal and audience share (Bastos, 2016, p.218). In contrast, broadsheet newspapers place a greater emphasis on hard news coverage, fact-checking, and research based on a timeline in which the story unfolds (Bastos, 2016, p.218).

The two newspaper types also entail different forms of journalistic practice. On the one hand, the development of codes of ethics for broadsheet journalists requires a significant amount of professional effort (Rowe, 2011, p.460). The articles in broadsheets are centred around facts that are selected for their recency and presented in an unbiased and objective manner (Fritz, 2009, p.37). On the other hand, in the tabloid press, journalists place less emphasis on the manner in which the news is collected and presented, despite being similarly bound to codes of ethics (Rowe, 2011, p.460). Tabloids news stories are rather selected for their entertainment value (Fritz, 2009, p.37). Additionally, this content is not presented in an impartial and objective way. Tabloid journalists “extensively judge[...] events and people involved in order to provide a clear evaluative framework [...]” (Fritz, 2009, p.37). Such publications employ questionable journalistic practices, such as offering financial incentives to regular contributors or employing the use of paparazzi tactics to gain coverage of celebrities (Johansson, 2007, p.22).

It can be argued that the two types of newspapers are opposed in their respective wills to achieve objectivity and seriousness for broadsheets and sensationalism and emotionality for tabloids. Moreover, the readership also differs in terms of its capacity for reflexivity. The educated readership of broadsheets is motivated to form their own opinions about the matters discussed (Fritz, 2009, p.37). In contrast, the lower-class readership of tabloids does not necessarily want to engage in critical reflection on the news; rather, they primarily want to enjoy reading (Fritz, 2009, p.37).

The characteristics of broadsheets and tabloids mentioned above are summarised in the next table:

Table 6.7.1: Characteristics of broadsheets vs tabloids

	Broadsheets	**Tabloids**
Readership	• educated • smaller • upmarket	• less educated • larger • mid- and downmarket
Type of news	• politics • economics • foreign news	• crime • personality-based

Type of language	• formal • literary style	• informal • similar to oral discourse
Linguistic style	• neutral	• emotionally charged
Reporting style	• Importance of details • fact checking • recent • unbiased • objective • focus on facts	• less detailed • less emphasis on recency and impartiality • focus on entertainment value

7. Mixed approach: discourse analysis & corpus linguistics

As previously identified, the object of analysis in this MA thesis is the examination of news media articles and texts from two groups of newspapers (broadsheets and tabloids) in relation to the worldwide event of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The analyses conducted in the practical part are discourse analyses of written text. The following sections will present the approach adopted in this MA thesis, namely corpus-assisted discourse studies (CADS). Firstly, a general overview of discourse analysis will be addressed, followed by insights into the domain of corpus linguistics. Then the combination of discourse analysis and corpus linguistics as CADS will be further explored.

7.1. Discourse analysis

The definition of “discourse” is complex and contested, with numerous scholars holding divergent views on the matter. As a very broad and general definition, “discourse” can be characterised as “actual instances of communication in the medium of language” (Johnstone, 2002, p.2). Waring (2018, p.8) adds another qualification concerning the goal of discourse use, which is “to accomplish actions, negotiate identities, and construct ideologies”. As outlined by Partington & Marchi (2015) “discourse” has been defined in two ways. One is regarding the structural aspect as “language above the sentence or above the clause” (Stubbs, 1983, cited in Partington & Marchi, 2015, p.216), the other is regarding functionality as “language that is doing some job in some context” (Halliday, 1985, cited in Partington & Marchi, 2015, p.216). Furthermore, they posit that discourse is not a distinct form of language, but rather a perspective that is applied to it. Schiffrin & al. (2001, cited in Gray & Biber, 2021, p.97), proposed a group conceptualisation divided into three main categories:

1. discourse as language in use, which investigates variation in the use of linguistic forms and traditional linguistic constructs;

2. discourse as language structure beyond the sentence level, which focuses on the broader text structure, that is, on the systematic ways that texts are constructed; and

3. discourse as social practices and ideologies associated with language and/or communication.

These three approaches have also been considered in the analysis of discourse. As outlined by Johnstone (2002, p.4), discourse analysis is a methodology that can be applied to a variety of questions within various fields. Indeed, discourse analysis do not just apply to studies on language but cover a much broader range of domains, going from “linguistics, applied linguistics, education, sociology, anthropology, psychology, gender studies, culture studies, communication studies, English language and literature” to another long list of disciplines (Waring, 2018, p.3).

Discourse analysis is a field of study that can be defined as a plain study of language. However, it is a discipline that encompasses much more than that. According to Jones (2019, p.2) discourse analysis allows us to examine how people use language in real life to engage in activities, including joking, arguing, persuading, and flirting. This approach enables the identification of the types of individuals who utilise language in specific ways and the comprehension of the social groups to which they belong. The process of discourse analysis not only implies a close reading of uses of language but also requires the accompanying of other multimodal resources in order to understand its structures and meanings (Waring, 2018, p.9). Discourse analysis aims “to develop a better understanding of language use” (Waring, 2018, p.20) and “to make explicit what normally gets taken for granted [...]” (Cameron, 2001, cited in Waring, 2018, p.20).

As mentioned before, the analysis of discourse can be relevant to many different fields in which language is involved in a way or another. Different types of language uses or topics can therefore be analysed such as political discourse (Chilton, 2004), colonial discourse (Williams & Chrisman, 1993), media discourse (Fairclough, 1995), environmental discourse (Hajer, 1997) but also discourse of learners of English,

medicine or law discourse. The primary objective of discourse analysts is to elucidate the meanings of text and the manner in which they are influenced by contextual factors. Additionally, they seek to understand how texts can influence the contexts in which they are situated (Johnstone, 2002, p. 20).

According to Johnstone (2002, p.25), no matter what the research questions of discourse analysts are, all discourse analyses imply a description of language. The field of linguistics is particularly known for this descriptive research stance. This type of work is based on the idea that their primary goal is to solely describe language and its tendencies. However, taking this approach presupposes the fact that the world can be described, meaning that there is not an infinite number of descriptions that could be true at some point. Moreover, the role of a scholar should be to describe the current state of affairs first, and then apply scholarly findings to the resolution of real-world issues (Johnstone, 2002, p.25). However, discourse analysis has increasingly been employed for the purpose of critical goals (Johnstone, 2002, p.26). Many researchers have adopted a more critical stance towards this merely descriptive approach. They brought greater attention to the possibility of "producing a single, coherent, scientifically valid description", as well as to the "social status quo" and to the concern to have their work used in changing things for the better" (Johnstone, 2002, p.26). This desire to adopt a more critical approach to discourse led to the emergence of various schools of thought within the field of discourse analysis, for instance the school of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Researchers from CDA employ a limited number of concepts from linguistics and instead use a method that is reminiscent of literary analysis, but with a political purpose (Partington & Marchi, 2015, p.216). Such researchers tend to rely on their own knowledge and experiences derived from similar texts. Moreover, CDA involves concepts linked to different relations of "power, ideology and domination" (Baker & al., 2008, p.273).

7.2. Corpus linguistics (CL)

Corpus linguistics is defined by Gray & Biber (2021, p.97) as a:

> set of research methodologies that focus on describing linguistic patterns of use in principled collections of texts designed to represent a target discourse domain (the corpus), using automatic and interactive computer programs to aid in quantitative and qualitative analyses.

In this definition, Gray & Biber qualify CL as a “set of research methodologies”. However, there is no consensus among scholars whether corpus linguistics constitutes a singular field of study or merely a methodology that can be applied across different research domains. Researchers who qualify CL as a methodology will highlight that it encompasses a “set of tools and general practises” used for the purpose of language analysis, in view of the variety of topics through which it can be used (Partington, 2013, p.6). At times, the term “methodology” is used more loosely; Gries (2015, p.83) refers to it as a “methodological paradigm”. The ones rejecting this view qualify it as “too simplistic and limiting” (Partington, 2013, p.7). Biber & Reppen (2015, p.2) argue that most scholars working in the CL domain would describe it as more than a methodological approach. Because of the analytical advances made possible by this approach, it is now possible to pose fundamentally different types of study questions, which can lead to viewpoints on language evolution and use that diverge drastically from those of earlier studies. Nonetheless, the categorisation of CL remains unclear as demonstrated by Taylor (2008, cited in Partington, 2013, p.7), who presents an overview of the different qualifications given to CL by different practitioners: “a tool, a method, a methodology, a methodological approach, a discipline, a theory, a theoretical approach, a paradigm, or a combination of these”.

The study of corpora has been used to enlighten the use of “single lexical items [...], typical phraseologies of a discourse type, textual cohesion, authorial style, figurative meaning, evaluative meaning, social, political, cultural and religious ideologies as expressed in text, and much else” (Partington, 2013, p.6). The study of large collections of computerised texts, such as corpora, enables CL analysts to identify linguistic patterns and frequency information that would have been almost impossible to discover manually (Baker, 2006, p.2). CL analysts will use a concordancer in order to conduct their analyses. This tool enables the generation of frequency lists, keyword lists, i.e. words which occur statistically more or less frequently in one corpus than another, collocations, i.e. the words that commonly co-occur with a particular item, and concordances, i.e. showcase of search words in their surrounding co-text (O’Keeffe, 2022, p.253). As stated by Biber & Reppen (2015, p.1), CL is conducive to empirical investigations, resulting in findings that are more readily generalisable and exhibit greater validity. Consequently, they enable the

representation of a domain of language use and the description of linguistic patterns of use in the corpus under study.

The use of CL in a research study implies a quantitative analysis of the data. The nature of corpora, grouping large quantities of texts, make it possible to carry, among others, word-frequency counts and to identify recurring patterns of usage. They then allow the discovery of recurrent topics of discourse of the corpus under study (Partington, 2013, p.8). The approach used when analysing a corpus is usually inductive (Partington, 2013, p.9). The findings and language patterns are usually not immediately obvious but become more apparent once frequencies are generated. As well as being quantitative and inductive, CL is also described as being “inherently sociolinguistic” (Stubbs, 2007, cited in Partington, 2013, p.6) since it implies the study of texts that are real records of language produced by members of a discourse community.

Analysing language using CL, which employs an inductive approach and examines authentic data, is more likely to result in “serendipitous discoveries” (Partington, 2013, p.9). These are chance findings of previously unknown phenomena or relationships between phenomena. However, it is also important for the analyst not to fall into the trap of working with the corpus as a “black box” (Partington, 2008, p.5). This means that the analyst does not get familiarised with the texts within the corpus, in case their perceptions of the corpus as a whole should be distorted by the unique qualities these texts may have.

Finally, it is crucial to differentiate between corpus-based and corpus-driven approaches (Tognini-Bonelli, 2001, cited in Baker, 2006, p.16). The corpus-based approach utilises a corpus as a source of examples, either to corroborate the researcher’s intuition or to assess the plausibility and/or frequency of language usage in a smaller set of data. In contrast, a corpus-driven analysis is more inductive in its approach, utilising the corpus as the data and noting patterns as a means of expressing linguistic regularities and exceptions.

7.3. Corpus-assisted discourse studies (CADS)

The term Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) was first coined by Partington in 2004. However, a large part of what this umbrella term implies was already used in previously conducted studies without coining it (Partington, 2013, p.10). According to Partington (2008, p.3), CADS can be defined as follows:

> It is the investigation, and comparison of features of particular discourse types, integrating into the analysis where appropriate techniques and tools developed within corpus linguistics.

Some scholars highlight that the combination of both Discourse Studies (DS) and Corpus Linguistics (CL) is what constitutes CADS. Both disciplines have evolved roughly at the same time, around 1980 and 1990 (Mautner, 2022, p.250). At first, the two disciplines did not interact. The majority of corpus linguists were engaged in lexicography and grammar, with the objective of identifying and measuring patterns in ever-larger datasets. In contrast, the majority of discourse analysts concentrated on small text samples that were appropriate for careful reading, “thick” description, and qualitative analysis that took social context into consideration. With time, the boundaries between the two approaches became increasingly “porous” (Mautner, 2022, p.250), which led to the combined field of CADS. The two techniques are really different in their approach to text and language (Leech, 2000, cited in McEnery & al., 2006, p.111). The field of DS is predominantly qualitative, whereas CL is essentially quantitative. DS places a strong emphasis on the integrity of the text, whereas CL typically employs representative samples. CL is primarily concerned with the nature of language itself, whereas DS is focused on the content that language expresses. The study that started CADS is the one of Hard-Mautner (1995) which concentrated on a study of newspapers editorials (Mautner, 2022, p.582). The main point of analysis was the investigation of discourse on the EU in the British Press from 1971 to 1994. Other pioneering works (Partington, 2013, p.10) in the CADS field include the ones from Stubbs (1996, 2001) but also studies conducted by the inter-university bodies of research such as Newspool (Partington et al. (eds) 2004), CorDis (Morley & Bayley (eds) 2009) and the EU-funded IntUne (Bayley & Williams (eds) 2012).

As briefly mentioned before, the pairing of discourse studies and corpus linguistics allows the combination of a “more qualitative close reading of texts or

language examples" with a more quantitative approach from the nature of corpus linguistics data, using techniques such as frequency lists, keyword lists, collocations and concordance lines (Gray & Biber, 2021, p.98). The term "corpus-assisted" implies that the use of corpora is not the only method in research conducted in CADS. Indeed, CADS analysts use as many different types of techniques as necessary to get the most comprehensive and gratifying results, with corpus approaches being just one type among them (Partington, 2013, p.10).

According to Partington (2013, p.11), the main aim of CADS studies is to identify meaning that may not be immediately apparent to the unaided eye of an analyst in the discourse type that is being studied. Partington qualifies this phenomenon as the discovery of "non-obvious meanings" (see the previously mentioned "serendipitous discoveries" in section 7.2). Therefore, the nature of CADS is both quantitative and qualitative. It is quantitative in that it comprises statistical overviews of large numbers of tokens of the discourse type under study contained in a corpus. It is qualitative in that it is typical of discourse analysis and consists of close, in-depth analysis of specific discourse stretches. These stretches may have been identified by the initial overview as being particularly interesting.

CADS have predominantly been conducted in a specific domain of discourse analysis. As seen in section 7.1, discourse analysis can be categorised in three different groups. Most CADS studies are categorised in the third category, namely "discourse as social practices and ideologies associated with language and/or communication". CADS has mainly been used to explore "social concerns" (Gray & Biber, 2021, p.98), especially in the fields of politics (Partington 2011; Jeffries & Walker 2012), the law (Fanego & Rodríguez-Puente 2019), business (Lischinsky 2011; Mullany 2013; Mautner & Learmonth 2020), gender and sexuality (Baker 2013; Zottola 2018), health communication (Hunt & Harvey 2015) and online communication and social media (Lutzky & Kehoe 2016; Collins 2019).

Since the advent of the CADS field, scholars have endeavoured to illustrate how the combination of discourse analysis and corpus linguistics provides an extensive list of advantages. The incorporation of computer tools is seen as an "added-value" to discourse analysis (Partington & Marchi, 2015, p.217). The nature of corpora, which are samples of texts selected to represent the target domain, allows for the

generalisation of findings, as they offer a much broader perspective than the analysis of a handful of texts (Gray & Biber, 2021, p.99). The reliability of the analyses is enhanced through the use of computer tools, which facilitate the analysis of text samples (Gray & Biber, 2021, p.99). The use of such tools eliminates the potential for researcher's bias of intuition in the results (Mautner, 2022, p.252), as the statistical calculations are not influenced by the researcher's subjective interpretation. Therefore, corpora allow to maintain a certain stance of objectivity throughout the analyses (Jones, 2019, p.40). However, even if such analysis types allow a greater level of objectivity, it is important to keep in mind that the researcher's work in CADS is not only looking and sharing the statistical findings of the corpora. The combination with discourse analysis and therefore close-reading of texts, implies that the researcher's subjectivity cannot completely be erased as their job is also to interpret the results by trying to find causes and consequences around them (Baker, 2006, p.2). It is therefore important for the researcher themselves to be aware of that but also for the readers of the study. Baker (2006, p.222) also argues that the findings made with the help of computerised tools will help achieve a better reliability in the research. Indeed, this can avoid the process of "cherry-picking", which means that the analyst will only take into account the findings that are favourable to their first hypotheses, in which a discourse analyst might fall in. Moreover, in order to generate findings that can be generalised, the corpus under study must be compiled in a representative manner (Gray & Biber, 2021, p.100), thus reflecting the discourse under study.

The combination of DS and CL in CADS automatically implies that the research is conducted through the lens of a triangulation (first coined by Newby, 1977), meaning that multiple methods of analysis or forms of data are adopted to answer one research question (Baker, 2006, p.16). It makes it easier to verify the validity of hypotheses, it grounds research findings in more convincing interpretations and explanations, and it gives researchers flexibility in responding to unanticipated issues and facets of their work.

Another characteristic of CADS, as well as other corpus-based research in the field of discourse analysis, is that this type of study is ideally suited for comparisons (Gray & Biber, 2021, p.101). It is "inherently comparative" because the only method of identifying and assessing the distinctive characteristics of a discourse type is to contrast it with other types (Partington & Marchi, 2015, p.223). In the majority of cases,

research utilising CL to investigate discourse has employed this comparison aspect to identify differences across distinct corpora under study. This process subsequently enables the differentiation of discourse types from one another (Mautner, 2022, p.259). However, similarities between corpora have often been overlooked (Partington, 2013, p.301). This reduces the objectivity and reliability of CADS research. As Partington (2013, p.302) explains that rather than striving for a "360-degree perspective" of the data, focusing on differences alone would create a blind spot. This implies that the initial objective should be to achieve a 180-degree visualisation. Consequently, the similarity search can introduce a new set of initial values into the data set, thereby enabling the researcher to set a higher bar for the "completeness" of the analysis from the outset. Looking at both similarities and differences among specific discourse types represented in different corpora "may offer some kind of counterbalance to the issues of cognitive bias" (Partington, 2013, p.302), because ignoring the other side of the spectrum could lead to conclusions that are not complete.

As seen above, CADS provide plenty of advantages to discourse analysis. However, some potential issues and flaws of this field should be raised (Baker, 2006, p.18). It is important to remember that most results generated by a corpus-based approach are "decontextualized examples of language". Conducting a more qualitative approach to the quantitative approach of CL is necessary to put back the examples into their contexts. It is also important to bear in mind that "corpus data does not interpret itself". It is the researcher's job to postulate reasons and consequences of the findings. These findings are interpretations of the researcher, it is important to keep in mind that bias might come into play and the results are open to contestation.

7.4. Previous studies in CADS

This section presents an overview of studies conducted in the field of CADS, with the objective of providing insights into the capabilities of CADS. This overview is inspired by a categorisation created by Partington & Marchi (2015, pp.219-225). Three categories are highlighted: socio-political discourses, comparisons cross discourse-types, and reflections on CADS methodologies. In accordance with this methodology, an attempt was made to categorise some of the various CADS studies.

The first category, which examines the use of CADS in socio-political discourses, has been the subject of extensive research. This branch of corpus studies is employed to examine the construction and representation of social and political phenomena in a society's cultural artefacts. Stubbs (1996) was one of the first to investigate the synergic use of CL and DA. In his study, he examined the discourse of sexual and gender difference in Baden-Powell's messages to guides and scouts by comparing different lexical patterns. Baker (2010) investigated discourse in a diachronic approach, looking at gendered terms. Macalister (2011) also examined gender constructions, but in the context of children's books, over a period of ninety years. Another significant contribution to the field is the Lancaster University project on the representations of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. Baker & McEnery (2005) investigated the type of discourse surrounding refugees and asylum seekers in UK newspapers and United Nations documents. Partington (2012) undertook an analysis of discourse surrounding antisemitism around the world. Duguid (2010) explored UK broadsheet journalistic style over time and how it became similar to its counterpart the tabloids in terms of informality and overt expressions of evaluation. Baker & al. (2013) conducted a study about how Islam and Muslims are represented in the British Press. Vincent (2019) examined the "rhetorical God gap" between election campaign speeches, between 1952 and 2008, from Democratic and Republican parties in the United States. Zottola (2021) investigated the semantic representation associated with transgender identities in a corpus of newspapers from the UK and Canada.

