**Evolving forms of reported discourse as a result of evolving journalistic practices. How the *Wiener Zeitung* quoted *The Times* (1850–1900)**

In the second half of the 19th century, industrialisation and urbanisation, profound shifts in societal demographics, the growing freedom of the press, and the spread of literacy set the stage for the diversification of press products and the development of the newspaper as a mass medium (Faulstich 2004: 30).

Technological innovations brought about significant changes in both the material aspects of newspaper production and journalistic practices. The telegraph and telephone, improved postal systems and railroads, and the establishment of news agencies resulted in an unprecedented inflow of news reaching the desks of journalists (Jucker 2005: 12). It has been noted in the study of the historical American and British press that, under these new conditions, the traditional practice of reproducing news items as they were received, i.e., without editorial intervention, was no longer viable. Instead, journalists began combining multiple pieces of information into a coherent story (Matheson 2000: 563).

These changes in the treatment of the quoted sources ultimately triggered changes in the realization of reported discourse in newspapers, leading to an increased prevalence of shorter direct speech passages and the rise of mixed reported speech forms towards the end of the 19th century (Jucker & Berger 2014). While these transformations have been observed primarily in the British press, they seem to be part of a more widespread evolution of Western newspaper language.

To substantiate this hypothesis, I will conduct an analysis of reported discourse in the *Wiener Zeitung*, one of the most important Austrian newspapers of the 19th and early 20th centuries. In order to evaluate how the treatment of sources evolved in the latter half of the 19th century and how this impacted the formal realization of reported discourse in Austrian newspapers, I will investigate how the *Wiener Zeitung* (WZ) quoted *The Times* (TT). For each decade between 1850 and 1900, 50 articles from the WZ that quote TT will be analysed. This investigation will involve comparing the original articles with their rendition in the Austrian newspaper and assessing the changing frequency of various forms of reported discourse throughout the designated period. Reported discourse is defined pragmatically as the metarepresentation of linguistically encoded content produced in a communicative situation A and subsequently relayed in a later communicative situation B (Brendel et al. 2007), and thus encompasses all possible linguistic realisations of ‘reporting’, spanning from canonical direct and indirect speech to, e.g., mixed quotations, narrative reports, and prepositional or parenthetical reporting phrases / clauses (Fabricius-Hansen 2019: 16–21). These will all be annotated and quantified.

This will show how Austrian newspapers followed a pattern akin to that previously observed in British newspapers, a pattern characterized by a decline in lengthy direct speech passages, a rise in the frequency of shorter segments of direct speech, and the emergence of mixed reported discourse forms.

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