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**Analysis of news courts programs in the context of critical discourse analysis as a type of news discussion programs: example of atv, tv8, star tv**

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**Analysis of news courts programs in the context of critical  
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**Abstract**

Many types of programs have emerged on television, which continues to be widely used among traditional mass media until today. In addition to thematic channels to meet the need for people to receive news, the type of news – discussion program is also included on television. This study focuses on news courts programs that have become widespread as a type of news discussion program that has been seen frequently on television recently. In this context, the event place with ATV Müge Anlı and Tatlı Sert, Star Balçıçek İlter, which took place in the daytime zone between April 30, 2018 – May 4, 2018, was chosen as an example of TV8's Gerçeğin Peşinde programs. The presentation of these most frequently watched programs in the daytime is tried to be presented. Programmes within the scope of the study Van Dijk's macro – micro structural analysis is examined within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis. Quantitative data on the use of the concepts of judicial, religious, sexist, national, pathological, slang and Economic are also included in the news programs.

**Keywords:**

**News, News Discussion Programs, Critical Discourse Analysis**

**Introduction**

Television, as a mass media in Turkey, has a significance above its genuine value. Even today, not only in Turkey, it is a mass communication tool that dominates all over the world. The biggest advantage of television is that it can provide visuality. Thus, we have the opportunity to follow developments as if they were part of our own lives. In many countries, before television, news films were shown in movie theatres. The narratives brought by those who prepared these films were the basis of television journalism (Gürer, 2009: 121; Çelenk, 2005: 16). This interest in television leads to continuous renewal and diversification of the types of television programs.

With the development of the content of television programs over time, many genres have been subdivided into new genres and formats. News programs have come to the screen as a

sub-genre of documentary as a form, as a sub-genre of news in terms of its matter in hand, in other words its content. It can be said that news programs are closer to story format than news and apply to dramatic elements more (Poyraz, 2002: 79-80). When we look at the points to pay attention to the structure of the news in television news programs, it is seen that they actually develop like a film and have certain stages (Orhon, 2005: 21). According to news bulletins of the type of news-discussion program on television content, the number and duration of news varies and their development in fact, as a sub-type of news-discussion programs cause “news courts” program types to emerge.

In this study, which deals with the type of news courts, which we often see in the daytime on the screens today, a study is conducted on the discursive presentation of the program with the link between “news, news-discussion programs and news critical discourse analysis. In this research, a conceptual framework is presented about news courts programs and it is aimed to make evaluations about the discourse of news courts in television programs.

## **2. Conceptual Framework for the Type of News Courts Programs**

Television news differs from other mass media in many respects. These are due to the ability of the television to be able to address three sensory organs and its visual characteristics. It can be discussed whether it is reliable and effective or not, but it is undoubtedly widespread that television is seen as one of the most commonly used communication tools among the mass media. Undoubtedly, the same applies to news programs (Kazaz, 2007: 156; Gökçe, 1997: 213). With the interest in the type of news-discussion program, the programs are divided into various types and try to meet the needs of the audience.

It is difficult to be included in a type or to distinguish between other types. The characteristic features of a type are not unique to it but are often confused with other types. It is difficult to make sharp distinctions between types (cited by Chandler, 1997: 2). There are many sub-types of news-discussion. The type of program that is a news court is one of them.

News court programs examine in-depth news programs in the form of news events that people are interested in. The images broadcasted live to the audience add feelings of urgency and excitement. What is seen in television news is based on the natural flow of events and the reporter's live broadcast experience. The reason which causes the fact that the audience is made an eyewitness to the event (Özkanal, 1998: 139) and made possible to connect to live broadcast, the information about the event plays an active role in illuminating the subject is the fact that television can have an immediate access to the audience.

The program type, which is news courts, examines in detail the incidents such as murder, loss and fraud in news bulletins. The number of news is less and the participation of the audience by phone can change the course of the subject. Van Dijk's method of critical discourse analysis is used in the study, which eliminates the discursive presentation of these programs broadcasted live and in the daytime.