The second category of analysis is concerned with comparisons across different discourse types. In a study published in 2006, Bednarek compared two discourse types in newspapers: the discourse of tabloids and the discourse of broadsheets. The focus of the study was on the evaluation of the European Constitution. Furthermore, discourses from different countries and languages can be compared. For instance, Bayley & al. (2012) is also focusing on attitudes towards the EU in the media, but here on differences between the semantic constructions of citizenship and identity in the UK, France, and Italy. Biber & al. (1999) provide a comprehensive account of the lexical-grammatical features of four distinct macro-discourse types: conversation, fiction, newspaper language, and academic prose. The analyses are employed to infer a general grammar of English. This is the most

comprehensive and empirically supported description of the language to date. In 2012, Bednarek conducted a comparative analysis of the typical language features observed in US series and unscripted conversations.

Finally, the last category is concerned with the methodologies employed in CADS. Taylor's (2013) study came to the conclusion that similarity has often been overlooked in the field, with too much importance given to differences. In addition, Taylor (2012) sought to address the assertion that the concept of "absence" was also overlooked in CADS. To this end, he presented a series of strategies for addressing this criticism. Some experimental studies (e.g. Marchi & Taylor 2009) were conducted with the objective of exploring methods that would ensure that corpus-assisted processes, which often involve the handling of very large volumes of texts, are as transparent and accessible to other researchers as possible.

7.5. CADS and news discourse

Discourse studies on news media and more particularly on its discourse is largely prevalent. It is therefore not surprising that the media is the subject of considerable academic scrutiny, given its extensive reach, global influence and global location (Cotter, 2015, p.796).

News discourse can be defined as follows:

> [It is] a type of discourse pertaining to the production, dissemination and analysis of news, accessible discourse traditional media (eg, newspapers, radio and TV), or via digital media (eg, online news, podcasts, bulletins, blogs and feeds), in either a monomodal or a multimodal form. (Facchinetti, 2021, p.154)

The discourse of news media encompasses three key elements: "the news story, or spoken, written, or visual text; the process involved in producing the texts; and alignments to audience(s)" (Cotter, 2015, p.801). The "text" dimension has long been the primary focus of investigation, especially because it embeds "values and ideologies that impact and reflect the larger world". The "process" dimension, keeping in mind every participant, including the writers, subeditors, editors, publishers, sources, and customers (Facchinetti, 2021, p.156), has been subject to emerging interest over the past 15 years. The "audience" dimension incorporates the

consideration of the audience and the different linguistic and social meanings that follow as a result.

Media discourse can be analysed through a multitude of approaches. Indeed, news can both be the subject of a quantitative analysis, determining the raw numbers and frequencies to locate evidence that confirms or refutes theories, and a qualitative one, relying on non-numerical data to analyse content, context, and the multifaceted nature of language, including interviews, written documents, and audio and video recording (Facchinetti, 2015, p.157). CADS, combining a quantitative and qualitative approach, is therefore ideal for this type of domain. The abundance (Marchi, 2022, p.576) and easy availability (Gries, 2015, p.89) of news media in our society is also a great asset for this use of corpora.

METHODOLOGICAL PART

8. Data and methodology

This section is dedicated to the data presentation used in this MA thesis, as well as the methodology employed for the various analyses. Section 8.1 details the different corpora created for the analyses. It provides an overview of the newspapers used for data collection, the criteria for article selection, and specificities of the corpora. Section 8.2 outlines the methodological steps adopted in this research to analyse the data, followed by Section 8.3, which describes the software used. Section 8.4 addresses the limitations of the current methodology, and Section 8.5 explores the potential use of ChatGPT within the field of CADS.

8.1. The data

8.1.1. Newspapers presentation

8.1.1.1. Tabloids

Daily Express

The *Daily Express* is a British national daily newspaper that is categorised as a tabloid. A special edition is published on Sundays under the title *Sunday Express*. The newspaper is renowned for its sensational approach to news reporting, while also providing an extensive coverage of international events. Its first publication dates back to 1900 by Sir Arthur Pearson. The *Daily Express* has, since its creation, consistently appealed to a mass readership. By the end of the 20th century, the number of copies in circulation had reached approximately one million. Despite the newspaper is said to adopt an independent political stance, a poll conducted by Smith (2017) indicated that the *Daily Express* was perceived as a “very-right ring” newspaper. The poll, conducted by YouGov, sought to identify the political leanings of eight mainstream UK newspapers (*The Guardian, The Mirror, The Independent, The Times, The Telegraph, The Sun, The Daily Express, and The Daily Mail*) according to the views of the British public on the matter.

Daily Mail

The *Daily Mail* is a British national daily newspaper that is, like the *Daily Express*, categorised as a tabloid newspaper. It is regarded as one of the earliest UK

newspapers to adopt a strategy of popularising its coverage in order to appeal to a larger audience. The paper was founded in 1896 by Alfred Harmsworth. Since then, the *Daily Mail* has been distinguished by its independent editorial stance and its coverage of foreign news. In 2020, the *Daily Mail* was the highest paid circulation newspaper in the United Kingdom. The Yougov poll indicated that the *Daily Mail* is perceived as the most right-wing newspaper in Britain.

8.1.1.2. Broadsheets

The Guardian

The Guardian is a British national daily newspaper categorised as a broadsheet newspaper. *The Guardian* has long been acknowledged for its investigative journalism, objective issue analysis, literary and artistic coverage and criticism, and international reporting. *The Guardian* was first published in 1821, but under the name of *The Manchester Guardian*. *The Guardian*'s editorial stance is considered less conservative than the one of its main London competitors, namely *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*. Its reporting is also distinguished by a notable degree of independence. The YouGov poll indicated that *The Guardian* is perceived by the British public as the most left-wing newspaper in the country, occupying a position at the farthest left-end of the political spectrum. In contrast, the *Daily Mail* is seen as representing the opposite right-end of the spectrum.

The Independent

The Independent is a British national newspaper that is classified as a broadsheet newspaper. *The Independent* is well-known for its journalistic integrity. Additionally, the paper received considerable critical praise for its transparency in disclosing the sources of its articles and for its meticulous crediting of other newspapers and news agencies for borrowed coverage. *The Independent* was founded in 1986 by Andreas Whittam Smith, Matthew Symonds, and Stephen Glover. The circulation of *The Independent* exhibited a consistent decline, culminating in the publication of its final printed edition in 2016. From that point onwards, the newspaper transitioned to an exclusively online format. Its readership is comparable in size to that of *The Guardian*. According to YouGov's poll, The Independent is the only newspaper perceived as "broadly centrist", although with a slight leftward incline.

8.1.2. Newspapers and articles selection

In order to identify differences in the portrayal of the passing of the Queen in tabloid and broadsheet newspapers, four different newspapers have been selected for the creation of the corpora. The study aims to ascertain whether tabloids and broadsheets present differences in the portrayal of the passing of the Queen. For this reason, two tabloids, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*, and two broadsheets, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*, have been selected. Baker (2006, p.31) recommends that a pilot study should be conducted prior to the collection of data. This will assist the researcher in determining the type of texts that are available, as well as the ease with which the data can be obtained. The initial newspapers selection included the tabloid *The Sun* instead of the *Daily Express*. However, upon initiating the process of collecting headlines and articles, it became evident that the archives of *The Sun* were not readily accessible, rendering the collection process complicated. Consequently, the decision was made to switch newspapers in order to ease the process of collection.

The selection of headlines and articles was based on a specific period of time and the presence of specific words in the headlines. The period under analysis in this study covers the interval between 6 September 2022, the date on which Queen Elizabeth II appointed her last prime minister, Liz Truss, at Balmoral and raised concerns regarding her health, given that the appointment is topically made at Buckingham Palace, and 20 September 2022, the day following the Queen's funeral.

The first step included a preliminary examination of the different newspapers, and the articles published in the selected timeframe. Following this examination, it became evident that the volume of journalistic output was considerable, with even more articles produced for tabloids than for broadsheets. It was thus decided (in collaboration with my promotor) that the collection should be limited to a maximum of ten articles per day. In order to select articles, the headlines were examined for specific words, which were then used to select the corresponding articles. Boolean operators were used to select headlines containing the words "Queen" and/or "Elizabeth II".

A preliminary distinction between tabloids and broadsheets could be made by examining the headlines alone. In order to identify a sufficient number of headlines, particularly for *The Guardian*, it was necessary to conduct a more detailed examination

of the headlines. Not all the selected headlines contained the words “Queen” and/or “Elizabeth II.” Instead, they employed indirect references to the Queen. For instance:

1. *“She has been so strong” mourners gather at buckingham palace* (*The Guardian* 09/09/2022)
2. *Story of a crown: sapphire, pearls, ruby and diamond all tell a tale* (*The Guardian* 17/09/2022)

In contrast, headlines from tabloids were more direct with clear word references to the Queen. The selection of headlines was therefore easier for the tabloid newspapers. The different headlines and articles are collected in different Excel files[12], listed per date.

8.1.3. Description of the corpora

After collecting the data necessary for this study, the compilation on Excel allowed the creation of different corpora. I decided to create a corpus of Broadsheets HEADLINES (BrdH) and a corpus of Tabloids HEADLINES (TabH). Two other corpora are created, namely the Broadsheets ARTICLES (BrdA) corpus and the Tabloids ARTICLES (TabA) corpus. The corpora are detailed in the next table[13].

Table 8.1.3.1: Corpora data details (Broadsheets HEADLINES & Tabloids HEADLINES)

Corpus	Number of Tokens	Number of Types
Broadsheets HEADLINES	3,147	1,809
Tabloids HEADLINES	3,617	1,389

Table 8.1.3.2: Corpora data details (Broadsheets ARTICLES & Tabloids ARTICLES)

Corpus	Number of Tokens	Number of Types
Broadsheets ARTICLES	175,254	13,637
Tabloids ARTICLES	168,494	12,501

[12] The Excel files are available via a QR code in Appendix 1
[13] The final corpora are available via a QR code in Appendix 2

The BrdA corpus comprises 268 articles, while the TabA corpus contains 294 articles. The initial corpora collected for the headlines had to be subject to some modifications. The number of tokens in each corpus revealed a significant disparity between the BrdH corpus and the TabH corpus. In order to ensure the representativeness of the corpora, it is highly recommended that they be of equal size (Baker, 2006, p.27). Consequently, the number of headlines in the TabH corpus was reduced to ensure that the size of the corpora differed by no more than ten percent. In order to obtain comparable corpora, three headlines were deleted from the TabH corpus on a daily basis. The final number of headlines in the BrdH corpus is 268, while the TabH corpus contains 204 headlines. This indicates a first difference between the two corpora, with the TabH corpus having more words per headline than the BrdH corpus. However, this particularly appears to be a specificity of the *Daily Mail*, which displays 2,267 tokens for its headlines, while the *Daily Express* displays 1,383 tokens for all its headlines.

8.2. Methodological insights

The aim of this study is to examine the manner in which the death of Queen Elizabeth II was portrayed in the British press, employing a corpus-based methodology. The methodology employed in this research is designed to address the following research questions:

- How is the coverage of the Queen's passing linguistically portrayed in the British written press?
- What are the differences in the themes covered by tabloid and broadsheet newspapers?

The objectives derived from these research questions are as follows: to investigate the depiction of a significant event in the British written press; to use CADS to analyse the semantic language of newspapers; to compare the reporting of tabloids and broadsheets on a single event; and to identify the themes addressed in reporting the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

This study is situated within the field of CADS, thus employing a mixed-methods approach that incorporates both quantitative and qualitative insights. CADS involve analyses using corpus linguistics as well as traditional discourse analysis methods. In

this study, corpus linguistics methods were predominantly used over traditional discourse analysis techniques. More quantitative approaches were employed for frequency and keyword analyses, which were further supported by qualitative analysis through examining collocations and concordance lines.

The analysis employs a corpus-driven approach, characterised by an inductive methodology. The texts of headlines and articles serve as the primary objects of analysis in this study. As discussed in Section 7.5, news discourse can be examined through three different lenses: text, process, and audience. In this research, the primary focus is on the text itself, but it is analysed with consideration of the audience, thereby establishing connections between the two. While examining the process of news creation would have provided additional insights, access to this aspect was not available. A variety of analytical techniques will be employed. The analysis will be divided into two main sections. The first section will entail an examination of the headlines corpora (BrdH and TabH corpora), while the second section will focus on the articles corpora (BrdA and TabA corpora). The analysis will commence with a frequency analysis, entailing the analysis of frequency lists comprising all items of a given type within a corpus (e.g., all words, all nouns, all four-word sequences), with a count of how often each occurs (McEnery, 2013, p. 6). This will assist in the identification of the most frequently used words in each corpus. Subsequently, the results will be analysed thanks to collocation analyses in order to identify co-occurrence relationships between words or phrases (McEnery, 2013, p. 4). Moreover, both the HEADLINES and ARTICLES corpora will include a keyword analysis to identify words that are more frequent in the corpus under study than in a reference corpus (McEnery, 2013, p. 6). In this study, the reference corpus will first be the tabloid corpora, to identify keywords from the broadsheet corpora, and then inversely with the broadsheet corpora as reference corpora. These quantitative analyses will be complemented by qualitative analyses, including the examination of concordance lines, which display every instance of a specified word or other search term, along with a given amount of preceding and following context (McEnery, 2013, p. 4), as well as an examination of selected headlines and excerpts from articles. The settings used in each type of analysis will be further clarified in the results sections.

8.3. Lancsbox and Sigil

This study will make use of two distinct linguistic tools. The two linguistic tools to be employed in this study are Lancsbox (Brezina & al., 2021) and SIGIL (Baroni, M. and Evert, S.).

Lancsbox, which was developed at Lancaster University, will be the principal tool employed. The software package facilitates a range of language data and corpus analysis techniques, including concordance analysis via the KWIC (Key Word in Context) tool, frequency and keyword analyses using the Words tool, collocation analysis with the GraphColl tool, dispersion analysis through the Whelk tool, and N-grams analysis with the Ngram tool. In this study, the Words tool will be employed for keyword and frequency analyses, the GraphColl tool for collocation analyses, and the KWIC tool for the analysis of concordance lines.

The SIGIL software will be employed to facilitate a comparison of the frequencies observed in the corpora of varying sizes. A chi-square test will be employed to facilitate a comparison between the observed differences and the expected frequencies, thereby indicating whether the observed differences are statistically significant.

8.4. Limitations

It is, of course, possible to reflect on the methodology used and its application. It should be noted that this thesis is subject to certain limitations, primarily due to the constraints of space and time. Likewise, it might be suggested that the data collection could have been more exhaustive. The articles and headlines were randomly selected, which eliminates some of them that could have revealed other tendencies. Furthermore, the decision was taken to limit the analysis to two newspapers per newspaper type (broadsheets and tabloids). A comprehensive comparative analysis of broadsheets vs tabloids would require the inclusion of a larger number of newspapers within each category. In the course of the analyses, some selections were to some extent subjective, including the choice of nodes and keywords that were subsequently examined in greater detail. It is acknowledged that the selection of nodes and keywords may have influenced the results, and that alternative selections may have yielded different outcomes. It is important to note that the results cannot be fully

generalised, as they are influenced by the various selections made. Nevertheless, this offers valuable indications and insights into the observed tendencies in the newspapers.

8.5. ChatGPT, a new way of using CL techniques in discourse analysis?

Following consultation with my promoter, it was determined that an investigation into a new methodology for discourse analysis using CL techniques would be a worthwhile endeavour. The multitude of AI tools that have emerged in recent years may potentially serve as a new analytical tool for CADS. Indeed, the generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, which will be employed in this study, are chatbots that utilise natural language processing. The tool utilises extensive textual datasets, thereby enabling the retrieval of information from them. It was therefore hypothesised that ChatGPT might be able to assist discourse analysts in conducting CADS research. Consequently, the efficacy of ChatGPT will be evaluated by attempting to reproduce some of the general queries posed in the study.

Tests were conducted using the free version of ChatGPT 3.5. However, it was not possible to load the corpus into the chat box, as the number of words permitted in a single search exceeded the number of words allotted by the tool. My promoter, Prof. Fanny Meunier, who has access to ChatGPT-4o, proposed to assist me by conducting a series of tests designed to assess the efficacy of ChatGPT in this study. These preliminary tests only represent a small sample; a larger-scale investigation would be necessary to gain a full understanding of ChatGPT's potential for discourse analysis.

However, this is not the first attempt of investigating the use of ChatGPT in CADS. Curry & al. (2024) already addressed this question in a paper exploring the potential of generative artificial intelligence technology in corpus approaches to discourse studies. This paper presents a comparative analysis of the automated qualitative analysis approach employed by ChatGPT 4 with three previous studies in corpus-based discourse studies. The main aim was to try to replicate the analyses of these previous studies in order to see if ChatGPT would get the same results. The case studies encompass semantic categorisation of keywords, concordance analysis and function-to-form analysis. The findings indicate that ChatGPT exhibits constraints in undertaking automated qualitative analysis within corpus-based approaches to

discourse studies. The non-deterministic nature of the software, the lack of clarity in its analytical processes, and the unreliability of its results all serve to undermine its usability for corpus linguistics and discourse studies. While it is capable of producing effective qualitative analysis in certain instances, its current state presents material and theoretical limitations for research based on corpus approaches to discourse studies. It is however important to note that in most cases, ChatGPT was not asked to analyse the data/corpora from scratch. To illustrate this, in the second case study, where concordance lines were analysed, the prompt provided specific concordance lines comprising specific words generated by the CL tool in the initial study. The extraction of these data points was not a task assigned to ChatGPT. The objective was to identify and categorise specific themes within the concordance lines. The themes were provided by the analysts who identified them in the preliminary study. In this instance, the objective was to ascertain the manner in which Islam and homosexuality were connected in the articles published in UK newspapers. This is an initial indication that the researchers in the initial study were required to provide. In the present study, ChatGPT was asked to analyse the articles and headlines in their original form, without any indication of the themes that were to be identified. The results of case study 2 indicate that ChatGPT is not particularly useful or helpful in this type of analysis. It may therefore be assumed that a study of this nature would be even less suitable to a positive use of ChatGPT in discourse analysis, given the even larger context that will be provided to the AI tool.

PRACTICAL PART

9. Analysing the data - HEADLINES corpora

The following sections are dedicated to the analysis of the HEADLINES corpora (BrdH corpus and TabH corpus) using a CADS approach. Section 9.1 is dedicated to a first preliminary analysis of the corpora by examining and comparing their type/token ratios. The type/token ratio refers to “the average number of tokens per type” (Baker, 2006, p.52). The outcome of this ratio is useful in indicating whether a corpus or discourse type is linguistically complex or not, and whether the language under study is specific or not. Section 9.2 is dedicated to a frequency analysis of both corpora, as a first entry in the data to identify possible similarities between them. This analysis is first conducted on a quantitative basis, as frequencies are analysed. These first findings are then subjected to a more qualitative analysis through the use of collocation and concordance analyses, which enable a more detailed examination of the headlines under study. Section 9.3 is dedicated to a keyword analysis of both corpora. This step is implemented in order to find possible differences between the two corpora. The results produced by the keyword analysis are further analysed, as in section 9.2, through the implementation of a more qualitative approach to the data. These two main analyses will assist in the identification of any differences or similarities in the linguistic portrayal of the death of Queen Elizabeth II between the two types of newspapers.

9.1. Type/token ratio

As previously stated, the type/token ratio can provide insights into the complexity and specificity of the corpus under study. The type/token ratio is calculated by dividing the number of types by the number of tokens in the corpus, and then expressing the result as a percentage. According to Baker (2006, p.52), a low type/token ratio indicates that a “narrow range of subjects are being discussed”. Furthermore, this may also suggest that the language used is “relatively simplistic”. In contrast, a high type/token ratio suggests that a “more diverse form of language” is used.

