

Exercise 1: Answer

The item is remarkably similar to how such breaking news might appear today on an online news site.

The item is, in fact, made up of two reports. The first starts with what could be a websnap: “M. Seddon died at sea yesterday.” This is then followed by a brief report of the news. The timeliness of the news is emphasised by the report noting that the information was received on June 11 at 11.58am.

Following this, there is a second report, received at 12:58pm, which gives a little more information – that Seddon died of heart failure.

The reports themselves are brief. They are dated and timed, and we are told where the reports came from (that is, we are given their dateline - Sydney). This all reflects the technology of the time. The reports would have been sent from Sydney as short telegrams, which would have crossed the Tasman as a series of electronic pulses along an undersea telegraphic cable. The global telegraph service is often regarded as the early equivalent of the internet.

As for the differences, of course, the English seems a little old-fashioned to our eyes. For instance, the mention of a “most profound sensation was caused in the city” seems quaint. But, we should remember the English we use will probably seem equally quaint in 100 years.

More profoundly, the later report is *below* the earlier one. Today, we would expect the more recent news to appear at the *top* of the online story. This again reflected the technology of the time. The words in the newspaper would have been set out in metal type starting from the top. As a more recent report came in, it was set at the bottom of the existing story, where there was space. It looks odd to us, but would have seemed perfectly normal then.

Exercise 2: Answer

The role of the news media is to inform, influence and entertain. Although there is little doubt ethnic media can play a major role in portraying their people in a positive light, acting as a counter-balance to limited and stereotypical depictions in the mainstream media, there is nothing to be gained from self-censorship. That is not good journalism. Besides, societies do not progress if the dirty linen is kept hidden away.

In response to the criticism, *Native Affairs* reporter Mihingarangi Forbes said, “I think Māori journalism has grown up enough. It would be wrong not to investigate. We have to put our big girl pants on and go and do it” (*Mediawatch*, 2013). Likewise, Lincoln Tan said, “I declined to be interviewed by the Chinese reporter because I am not used to dealing with media organisations that see their role as being public relations promoters for a community... Putting issues on the table where they can be discussed is far more important than sweeping things under the carpet, pretending they do not exist” (Tan, 2006, para. 25).

References

Mediawatch. (2013, October 27). [Radio broadcast]. Retrieved from www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/mediawatch

Tan, L. (2006, May 22). *Lincoln Tan: True loyalty transcends the bounds of tokenism*. Retrieved from www.knowledge-basket.co.nz