

Children's Rights Discourse in *Human Rights Watch* Report Titles

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an analysis of report titles of Human Rights Watch (HRW). The titles of HRW reports seem not to have special grammatical rules, they rather tend to be sensational, and probably contain more formal markers and discursive features than ordinary titles of reports. This study thus aims at finding out the characteristics of this organization's report titles during nine years (from 2006 to 2014), as far as children's rights are concerned. This library research shows that the rights of the child are the most advocated among HRW's fifteen topics. In the light of Kambaja's (2009) procedural approach and van Dijk's (1993) analytical framework, it is argued that formal markers and discursive features can be powerful persuasive techniques to attract readers' attention on international issues in this modern world full of competitive NGOs.

Keywords: Human Rights Watch, children's rights, adultism, report title, critical discourse analysis, formal marker

1. INTRODUCTION

The term "children" evokes issues such as education, medical care, innocence, fragility, future, abuse, and exploitation. About developing countries, the media are full of stories of infant mortality, child labor, street children, child soldiers, and juvenile delinquency. Traditionally, the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, while parents have a prior