A comparison of the BrdH and TabH corpora reveals that the BrdH corpus exhibits a higher type/token ratio (57.48) than the TabH corpus (38.40). This already suggests that the TabH corpus is more repetitive than the BrdH corpus, either by

frequently using the same words or by repeatedly addressing similar topics. A further comparison can be made with the type/token ratios of general English corpora. The FLOB corpus of British English, which encompasses a diverse range of written texts from different genres, exhibits a type/token ratio of 45.53. This shows that the ratio of the BrdH corpus is higher than that of a general corpus of written language. A sample of transcribed informal spoken conversation from the British National Corpus (BNC) exhibits a type/token ratio of 32.96. The TabH corpus can be situated between the FLOB and BNC corpora, thus demonstrating a position between the more formal language with more unique words of written language and the more informal language using lexical repetitiveness of the spoken language. An interesting correlation can be drawn from the language nature of broadsheets and tabloids (as seen in section 6.7). The hypothesis that newspaper language tends to imitate oral discourse in order to appeal to specific audiences is confirmed here. Readers of broadsheets are more accustomed to formal language, whereas tabloids readers would feel more concerned if the language used is more akin to the practices of oral discourse. The type/token ratio of the TabH corpus is closer than the one of a corpus of spoken English, while the ratio of the BrdH is even higher than the one of a corpus of general written English.

9.2. Frequency analysis

The first approach adopted in the analysis of the HEADLINES corpora is a frequency analysis. As Baker (2006, p.47) asserts, the generation of word lists (i.e. lists of all the words in a corpus along with their frequencies) represents a “good starting point for the analysis of any type of corpus”. However, this represents merely the initial stage of the analysis. Although word lists can, when used with sensitivity, identify a variety of phenomena, it is not sufficient to limit the findings to this stage. Further investigation of the corpus under study is necessary.

When launching both the BrdH and TabH corpora into the Words tool of Lancsbox, it was observed that the majority of the most frequent words were part of a closed category of “function words”. As the main objective of this study is to identify the themes addressed in the British press in relation to the portrayal of the Queen’s death, these types of words are not particularly informative as they “tend not to be subject to linguistic innovation” (Baker, 2006, p.53). In order to identify specific themes, a focus is made on words that could be considered to have a clear semantic meaning.

In this case, the focus is made on lexical words and more specifically on nouns. Therefore, the standard parameters of Lancsbox were changed. The filter “type” was changed into “lemma”. This allows the categorisation of the corpus into parts of speech. To only generate nouns, the filter “*_n” was applied. The following table shows the word list generated by Lancsbox for the 20 most frequent nouns of the BrdH corpus.

Table 9.2.1: Word list of 20 most frequent nouns (BrdH corpus)

	Nodes	**Raw Frequency**	**Relative Frequency (per 10K)**
1	*queen*	146	463.9340
2	*queen’s*	104	330.4735
3	*elizabeth*	41	130.2828
4	*funeral*	40	127.1052
5	*death*	39	123.9275
6	*tribute*	24	76.2631
7	*ii*	19	60.3750
8	*state*	18	57.1973
9	*king*	14	44.4868
10	*coffin*	14	44.4868
11	*queue*	13	41.3092
12	*day*	13	41.3092
13	*ii’s*	12	38.1315
14	*charles*	12	38.1315
15	*mourner*	12	38.1315
16	*westminster*	11	34.9539
17	*london*	10	31.7763
18	*palace*	10	31.7763
19	*people*	9	28.5987
20	*respect*	9	28.5987

It is not surprising that *queen* is the most frequent noun in the BrdH corpus, given that it was one of the key terms used to select headlines for data collection. The nodes *queen's* and *elizabeth*, as well as *ii* and *ii's* are also a consequence of the criteria used for the corpus collection. The other nodes present in the list are not surprising either, as many of them can be placed within the semantic field of "death". Nouns such as *funeral*, *death*, *coffin*, and *mourner* are part of this category. The nodes *tribute* and *respect* can also be closely associated with the semantic field of "death", but here they are linked to the reactions generated by the news. The node *queue* can initially be surprising due to the nature of the event, but it is also linked to *tribute* and *respect*. Indeed, when collecting the headlines, a large part of them were referring to people queuing in order to pay their last respects to the Queen by visiting her coffin before her funeral. The nodes *westminster*, *london*, and *palace* all refer to important locations linked to the Queen's death. The nodes *state*, *king*, and *charles* can be categorised as words part of the protocol and more formal consequences of the event. However, this has to be confirmed by further investigation, as the node *charles* might also refer to his personal life and reaction to the Queen's death. The two nodes *day* and *people* are more general in nature and would also necessitate further research to ascertain their meanings.

The next step to identify possible similarities between the BrdH corpus and TabH corpus is to generate the word list for the TabH corpus. The 20 most frequent nouns from the TabH corpus are presented in the next table.

Table 9.2.2: Word list of 20 most frequent nouns (TabH corpus)

	Nodes	**Raw Frequency**	**Relative Frequency (per 10K)**
1	*queen*	130	359.4139
2	*death*	24	66.3533
3	*queen's*	21	58.0400
4	*tribute*	20	55.2944
5	*elizabeth*	19	52.5297
6	*funeral*	19	52.5297
7	*coffin*	18	49.7650

8	*truss*	15	41.4708
9	*royal*	14	38.7061
10	*prince*	13	35.9414
11	*state*	13	35.9414
12	*day*	12	33.1767
13	*mourner*	12	33.1767
14	*balmoral*	11	30.4119
15	*liz*	11	30.4119
16	*windsor*	9	24.8825
17	*palace*	9	24.8825
18	*service*	9	24.8825
19	*westminster*	9	24.8825
20	*monarch*	9	24.8825

Once again, the most frequent nodes in the TabH corpus are the nouns *queen*, *queen's*, and *elizabeth* due to the selection criteria of headlines. A comparison with the BrdH corpus reveals that the node *ii* is absent among the 20 most frequent nouns in the TabH corpus. A verification was conducted on Lancsbox, and the node *ii* was also identified among the most frequent nouns of the TabH corpus, with a raw frequency of 8 hits and a relative frequency of 22.1178. This indicates that the node *ii* is not entirely absent from the TabH corpus, but rather appears less frequently than in the BrdH corpus. This may suggest that tabloids just refer to the Queen by the term "Queen" and/or "Queen Elizabeth" and/or simply "Elizabeth", rather than by mentioning "ii" (the second), which could be indicative of a more informal tone. Similar categories to those identified in the BrdH corpus can be established for the TabH corpus. Firstly, the semantic group linked to the concept of "death" is also present in the TabH corpus, with nodes such as *death*, *funeral*, *coffin*, *mourner*, and *service*. Furthermore, the node *tribute* is also present in the TabH corpus, which indicates the public's responses to the announcement of the Queen's death. Additionally, the nodes *balmoral*, *windsor*, *palace*, and *westminster* are also present to refer to important locations linked to the event. The nodes *truss*, *royal*, *prince*, *state*, and *liz* can also be linked to more formal

consequences of the event. Once again, it would be beneficial to further investigate this topic, as discussing well-known figures in a newspaper may result in the dissemination of information that is designed to attract readers, such as “people” rubrics. The data collection enabled the acknowledgement that Liz Truss was often mentioned in headlines published on the days preceding the Queen’s death. This occurred when her appointment took place at Balmoral, a location that broke with the long-standing tradition of prime minister appointments taking place at Buckingham Palace. The node *monarch* appears to be used as a synonym of Queen. As in the BrdH corpus, the node *day* is present but would need further investigation to understand its implication around the discourse surrounding the Queen’s death.

The frequency lists provide a first insight into the data, enabling the identification of recurring themes across both corpora. Nevertheless, an examination of nouns in isolation from their contexts is insufficient to draw conclusions about the discourse type of each respective corpus. Consequently, a more in-depth qualitative analysis of the data is required. The main objective of this frequency analysis is to identify potential similarities between the two corpora. To achieve this, it has been determined that a more detailed examination of some nouns present in both corpora is necessary. For this aim, the following nodes were selected for further analysis: *tribute*, *mourner*, and *state*. The nodes for further analysis were selected using a combination of subjective and random criteria. Some nodes were chosen due to their apparent importance within the context of this study, while others, initially appearing less central, were included to avoid cherry-picking and to ensure a comprehensive analysis. This approach aimed to uncover potentially interesting elements that could contribute to the overall analysis. This selection procedure was consistently applied to all nodes considered for further examination. They will first be compared in terms of frequency in both corpora. Subsequently, collocation analyses will be conducted in order to determine which words tend to co-occur with them. The nature of collocations, being words that significantly co-occur together, can be useful for revealing information about the meaning of lexical items, how they are used, and how they interact (Price, 2022, p. 59). A collocation analysis implies the choice of a specific association measure. According to Brezina (2018, p.67), association measures are “statistical measures that calculate the strength of association between words based on different aspects of the co-occurrence relationship”. For this study, it was decided to use the MI

score (Mutual Information) as an association measure. This choice was made in order to identify collocations that are rare and exclusive. This will generate results of collocates that might only appear once in the corpus but almost exclusively in the company of the analysed node. All subsequent collocation analyses will adhere to the same parameters: 3b-MI (3), L5-R5. The standard settings used for the MI score were retained in most cases. Function words were excluded from the analysis of collocates, as they are not considered conveying semantic information. To this end, the filters "lemma" followed by "*_n|*_adj|*_v", allowing the extraction of nominal, adjectival, and verbal collocates, were employed. Concordance analyses will also be performed if further clarification is needed.

9.2.1. Analysis of the node *tribute*

The node *tribute* has a raw frequency of 24 hits (relative frequency: 76.2631) in the BrdH corpus, and a raw frequency of 20 hits (relative frequency: 55.2944) in the TabH corpus. In order to compare these frequencies, a chi-square test was performed to see whether the difference is statistically different. The test was conducted thanks to the SIGIL tool. The result obtained shows that the difference between both frequencies is not significant[14]. This shows that the theme of tribute to the queen is proportionally similarly present in both corpora. This theme might therefore be a similarity in the portrayal of the Queen's death by both broadsheets and tabloids. However, it might be interesting to see if both corpora use the node *tribute* in the same contexts, it is therefore interesting to look at the collocations of both nodes.

Collocation analysis of *tribute* (BrdH corpus)

Results of the collocation analysis of the node *tribute* in the BrdH corpus are listed in the following table.

Table 9.2.1.1: Verbal and nominal collocates of *tribute* (BrdH corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*pay*	13
Nouns	*queen*	15

[14] See Appendix 3 for more details

The collocates of *tribute* are clearly linked to the event of the death of the Queen. It can be observed that the verbal collocate *pay* is used in the common phrase "to pay tribute to someone", that is used to praise someone. This indicates that the reactions to the death of the Queen in the British press were predominantly positive. The collocate *queen* indicates the identity of the person being praised. As Baker (2006, p.119) asserts, collocations can provide a valuable insight into the discourse under study. However, a closer examination of the concordance lines is also necessary to gain a deeper understanding of the context surrounding the node and identify any semantic preferences and patterns that might have been overlooked by the collocation analysis. A review of the concordance lines confirmed the pattern[15]. It is possible to identify the different persons or organisations paying tribute to the Queen. This confirmed that she was an appreciated figure and that her life is remembered in a positive way.

Collocation analysis of tribute (TabH corpus)

The results yielded for the collocates of the node *tribute* in the TabH corpus are listed in the following table.

Table 9.2.1.2: Verbal and nominal collocates of *tribute* (TabH corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*pay*	6
Nouns	*queen*	10

The collocates of *tribute* in the TabH corpus are comparable to those in the BrdH corpus. On first examination, it appears that both newspapers use tribute similarly. This can be further explored by examining the concordance lines, which provide interesting insights. As in the BrdH corpus, different organisations and personalities are praising the Queen for her life and reign. Nevertheless, the TabH corpus displays a greater emphasis on emotionality, which is a common feature of tabloids (see section 6.7). In contrast, headlines in the BrdH corpus tend to be more

[15] When concordance lines are being examined without illustration in the text, the concordance lines are available via QR code in Appendix 4.

neutral. The following table lists a selection of concordance lines of the node *tribute* in both corpora.

Table 9.2.1.3: Concordance lines of *tribute* (BrdH corpus and TabH corpus)

No		Concordances	
	BrdH corpus		
1	Royal website	*tribute*	to the Queen
2	new meaning in pictures: How football paid	*tribute*	to the Queen on Tuesday
	TabH corpus		
3	Julie Andrews shares a heartfelt	*tribute*	to the Queen following her death
4	fans in tears as they pay first	*tribute*	to the Queen at Westminster Hall

The TabH corpus reveals that the words “heartfelt” and “fans in tears” indicate that tabloids headlines are emotionally loaded. In contrast, the headlines of broadsheets do not show that emotional emphasis and maintain a neutral stance.

9.2.2. Analysis of the node *mourner*

The node *mourner* is present in the BrdH corpus with a raw frequency of 12 hits (relative frequency: 38.1315), and present in the TabH corpus with a raw frequency of 12 hits (relative frequency 33.1767). A chi-square test was used to compare the frequencies. The results show that there is no statistically significant difference between both corpora[16]. The term is therefore proportionally used in broadsheets as in tabloids. A further analysis of the node, conducted through collocational analysis and the concordance lines, could prove to be beneficial.

Collocation analysis of *mourner* (BrdH corpus)

Results from the collocation analysis of the node *mourner* in the BrdH corpus are listed in the following table. The results being rather few, the threshold value was

[16] See Appendix 5 for more details

changed to three, meaning that the collocation has to be present a minimum three times in the corpus to be part of the selection.

Table 9.2.2.1: Verbal and nominal collocates of *mourner* (BrdH corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*see*	3
Nouns	*tribute*	3
	queen's	4

The collocates assist in further understanding the tendency for words to co-occur with the node *mourner*. The term is associated with the noun *tribute*, which is likely linked to mourners" desire to pay tribute to the Queen. The collocates *see* and *queen's* had to be further investigated in the concordance lines. *Queen's* is usually used when talking about "the Queen's funeral" or "the Queen's service" and is associated with the mourners who participate in these events. The verbal collocate *see* is associated with mourners coming to view the Queen, or her coffin, for the last time.

Collocation analysis of *mourner* (TabH corpus)

The collocation analysis of *mourner* in the TabH corpus yielded the results presented in the following table. In order to obtain some results, the threshold has been lowered to three.

Table 9.2.2.2: Verbal and nominal collocates of *mourner* (TabH corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*queue*	3
Nouns	*queen*	4
	coffin	4

The verbal collocate *queue* refers to a recurrent topic that could be identified while collecting the headlines. It seems that this collocate is a reference to the queue of mourners who wish to pay their last respects to the Queen. In this queue, mourners are waiting to see the Queen's *coffin*, which explains the presence of the collocate in

the list. The queue has highly been emphasised in the tabloids. The length of the queue and tips to “survive” it were prominent focuses of the tabloid coverage.

The collocation analysis of the node mourner in both corpora reveals that the newspapers tend to present the Queen’s death positively. The indication of the presence of mourners demonstrated a pervasive sentiment of grief and a desire to pay respects to the late Queen.

9.2.3. Analysis of the node *state*

The node *state* has a raw frequency of 18 hits (relative frequency: 57,1973) in the BrdH corpus, and a raw frequency of 13 hits (relative frequency: 35,9414) in the TabH corpus. A chi-square test with SIGIL was performed to compare the frequencies. As for the nodes *tribute* and *mourner*, the results yielded indicate that the frequency difference is not significant[17]. A further investigation of the node, using a collocation analysis and examining concordance lines, might reveal patterns that would differentiate the use of the node in both corpora.

Collocation analysis of *state* (BrdH corpus)

The collocation analysis of the node state in the BrdH corpus generated the collocates listed in the following table.

Table 9.2.3.1: Verbal and nominal collocates of *state* (BrdH corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*lie*	11
Nouns	*queen’s*	11
	queen	7
	funeral	5

The collocate *funeral* is likely indicative of the fact that state funerals were held in honour of the Queen. The collocates *queen’s* and *queen* are not unexpected, given that headlines are not long texts and that the span window of the collocation is five on

[17] See Appendix 6 for more details

the right and left side of the node, and that the presence of the word queen was one of the conditions to collect the headline.

The verbal collocate *lie* is used, in all eleven collocation cases, in the phrase “to lie in state”. This phrase is used when the dead body of an important person is displayed to the public, who can honour the person before the burial. This refers to the period between 14 September and 19 September, during which the Queen’s coffin was placed at Westminster Hall. The queue to see the coffin is also a prominent topic in the headlines, referring to the lying-in-state of the Queen. The hypothesis that the nodes *state* and *funeral* largely co-occur together, referring to the state funeral organised for the Queen, is confirmed by the concordance lines.

Collocation analysis of *state* (TabH corpus)

The collocation analysis ran for the node *state* in the TabH corpus yielded the results presented in the following table.

Table 9.2.3.2: Verbal and nominal collocates of *state* (TabH corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*lie*	6
Nouns	*queen*	8

A limited number of collocations were identified for the node *state* in the TabH corpus. It can be observed that the collocates are similar to those of the BrdH corpus, with *lie* probably being a reference to the phrase “to lie in state”. While the collocate *queen* is also part of the collocates, as the individual being referenced in the context of the lying-in-state period is the Queen. The concordance lines will also be examined in order to confirm these hypotheses.

The concordance lines confirm the hypotheses, the node *lie* also refers to the lying-in-state period and the node *queen* is associated with *state* as a reference to the funeral. Regarding the concordance lines of the node *mourner*, it can be observed that the broad themes evoked in the headlines are similar. However, their respective descriptions of events differ. The BrdH corpus remains more neutral and will share rather general facts, while the TabH is more emotionally loaded and will share facts with lesser importance or refer to elements that will try to catch the reader’s attention.

Which confirms the statements of Kitis & Milapedes (1997) and Gries (2011) as mentioned in section 6.7. The concordance lines presented in the following table illustrate this phenomenon.

Table 9.2.3.3: Concordance lines of *state* (BrdH corpus and TabH corpus)

No		Concordances	
	BrdH corpus		
1	Mourners begin queuing for Queen's lying in	*state*	in London two days early
2	monarchs from around the world to attend Queen's	*state*	funeral
	TabH corpus		
3	choirboy singing his heart out at Queen's	*state*	funeral
4	Echo of Diana with flowers scattered on	*state*	hearse: Queen's funeral evoked memories of 25 years ago

A comparison of the concordance lines listed in the table reveals that tabloids will also share less "general" news as those of broadsheets. In line 3, there is a reference to a choirboy, which, at first glance, appears to be a relatively non-essential piece of information. However, it can be categorised as entertainment news. A similar observation can be made with the evocation of Diana in line 4. Tabloids may attempt to evoke memories and emotions in their readers in order to make them read the article.

Key takeaways

The frequency analysis comparing the BrdH and TabH corpora revealed that headlines in both broadsheets and tabloids tend to present similar overarching themes when reporting on the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The headlines are mostly concerned with the different events that surrounded the Queen's death, including her funeral, the outpouring of grief that followed the announcement, and the rather positive retrospective on the Queen's life and reign. The three nodes (*tribute*, *mourner*, and *state*) enabled a further investigation of the data. It was observed that, while both

broadsheets and tabloids tend to present the same information, their focus and selection of information connected to it differ. This appears to be in line with the research on tabloids, which implies that tabloids articles and headlines are designed in order to appeal to a specific audience. The sharing of emotionally loaded details might increase the reader's desire to read the article.

9.3. Keyword analysis

The second phase of analysis of this MA thesis is to conduct a keyword analysis opposing the BrdH corpus with the TabH corpus in order to identify possible differences in their discourse surrounding the Queen's death. This corpus linguistics method enables the identification of words that occur statistically more often in a corpus when compared to another corpus (Baker, 2006, p.125). The BrdH and TabH corpora were uploaded to Lancsbox's Words tool. The BrdH corpus was used as the study corpus, while the TabH corpus served as the reference corpus. In accordance with the recommendations set forth by Brezina (2018, p.85), the keyword statistic measure used to generate the keyword lists was "simple maths".