What Van Dijk emphasizes is that critical discourse analysis is a social and political attitude, not a research method, but a discipline. Dijk does not have a unique method, in this academic activity he discourses analysis in general and critical discourse analysis in particular respects (İnceoğlu and Çomak, 2009: 30). In general, discursive presentation of the news is discussed with this method, which is generally classified as macro and microstructure.

The main purpose of a thematic analysis is to identify the themes in each news discourse and to create conditional (linear) and hierarchical relationships and semantic specifications in the text (Van Dijk, 1988: 73). In macro structure, schemes, detailed models, attitudes, perspectives are important determinants of news values and understanding of news (Van Dijk, 1988a: 159). Another part of the analysis in Van Dijk's model is the microstructure. In microstructure analysis; syntactic analysis, regional cohesion, word selection and rhetorical analysis are conducted. In syntactic analysis, an analysis is made by looking at the simple / complex, active / passive structures of the sentences. The words used in the news text are analyzed within the microstructure in order to understand the ideological structure. By looking at word choices; basic beliefs and ideologies about social actors are revealed. In the analysis called regional adaptation; causal, functional and referential relations are tried to be revealed between consecutive sentences in the news text (Cognli, 2016: 93).

Devran (2010: 64-66) briefly describes the critical discourse analysis formulated by Van Dijk as follows: In macro-level analysis, paragraphs of the text are expressed as one sentence and then these sentences are reduced to a few sentences and finally to a single sentence in order to express what the text intends to put forward. The discourse style of the text, which includes the sound, word, sentence structure and meanings of the text, is discussed and how the same subject is expressed in a different way is emphasized. At the sentence level, it is examined whether the sentences are active or passive. In addition, whether the sentences are simple or complex sentences covering many sentences is emphasized. The order or arrangements of the words in the sentence constitutes the syntagmatic dimension of the sentences.

### 3. Method

In this part of the study, quantitative data were also used by using Teun A. Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis method. The aim of the study is to reveal the language of the news courts programs on television, the frequently used concepts and the discursive presentation of these programs. For this purpose, the scope of the study consists of ATV "Müge Anlı and Tatlı Sert", STAR "Balçıcek İlter Olay Yeri and TV8 "Gerçeğin Peşinde" programs. The study is limited to the broadcasts of the programs screened between April 30, 2018 and May 4, 2018, and numerical data of the forensic, religious, sexist, national, pathological, slang and economic concepts in the publications before discursive analysis are presented.

#### 3.1. Quantitative Data

When the distribution of programs in ATV, STAR and TV8 is examined; there is a total of 52 program analysis of 36.5% ATV, 40.4% STAR, 23.1% TV8.

**Table 1:** Concepts Used in ATV, STAR, TV8 News Courts Programs

TV Channel	P
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		ATV		STAR		TV8		
		N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Forensic Concepts</b>	No	15	78,9%	13	61,9%	4	33,3%	0,039*
	Yes	4	21,1%	8	38,1%	8	66,7%	
<b>Religious Concepts</b>	No	16	84,2%	17	81,0%	7	58,3%	0,213
	Yes	3	15,8%	4	19,0%	5	41,7%	
<b>Sexist Concepts</b>	No	19	100,0%	19	90,5%	9	75,0%	0,071
	Yes	0	0,0%	2	9,5%	3	25,0%	
<b>National Concepts</b>	No	14	73,7%	21	100,0%	11	91,7%	0,031*
	Yes	5	26,3%	0	0,0%	1	8,3%	
<b>Pathological Concepts</b>	No	19	100,0%	20	95,2%	10	83,3%	0,148
	Yes	0	0,0%	1	4,8%	2	16,7%	
<b>Slang Concepts</b>	No	12	63,2%	9	42,9%	9	75,0%	0,165
	Yes	7	36,8%	12	57,1%	3	25,0%	
<b>Economic Concepts</b>	No	18	94,7%	16	76,2%	8	66,7%	0,122
	Yes	1	5,3%	5	23,8%	4	33,3%	

