

## ABSTRACT

Zimbabwe held 'fresh' elections on July 31, 2013 under a new constitution. This was in line with the provisions of the Global Political Agreement (GPA), a political power-sharing compromise signed between Zimbabwe's three main political parties, following the heavily disputed 2008 harmonised presidential and parliamentary elections. The GPA established in Zimbabwe a Government of National Unity (GNU). On the road to making a new constitution, political differences and party politicking always seemed to take precedence over national interest. This political polarity in Zimbabwe resulted in the heavy polarity of the media, especially along political ideological grounds. The new constitution-making process and all its problems received heavy coverage in almost all national newspapers. This article analyses the discourse-linguistic notion of 'objectivity' in 'hard' news reports on the new constitution-making process by comparing the textuality of 'hard' news reports from two Zimbabwean national daily newspapers: the government-owned and controlled *Herald* and the privately owned *Newsday*. Focusing on how language and linguistic resources are used evaluatively in ways that betray authorial attitudes and bias in news reporting, the article examines how the news reports uphold or flout the 'objectivity' ideal as explicated through the 'reporter voice' configuration, and within Appraisal Theory.