Once the two corpora are merged into the Words tool, three lists are created: one positive keywords list (i.e. unusually frequent words in the study corpus in relation to the reference corpus), one lockwords list (i.e. shared words between both corpus), and one negative keywords list (i.e. words that are absent or statistically unusual from the study corpus in relation to the reference corpus). As previously stated by Scott (1999, cited in Baker, 2006, p.127), keyword lists are generally composed of three types of words. Firstly, it is probable that they will contain proper nouns. Secondly, they may contain high-frequency grammatical words. Such words tend to be more indicative of style. Finally, the list will include a number of "aboutness" keywords. These keywords provide insight into the discourse under study and are the most pertinent for analysis. Lexical words, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, are generally the most common type of word in this context. In the following keyword analysis, it was decided to only generate a list of nominal keywords only, for the same reasons as for the frequency analysis. The filters "lemma" and "*_n" were applied into Lancsbox to generate nominal keywords. Other lexical words, such as verbs and adjectives, could have been further investigated, but this is not possible due to time and space constraints on the paper.

9.3.1. Keywords (BrdH corpus)

The first step of the analysis was to select 15 positive keywords generated for the BrdH corpus among the 50 first. The selection was made by excluding proper nouns, and a second subjective selection where it was decided to focus on 15 keywords that seemed interesting and relevant in the scope of this study. Once again, it would have been better to analyse a higher number of keywords, but due to time and space constraints, the selection had to be limited. The selection of 15 keywords is listed in the following table.

Table 9.3.1.1: List of 15 keywords (BrdH corpus)

	Nodes	Raw Frequency	Relative Frequency (per 10K)
1	*people*	9	28.5986
2	*duty*	5	19.0657
3	*procession*	5	19.0657
4	*archbishop*	4	12.7106
5	*britain's*	4	12.7106
6	*example*	3	9.5329
7	*mourning*	3	9.5329
8	*burial*	2	6.3552
9	*dissent*	2	6.3552
10	*country*	2	6.3552
11	*counsel*	2	6.3552
12	*affection*	2	6.3552
13	*anger*	2	6.3552
14	*ritual*	2	6.3552
15	*tradition*	2	6.3552

This selection of 15 keywords from the BrdH corpus provides insight into the keyness of the corpus. When examining the different keywords, several thematic groups seem to emerge. A first group, which includes the nodes *example* and *duty*, alludes to the concept of role models and responsibilities exemplified by the late

Queen. The nodes *procession*, *archbishop*, and *burial* can be grouped under the theme of religion, and more specifically Christianity. A third category can be created with the nodes *britain's*, *country*, and *counsel*, which can be grouped and put in relation to the organisation of the country, a more formal and organisational aspect of the event. The nodes *mourning*, *affection*, and *anger* can form a fourth group under the theme of emotional reactions. These can be linked to the death of the Queen directly or to other events surrounding it. A last and fifth group can be created, associating the nodes *ritual* and *tradition*. Finally, the nodes *people* and *dissent* do not fit into the aforementioned categories and also would require further clarification to fully comprehend their meanings in context. It is important to note that these groupings are subjective and were not conducted looking at the words in context. Further investigations would be necessary to produce a comprehensive study, but in the case of this study, only some of the selected keywords will be further analysed. The analysis will focus on two key groups and two additional keywords: the "religious" group, the *ritual* and *tradition* group, as well as on *dissent* and *people*.

The following analyses combine collocation analyses with the examination of concordance lines. The same parameters as used in the collocation analyses of the frequency analysis (see section 9.2) will be employed. The only adaptation was the threshold that was reduced to two. Should any parameters have been altered, this will be noted in the course of the analysis.

Collocation analysis of the "religious" group (*archbishop*, *burial*, and *procession*)

A collocation analysis was performed with the help of the Words tool and generated the results listed in the following table. The three different nodes were integrated together in the tool to generate a common collocations list, using the search archbishop|burial|procession. The results yielded by the collocation analysis are not particularly revealing. The collocates of the "religious" group are mainly function words. The only lexical word yielded is the collocate *queen's*. The nature of headlines is probably the problem in this situation. The space constraints imposed on headlines do not allow the presence of a lot of words, and therefore no significant collocations can be identified. We might look at the concordance lines to find further information. The concordance lines of the three nodes are listed in the following table.

Table 9.3.1.2: Concordance lines of the religious group (*archbishop*|*burial*|*procession*)

No		Concordances	
1	/	*archbishop*	of York greets people queuing to see
2	16 flights to “ensure silence” for Queen’s	*procession*	/
3	behind portrait of Queen paints her funeral	*procession*	/
4	“We will meet again”,	*archbishop*	tells mourners at Queen’s funeral
5	was wonderful example of Christian life, says	*archbishop*	/
6	say why they came to Queen’s	*procession*	/
7	Prince Andrew joins Queen	*procession*	amid concern over stand-in role
8	to be followed by Windsor service and	*burial*	next to Philip
9	not want “long, boring” funeral says former	*archbishop*	of York
10	to host final royal service before Queen’s	*burial*	/
11	farewells: Queen’s corgis and pony attend funeral	*procession*	/

It is important to highlight that for concordance lines number 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, and 11, the “/” symbol indicates that the beginning or ending of the concordance lines are merged with other headlines. Consequently, it was decided to exclude them from the table to prevent the intermingling of disparate headlines, which could potentially lead to confusion. The concordance lines do not show any specific or surprising pattern when analysing these nodes. The only observation that can be made is that terms with religious connotations are used in the headlines.

Collocation analysis of the *ritual* and *tradition* group (*ritual* and *tradition*)

Once more, the collocation analysis of the two keywords (*ritual* and *tradition*) yielded no noteworthy results. Instead, the concordance lines are being analysed. The following table lists the concordance lines displaying the keywords *ritual* and *tradition*.

Table 9.3.1.3: Concordance lines of the *ritual* and *tradition* group (ritual|tradition)

No		Concordances	
1	Queen's funeral will be "living	*tradition*	in action"
2	A	*ritual*	of life: In mourning the Queen we
3	/	*ritual*	is important - why and how we are
4	Can you be both keen on	*tradition*	and open to change? Well that sounds

Once again, the concordance lines fail to yield any particularly noteworthy insights into the BrdH corpus discourse. The concordance lines offer further context surrounding the keywords, but no new insights. It can be observed that the notions of ritual and tradition are prominent themes in the broadsheets. However, the tradition that represents the monarchy in the UK is also a topic of discussion (see line 4). This prompts a reflection on the headlines discourse of the broadsheets. This initiates a reflexive process in the readers. Furthermore, it is foregrounded that ritual plays an essential role within the context of the monarchy (as evidenced in line 3).

Collocation analysis of the keyword *dissent*

The low number of instances of the keyword dissent in the corpus, coupled with the relatively small of the headlines corpus, once more made it challenging to generate any revealing collocates. As for the previous keywords, the concordance lines are subjected to closer examination

Table 9.3.1.4: Concordance lines with *dissent* keyword

No		Concordances	
1	Hong Kong, public grief over Queen doubles as	*dissent*	/

2	Applause, affection and	*dissent*	: Edinburgh greets Queen's cortege and proclamation of

The concordance lines indicate that the keyword *dissent* is used in relation with "nations" that have a significant affiliation with the Queen and England. Hong Kong is a former British colony, whereas Scotland is a "country" part of the United Kingdom. It is possible that both might demonstrate some ambiguous reactions to the death of the Queen. As evidenced by previous studies (Unruh, 2023) on the death of the Queen (see section 5.2), Irish people exhibited a contradictory response, displaying a combination of sadness and celebration. This ambiguous reaction is exemplified by a similar situation in Scotland in the second concordance line. Probably because some Scots show a degree of respect and empathy in relation to the Queen's death, while others might rejoice. The case of the first concordance line with Hong Kong is somewhat more complex. The headline in its entirety is as follows: "In Hong Kong, public grief over the Queen doubles as dissent". The dissent expressed here is ambiguous. In order to enlighten the analysis, a focus on the article linked to the headline was made. The reading of the article reveals that citizens of Hong Kong used the death of the Queen and the ensuing period of mourning as a means of expressing their discontent with the government. In contrast to other former British colonies, Hong Kong saw the British presence as something positive, particularly in comparison to the current government. The expression of grief thus serves as a clear message to the governing entities.

Collocation analysis of the keyword *people*

The collocation analysis of the keyword *people* generated three verbal collocates. They can be found in the following table.

Table 9.3.1.5: Verbal collocates of *people*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*use*	2
	see	2
	queue	2

The collocate *queue* is certainly a reference to the people queuing to see the Queen, as evidenced by the frequency analysis. The remaining collocates are vaguer and require further investigation through the concordance lines.

Table 9.3.1.6: Concordance lines with the collocates *use*, *see*, and *queue*

No		Concordances	
1	Archbishop of York greets	*people*	**queuing** to **see** Queen lying-in-state
2	259	*people*	**queuing** for Queen's lying in state needed
3	Scammers **use** Queen's death to trick	*people*	into crypto and NFT schemes
4	/	*people*	asked not to **use** Paddington toys or
5	and a visit from the King: the	*people*	waiting all night to **see** the Queen

The concordance lines indicate that the node *people* and its verbal collocates are employed to describe the public's desire to see the Queen and pay their last respects. The queue to see the coffin is once again discussed in these instances. Lines 3 and 4 serve to highlight other themes. Line number 3 refers to the presence of scammers and the potential dangers that they represent. Consequently, there is an intention to inform the audience of potential dangers. Line 4 makes a reference to the Queen's appearance in a sketch with the famous bear Paddington. The sketch was filmed as part of the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The sketch revealed the Queen's sense of humour and contributed to her closeness to the public. The reference to this sketch in the context of the Queen's mourning indicates that she has retained a presence in the public consciousness, which imbues it with a somewhat endearing and childlike quality. This image of the Queen evokes a sense of fondness and familiarity.

9.3.2. Keywords (TabH corpus)

The same selection procedure as in section 9.3.1. was followed in order to create the following table of the 15 keywords from the TabH corpus.

Table 9.3.2.1: List of 15 keywords (TabH corpus)

	Nodes	Raw Frequency	Relative Frequency (per 10K)
1	*grandmother*	5	11.0589
2	*friend*	3	8.2942
3	*appearance*	3	8.2942
4	*face*	3	8.2942
5	*star*	3	8.2942
6	*dress*	2	5.5295
7	*look*	2	5.5295
8	*hero*	2	5.5295
9	*activist*	2	5.5295
10	*protest*	2	5.5295
11	*rant*	2	5.5295
12	*humour*	2	5.5295
13	*joke*	2	5.5295
14	*change*	2	5.5295
15	*privilege*	2	5.5295

As for the keywords from the BrdH corpus, the selected TabH keywords provide insights into the keyness of the corpus, indicating which words are more salient in the TabH corpus when compared with the BrdH corpus. Once more, it is possible to group the keywords into certain themes and categories. A first group is made of the keywords *grandmother* and *friend*, which can be classified under the “private life” or “close circle” category. This may be intended to provide readers with insights into the private lives of the protagonists featured in tabloid headlines, thereby creating a sense of eagerness and curiosity. The keywords *appearance*, *face*, *dress*, and *look* can be grouped under the theme of “physical appearance”. This appears to be a recurring theme in tabloids, with a particular focus on style and physical appearance. A third group is that related to “special people”, with the nodes *star* and *hero*. Here again, the sensationalism foregrounded by tabloids is evident. *Activist*, *protest*, and *rant* might also form one group, with *activist* and *protest* clearly standing together and *rant* that

can be associated with that type of event. However, this relates to a first hypothesis. When looking at the concordance lines, it was made clear that *rant* was not linked to protest but to either someone delivering an "anti-royal rant" on TV or to a politician expressing a rant about "racist empires". This shows a degree of defiance towards the Queen and the monarchy, as well as the former presence of the British Empire. A fourth group is constituted by the nodes *humour* and *joke*, which convey a sense of lightness in the context of the death of the Queen. The final two keywords, *change* and *privilege*, are not bound to any categories and would need further investigation to get their meanings in context. As for the BrdH corpus, some keywords have been selected for further analysis. The following analyses will focus on the "private circle" and "physical appearance" groups, as well as the keywords *change* and *privilege*.

The following collocations will follow the same parameters as those adopted in the collocation analysis of the BrdH corpus (see section 9.3.1).

Collocation analysis of the "private circle" group (*grandmother* and *friend*)

The results yielded by the collocation analysis of the "private circle" group from the TabH corpus are displayed in the following table. The number of collocates being rather few, further analysis through the examination of concordance lines will be conducted.

Table 9.3.2.2: Adjectival and nominal collocates for the "private circle" group (*grandmother*|*friend*)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*beloved*	3
Nouns	*queen*	2

One hypothesis would be that the keyword *grandmother* is used to refer to the Queen, whose figure could be considered the grandmother of the country. It could also refer to her "real" role as grandmother with her grandchildren. The keyword *friend* might refer to the Queen's circle of friends, although this is somewhat unclear without context. The collocates indicate that once again the keywords are in relation to the Queen, but this is also due to the context of the collection of the headline. The adjectival collocate indicates a positive image, of someone who was loved and

respected. The concordance lines of *grandmother* and *friend* are presented in the following table.

Table 9.3.2.3: Concordance lines of the "private circle" group (*grandmother*|*friend*)

No		Concordances	
1	room filled with nods to her great-great	*grandmother*	Queen Victoria- including her portrait and candelabras
2	Tears for a beloved mother and	*grandmother*	heartbroken royals led by Princess Anne, Prince Edward
3	downcast committal service for her beloved	*grandmother*	/
4	Queen's grandchildren join forces to honour beloved	*grandmother*	/
5	It feels as though we lost a	*friend*	Julie Andrews shares a heartfelt tribute to
6	Unearthed letter written by Queen to a	*friend*	in 1945 offers fascinating insight
7	reveals their children are turning to new	*friends*	for support

The collocate *beloved* is confirmed to be used with *grandmother* and indicates that she was a much-loved figure within the family. This illustrates the necessity for tabloids to create emotion in their readers, thereby influencing their willingness to engage with the content of the article. The keyword *friend* is employed in different ways. It once used to refer to the Queen, with the homage of Julie Andrews, who regarded the Queen as a friend. The two other instances refer to other people, rather than the Queen. Line 6 provides insight into the Queen's personal life, as we might have access to a personal letter that she wrote. This again piques the audience's curiosity, prompting them to read further.

Collocation analysis of the "physical appearance" group (*appearance*, *face*, *dress*, and *look*)

The results of the collocation analysis of the "physical appearance" group (*appearance*, *face*, *dress*, and *look*) are not particularly illuminating with regard to the discourse of the TabH corpus. The collocates are primarily function words. The only

lexical words that were identified were the verb *to be* and the noun *queen*. In this instance, an examination of the concordance lines could potentially yield more insight into the usage of the keywords associated with the “physical appearance” group. The following table lists the concordance lines generated for the keywords *appearance*, *face*, *dress*, and *look*.

Table 9.3.2.4: Concordance lines of the *appearance*, *face*, *dress*, and *look*

No		Concordances	
1	sketches reveals conspiracy theorists thought the monarch’s	*appearance*	in the afternoon tea clip was a deepfake
2	with a clergyman and never missed an	*appearance*	by her favourite TV weatherman, writes RICHARD
3	all-black ensemble as she makes a surprise	*appearance*	at the Queen’s funeral as part of
4	Sophie’s	*face*	etched with pain: The Countess of Wessex
5	Moment bandsman is flicked in the	*face*	by a horse’s swishing tail
6	New coins featuring King CHarles III’s	*face*	may be strikingly different to Queen’s England
7	are they funny or disrespectful? Take a	*look*	and judge for yourself…
8	the Queen when she was crowned? A	*look*	back at her coronation
9	with Diamond Knot brooch and beautiful black	*dress*	/
10	The royal	*dress*	code formalised by the Queen- protocol all

The concordance lines demonstrate that the initial hypothesis that the selected keywords were references to the physical appearance is invalid. The keyword *appearance* is not limited to the physical characteristics of an individual, but rather encompasses the presence of the person in question. The keyword *face* is not used in the sense of the physical appearance, but rather in reference to the part of the body. The keyword *look* is not a reference to fashion or clothes, but rather to the act of

examining something. The only keyword that is explicitly associated with physical appearance and fashion is *dress*. In this instance, the newspaper seems to focus on the clothes that people wear at the Queen's funeral, or perhaps more specifically, on the "dress code" that has characterised the Queen's life. Upon examining the overall tendencies of the headlines, it becomes evident that the themes associated with the Queen and her death are rather unpredictable. The emotional state of the characters is frequently emphasised, as in line 4, where the portrayal of Anne's emotional response is depicted. Additionally, references to television are also evident. Furthermore, references to Paddington are also present, as in the BrdH corpus.

Collocation analysis of the keyword *change*

As was the case previously, the collocation analysis did not prove to be revealing, as no results were returned from the collocation analysis of the keyword *change* in the TabH corpus. Consequently, the concordance lines were subjected to further examination. The following table presents the concordance lines of change.

Table 8.3.2.5: Concordance lines with *change* keyword

No		Concordances	
1	Game of Homes!: It's all	*change*	for The Royals as Prince William inherits
2	Camilla may wear insect brooch to signify	*change*	and honour Queen's "onward journey"

It is important to note that tabloids have placed considerable emphasis on the impending changes following the Queen's death. In line 1, attention is directed towards the Queen's real estate and how the Royal Family inherited it. Line 2 references a brooch worn by Camilla. A closer examination of the article reveals a deeper significance behind the headline: the brooch, featuring a moth, symbolizes change and renewal in the wake of the Queen's passing.

Collocation analysis of the keyword *privilege*

The collocation analysis of the keyword *privilege* in the TabH corpus generated one collocate. The details are presented in the next table.

Table 9.3.2.6: Adjectival collocate of the keyword *privilege*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*special*	2

The adjectival collocate “special” implies the collocation “special privilege.” It is interesting to note that a privilege is defined as an advantage that an individual or group possesses as a result of their position or wealth. This is already a distinctive phenomenon, but here it is further enhanced by the adjective “special,” which serves to qualify and augment its distinctive character. A review of the concordance lines may assist in clarifying the nature of this privilege.

Table 9.3.2.7: Concordance lines with the keyword *privilege*

No		Concordances	
1	Edinburgh to see the Queen’s coffin describe	*privilege*	of paying their respects- with Cathedral set
2	Only Fools and Horses star details special	*privilege*	Queen received with Christmas special

It can be observed that *privilege* is used in two distinct ways. Line 1 illustrates the privilege experienced by British people witnessing the funeral procession of the Queen. The sense of privilege in this context is not contingent on the social position or affluence of the individuals present. Rather, they perceive themselves to be in a privileged position to experience and participate in this historical event. The second concordance line is not easy to understand at first sight. In this case, the sense of privilege is derived from one’s position or wealth. A closer examination of the article in question reveals that the television programme “Only Fools and Horses” is a British production, and that the Queen was granted special access to the Christmas episodes.

Key takeaways

The keyword analyses conducted on both corpora enabled the identification of the keyness of each corpus. The saliency of specific words in the corpora allowed a comparison of the discourse surrounding the Queen’s death in the BrdH and TabH corpora. The keywords of the BrdH corpus yielded different thematic groups, including

Christianity, formal organisation, tradition, emotional responses, and role model. A more detailed examination of specific keywords allowed a more traditional approach, based on close reading, to discourse analysis. It was observed that Christianity plays a significant role in the lives of the Queen and the Royal Family. The Archbishop of York was particularly salient in the BrdH corpus, with no references to him in the TabH corpus. Furthermore, the tradition and rituals surrounding the Queen's life represent a distinctive feature in the BrdH corpus. However, readers are encouraged to engage in reflection on this tradition. Consequently, the objective of broadsheets seems to be to prompt their readers to engage in critical thinking. In general, the BrdH corpus foregrounds a greater number of political and international themes. The keyword "dissent" is particularly prevalent in relation to Scotland and Hong Kong, as well as the power of the British Empire. The keywords from TabH also revealed a variety of thematic subjects, including those pertaining to private life, special people, humour, protest and activists. The analysis of some keywords of the TabH corpus also yielded significant insights into the discourse under study. It can be observed that tabloids tend to present information in a manner that will stimulate the reader's interest and curiosity. For instance, this is achieved by providing access to the Queen's more private life. Her role as a grandmother also suggests that she is accessible and approachable, which is beneficial for her public image. To encourage engagement with the newspaper, numerous references to celebrities are made. It was also notable that a significant number of the articles under consideration were concerned with matters pertaining to television and personalities associated with the television industry. Furthermore, emotions are frequently foregrounded. The themes addressed are rather random and not so serious. It is also noteworthy that the keyword *change* from the TabH list was in opposition to the keywords *tradition* and *ritual* from the BrdH corpus. It is worth mentioning that proper nouns were not subjected to analysis in this section. However, some were present in the keywords lists from the corpora, with a greater prevalence in the TabH corpus than in the BrdH corpus. The names were frequently those of members of the royal family and other celebrities. This may serve to reinforce the perception of the tabloids as a vehicle for disseminating gossip, people, and sensationalist content.