\*p<0,05

## .2. Discursive Analysis of ATV “Müge Anlı ile Tatlı Sert” Program

“Müge Anlı and Tatlı Sert” program, which is published on ATV on weekdays between 10.00 - 13.00 hours, examines issues of news value. The program includes a lawyer, a psychiatrist and a forensic specialist and is broadcast live on weekdays. At the beginning of each program, the same generic music and the mixed opening type which includes the chain of images created with the sections taken from the program are used. Then, at the beginning of the program brief interviews and short sections from the witnesses' speeches about what will be included in the content of the program are used.

Atv “Müge Anlı and Tatlı Sert” program is examined in terms of macro structure/ thematic structure and the results are: A total of 19 news topics are issued between April 30 - May 4 2018. Among those dates, murders and unaccounted disappearances have been covered, while the aid campaigns also include slang, national and judicial concepts.

When the titles given in the program are examined in terms of macro structure / thematic structure, the introductory sentences of the news give a short, clear and detailed information about the subject. In the related titles of topics, information reduction is included and in the topics related to the interviewees, a sense of curiosity is aroused with question mark. Generalized titles such as “Why does Fatih Erarslan speak contradictory? or in the subheadings such as “Action in Düziğin”, more detailed information is included. Titles such as “Hundreds of thousands have started to learn to read and write... Next is for late comers..” encourage the audience.

In the topics where “presentation of the main event” is included as one of the macro structure / schematic structure elements, the main event is given along with the news headlines and the news is based on the discourse related to the murder, loss, fraud and aid campaigns. While news achieving results “reached the results of 6 news reports, 13 could not be concluded within the content of the programs covering the scope of the study. A news coverage is processed for weeks in the program, either completely resolved or left to wait for the outcome of an event to resolve all knots. When “background-context information” is considered, the server and the experts in the program, who have a certain opinion on the issues, cannot express their opinion in most cases, but the discourse of knowing the offender and compressing it with questions dominates the discourse. While the feast of the laborers is celebrated for “1 May Labour and Solidarity Day”, the word “ram feast” can be given as a reflection of the ideological view. When the “news sources and the comments made by the event parties” are at last considered as the last of the macro structure / schematic structure elements, the presence of witnesses and giving information when the body is found related to the murder news is effective in illuminating the event. In the case of missing persons, the testimony of people connected by telephone plays a major role in solving the events.

When we look at the sentence structures in syntactic analysis which is one of the microstructural elements, it is remarkable that short and simple sentences are used. Sentence structures are generally passive. When the sentences are analyzed in the regional adaptation analysis, the sentences in which the causal relationship and the functional relationship are established are included. In the context of causal relationship, clear and clear sentences are used and aim to inform.

There is a causal relationship in the sentences such as “Her brother-in-law Ali Rıza Erarslan kidnapped 14-year-old Berzan for a vengeance... No news for 42 days”, “Barış Cumhur Keser tricking taxi drivers and stealing their cards and defrauding them thousands of liras was arrested”. In the context of the functional relationship, continuation and explanation of the sentence given in the other sentence such as “the button was pressed on the murder of Mehmet Abalak... 6 persons in custody...” When the “word choice” is examined, the words “murder, arrest, life imprisonment, detention, loss, punishment, killer” words are frequently used, and this situation may change with the length of the subjects. In the program, slang concepts are frequently used as a result of the debates in the program which brings the suspects and their relatives in the studio confronted and the sound is often not displayed. National and forensic concepts are frequently used and the words “Turkish, corpse, autopsy” are uttered in the program.

