Patterns of linguistic interaction in live news blogs

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It is indisputable that the media landscape has been thoroughly transformed since the 1990s as a result of the advent of modern technologies, bringing about news journalistic practices and new text types. One of the latest additions among the new genres of mass media communication is the live news blog, characterized by the reporting of events as they unfold in real time. The presentation identifies several distinct types of live blogs found in mainstream British online newspapers and documents their basic structural features. Particular attention is paid to interactive forms through which news texts can incorporate external comments from readers that are either communicated by email/Twitter or shared on social media. While audience participation used to be limited to various synthetic linguistic forms in the traditional one-way model of media communication, live news blog containing elements of real interaction with readers require us to rethink how up-to-date news is gathered, formulated, presented and disseminated by drawing on external, non-institutional sources. The paper discusses the genre from the combined perspective of discourse analysis and pragmatics.

Keywords: participant framework, media discourse, live blog.