However, the results exposed here have to be taken cautiously, as the corpora are of a relatively small size. This is a non-exhaustive study, and other patterns might

be revealed in a larger scale analysis. Moreover, the collocations generated, when possible, have to be taken cautiously, as headlines are specific types of text and are bound to journalistic constraints on size. Their main objective is to attract the reader's attention. We can see in this case that broadsheets and tabloids do not present the information in the same way. This can be linked to the different types of audiences that are targeted by both newspapers. The collocations were therefore few, as few words were "available" in one headline. The previous sections of the analysis demonstrate that it might not be straightforward or particularly engaging to analyse headlines using corpus linguistics techniques only.

10. Analysing the data - ARTICLES corpora

The following sections are devoted to the analysis of the ARTICLES corpora (BrdA corpus and TabA corpus). They will be analysed thanks to corpus linguistics techniques and thanks to punctual focuses on the texts in their entirety, allowing more traditional discourse analysis approaches. The same procedure as for the analysis of the HEADLINES corpora will be adopted. Details are therefore not always going to be repeated, as the methodology was outlined in section 9. The present section is divided into three further subsections. Section 10.1. is devoted to preliminary analysis of the corpora by examining the type/token ratios of both corpora. Section 10.2. deals with frequency analyses of both corpora accompanied by collocations analyses and the examination of concordance lines. The aim of this section is to discover potential similarities between both corpora. Lastly, section 10.3. is dedicated to keyword analyses of both corpora also accompanied by punctual collocation analyses and examinations of concordance lines. The objective of this section is to identify potential differences between both corpora.

10.1. Type/token ratio

A comparison of the type/token ratios of the BrdA and TabA corpora reveals that their ratios are similar, with 7.78 for the BrdA corpus, and 7.42 for the TabH corpus. It is interesting to note that the ratios are particularly low. This is normally a synonym of a poor lexical diversity, with a low range of vocabulary diversity. However, type/token ratios are more appropriate for small corpora that are under 5,000 words (Baker, 2006, p.52). The larger a corpus is, the lower the type/token ratio will be. In

this instance the type/token ratios are not particularly relevant except for telling us that the corpora have a similar vocabulary diversity and complexity. This stands in contrast to the type/token ratios of the HEADLINES corpora, which showed a higher ratio for the BrdH corpus than for the TabH corpus.

10.2. Frequency analysis

The first phase in the comparison of the ARTICLES corpora is to conduct a frequency analysis. When the two corpora were downloaded in the Words tool, the most frequent words appearing were function words. To extract the most frequent nouns, the filters “lemma” and “*_n” were applied. This process is undertaken in order to determine which themes are foregrounded by both newspapers when reporting on the Queen’s passing. The following table displays the word list of the 20 most frequent nouns generated for the BrdA corpus.

Table 10.2.1: Word list of 20 most frequent nouns (BrdA corpus)

Nodes	Raw Frequency	Relative Frequency (per 10K)
queen	1,346	76.8028
queen’s	686	39.1432
king	517	29.5001
people	491	28.0165
state	486	27.7312
funeral	467	26.6471
coffin	411	23.4517
day	404	23.0523
service	397	22.6528
time	376	21.4546
westminster	359	20.4845
family	350	19.9711
london	340	19.4004
palace	320	18.2592

elizabeth	311	17.7457
death	311	17.7457
royal	297	16.9468
prince	295	16.8327
charles	281	16.0338
year	279	15.9197

With regard to the BrdH corpus, it is notable that some of the most frequent nouns are related to the Queen herself (*queen*, *queen's*, and *elizabeth*). This is to be expected, given that she is the subject of the present case study. Similarly, nouns associated with the thematic field of "death" are represented in the list, including *funeral*, *coffin*, *service*, and *death*. Some nouns seem to refer to other members of the Royal Family, such as *king*, *family*, *prince*, and *charles*. In this instance, *royal* is used as a noun, rather than as an adjective, given that the results were filtered to extract nouns. The term is therefore probably used as a way to refer to members of the Royal Family, talking about "royals". Furthermore, the corpus appears to contain locations that provide additional insight into the context of events, including *westminster*, *london*, and *palace*. Similarly, some nouns pertaining to temporal concepts are also observed, including *time*, *day*, and *year*. The nouns *people* and *state* are also highly present in the BrdA corpus. These are rather general terms, and further analyses might help better grasping their meanings. The next phase of analysis is the generation of a list of the 20 most frequent nouns from the TabA corpus. The word list generated for the TabA corpus is presented in the next table.

Table 10.2.2: Word list of 20 most frequent nouns (TabA corpus)

Nodes	Raw Frequency	Relative Frequency (per 10K)
queen	1,617	95.9678
prince	496	29.4372
king	480	28.4877
royal	475	28.1909
people	452	26.8259

time	407	24.1552
day	401	23.7991
family	395	23.4429
state	385	22.8495
coffin	384	22.7901
palace	379	22.4934
funeral	364	21.6032
monarch	361	21.4251
year	352	20.8909
charles	347	20.5942
elizabeth	332	19.7039
westminster	320	18.9918
service	316	18.7544
majesty	304	18.0422
london	282	16.7365

Once again, the most frequent noun in the TabA corpus is *queen*. Other nouns from the word list are also referring to the late Queen, such as *monarch*, *elizabeth*, and *majesty*. The nodes *prince*, *king*, *royal*, *family*, and *charles* all refer to members of the Royal Family. As the main theme is the reporting of the death of the Queen, words related to the semantic field of “death” are present, such as the nodes *coffin*, *funeral*, and *service*. Another category that seems to emerge from the TabA corpus, that is the one giving details about specific locations linked to the event, such as the nodes *palace*, *westminster*, and *london*. In the same vein, nouns related to time details such as the nodes *time*, *day*, and *year*. Just as in the BrdA corpus, two nodes are standing out of the previous categories, namely *people* and *state*.

After generating and commenting on the two word lists, a comparison can now be made. It is significant that both word lists exhibit a high degree of overlap in the nouns they contain. A slight discrepancy in frequency is observed, as the items do not occupy the same position in the list. The nodes *queen’s* and *death* are present in the BrdA corpus but absent from the TabA corpus. Conversely, the nodes *monarch* and

majesty are present in the TabA corpus but absent from the BrdA corpus. However, this observation is based solely on the examination of the 20 most frequent nouns. Upon examining the data set beyond the 20 most frequent nouns, *monarch* emerges in the BrdA corpus with a raw frequency of 247 hits (relative frequency: 14.0938) in the 24th position. The node *majesty* subsequently appears in 48th position with a raw frequency of 155 hits (relative frequency: 8.8443). In TabA corpus, the *death* is also present in 22nd position with a raw frequency of 274 (relative frequency: 16.2617), while *queen's* is also present in 29th position with a raw frequency of 218 hits (relative frequency: 12.9382).

It may be interesting to closely examine the nodes that display some frequency differences. My attention was drawn to the uses of the nodes *monarch* and *majesty*. It can be posited that these terms are being employed as a means of referring to the Queen. It would be of interest to ascertain the reasons behind the tendency of the TabA corpus to utilise these nouns to a slightly greater extent than the BrdA corpus, and to investigate whether they are indeed used as synonyms of "Queen". Firstly, a comparison of their frequencies using a chi-square test might reveal if the difference is statistically different. The results of the chi-square test for the node *monarch* indicate that the difference is statistically different ($p<.001$)[18] between both corpora. This indicates that the TabA corpus tends to use the term more frequently than in the BrdA corpus. A brief examination of the concordance lines for the node was conducted in both corpora in order to identify emerging patterns surrounding it, determining whether they are used in a similar manner and context. The concordance lines revealed that *monarch* is mostly used as a synonym of *queen* in both corpora. These nodes are accompanied by references to her long reign, such as "the longest-serving queen" or "the longest-reigning queen". In the TabA corpus the term monarch is often accompanied by her age when she died such as "the 96-year-old monarch". The role of a monarch appears to be more accentuated in the BrdA corpus in comparison to the TabA corpus. Additionally, the term "monarch" is employed in both corpora to denote individuals other than the Queen. For example, the term is used to refer to other monarchs and leaders of the world who attend the funeral or paying tribute to the late Queen. Additionally, *monarch* was used with greater frequency in the TabA corpus when referring to Charles as the new monarch, as evidenced by an overview

[18] See Appendix 7 for more details

of the concordance lines. Moreover, the TabA corpus contains references to specific monarchs who were present at the funeral. For instance, the monarch of Spain was present. Some observations were made regarding her outfit. It can be concluded that there are no fundamental differences in the use of the term “monarch” in the corpora under study, even though the TabA corpus contains a greater number of instances.

The second node that could be used as a reference to the Queen is *majesty*. A chi-square test was also performed to identify if the difference is statistically significant. The results showed that the node *majesty* is statistically more frequent ($p<0.001$)[19] in the TabA corpus than in the BrdA corpus. It is noteworthy that *majesty* appears to be less neutral than the use of “Queen” or “monarch”, when used alone or in structures such as “Her Majesty the Queen”. However, this can be verified within the corpus to identify whether it is employed in isolation or within more specific structures. The structure “Her Majesty the Queen” seems to be more used in oral discourse than in written journalistic texts. However, this remains a hypothesis that requires further investigation. A review of the concordance lines from the BrdA corpus indicates that instances of majesty are predominantly employed in the context of reported speech, thereby substantiating the hypothesis that the node is more prevalent in oral than in written discourse. The concordance lines of the TabA corpus also demonstrate that a considerable number of instances of the node *majesty* are present in cases of reported speech. Nevertheless, a considerable number of instances also occur in a plain article text written by a journalist. Additionally, while gathering the data, it was observed that articles from tabloids frequently employ a large quantity of reported speech. This is evident in their coverage of reactions to the Queen’s passing, which primarily focuses on the statements made by individuals, regardless of their fame or notoriety. This approach may be a strategy to enhance the tabloids” proximity to their target audience.

As we have seen, the two word lists generated for the BrdA and TabA corpora are really similar. However, some differences or even further similarities might be identified when looking closely at some of the words, to see how they work in context. It was decided to further analyse the nodes *king*, *family*, *royal*, *prince*, and *charles* as

[19] See Appendix 8 for more details

part of a group linked to the Royal Family, as well as the node people separately from the previously mentioned nodes.

10.2.1. Analysis of the nodes *king*, *family*, *royal*, *prince*, and *charles*

As a first step in the comparison between the two corpora, chi-square tests were conducted to identify whether some of the selected nodes are more prevalent in one corpus than in the other. The results[20] indicate there is a statistically significant difference between the BrdA and TabA corpora for the nodes *family* ($p < .05$), *royal* ($p < .001$), and *prince* ($p < .001$). All these nodes are statistically more frequent in the TabA corpus than in the BrdA corpus. In contrast, the nodes *king* and *charles* are not statistically significant between the two corpora, showing that they are used in a relatively similar frequency in each corpus. These findings may reflect the tendency of tabloid newspapers to prioritise coverage of news related to individuals, as opposed to other members of the royal family. As for the references to king and charles, they are used proportionally, showing that both broadsheets and tabloids gave importance to this personality. The next step in comparing the corpora is to compare the context of the nodes thanks to collocation analyses and the examination of concordance lines. Due to time and space limitations, only the nodes that had a statistical difference between the corpora were further analysed (*family*, *royal*, and *prince*). The settings for the collocation analyses are the same as the ones used in section 8.2.: (3b-MI(3), L3-R3). Once again, only lexical words (adjectives, verbs, and nouns) will be considered in the analysis.

Collocation analysis of *family*, *royal*, *prince* (BrdA corpus)

The results generated by Lancsbox for the collocation analysis of the node family are presented in the next table. In order to obtain a list of results that was more manageable to analyse within the scope of this study, the collocation threshold was changed from five to eight.

[20] See Appendices 9, 10, and 11 for more details

Table 10.2.1.1: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of *family* (BrdA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*royal*	180
	other	8
Verbs	*include*	12
Nouns	*member*	29
	queen's	17
	royal	17

It is not surprising to see that the adjective *royal* is part of the frequent results as it is more than probably used to refer to the Royal Family. It is noteworthy that *royal* appears in the list as both an adjective and a noun. A quick examination of the concordance lines reveals that most instances where *royal* is annotated as a noun by Lancsbox, are those where the word is written with a capital letter. *Member* is similarly used, which is not entirely unexpected given that it is likely to refer to the members of the Royal Family. The adjective *other* might be interesting as well, as it might be referring to other families. The concordance lines of the collocate *other* are listed in the following table.

Table 10.2.1.2: Concordance line of the collocate *other* (BrdA corpus)

No		Concordances	
1	service and Epsom Derby, although **other** royal	*family*	members turned out in force. In May,
2	with the King, Queen Consort and **other**	*family*	members watching, before being carried to the
3	posed by individuals infatuated with the royal	*family*	and **other** public figures is so significant
4	could project their grief for **other** losses:	*family*	and friends. Someone whose longevity had suggested
5	state, representatives and members of the royal	*family*	of **other** countries who have gone to
6	finally passed, with the King and **other**	*family*	members behind, there was a crush to

7	across the globe joined with the royal	*family*	and **other** mourners at the Queen's state
8	royal family– grieving like so many **other**	*families*	who have lost loved ones recently– but

It can be observed that the node *other* is frequently used in reference to other members of the Royal Family. Furthermore, it is employed to convey a sense of collective sorrow, as evidenced by line 7. Lines 4 and 6 are of particular interest as they appear to portray the Royal Family in a more humanised light. Line 8 suggests that the Royal Family is akin to any other family that is grieving the loss of a loved one. Line 4 was subjected to further analysis, with an extract of the text provided below to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding.

> From the stairs, people slowly walked down until they were level with the coffin itself. Then they stopped, lost in thought. For both the queen and what she represented. Not just her qualities of duty and service, but also as the nation's matriarch. The ultimate mother figure. Someone who had been an unconscious psychological support for so many people. A tabula rasa on whom they could pin their own hopes and fears. And on whom they could project their grief for other losses: family and friends.

It is of interest to observe the way the Queen is described and the emotionally powerful role she played for the nation. The loss of the Queen is like losing a rock, an emotional anchor. Following the analysis of the node *family*, the subsequent stage is to undertake a further analysis of the node *royal*. The collocation analysis of the node *royal*, with a threshold of five, yielded the results presented in the following table.

Table 10.2.1.3: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of *royal* (BrdA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*senior*	11
	non-working	7
	european	6
	key	5
	other	5
Verbs	*be*	12

	have	7
Nouns	*president*	6
	figure	5

It is noteworthy, that one of the most frequent collocates is the adjective *senior*, which can also be accompanied by the node *non-working*. The senior/non-working royals are members of the Royal Family like Prince Andrew, Princess Anne or the Duke and Duchess of Sussex (Harry and Meghan). The adjective *european* refers to other European royals who have paid tribute to the Queen or are going to take part in the ceremonies surrounding the funeral. The collocates *key* and *figure* are referring to other prominent personalities who will be present for the funeral. President is referring to presidents that were standing alongside other prominent figures at the funeral. The collocation analysis of the node prince generated the following results. The threshold was set at eight in order to lower the number of nouns in the list and make it manageable to analyse.

Table 10.2.1.4: Nominal collocates of *prince* (BrdA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Nouns	*wales*	56
	prince	44
	philip	39
	william	38
	andrew	38
	princess	37
	harry	25
	charles	25
	edward	19
	husband	15
	philip's	13
	mohammed	12

	crown	11
	funeral	11
	anne	10
	vigil	9
	child	8

The collocation analysis of the node *prince* only yielded nominal collocates. Most of these instances represent further qualifications of the term “prince,” often accompanied by the name of the individual holding the title. Many of the names are to be expected as they refer to other members of the British Royal Family. The node *princess* is also present, as *prince* and *princess* are probably used together. The node *husband* is a collocate of *prince* as a way of further qualifying Prince Philip. The node *mohammed* is somewhat unexpected in the list of collocates, given that no princes of the British Royal Family are named in this way. The concordance lines indicate that his attendance at the Queen’s funeral was a matter of considerable controversy. Although there were rumours suggesting otherwise, he ultimately did not attend. His attendance sparked controversy, as it was seen as an attempt to obscure Saudi Arabia’s human rights record. This shows that broadsheets report on international affairs and politics. The node *vigil* is referring to the “Vigil of the Princes”, a traditional ceremony where members of the British royal family stand guard over the coffin of a deceased monarch or close family member during the lying-in-state period.

Collocation analysis of *family*, *royal*, *prince* (TabA corpus)

The results of the collocation analysis of the node family in the TabA corpus are presented in the following table. The threshold was established at eight.

Table 10.2.1.5: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of *family* (TabA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*royal*	76
Verbs	*include*	17
	lead	11
Nouns	*royal*	156

	member	30
	time	13
	nation	10
	friend	8

As in the BrdA corpus, collocates such as *royal* and *member* are present in the table probably referring to the Royal Family and its members. The node *friend* might provide insight into the nature of the TabA corpus. When examining the concordance lines, it becomes evident that the collocate is often used in the combination “family and friends of the Queen”. This suggests a subtle focus on the Queen’s friends, indicating an incursion into her private life and portraying her as a more relatable, close human being. The next step is analysing the collocates of the node *royal* in the TabA corpus. The results generated by Lancsbox are displayed in the next table. The threshold was set to five.

Table 10.2.1.6: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of *royal* (TabA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*senior*	14
	other	13
	longer	5
Verbs	*join*	5
	walk	5
	attend	5
	will	5
Nouns	*working*	5

As observed in the BrdA corpus, collocates of *royal* are *senior* and *working*, referring to royals such as Prince Andrew, Princess Anne, or the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. The verbal collocates foreground that the royals were present at the funeral and other ceremonies surrounding the Queen’s death. The adjectival collocate *longer* refers to “no longer working royals”. This is particularly pertinent to the case of Harry, who is no longer a working royal and thus was not normally entitled to wear a military

uniform. Subsequently, a more detailed examination of the node *prince* will be conducted. The results of the collocation analysis conducted on the TabA corpus are presented in the following table. The threshold was once again set at eight.

Table 10.2.1.7: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of *prince* (TabA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Nouns	*william*	96
	philip	65
	harry	64
	wales	59
	princess	54
	andrew	53
	charles	45
	prince	44
	edward	29
	george	28
	child	20
	kate	18
	husband	16
	louis	14
	brother	14
	meghan	13
	charlotte	12
	albert	11
	funeral	9
	sophie	8
	son	8
Adjectives	*new*	15
	late	10

	young	8

The list generated is predominantly composed of nouns. These are mainly the names of people holding the title of prince. The presence of feminine names can also be observed. They are probably often used in the same context as *prince*. This indicates that tabloids accord a significant degree of importance to news items pertaining to members of the British Royal Family. The list was similar in the BrdA corpus, but it appears to be a more prominent feature in the TabA corpus.

10.2.2. Analysis of the node *people*

The first stage of the comparison is to perform a chi-square test in order to ascertain whether the frequency of use of a particular term is greater in one corpus than in the other. The results of the test indicate that the observed difference is not statistically significant[21]. It can therefore be concluded that *people* is used in a similar proportion in both corpora, indicating no discernible pattern that would suggest a significant difference in discourse between the broadsheets and tabloids. Nevertheless, to further analyse the node in context, collocation analyses will be conducted using the same parameters as in section 9.2. Should further qualitative analysis be deemed necessary, concordance lines will be examined.