When we look at the rhetoric of the news, there are interviews related to the subject. The fact that reporters go to the scene to give images about the subject and to ask questions to people in the surrounding area and to gather information about the incident carries significance. Live connections are made in cases of forensic events such as detention and arrest, and information is provided to the audience through television instantaneity. Long shots, shoulder shooting and close-up scale are generally used. In live broadcasts, the screen is divided into two when connected to the reporter, and when the studio includes guests, the server is divided into 3 pictures as guest and audience. The tone of the voice may be raised due to the generally calm attitude of the news presenter, the suspicious attitude of the guests from time to time and the attempt to change the subject in order not to answer the questions asked. The facial expressions and tones of the presenter and experts affect the discourse in accordance with the events.

### **2.3. Discursive Analysis of TV8 “Gerçeğin Peşinde”**

In the "Pursuit of Truth" program broadcast in TV8 between 13.00 - 15:45 on weekdays covers the news of the murders, losses, fraud issues. With the presentation of Serap Paköz, a sub-genre of the news-discussion genre that appeared on the screen live during the week with the participation of forensic experts and lawyers. The program, which is included in the program type of the courts, starts with the cold start type and gives a section on the subjects to be covered and then starts live connection with the studio.

When the TV8 “Gerçeğin Peşinde” program is examined in terms of the macro structure / thematic structure, the following conclusions are reached: Between 30 April-4 May 2018, a total of 12 news items are included. Murder and loss issues are examined between the dates that constitute the scope of the study. Forensic, religious and economic concepts are among the commonly used concepts.

When the headings given in the program are examined in terms of macro structure / thematic structure, the headings of the news are given in a short and clear event. News headlines often include information subtraction and generalization. By asking questions such as “Who have been detained and why related to the file case of Korhan and Zehra who have been missing for months?”, “How was Satılmış Amca uncle scammed by the promise of marriage?” they try to maintain the level of suspense and mystery. Questions like “The sides are face to face related to Gülşah and Turgut missing for 9 years” are reflected on the screen with the title with information subtraction. The headings such as “What is happening in Isparta where 8 people are detained” contain generalization.

The “main presentation” of the event, which is one of the macro structure / schematic structure elements, coincides with the headlines between the dates discussed and the news content is based on the discourse related to the murders and losses. Another of the macro structure / schematic structure elements is “achieving results..” There were no results in the files covered in the program which included 12 news stories in total. The program, which contains fewer files than the program in other channels, devotes more time to the topics covered. When “background and context information” is considered, the servers and experts do not express their views. Even if they have information about an event, they do not express their opinions without a recognized suspect. By stating ”Happy Labour Day”, labours’ feast is celebrated, and the discourse of the holiday is reflected in the body language of the presenter. The last of the macro structure / schematic structure elements is “news sources and the comments of the event parties. Usually in the program, there is a broadcast to reporters and information about the event and the latest developments are received. Interviews related to the topics covered are also included, and often these interviews play an important role in solving the nodes.

When we look at the structure of the sentences in the syntactic analysis, which is one of the microstructural elements, simple sentences are used in the “Gerçeğin Peşinde” program. Sentence structures are usually active. Titles that frequently use question sentences keep the audience's curiosity alive with their active sentence structures. After syntactic analysis, which is one of the microstructural elements, there are sentences in which the causal relationship is established under the heading of regional adaptation. In the context of the causal relationship,

sentences such as Tuncay Yılmaz, the brother of the missing Gülşah, allegedly describes the place where Osman buried the barrels full of weapons”, “Missing Gülşah’s sister Tuncay showed the shelter and caves where Osman hid in his exile period.”, “On Korhan and Zehra file, Besici Ali, his father and sister were detained for murder” can be considered. The sentences established in the context of causal relationship are linked to clear sentences in order to understand the subject. When the program’s frequently used word choice is analyzed, concepts such as “contradiction, suspect, detention, file, money, gold are used more frequently. It is noteworthy that slang concepts are less than the programs in other channels.