Collocation analysis of *people* (BrdA corpus)

The results of the collocations analysis of the node *people* in the BrdA corpus are presented in the following table. In order to minimise the number of collocates and identify the most frequent ones, the threshold was set to ten.

Table 10.2.2.1: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of people (BrdA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*many*	39
Verbs	*have*	51
	pay	18
	expect	15
	want	12

[21] See Appendix 12 for more details

	queue	11
	warn	10
	gather	10
Nouns	*thousand*	22
	england	10

The results indicate that the node *people* is frequently associated with words suggesting a large quantity, such as the collocates *many* and *thousand*. The node *queue* is, in this instance, also synonymous with a large number of people. The node *expect* is also associated with this large crowd of people, as it pertains to the anticipated number of individuals. The verb *gather* suggests a sense of collective unity and convergence among those mourning the Queen. It is noteworthy that the node *warn* also emerged in the previous analysis of the BrdH corpus, where it was identified as a notable feature. The following table displays the concordance lines of the collocate *warn*.

Table 10.2.2.2: Concordance lines of people with the collocate warn (BrdA corpus)

No		Concordances	
1	I remember my mother **warning** me that	*people*	thought men knew more than women; that
2	attend the Queen's lying in state, **warning**	*people*	that they can expect long queues and
3	to queue to attend. On Monday night	*people*	were **warned** not to wait or camp
4	that the official guidance **warned** that some	*people*	with medical conditions might have to wait
5	mitigate that." Guidance released previously has **warned**	*people*	that they should be silent inside parliament
6	such a long queue, officials have **warned**	*people*	to be prepared. Along with portable toilets
7	September. The Bank of England has **warned**	*people*	to expect long queues at its headquarters
8	only limited destinations, mostly within the M25.	*people*	have been **warned** to avoid driving in

9	officials prepared to close it. Thousands of	*people*	defied a **warning** from the Department for
10	Culture, Media & Sport's queue tracker **warned**	*people*	not to travel to join the back
11	was 14 hours. The Government has **warned**	*people*	to dress for all weather, and for

The majority of the concordance lines are associated with the queue that has formed to see the Queen's lying in state. It can be stated with certainty that the queue to see the resting Queen was a significant topic for broadsheets, which sought to share information regarding the safety precautions that should be observed. It was also interesting to give a look at the concordance lines of the node *england*. This prompted my attention, as I was curious as to why England was referred to as a standalone entity, rather than as part of the United Kingdom. Indeed, the term is employed on several occasions when referring to "all the people of England" and "all the people of the United Kingdom." However, this was not a stylistic choice made by the newspapers, as it was generally used in reported speech. This is not a factor that should be considered in the context of broadsheet discourse.

Collocation analysis of *people* (TabA corpus)

As in the collocation analysis of the BrdA corpus, the threshold was set at ten in order to get results that were manageable to analyse and to get the most frequent and therefore representative ones. The results of the collocation analysis of people in the TabA corpus are presented in the next table.

Table 10.2.2.3: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of people (TabA corpus)

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*many*	29
	more	10
Verbs	*have*	45
	expect	14
	can	12
	queue	11

	leave	10
	see	10
Nouns	*thousand*	32
	number	12
	world	11

As for the collocates of people in the BrdA corpus, it seems that the number of people involved in the ceremonies linked to the death of the Queen is a recurrent phenomenon with the presence of the nodes *many*, *more*, *queue*, *thousand*, and *number*. The collocate world refers to the people all around the world and their reactions to the Queen's death. We can see that tabloids present this event as something having a worldwide impact. The verbal node *leave* is referring to flowers and other objects that people left in front of Buckingham Palace following the announcement of the Queen's death.

Key takeaways

Following the frequency and collocation analyses, as well as punctual more qualitative analyses of the corpora, which involved the examination of concordance lines, it can be stated that the most frequent words in each corpus are highly similar. These similarities can be observed in references to members of the Royal Family, references to different events and themes associated with death, the Queen herself of course, as well as time and locational indications. It can be observed that tabloids might tend to use a discourse closer to oral discourse, as evidenced by the use of "Her majesty the Queen". This is likely to be a strategy employed to attract a specific readership, who may be more concerned by this type of discourse. However, it is also evident that the articles from the TabA corpus contain a considerable amount of reported speech, and which reveals that it is not the type of writing of the newspaper that is implied. Additionally, no striking differences of uses in the nodes that were further examined (*family*, *prince*, *royal*, and *people*) were observed. However, further analyses allowed us to get further insight into their specific uses and what they imply in both types of discourse. References to other members of the Royal Family are a common theme in both corpora. However, it seems to be more prominent in the TabA corpus. This is linked with their desire to entertain and create a type of "people" press.

The articles collectively convey a sense of profound collective grief. It can be observed that the broadsheets are more inclined to address international affairs and their implications than the tabloids are, in the context of the death of the Queen. This can be observed, for instance, in the evocation of Prince Mohammed of Saudi Arabia and the implications that his presence would entail. The TabA corpus also evinces a proximity to the Queen, yet this is more pronounced than that observed in the BrdA corpus. The articles also refer to the Queen's family and friends, which may be seen as a way of entering a more private sphere. In both corpora, the high number of people present in the streets following the Queen's death is a prominent feature. Both corpora demonstrate how this event can facilitate the formation of a collective identity, characterised by a shared sense of grief. Further analysis of the BrdA corpus revealed that the broadsheets aimed to provide information about the event, while also issuing warnings about the potential difficulties and problems that could arise if a large number of people were present. They advised caution. This is more than mere information and reporting; it is a far more distant approach to the entertainment value of news, as exemplified by tabloids. In the TabA corpus, the high number of people was even more foregrounded, with numerous references to the items left in front of Buckingham Palace in order to pay tribute to the late Queen.

10.3. Keyword analysis

The second step of the analysis is devoted to a keyword analysis of the BrdA and TabA corpora. The main objective is to identify and examine the linguistic differences in discourse between tabloids and broadsheets in their portrayal of the death of the Queen. The corpora are launched in the Words tool from Lancsbox. The TabA corpus is used as a study corpus, while the BrdA corpus is used as a reference corpus. The same selection procedures as outlined in section 9.3 are employed.

10.3.1. Keywords (BrdA corpus)

As for the keyword analysis of the BrdH corpus, a selection of fifteen nominal keywords was made from the fifty keywords generated by Lancsbox. This initial selection excluded proper nouns, and was followed by a second, more subjective selection of fifteen keywords that might prove to be particularly revealing in the context of this analysis. The fifteen keywords selected for the BrdA corpus are listed in the following table.

Table 10.3.1.1: List of 15 keywords (BrdA corpus)

	Nodes	Raw Frequency	Relative Frequency (per 10K)
1	*president*	215	12.2679
2	*monarchy*	107	6.1054
3	*power*	55	3.1383
4	*store*	51	2.9101
5	*institution*	28	2.1683
6	*culture*	36	2.0542
7	*train*	32	1.8259
8	*shop*	30	1.7118
9	*customer*	29	1.6547
10	*cortege*	29	1.6547
11	*catafalque*	26	1.4836
12	*paper*	23	1.3124
13	*banknote*	18	1.0271
14	*premiership*	16	0.9130
15	*passport*	13	0.7418

The selection of keywords enables us to gain further insight into the “aboutness” of the corpus and to identify which words are more salient in the BrdA corpus in comparison to the TabA corpus. Upon examination of the keyword list, some groups can be created with keywords that belong to the same thematic field, at least at first glance. The first group can be constituted by the keywords *store*, *shop*, and *customer*. As previously observed during the data collection process, the importance of the “business” theme was evident in the content of the broadsheets. In these instances, broadsheets are not talking about shopping in its general sense, but rather to refer to the specific question of which shops and stores will be open during the mourning period surrounding the Queen’s death. It can be observed once more that broadsheets are involved in an information and warning process. The keyword *train* could also be included in this group. The concordance lines of the keyword indicate that *train* is

primarily employed to convey concern regarding the potential operational status of rail transportation during the mourning period in honour of the late Queen. The group can therefore be classified under the semantic field of “organisational implications”. The newspapers in question disseminate information that is intended to assist their readers in adapting their lives to the unique circumstances of this particular period.

A second group can be constituted by the keywords *institution*, *monarchy*, and *premiership*. The keywords all refer to some abstract political structures that are in place in the country. When examining the concordance lines of *institution*, it can be observed that the majority of instances where the keyword appears is in the company of *monarchy*, therefore referring to the monarchy as the country’s institution. The keyword *premiership* refers to the entry of power as a prime minister of Liz Truss. This information was extensively discussed in the articles collected for the two first days of the time span analysed in this study, as this was the period during which concerns regarding the Queen’s health were raised. However, articles referring to her role in politics and as a Prime Minister continued the following days, reflecting on how she managed the situation of the Queen’s death.

A third group could be created with the keywords *paper* and *banknote*. The two keywords refer to the change in currency that occurred following the Queen’s death and the subsequent coronation of Charles. This change in the head of state will result in a change in the illustrations on the banknotes. Once again, broadsheets adopt an informative and warning position, indicating that there is no necessity to exchange the existing banknotes for the new ones, as they will remain legal tender for a number of years to come. The keyword *passport* could also be grouped under this category, as it is frequently used in contexts where the question whether a change of passport would be necessary following the death of the monarch is discussed.

Another fourth group could be constituted of the keywords *cortege* and *catafalque*, as both terms refer to the ceremonies that were held in the wake of the Queen’s death. Finally, three keywords lack specific categorisation: *power*, *culture*, and *president*. *Power* and *culture* are both broad terms and require further contextualisation. *President* is an interesting keyword, as there are no presidents in the United Kingdom. This implies a reference to international affairs.

The following sections of this study are devoted to further analyses of some selected keywords. The keywords that are further studied are those from the second group (*institution*, *monarchy*, and *premiership*), the ones from the fourth group (*cortege* and *catafalque*), as well as the two nodes *president* and *power*. The first step is to conduct collocation analyses of the selected keywords. The parameters set in Lancsbox are identical to those employed in the previous sections of this MA thesis (3b-MI(3), L3-R3). In order to select the collocates, only nominal, verbal, and adjectival forms were filtered, as these are better suited to the detection of themes. When deemed necessary, further in-depth analyses of the keywords will be conducted through the examination of the concordance lines. The collocation frequency threshold was set to three.

Collocation analysis of the *institution*, *monarchy*, and *premiership* group

The results of the collocation analysis of the keywords *institution*, *monarchy*, and *premiership* in the BrdA corpus are listed in the following table.

Table 10.3.1.2: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of institution, monarchy, and premiership

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*british*	9
	constitutional	8
	modern	4
	such	3
Verbs	*can*	4
	match	3
	do	3
	would	3
Nouns	*monarchy*	9
	institution	7
	scottish	3
	question	3

It is noteworthy that both *monarchy* and *institution* are included in the list of collocates generated by the collocation analysis. This confirms previous hypotheses, with the keywords *monarchy* and *institution* often appearing together as collocates. The adjectival collocate *british* is not unexpected in this context, given that the political setting is the UK. The collocate *constitutional* is most often found in concordance lines with *monarchy*, mirroring the situation in the United Kingdom. References to the constitution in the BrdA corpus are employed to elucidate that the monarch of the United Kingdom does not hold all sovereign rights. The adjective *scottish* may initially appear unexpected. However, when examining the concordance lines, it can be observed that *scottish* is a collocate of *premiership*. In this section, the term "premiership" was found to be associated with the period during which someone holds the position of prime minister. Nevertheless, the collocate Scottish is employed in a limited number of instances where the term premiership is used to refer to the top football league in England. It would be beneficial to further investigate the nominal collocate *question*. The concordance lines of *institution*|*monarchy*|*premiership* with the collocate *question* were examined and excerpts from the articles could be extracted from Lancsbox:

1. And yet that mood is not uncomplicated. Anecdotally, people seem broadly supportive of the monarchy, respectful in their mourning for the Queen, but also less deferential and obsequious than much of the media and Westminster seemingly would wish it to be. And less unwilling to ask **questions** about the institution.

2. This view was echoed by Murnaghan, who said there would be time to discuss "wide-ranging **questions**" about monarchy in the future.

3. As important as it is to respect both the personal grief of the royal family, and the public mood towards the monarchy, the wider questions about the office of the monarch cannot, and should not, simply be swept aside. Indeed, it is at the moment of transition that such **questions** become particularly pertinent.

In these instances, it is of interest to observe that the role of the monarchy in the UK is a topic of particular focus in the broadsheets. They stress the death of the Queen as a pivotal moment of transition, which prompts reflection on the role of the monarchy. It is noteworthy that the broadsheets appear to initiate this reflective process. This is also indicative of the type of audience that they wish to attract, namely those from a

higher social class who would be concerned about such information. The adjectival collocate *modern* may also be indicative. The following table lists the concordance lines of *institution*, *monarchy*, and *premiership* with the collocate *modern*.

Table 10.3.1.3: Concordance lines of *institution*|*monarchy*|*premiership* with the collocate *modern*

No		Concordances	
1	to the long held traditions of the past, it should also be representative of a	*monarchy*	in a **modern** world." Meanwhile, the Queen's name has been inscribed alongside her mother's, father's
2	respects to her and the British royal family who considered as a model for Japan's	*monarchy*	in **modern** history. The decision for the emperor and empress to attend the queen's funeral
3	frustrated by its lack of voice at the moment of uncontested hereditary accession. A **modern**	*monarchy*	is democratically legitimate while it sustains broad political and public consent. But it need not
4	because of her," she said. Praising her "sheer humanity", Ms Truss said: "She re-invented the	*monarchy*	for the **modern** age. She was a champion of freedom and democracy around the world.

It is interesting to observe that broadsheets initiate a reflexive process around the role of the monarchy. In this instance, the process is once again translated by references to a modern democracy. This raises the question whether it is possible to have a modern democracy. Or is there an inherent incompatibility between the two terms? This appears to be a question that has once again been highlighted by broadsheets.

Collocation analysis of the *cortege* and *catafalque* group

The results of the collocation analysis of the *cortege* and *catafalque* group in the BrdA corps are listed in the following table.

Table 10.3.1.4: Verbal and nominal collocates of *cortege* and *catafalque*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*will*	7
	pass	6
	arrive	5
	mount	3
	take	3
Nouns	*queen's*	4
	hall	3
	westminster	3
	coffin	3

The collocates are not unexpected, as they are linked to the semantic field of "death", and here particularly the death of the Queen, for instance with *coffin*, *queen's*, *hall* and *westminster*. The *catafalque* and the *cortege* are inextricably linked to the Queen's coffin. Moreover, the coffin was laid at Westminster Hall. The verbal collocate *pass* is used to indicate the movement of the cortege through the streets of London. However, there is also one instance in which a man is described as having "darted out of the line passing the catafalque and managed to climb the steps and touch the coffin." It is noteworthy that the broadsheets also report some less significant news items, which may be regarded as trivial by some, but which nonetheless reflect a certain degree of public interest. The collocate *arrive* refers to the journey undertaken by the coffin from Balmoral to London. Along the route, the cortege made several stops, allowing mourners to pay their respects to the Queen one last time. *Mount* refers to the coffin that was placed on the catafalque. It would be beneficial to consider the lexical choice in greater depth. In this instance, the word "catafalque" is employed in a rather formal manner. It is therefore of interest to note that the term is used less frequently in the TabA corpus, as it is more formal and therefore not on the level of the readership. In the concordance lines of *catafalque* in the TabA corpus, there is even one instance where the word is explained. Nevertheless, this does not necessarily

imply a lack of lexical knowledge on the part of the tabloids. It is possible that they simply decided to focus less on this aspect.

Collocation analysis of the keyword *president*

The results generated for the collocation analysis of the keyword *president* in the BrdA corpus are displayed in the following table. In this instance, the collocation threshold was changed to nine to get fewer results that are manageable to analyse in the scope of this study.

Table 10.3.1.5: Adjectival and verbal collocates of *president*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*former*	18
	prime	17
Nouns	*us*	32
	biden	28
	joe	20
	minister	19
	president	12
	emmanuel	11
	macron	11
	trump	11
	king	9

The collocates demonstrate that the keyword *president* is employed to refer to three specific presidents: two US presidents Joe Biden and Donald Trump, and one French president Emmanuel Macron. This illustrates the countries and leaders that had an important impact surrounding the Queen's death. This may be attributed to the fact that they played a pivotal role in this event, or alternatively, it could be that it was a deliberate decision by the broadsheets to focus on them. The collocate *former* refers to former presidents of different countries. The focus is placed on several former presidents of the United States and their relationship with the Queen, as well as with the Brazilian former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. This was made in relation with

the election in Brazil, opposing Lula to Bolsonaro. The adjectival collocate *prime* refers to prime ministers who paid their last respects to the Queen or were invited to the funeral in the same way as presidents were.

Collocation analysis of the keyword *power*

The results yielded for the collocation analysis of the keyword *power* in the BrdA corpus are presented in the next table.

Table 10.3.1.6: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of *power*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*soft*	6
	archaic	3
	peculiar	3
Verbs	*have*	10
	use	3
Nouns	*plant*	3

The collocates of *power* offer insights into the manner in which the keyword is employed. The verbal collocates *have* and *use* are not particularly surprising in this context, as they probably refer to having power and using it. The adjectival collocates are of particular interest. An analysis of the concordance lines reveals that the Queen's use of the term "soft power," which refers to a country's cultural and economic influence used to persuade other countries to act in a certain way, rather than the use of military power, was both effective and influential. This was also reflected in the funeral arrangements. It is also explained that Charles is expected to continue to fulfil this role and image of the UK, as a country with a soft power position. This once again serves to illustrate the tendency of the broadsheets to report on political news and affairs. The adjectives *archaic* and *peculiar* are used in a specific context of reported speech. This is therefore not properly journalistic language. However, it was a choice made by the editorial team to report on this. These collocates are each time used in the speech of Frank Cottrell-Boyce, the scriptwriters of the Queen's two famous cameos with James Bond and Paddington. When interviewed about the Queen, he said that he is "thankful for the way she used the peculiar power of her archaic role to

allow us a glimpse, however fleetingly, that we share something good and that we need to defend that". In this instance, the Queen's role is clearly delineated as belonging to something archaic, thus once again generating a reflexive process around the monarch's role in today's society. The nominal collocate *plant* does not refer to the power that someone has, but to power that creates energy. This is more specifically a building where power is produced. This is quite unexpected to see that theme appear in the press in articles dealing with the Queen's death. The specific articles dealing with power plants were further examined. It could be observed that the power plant refers to the war in Ukraine with Russia who had taken one of Ukrainian's power plants and therefore cutting the electricity access to the Ukrainian population living there. Those lines have nothing to do with the Queen's death. However, the beginning of the articles refers to the Queen, with Ukrainian soldiers writing tributes to the Queen on the side shells intended for Russian military targets. It is interesting to observe that even if the headline of the articles refers to the Queen's death, the entire article does not have to be solely about that subject. Some more international news can be presented in the rest of the article without having a direct link with the demise of the Queen.

10.3.2. Keywords (TabA corpus)

The same selection process of keywords as the one used for the BrdA corpus (section 10.3.1) was followed in order to extract the following selection of fifteen keywords from the TabA corpus. The keywords are presented in the next table.

Table 10.3.2.1: List of 15 keywords (TabA corpus)

	Nodes	Raw Frequency	Relative Frequency (per 10K)
1	*majesty*	304	18.0422
2	*corgi*	77	4.5699
3	*her*	72	4.2732
4	*fan*	71	4.2138
5	*grandmother*	70	4.1544
6	*dog*	60	3.5609

7	*brooch*	56	3.3236
8	*star*	36	2.1366
9	*incident*	33	1.9585
10	*necklace*	28	1.6618
11	*skirt*	19	1.1276
12	*great-grandmother*	19	1.1276
13	*nickname*	18	1.0683
14	*actress*	17	1.0090
15	*bracelet*	17	1.0090

A comparison of the fifteen keywords from the TabA corpus with those from the BrdA corpus reveals more about the nature of the corpora, the type of discourse they represent and the themes that are foregrounded by tabloids relating to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. It is rather obvious, at first sight, that the items are of a very different type from the keywords listed for the BrdA corpus.

As was the case for the keywords from the BrdA corpus, it is possible to create groups with keywords that relate to the same semantic field. They can be grouped under several themes or categorizations. A first group can be created with the keywords *brooch*, *necklace*, *bracelet*, and *skirt*, which relate to clothing and accessories. This is already an indicator of the seriousness of the choice of news reported by tabloids. Indeed, this seems to be made to attract a specific audience who is likely to be fond of that type of news. Clearly, this is designed to appeal to a specific audience who are likely to be interested in that type of news. It is not possible to assert that these elements are essential when reporting the passing of the Queen.

A second group of keywords can be formed by combining *her* and *majesty*. As evidenced by the frequency analysis of the TabA corpus, the expression “Her Majesty” appears to be widely used in tabloids. This results in a certain sense of oral discourse, which is a quality that tabloids seek to achieve in order to attract a readership that feels more at ease with oral discourse-like written texts. In contrast, broadsheets tend to use a more formal and elevated language.

A third category can be identified which encompasses *fan*, *actress*, and *star*, and which is also related to scandal and the people press. The use of terms such as these pertains to the domain of celebrities. This theme is closely linked to sensationalism, which is a prominent feature of tabloid journalism.

A fourth group can be constituted by the keywords *dog* and *corgi*. This is here clear references to the Queen's dogs, once again a fact that does not seem prominent in the reporting of the Queen's passing. Nevertheless, they were well-known for occupying a significant position in the Queen's life, and it is therefore unsurprising that they are referenced. It is noteworthy that this topic is more prevalent in tabloid publications than in broadsheet ones. This shows once again an inclination to present "lighter" information. This is also once again entering the more private sphere of the Queen's life.

A fifth group can be created with the keywords *grandmother* and *great-grandmother*. These references, which are likely primarily associated with the Queen, serve once again to familiarise the Queen and her private sphere. This suggests that the Queen was also regarded as the state's grandmother. Finally, two additional keywords not associated with any specific groups are identified: *incident* and *nickname*. The keyword *incident* appears to be a means of employing sensationalism as a strategy foregrounded by tabloids to attract a mass audience, focusing on events that are not typical or ordinary. The keyword *nickname* is also worthy of consideration, as it appears to be a means of familiarising the Queen (if it is indeed used in reference to her). This also appears to be a means of gaining access to the private sphere of the Royal Family.

The following sections are devoted to further analyses of a selection of keywords from the TabA corpus. They will be further analysed thanks to collocation analyses and the examination of concordance lines. The parameters used for the collocation analyses remain the same as the ones used for the previous collocation analyses (3b-MI(3), L3-R3). The threshold will be set to three, and if it seems necessary to lower or extend it will be changed and indicated in the course of analysis.

Collocation analysis of the *grandmother* and *great-grandmother* group

The results generated for the collocation analysis of the *grandmother* and *great-grandmother* group in the TabA corpus are listed in the following table. The collocation threshold was set to five.

Table 10.3.2.2: Verbal and nominal collocates of *grandmother* and *great-grandmother*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*say*	6
	get	5
	think	5
Nouns	*mother*	20
	queen	12
	great-grandmother	10
	grandmother	10
	death	5
	time	5

The collocation analysis indicates that *grandmother* and *great-grandmother* frequently occur in proximity to one another, suggesting a high degree of association between the two. Additionally, they are associated with the collocate “mother”, Furthermore, they are frequently accompanied by the term “queen”, which suggests that they are a manner of referring to Elizabeth II. *Mother*, g*randmother*, and *great-grandmother* refer to the various roles that the Queen held within the Royal Family. Consequently, some members grieve for a mother, some for a grandmother, and others for a great-grandmother. The collocate *death* is not surprising given the thematic focus of the selected articles. When examining the concordance lines, it can be observed that the nominal collocate *time* is used to talk about whether members of the Royal Family “made it in time” before the Queen died, but also referring to the time spent with their grandmother. Examining the concordance lines of the verbal collocate *say*, revealed that the verb is used when tabloids report what the different members of the royal family have said about the Queen (their grandmother and/or their great-

grandmother, in some instances). *Get* is used in reference to Prince's William words, in which he said that he hoped that she "might get a bit more time".

Collocation analysis of the *fan*, *actress*, and *star* group

The results of the collocation analysis of the *fan*, *actress*, and *star* group are presented in the following table.

Table 10.3.2.3: Adjectival, verbal, and nominal collocates of *fan*, *actress*, and *star*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Adjectives	*royal*	18
	celtic	4
	big	3
	lead	3
Verbs	*have*	12
	tell	5
	add	4
	take	3
Nouns	*dundee*	3
	football	3
	james	3

It can be observed that the collocates generated for the *fan*, *actress*, and *star* keywords are various. Some of them refer to the football world, such as *celtic*, *dundee*, and *football*. This world seems to have a large implication in the Queen's death. This goes from the fans from Dundee United being angry at some spectators who chanted "vile chant about the death of the Queen", or Celtic fans observing a minute's silence in honour of the Queen. It is interesting to see that football fans' reactions were different regarding the death of the Queen, with some paying tribute to her, while others rejoiced over the event with a banner insulting the Royal Family. The collocate *royal* refers to fans of the Royal Family. The nominal collocate *james* refers to the star James Bond and the Queen's cameos for the London Olympic Games of 2012.

Collocation analysis of the keyword *incident*

The results of the collocations analysis of the keyword *incident* in the TabA corpus are presented in the following table.

Table 10.3.2.4: Verbal and nominal collocates of the keyword *incident*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*say*	4
	happen	3
Nouns	*hall*	3
	westminster	3

It is noteworthy that, from the small number of collocates generated, there was probably only one incident that happened at Westminster Hall. The number of collocates shows that this incident was evoked several times. However, this is just a hypothesis, and a further examination of the concordance lines might help us decipher the context. The concordance lines of the keyword *incident* with the collocate *westminster* are listed in the following table.

Table 10.3.2.5: Concordance lines of *incident* with the collocate *westminster*

No		Concordances	
1	offered more detail of the man's actions, saying in a statement: "We're aware of an	*incident*	in **Westminster** Hall, in which a member of the public moved out of the queue
2	Hall, where the Queen's coffin had arrived on Wednesday. He said: "There has been an	*incident*	in **Westminster** Hall where a member of the public rushed at the Queen's coffin and
3	Following the distressing incident, a spokesperson for the UK Parliament, said: "We're aware of an	*incident*	in **Westminster** Hall, in which a member of the public moved out of the queue

The concordance lines suggest a reference to one event where a man tried to touch the Queen's coffin at Westminster Hall. This event was also reported in the BrdA

corpus but only in one instance, while it seems that it has been repeated several times in the TabA corpus, giving it more importance. When examining all the concordance lines with *incident*, it can be observed that the keyword is used in several other instances. There are references to small incidents concerning the Royal Family that should normally not be given that much importance but are deemed as newsworthy by tabloids. Occurrences of an incident that happened with President Trudeau can also be found. He was filmed singing Queen's song Bohemian Rhapsody at a karaoke while in London, the night before attending the Queen's funeral. This was not appreciated by British people, who were in a mourning period. The Canadian president had to present public excuses. However, most of the instances where *incident* is present refer to the incident at Westminster Hall, often accompanied by testimonies of people being present at the moment.

Collocation analysis of the keyword *nickname*

The results of the collocation analysis of the keyword *nickname* in the TabA corpus are presented in the next table. The collocation threshold was modified to two in order to obtain any results.

Table 10.3.2.6: Verbal and nominal collocates of *nickname*

POS	Collocates	Collocation frequency
Verbs	*start*	2
	give	2
Nouns	*lilibet*	2

This is not so unexpected to observe that *lilibet* is present, as it was the Queen's nickname. This is also important to mention that the fact that nickname is a keyword from the TabA corpus shows, once more, a will to familiarise the Queen and to make the audience feel as if she was part of its family. Of course, *nickname* is maybe not automatically used in reference to the Queen, however it is probably one of the main patterns of use. The collocates alone do not provide sufficient information concerning the use of *nickname* in tabloids. An examination of the concordance lines might prove to be helpful here. All concordance lines could not be listed in the next table, but a few of them are displayed as examples.

Table 10.3.2.7: Concordance lines of *nickname*

No		Concordances	
1	nickname “Gan-Gan” at the age of two. The Queen also had a long list of	*nicknames*	from the public, but perhaps most frequently used is “Ma’am” and it appears that those
2	referred to the monarch as “Granny”. Similarly, decades later, the Queen received a brand new	*nickname*	from her youngest heir— Prince George. In an interview with ITV in 2016, Kate, Duchess
3	can also mean “my little pastry puff”. Diana, Princess of Wales had a very specific	*nickname*	for her mother-in-law: “The Boss.” In letters to her friend Roger Bramble, which recently sold
4	Queen, who had four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, accumulated a wide range of	*nicknames*	from her family members throughout her life. The list begins with “Lilibet”, the sweet nickname
5	a Pembroke Welsh corgi, registered under the name Rozavel Golden Eagle- otherwise known by his	*nickname*	Dookie. On Her Majesty’s 18th birthday, she was gifted ownership of Susan, a corgi from
6	a constant presence. His position, and the trust the Queen showed him, earned him another	*nickname*	— “Keeper of the Queen’s secrets”. Very few doubt that he will ever spill them. It

The concordance lines show that most cases where *nickname* is used are to refer to the different nicknames given to the Queen during her lifetime, especially by different members of the Royal Family. This indeed confirms this aim of closeness with the Queen and the Royal Family, curious about her private life and what happens behind the scenes, foregrounded by tabloids. Other instances refer to the nickname given to one of her corgis (line 5) and another one in reference to Paul Whybrew (line 6), the Queen’s personal page, who had a very special and close role to the Queen.

Key takeaways

The keyword analyses of the BrdA and TabA corpora help identify differences between the discourses of the two newspapers surrounding the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The analyses allow us to gain insight into the themes that are more prominent within each corpus.

The groups in the BrdA corpus illustrate a clear intention on the part of the broadsheets to inform and warn the audience about the state's future organisation in the days of mourning. The articles provide practical information regarding the status of commercial establishments, indicating which will be open and which will be closed. Additionally, information regarding the operation of railways and the planned timetables is made available. Similarly, information about the new banknotes featuring Charles' portrait is disseminated. It is evident that they are genuinely motivated to assist and inform their audience. Moreover, there is a desire to challenge and initiate a reflective process regarding the role of the monarchy. The demise of the monarch can provide an opportunity to address these questions. The question whether a monarchy can survive and be legitimate in a modern society is also foregrounded. Additionally, broadsheets prioritise the inclusion of international news pertaining to foreign politics. For example, this is evidenced by references to Ukrainian soldiers or the relationships that the Queen had with presidents of other states.

In contrast, tabloids appear to prioritise themes that are perceived as less "serious". The content of tabloids frequently includes references to clothing and accessories, as well as different stars and celebrities. This is done in order to attract the readership with a sensationalist aspect. It can be argued that the content of tabloids is designed to provide readers with a sense of privileged access to the Royal Family and its members, allowing them to gain insight into their private lives. This can be exemplified by the coverage of the Queen's corgis. Furthermore, the references to the Queen's various roles within the Royal Family, including that of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, serve to reinforce this perception. Tabloids provide access to the private lives of the royals through a lens of emotionality. The emotional connection to the Queen as our mother or grandmother, for instance, intensifies the mourning process. Similarly, the intimacy between the Queen and the public is further exemplified by the numerous nicknames that have been given to her throughout her

lifetime. Furthermore, the sensationalist approach is evident in the references to incidents that are designed to capture the reader's attention. The keyword analysis facilitated the identification of clear distinctions in the themes addressed in the two types of newspapers.

11. Discussion

The different stages of analysis facilitated a better understanding of the linguistic portrayal and coverage of the Queen in UK broadsheets (*The Guardian* and *The Independent*) and tabloids (*The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Express*). These findings will be further discussed in the present section. First, by the comparison between the results of the HEADLINES corpora, and then, those for the ARTICLES corpora. The objective is to determine whether there is a difference in the manner in which British broadsheets and tabloids presented the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the emphasis they placed on specific aspects.

The first step of the analysis was looking at the frequency lists of the two HEADLINES corpora (BrdH and TabH corpora). This allowed a first entry into the data and allowed the construction of a general idea of what the corpora are about and find possible similarities between the two newspaper types. The results allowed the creation of groups with the twenty most frequent words collected in both corpora. The frequency list of the BrdH corpus allowed the creation of the "death" group with nodes relating to the death of the Queen, such as *funeral*, *death*, *coffin*, and *mourner*. The nodes *tribute* and *respect* can also be linked to this first group, as they depict a reaction to the announcement of the death of the Queen. A second group is made of *westminster*, *london*, and *palace*. This refers to the locations that were of importance surrounding the death of the monarch. A third group linked to the protocol and official elements can be created with the nodes *state*, *king*, and *charles*. The nodes *day* and *people* could not be assigned to one of the previous categories without knowing their exact contexts. The frequency list of the TabH corpus revealed almost the exact same frequently list as the one from the BrdH corpus, showing that both corpora covered the same type of information. A first group linked to the semantic field of "death" can be created with the nodes *death*, *funeral*, *coffin*, *mourner*, and *service*. The node *tribute*, as in the BrdH corpus, can also be linked to this first category. A group linked to locations can also be created with the nodes *balmoral*, *palace*, *windsor*, and

westminster. The group linked to the protocol and formal elements can also be constituted with the nodes *truss*, *royal*, *prince*, *state*, and *liz*. Finally, the node *day* is also part of the list and cannot be linked to one of the aforementioned categories, at least without context. A further analysis of the nodes *tribute*, *mourner*, and *state* allowed a closer look at how the newspapers handle the covering of the news in a more contextualised manner. It could be concluded that, even if the themes that are foregrounded by both corpora seem to be the same in terms of frequency lists, some differences in the way of presenting the information can be witnessed. A first distinction can be seen in the difference in emotional tone and personalization. The BrdH Corpus is characterised by a greater degree of neutrality and formality, with a focus on factual reporting. The terminology employed reflects a broader, less personalised perspective. In contrast, the TabH Corpus places greater emphasis on emotional and sensational elements. The use of words such as “heartfelt” and phrases like “fans in tears” suggest a more personalised and emotionally charged narrative, which aligns with the tabloid style that aims to appeal to the readers” emotions (see section 6.7). A second difference can be identified: the focus on individuals and anecdotes. In the BrdH corpus, there is less focus on individual anecdotes and more on the collective experience and formal aspects of the Queen’s death. In contrast, the TabH corpus emphasises individual narratives and emotional anecdotes. The use of headlines such as “Julie Andrews shares a heartfelt tribute” reflects a narrative style that aligns with the tabloid audience’s preference for personal and human-interest stories.

The second step of analysis was to analyse the keywords of each HEADLINES corpus. This was done to find possible differences in themes covered in both corpora. The fifteen keywords per corpora retained for this study could be grouped under thematic groups. The BrdH corpus exposed the following groups. First, a role model/responsibilities group with the keywords *example* and *duty*. This group is referring to the example role that the Queen fulfilled throughout her life. The second group is linked to religion and Christianity with the keywords *procession*, *archbishop*, and *burial*. A third group relating to the organisation of the country was made by the keywords *britain’s*, *country*, and *counsel*. The keywords *mourning*, *affection*, and *anger* can be grouped under the emotional reactions theme. A fifth group made up of the nodes *ritual* and *tradition* also emerged. When these keywords were used in the BrdH corpus, it was often synonymous with a reflexive process about the role of the

monarchy in today's modern world. Two last keywords were not grouped under a certain theme, namely *people* and *dissent*. The keyword *dissent* revealed some consequences of the death of the Queen on nations having a close link to the UK, namely Hong Kong, a former colony, and Scotland. The people of Hong Kong used the grief of the death announcement as a way of opposing the current government. While it was linked to Scots as a way of showing ambiguous reactions to the death announcement, as some were sad and others rejoiced. Thematic groups were also formed for the TabH corpus. The first one relates to the Queen's private life/close circle, with the keywords *grandmother* and *friend*. This shows a will to get closer to the privacy of the Queen. This strategy makes the audience feel closer with her, as if she was part of their family. A second group foregrounds special people with the keywords *star* and *hero*. A third group is made of *activist* and *protest*. The keywords *humour* and *joke* can be grouped to refer to a certain sense of lightness. A last group can be made with keywords referring to the description of the people present at the events linked to the Queen's death such as *appearance*, *face*, *dress*, and *look*. The keywords *rant*, *change* and *privilege* could not be grouped in a specific category. When comparing these results, some observations can be made on the differences in themes foregrounded by both corpora. In regard to the distinction between public and private life, the BrdH corpus places particular emphasis on the Queen's public roles and responsibilities. This is evidenced by the use of terms such as "example" and "duty" to highlight her official duties and moral leadership. In contrast, the TabH corpus places greater emphasis on the Queen's private life and personal relationships. Terms such as "grandmother" and "friend" represents her familial connections and portray her in a more relatable and intimate way. In terms of emotional tone, the BrdH corpus depicts a several reactions, including mourning, affection, and anger, which collectively reflect the solemnity of the Queen's death. In contrast, the TabH corpus combines serious tones with sensationalism and lighter themes. The use of words such as "humour" and "joke" indicates a varied emotional approach, which combines serious reflections with engaging and sometimes light-hearted content. In terms of national identity versus sensationalism, the BrdH corpus includes themes related to national identity and governance, using terms such as "Britain" and "country" to present a formal perspective. In contrast, the TabH corpus focuses on individual stories and sensational angles, employing terms such as "star", "hero", and "activist" to emphasise personal and dramatic narratives that aims at capturing the reader's attention.

The third step of analysis focuses on the ARTICLES corpora (BrdA and TabA corpora). The same procedure as for the HEADLINES corpora was adopted by starting to find possible similarities between the corpora thanks to a frequency analysis, then followed by a keyword analysis to identify possible differences. The frequency analyses of both corpora allowed the identification of their twenty most frequent words. The nodes identified for the BrdA corpus could be grouped under different semantic categories. The first one relates to the theme of "death" with the nodes *funeral*, *coffin*, *service*, and *death*. A second group could be constituted by the nodes *king*, *family*, *prince*, *charles*, and *royal*, all referring to members of the Royal Family. A third group relating to locations was created by the nodes *westminster*, *london*, and *palace*. The final group refers to temporal indications related to the events organised following the Queen's death, with the nodes *time*, *day*, and *year*. Lastly, the nodes *people* and *state* could not be categorised in a specific group. Groups for the TabA corpus could also be constituted. The groups are the same as the ones created for the BrdA corpus, only with differences that can be observed in the nodes constituting the groups. The first group is linked to the Royal Family members with the nodes *king*, *prince*, *royal*, *family*, and *charles*. The nodes *coffin*, *funeral*, and *service* all relate to the semantic field of death. The third group relates to locations with the nodes *palace*, *westminster*, and *london*. The last group that could be created refers to temporal indications linked to the events organised following the Queen's death with the nodes *time*, *day*, and *year*. Lastly, the two nodes *people* and *state* could not be added to one of the previous categories. Some nodes were further analysed to see if they are used in the same way in each corpus. First, both corpora have nodes referring to the Queen in their word lists such as *queen*, *elizabeth*, and *monarch*. It was interesting to see that the Daily Mail and the Daily Express tended to use the term *majesty* more often than it was the case in broadsheets. This shows the tabloid's specificity to try imitating oral discourse. When examining the concordance lines of the nodes, it can also be said that most of the time where the term appeared were in cases of reported speech. When analysing the Royal Family members group in the TabA corpus, a lot of names of the members, such as Andrew, George, Louis, Meghan, and Kate were also present in the corpus. This was not the case in the BrdA corpus, where the names evoked were mostly limited to Charles and Philip. This shows a certain "people" aspect foregrounded by tabloids. The TabA corpus frequently mentions individual royals, like reflecting a personalised approach to the Royal Family. In contrast, the BrdA corpus focuses on

the monarchy as a collective unit, avoiding individual narratives. The BrdA corpus also showed a tendency of focusing on international affairs, with, for example, the evocation of Prince Mohammed of Saudi Arabia. The node people was also further analysed. In the BrdA corpus, most of the cases related to the queue of people wanting to see the Queen's coffin. It could be identified that broadsheets often use their articles as a warning and informative tool. On the other hand, tabloids portrayed the number of people in the queue and attending various events as something sensational. Even if the themes were again similar in both corpora, some differences could be identified in the presentation and focus of the information. The BrdA corpus presents the Queen as a maternal figure, emphasising her emotional significance to the nation. This approach creates a sense of collective grief and portrays the royal family as relatable, akin to any grieving family. In contrast, the TabA corpus broadens the narrative to encompass the Queen's personal relationships with friends, by emphasising her private life and connections outside of her formal royal duties. This difference in portrayal can be attributed to the different editorial strategies employed by the two newspapers. The BrdA corpus focuses on the Queen's role within the family and nation, whereas the TabA corpus emphasises her personal relationships and private life.