When the rhetoric of the news is examined within the scope of the microstructure, there are convincing information and statements of eyewitnesses. The fact that reporters go to the scene and get information about the incident before showing it to the live broadcast increases the credibility. It is also important to obtain information from the witnesses to enlighten the incident. In the program where the general shooting scale is frequently used, the screen is divided into 2 when the reporter has a live connection. When the related bands are displayed, they ask external voice questions and these questions are written on the screen, unlike the programs in other channels. The presenter controls the tone of voice, gestures and facial expressions throughout the program and does not reflect their opinions and ideas on the subject.

### 2.4. Discursive Analysis of Star TV’s “Balçıcek ve İlter’le Olay Yeri” Program

In the program named “Balçıcek İlter’le Olay Yeri”, broadcasted on Star TV between 13.00 and 16.00 on weekdays, there are unexplained murders, losses and social responsibility projects like “Müge Anlı ve Tatlı Sert” program. The program includes a lawyer, psychologist, forensic unit and general surgery specialist. The program, which is broadcast live on weekdays, is directly connected to the broadcast and cold opening type is used.

When Star TV’s “Balçıcek İlter’le Olay Yeri” program is examined in terms of the macro structure / thematic structure, these results are reached: between April 30 - May 4, 2018, a total of 21 news items were processed, loss, murder and fraud are referred more frequently.

When the headings given in the program are examined in terms of macro structure / thematic structure, the headings of the news are given in a short and clear event. News headlines often include spots with question marks. With headings such as “Flash Development in Melike’s Case... What will happen after Sedat T.’s confession? Details Now... ”, “ Did the New Bride Meral Take Wedding Gold and escaped?”, “Was Missing Hasan Germiş a victim of murder?”, “Where did Mrs. Cevahir lose her wooden ring and vest?”, a sense of wonder is aroused in the audience to keep their wonder alive.

When the presentation of the main events, which is one of the macro structure / schematic structure elements, is examined, the discourses related to the subjects discussed are dominant. The topics overlapping with the headline and discourses are examined in detail. While “reaching the result” has been achieved in 7 cases, 14 could not be solved.

When “background and context information” is considered, the servers and experts openly express and utter their ideas by looking at other programs. They do not hesitate to express their views on the incident and the problems regarding why the action has not yet been taken. Rhetorically voicing discourses “Who is waiting for what, I’m about to go crazy, why hasn’t there been a discovery,”, the server, experts in still in a strong discourse, “now we have to rely on the law”. By stating “Happy 1 May Labour Day,”, the laborers’ holiday is celebrated



and the transitions to other topics are concluded in a rapid way. Finally, among macro structure/schematic elements, “the comments about reporters and eyewitnesses” that are connected to the live broadcast of the events change the course of the event. Finding the missing people in the program and giving information about them through telephone participation leads to the conclusion of the event.

When the sentence structures in the syntactic analysis, which is one of the microstructure elements, are analyzed, short and simple sentences are used in “Balçiçek İlter’le Olay Yeri” program. Sentence structures are usually active. While they are frequently used with question sentences, active sentences are displayed on the screen to illuminate the events.

In the regional cohesion analysis, the sentences in which causal and functional relations are established are included. In the context of causal relationship, clear sentences are used, and it is aimed to give information about the subject. The program tries to clarify the subject in terms of discursive causal relationships. In the news headlines, there are no causal relationship sentences, and news headlines such as “Yasemin was Fasting... High Rate of Alcohol Found in the Blood of Yasemin who passed away in Ramadan ... have a functional relationship. When “word selection” used frequently in the program which is one of the micros / schematic structure elements, the words “claim, gold, murder, loss, abduction, expression, witness, detention month of Ramadan, fasting, money” are used more frequently. The fact that the accused and accusing party are present in the studio in relation to the events included in the program reveals that “slang concepts are used more frequently with the rise of tension. Economic concepts such as “gold, money, etc.”, forensic concepts “expression, witness, detention”, religious concepts such as “fasting, Ramadan month” are more frequently used in parallel with the subject.

When we look at the rhetoric of the news, the credible information is usually obtained from the information given by the eyewitness who are connected to the live broadcast and by the reporters' interviews on the subject at the scene. In the programs broadcasted live during the week, every information is instantly displayed and thus the result can be reached immediately. The shooting scale used in the program is general shooting, close-up and shoulder shooting. The screen can be divided up to 4 parts when relevant parties are involved in the studio. Unlike other channels, statements of witnesses about the events are given in lines on the screen. Music given during the presentation of the subject carries more emotional tone on the subject. The presenter's tone, gesture and mimics clearly show what he thinks of the event. It affects the presenter's body language discourse.

### 3. Conclusion

In news bulletins or thematic news channels, topics of news value are conveyed to people in an up to date way. The “news courts” program type, which arose when people started to pay more attention to some events and wondered what the outcome was, who was the suspect and the victim, was examined in our program type study.

In this study, which is frequently seen on television today and is accepted as a sub-genre of news-discussion programs, the study was carried out with the assumption of the type of program that people follow most frequently in the daytime. A discursive analysis of ATV “Müge Anlı ile Tatlı Sert”, Start TV “Balçiçek İlter’le Olay Yeri”, TV8’s “Gerçeğin

Peşinde” programs broadcast between 30 April 2018 - 4 May 2018 is made. Teun A. Van Dijk's macro-microstructure analysis is similar to the formats of the news courts program type in the channels analyzed within the framework of critical discourse analysis. Each program includes a presenter, a lawyer, a forensic expert. ATV “Müge Anlı ile Tatlı Sert” program includes a psychologist in addition to other experts. Within the framework of the macro structure / thematic structure, the titles included in the programs include information subtraction and generalization, while the titles formed by question marks keep the curiosity of the audience alive. When the macro / schematic structure elements are considered, the presentation of the main event, background-context information and the comments made by the news sources and event parties are similar in all three programs. Telephone connections and interviews about the event are important factors in illuminating and concluding the event.

When the sentence structure which is one of the microstructure syntactic analysis elements is examined, whereas the sentences used in “Müge Anlı ve Tatlı Sert” program are passive, “Balçıçek İlter’le Olay Yeri” ve “Gerçeğin Peşinde” Gerçeğin Peşinde” programs have active sentences. The sentences are given as simple and descriptive as the audience can understand. Causal and functional sentences of regional adaptation elements are generally included in all three programs. When the “word selection and which is frequently used in the micro / schematic structure program is examined, the words “detention, arrest, loss, expression” are frequently used in the forensic concepts. Slang concepts are frequently used in “Balçıçek İlter’le Olay Yeri and “Müge Anlı ve Tatlı Sert” programs, slang concepts are frequently encountered and in “Gerçeğin Peşinde” program, slangs are rarely used.

As in the shooting scales used in the macro and microstructure analysis programs, the duration of the programs is similar. STAR TV “Balçıçek İlter’le Olay Yeri” program, where the gestures, mimics and voices of the servers are reflected in the discourse, the views of the presenter on the subject are reflected in the discourse of gestures and mimics. In the “Gerçeğin Peşinde” program, unlike other programs, questions are asked in the videos prepared on the subject and the answers of these questions are sought in the program. In “Balçıçek İlter’le Olay Yeri” program, statements of witnesses or defendants are written in a corner of the screen.

Current news discussion program type, which can be considered as a sub-type "news courts" types of programs addressing the discursive analysis of studies in this area underlining the necessity of analysis with different perspectives, in Turkey, "the news courts" in the type of program can be classed as few in number. The aim of this study is to create an environment of discussion and to contribute to the literature by making an important determination about the differentiation and deepening of the studies, especially in connection with the disciplines such as sociology and psychology.

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