The fourth and final step of the analysis is a keyword analysis of the two ARTICLES corpora. This is done to find possible differences in themes between the BrdA and TabA corpora. The keywords generated for the BrdA corpus could be classified into different groups. The first one relates to organisational implications linked to the death of the Queen with the keywords *store*, *shop*, *customer*, and *train*. Here, the broadsheet's main goal is to inform its readership. The second group can be classified under the theme of official documents/currency change that is linked to the monarch change with the nodes *paper*, *banknotes*, and *passport*. Here again, the main goal is to inform the readers. A third group can be created with the nodes *institution*, *monarchy*, and *premiership*. These keywords were further analysed and indicated that the keywords were mainly used in a reflexive process engendered by broadsheets about whether the institution of monarchy still finds its place in modern United Kingdom. A fourth group relating to the Queen's coffin can be created with the keywords *cortege* and *catafalque*. Further analyses of the nodes revealed the context in which they were used. This showed that broadsheets also report on more trivial

news such as the man who tried to touch the Queen's coffin. However, this is not their main emphasis. Here, the use of the word *catafalque* is interesting as it reveals a rather specific language. This suits the targeted audience of broadsheets that is supposedly more educated than the one of tabloids. The nodes *power*, *culture* and *president* could not be further classified. The analysis of power showed once again the focus on a reflexive process. International affairs are evoked when talking about power. The keywords of the TabA corpus could also be categorised. The first one relates to clothing and accessories with the keywords *brooch*, *necklace*, *bracelet*, and *skirt*. This shows the rather trivial information that is shared by tabloids. This is however typical of tabloids that will tend to focus on that type of news. A second group can be made by the keywords *her* and *majesty*, reflecting a way of addressing the Queen orally. As mentioned before, this shows the oral discourse-like type of text used by tabloids. *Dog* and *corgi* can be grouped in one category referring to the Queen's dogs. A scandal/people press group is also present with the nodes *fan*, *actress*, and *star*. This provides a sensationalist dimension that is characteristic of tabloid journalism, with the presentation of news that is not particularly significant but is presented as if it is of great importance. A "private life" group could also be constituted of the keywords *grandmother* and *great-grandmother*. A further analysis of the keywords revealed an intention to present an insight into the activities of the Royal Family, with a particular focus on the Queen and her roles as a (great-)grandmother. This also foregrounds the personal grief lived by the different members of the Royal Family. The two last keywords *incident* and *nickname* do not fit in the previous categories. *Incident* refers to the incident that took place when a man tried to touch the Queen's coffin at Westminster Hall (which was also mentioned in the BrdA corpus). But also referring to an incident involving Canada's president Justin Trudeau, reinforcing again the "people" aspect of tabloids. *Nickname* referred to the different nicknames given to the Queen, mostly in her private life, once again wanting to enter her intimacy. The keyword analyses demonstrate some thematic divergences between the reporting styles of broadsheet and tabloid newspapers on the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Unlike broadsheets, which concentrate on political, institutional, and organizational matters, tabloids place greater emphasis on personal, familial, and sensational aspects.

12. Analysing the data – ChatGPT tests

As outlined in section 8.5, it was decided to conduct a series of tests using ChatGPT to evaluate its potential for use in CADS analyses. The objective is to determine whether this AI tool could replicate the traditional methods employed in CADS and, if so, whether it could deliver results more efficiently than conventional approaches. It is important to mention that these tests are preliminary and constitute a pilot study, as they do not form the primary focus of this research. Additional testing would be required to thoroughly assess the effectiveness of this tool in conducting such analyses. It is worth mentioning that only the ARTICLES corpora (BrdA and TabA) were tested.

ChatGPT was given five different prompts[22]:

1. If I give you two word documents with corpora from two newspaper types (tabloids and broadsheets), could you do some contrastive thematic analysis?
2. Can you provide excerpts from the text (to illustrate the analysis provided)?
3. Is there any way you can judge the difference between the two corpora in terms of lexical diversity and range, and syntactic complexity?
4. Generate word cloud for both corpora.
5. Do you know what hapaxes are?

The results are rather interesting as they seem to be in line with my own analyses. The results for each prompt will be shortly discussed in what follows.

ChatGPT's answer to prompt 1 offers a contrastive thematic analysis of the two corpora. The tool provides two lists of themes foregrounded in each newspaper type. Interestingly the broad themes are in line with the ones identified in the analyses part of this MA thesis. Four themes were identified in the TabA corpus: personal tributes and emotional reactions; public engagement and spectacle; royal family dynamics; controversies and criticism. The broad themes and explanations linked to them a pretty similar to the ones identified in this study. However, ChatGPT also provides more detailed explanations to the theme that were not identified in this study. For example, the theme "personal tributes and emotional reactions" is further explained by what follows:

[22] The prompts and answers are available via QR code in Appendix 13

- Tabloids focus heavily on personal tributes and the emotional reactions of both the public and the Royal Family. Articles highlight moments such as Prince George's resemblance to Prince William and the emotional behavior of the royal children during the funeral.
- There is a strong emphasis on the public's emotional connection to the Queen, illustrated by descriptions of people crying and paying their respects as they pass her coffin.

The emotional reactions, particularly those of the Royal Family, were also identified in the present study. However, ChatGPT also focuses on "Prince George's resemblance to Prince William", which was not identified in our case. This discrepancy may result from an oversight in the present study or from ChatGPT's tendency to overgeneralize certain aspects. This is therefore important to keep in mind when conducting analyses with the AI tool.

When looking at the explanations provided for the other themes of tabloids, it is interesting to see that the analyses are mostly in line with what was said in this study. For instance, tabloids' focus on the "queue" of people waiting to pay tribute to the Queen and their emphasis on personal narratives related to the Royal Family were consistent with the observed patterns. However, ChatGPT identified the "controversies and criticisms" theme that was not specifically noted in this study. This would be interesting to perform other analyses with CL techniques on the corpora to further explore that hypothesis.

As for broadsheets, four themes were also identified by ChatGPT: sociopolitical analysis and historical context; media and public perception; cultural and ceremonial aspects; reflective and analytical tone. Once again, the themes tend to be in line with the ones identified in the present study. Especially the "sociopolitical analysis and historical context" and the "reflective and analytical tone" that have been really important in our findings. The theme "cultural and public perception", where it is stated that broadsheets focus on the role of media in shaping the public perception of the monarchy, was however not part of the findings. Additionally, ChatGPT mentions a focus on "younger generations," including figures like Camilla and Meghan. This appears to be an error, as Camilla is not typically associated with the younger

generation, though her role was indeed discussed. However, our findings indicate this focus was more prominent in tabloids, particularly concerning Meghan.

Concerning ChatGPT's answer to prompt 2, the tool provides textual illustrations from the corpora to illustrate the themes identified in prompt 1. Examining the excerpts give is interesting, as when the extracts are searched in the corpus, they all appear among the first articles collected. This raises the question whether ChatGPT thoroughly analyses the entire corpus or primarily focuses on the first articles, potentially leading to overgeneralisations, and a potential flaw of the tool. Additionally, another issue arises as the tool mistakenly uses extracts from the TabA corpus to illustrate themes identified in the BrdA corpus.

When answering to prompt 3, ChatGPT carefully explains all the step of analysis that the tool will follow. It is then explained how it will analyse the lexical diversity and range, and the syntactic complexity:

1. **Lexical Diversity and Range:**
   - Calculate Type-Token Ratio (TTR).
   - Count unique words and total words.

2. **Syntactic Complexity:**
   - Measure average sentence length.
   - Count subordinate clauses.

It is interesting to observe that the tool independently uses techniques that can be used in this type of study. For instance, the decision to analyse the Type-Token Ratio aligns with the methods used in this research. The following table displays a comparison of the results.

Table 11.1: Type-Token Ratios (ChatGPT vs present study)

	Tabloids	**Broadsheets**
Present study	7.42	7.78
ChatGPT	6.5445	7.0230

While the results differ, the tool still indicates that broadsheets exhibit a higher type-token ratio than tabloids, suggesting that the former has a richer vocabulary. This interpretation is true when comparing type-token ratios, but this is more reliable for

smaller text collections (as discussed in section 10.1). This exhibits a nuance that ChatGPT failed to recognise.

ChatGPT then conducts additional tests that will not be further analysed in this section. However, its conclusions are noteworthy, as the tool draws connections to the general characteristics of tabloids versus broadsheets discussed in the theoretical section:

> These findings align with the expectations that broadsheets, typically targeting a more educated audience, would use a richer vocabulary, while tabloids, aimed at a broader audience, might employ more varied sentence structures to maintain engagement.

Although these types of analyses were not employed in the present study, the findings of ChatGPT serve to reinforce the general conclusions drawn.

The answer to prompt 4 presents two word clouds, one for each corpus. This provides a good visual aid in the representation of the corpora. When broadly looking at them, the most frequent words appear to be consistent with the findings of this study. It is interesting to observe that the tool chose to represent only lexical words, excluding function words, which is a choice that aligns well with the thematic analysis conducted here. The results are however slightly different as they also include verbs and adjectives, that were not included in the present study.

The answer to the final prompt (5) indicates which words are hapaxes (i.e. a word that only appears once in a work) in both corpora. ChatGPT shows that the BrdA corpus contains more hapaxes than in the TabA corpus. This indicates a richer vocabulary in broadsheets that use more unique words when compared to tabloids. This once again aligns with general characteristics of broadsheets with a language targeted at an educated audience.

In conclusion, the preliminary tests with ChatGPT for CADS analyses demonstrate both potential and limitations in using AI. The tool's thematic analysis and identification of broad themes largely align with the findings of this MA thesis. However, flaws like overgeneralization and wrong choice of illustrations of excerpts suggest that ChatGPT may miss the nuanced interpretations that human analysis implies. For instance, the tool correctly applies techniques such as the use of type-token ratios, it

overlooks small nuances, especially in larger text collections. Despite these limitations, ChatGPT's results generally reaffirms the conclusions of this study, particularly regarding the general linguistic differences between tabloids and broadsheets.

Overall, ChatGPT shows promise as a supplementary tool in CADS analyses, but further testing is needed to fully understand its strengths and limitations. This pilot study emphasises the importance it is for linguistic research to combine the effectiveness of AI with meticulous human control.

13. Conclusion

The present MA thesis aimed to identify and explore potential thematic similarities and/or differences in the coverage of Queen Elizabeth II's passing in broadsheets and tabloids. Thus, the following research questions were addressed: (1) How is the coverage of the Queen's passing linguistically portrayed in the British written press? (2) What are the differences in the themes covered by tabloid and broadsheet newspapers? The objectives derived from this research were to investigate the depiction of a significant event in the British written press; use Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) to analyse newspapers language; compare the reporting of tabloids and broadsheets on a same event; and identify themes in the reporting of the Queen's death.

In order to address the stated research questions, a theoretical background provided context on the British Monarchy, the Queen, and their respective relationships with the media. Furthermore, previous research on the Queen's death and media response was reviewed. Additionally, literature and studies examining the medium of newspapers were consulted and summarised. Lastly, the field of CADS and its applicability were elucidated.

The methodology adopted in this MA thesis combined quantitative and qualitative approaches. As part of the field of CADS, frequency and keyword analyses, in addition to collocation analyses and the examination of concordance lines, were conducted with the objective of identifying the key themes in the coverage of Queen Elizabeth II's death. Furthermore, traditional discourse analysis techniques were employed on occasion to qualitatively examine the data, thus facilitating a more profound comprehension of the context and finer details expressed in the newspaper headlines and articles.

As for the results obtained for the analyses pertaining to the HEADLINES corpora of the broadsheets and tabloids (BrdH and TabH corpora), no real thematic differences in the coverage of the death of the Queen were revealed. The most frequent words of both corpora are broadly the same and pertain to words that can be classified under the themes of death, tribute, important locations, and official elements relating to the country. However, differences emerged in the presentation styles. This confirms theories on the opposition between broadsheets and tabloids as seen in

section 6. Broadsheets are characterised by a greater degree of neutrality and formality. In contrast, tabloids tend to present more emotional and sensational elements, creating an emotionally charged narrative that is more likely to attract their targeted audience. To do so, they also tend to focus on individuals and personal anecdotes, while broadsheets adopt a more collective perspective. These differences were also visible in the keyword analysis, where thematic differences could be identified. Broadsheets focused on themes such as the Queen's exemplary public roles, religion, national identity, and emotional reactions. In contrast, tabloids highlighted the Queen's private life, special people, activism, and lighter themes. These differences reflect the broadsheets' focus on formal and national perspectives versus the tabloids' emphasis on personal and sensational stories.

The results obtained for the ARTICLES corpora (BrdA and TabA) showed the same tendencies as for the HEADLINES corpora for the frequency analysis. The words identified in the BrdA and TabA corpora were not entirely the same but could be grouped under the same themes, namely death, members of the Royal Family, locations details, temporal indications, and the nodes *people* and *state*. Once again, the differences do not lie in the themes foregrounded, but in the way they are presented. Tabloids tend to imitate oral discourse (or even reproduce it in reported speech) to match their targeted audience's needs. Tabloids also presented information about the members of the Royal Family in a more personalised way, focusing on specific personal elements to each member, therefore making the readers feel closer to their private lives. On the other hand, broadsheets tend to present the Royal Family as a collective unit, not focusing on their personal lives. Broadsheets also show a tendency of including international affairs. Moreover, tabloids tend to focus on the Queen's private life. The keyword analysis allowed the identification of some differences on the themes covered. The BrdA corpus revealed several groups of keywords, including those related to organisational implications of the Queen's death and official documents. This reflects broadsheets' focus on informative content. Additionally, keywords like *institution* and *monarchy* indicate a reflexive discussion on the monarchy's relevance in modern Britain. Other groups related to the Queen's coffin showed the use of a specific language targeted at a more educated audience. In contrast, the TabA corpus keywords highlighted a focus on trivial and sensational aspects, such as clothing and personal life. The use of oral discourse and attention to

incidents (e.g., a man trying to touch the coffin) further illustrate the tabloids' sensationalist approach. The analyses of both the HEADLINES and ARTICLES corpora reveal that broadsheets and tabloids cover the death of Queen Elizabeth II mostly with similar themes (with some differences identified in the articles), but their presentation styles differ significantly. Broadsheets focus on formal, collective, and informative content, while tabloids emphasise emotional and sensational narratives that highlight personal stories. These findings illustrate the contrasting editorial approaches of the two types of newspapers.

Furthermore, the study included a pilot study on the potential of ChatGPT as a tool for CADS analyses. The findings indicated that while ChatGPT displays promise in performing certain CADS-related tasks, its efficacy and reliability as a methodological instrument require further examination and should always be paired with a human critical mind.

On a final note, this study allowed us to further explore the differences between broadsheets and tabloids when reporting the same event by using techniques part of CADS. But not just any event, an event that reached the entire world, the death of Queen Elisabeth II. The analyses demonstrated the significance of the Queen as a monarch but also as a person. She was depicted positively, and newspapers largely paid her tribute. Given the global significance of this event, it would be interesting to investigate how the death of Queen Elizabeth II was portrayed in newspapers worldwide, examining the international reception of the announcement. Furthermore, the collected corpora could be used in a different domain by integrating it into a didactic project, using the data to explore cultural aspects of language.

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15. Appendices

- **Appendix 1**: Excel Sheets corpora (online)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d69gKSY07xPyhkZRm-RG1ssqfd8gJz7d?usp=sharing

- **Appendix 2**: Final corpora txt (online)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZFTour6JcGTkdi6DhTf16gHoBcO9ZUdY?usp=sharing

- **Appendix 3**: Statistical frequency difference – *tribute*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = **0.84343**
difference is **not significant**

Sample 1 data: **24** out of **3,147** = **0.7626%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **20** out of **3,617** = **0.5529%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 1.14133
X2 = 0.84343

- **Appendix 4**: Concordance lines (online)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RC7kN0LyJ4YsSZNud3V4l8nmMj8tVhxD?usp=sharing

- **Appendix 5**: Statistical frequency difference – *mourner*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = **0.01873**
difference is **not significant**

Sample 1 data: **12** out of **3,147** = **0.3813%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **12** out of **3,617** = **0.3318%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 0.11657
X2 = 0.01873

- **Appendix 6**: Statistical frequency difference – *state*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = **1.23327**
difference is **not significant**

Sample 1 data: **18** out of **3,147** = **0.5720%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **13** out of **3,617** = **0.3594%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 1.66364
X2 = 1.23327

- **Appendix 7**: Statistical frequency difference – *monarch*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = **25.73665** ***
difference is **significant at p < .001** (crit. 10.82757)
Confidence interval: **[-0% ... -0%]**
(two-sided, 95% confidence, Sample 2 > Sample 1)
Sample 1 data: **247** out of **175,254** = **0.1409%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **361** out of **168,494** = **0.2143%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 26.26780
X2 = 25.73665

- **Appendix 8**: Statistical frequency difference – *majesty*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = 53.81229 ***
difference is **significant at p < .001** (crit. 10.82757)
Confidence interval: **[-0% ... -0%]**
(two-sided, 95% confidence, Sample 2 > Sample 1)
Sample 1 data: **155** out of **175,254** = **0.08844%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **304** out of **168,494** = **0.1804%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 55.36706
X2 = 53.81229

- **Appendix 9**: Statistical frequency difference – *family*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = 4.62916 *
difference is **significant at p < .05** (crit. 3.84146)
Confidence interval: **[-0% ... -0%]**
(two-sided, 95% confidence, Sample 2 > Sample 1)
Sample 1 data: **350** out of **175,254** = **0.1997%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **395** out of **168,494** = **0.2344%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 4.78846
X2 = 4.62916

- **Appendix 10**: Statistical frequency difference – *royal*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = 47.96801 ***
difference is **significant at p < .001** (crit. 10.82757)
Confidence interval: **[-0% ... -0%]**
(two-sided, 95% confidence, Sample 2 > Sample 1)
Sample 1 data: **297** out of **175,254** = **0.1695%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **475** out of **168,494** = **0.2819%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 48.82237
X2 = 47.96801

- **Appendix 11**: Statistical frequency difference – *prince*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = **58.89929** ***
difference is **significant at p < .001** (crit. 10.82757)
Confidence interval: **[-0% ... -0%]**
(two-sided, 95% confidence, Sample 2 > Sample 1)
Sample 1 data: **295** out of **175,254** = **0.1683%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **496** out of **168,494** = **0.2944%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 59.98957
X2 = 58.89929

- **Appendix 12**: Statistical frequency difference – *people*

Corpus Frequency Test: Two Samples

Test result: X^2 = **0.40265**
difference is **not significant**

Sample 1 data: **491** out of **175,254** = **0.2802%** (relative frequency)
Sample 2 data: **452** out of **168,494** = **0.2683%** (relative frequency)

Details

G2 = 0.44527
X2 = 0.40265

- **Appendix 13**: ChatGPT tests – prompts (online)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UznfPY8JGZ7FIx2gDPIcCIQ4k1ohhslO?usp=sharing

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