RESEARCH ARTICLE

ANALYSING A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: A LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Manuscript Info	*Abstract*
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The present paper is about analysing a newspaper article titled"Ukraine Criseis: UK to send tents and winter clothing" which was published in November 2015 on the BBC website. The language of the article was investigated in terms of lexis and grammar, namely four parameters were applied: Word Analysis, Ideational Representation Analysis,Inter personal Representation Analysis(which includes attitude,graduation and engagement)and Textual Representation Analysis(which includes Th ematic structure and cohesion).Although the article seems to be short, it carried a lot of language and interactions with the reader among which some were expressed by the use of punctuation marks.

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Introduction:-

The analysis below is about a newspaper article published in 2015 as current news by the British Broadcasting Corperation (BBC). The text is genuine, authentic and designed to cope with the most recent use of the language at that time. The writer of the article had applied some linguistic features that employed grammar and lexis in order to deliver the communicative message both accurately and successfully. The following sections are the analysis of the text under four headings: Word Analysis, Ideational Representation Analysis, Interpersonal Representation Analysis and Textual Representation Analysis.

1 Word Analysis:

The word 'crisis' is a key word in my text. This word seems to beattractive; therefore, it was worth deep investigating. To serve this purpose, a tool called SketchEngine, which is a great corpus system, was used to trace this word and reveal some of its characteristics. The word analysis is done in the BritishNationalCorpus (BNC).

Crisis is classified as a noun which is usually singular within occurrence rate of 91.3% according to the WordSketch search (see Figure1 in the Appendices). When refined by "sorting by frequency", the search showed that it occurred 6,412 within the BNC. Most of this number (4,008) colligated with modifiers, for example, with 'economic' 313 times, 'Gulf' 312 times and 'political' 142 times. Moreover, it had been used a lot as an object to the verb "face" 46 times, 'resolve' 54 times and 'cause' 46 times while it was the subject of 'arise', 'come' and 'occur'. The same figure shows that 'crisis'was used with and/or followed by 'war' as the most frequent usage.

Surprisingly, when looking at the Concordance lines, there is no existence of the colligation 'Ukrainecrisis' (see Figure2). Instead, the phrase 'economic crisis' was looked up. There were 321 occasions where this combination

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colligated, when sorted to the right and to the left (see Figure3). When we look at the collocations of 'economic crisis' and sort it by frequency, we can see that the most frequent meaningful accompanying this noun phrase is 'political' (see Figure 4).

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines this word as (a time of great danger, difficulty or confusion when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made). Unlike the corpus, the dictionary entry indicates that crisis can be uncountable and gives the plural form as well as pronunciation in both British and American English. The dictionary and the corpus agree on the occurrence of the collocations 'political/financial crisis' and 'economiccrisis'.

If we look carefully at these findings, we can see that 'Ukrainecrisis'had never occurred in the BNC. However, this article was published by the BBC later on. This means that it takes some time for the BNC to be updated and researchers of contemporary linguistics matters need to wait. Another interesting thing is that the findings show that 'crisis' is a synonym for 'war' and this is how it is used in the text since the text involves army, troops and fighting. In addition, it shows that Britain, as the rest of the Western world, use the word in order not to give an importance to the war.

2 Ideational Representation Analysis:

Ideational representation is concerned with three elements: a participant, a process and a circumstance. Participants are the people, animals, things or places in the text. Processes are actions that participants do or get affected by. Circumstances tell us more about the action e.g. its frequency, location, manner, etc. Below is an extract from the text (103 words) which will be analysed in details highlighting the subcategories of those elements.

Extract 1

1. He said the UK government was "committed to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty".

2. "Our proposed gift of non-lethal equipment is designed to prevent further Ukrainian fatalities and casualties and to help improve resilience on the ground," Mr Fallon said.

3. The UK has already supplied Ukraine with £850,000 worth of equipment including first aid kits, sleeping bags and night-vision goggles as part of its pledge to provide assistance.

4. British military personnel have also been training members of the Ukrainian army.

5. The gift has been outlined in a departmental minute.

6. If no MP objects within 14 sitting days, delivery will be carried out in the coming weeks.

In the first sentence, we have two participants; He and the UK was "committed to support Ukraine's sovereignty'', along with one process (said). This process is called Verbal process (Illocutionary Force) and the first participant is identified as Sayer while the second participant is Said, in general, or Reported in particular. Now let's stop at the reported participant, calling it 1A, and analyse it. Evidently, (was) is a Relationalprocess, in specific an attributive relational process and (the UK government) is a participant known as Carrier of the attribute (a term used for the participant described) whereas committed to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty is the attribute. Another way to look at 1A is by having was committedas a process. In this sense, the process will shift from Relationalto Mental since no doing action is involved. Thus, The UK government is a Senser (inanimate participant because it is used metaphorically to mean those who work for the government and make the national decisions), and to supporting Ukraine's sovereigntyis a Phenomenonrealized as a clause.

The second sentence represents a similar pattern with the Verbal process said but this time the Sayer is Mr Fallon and the said is what we have between the quotation marks and therefore this participant is called Quoted. The latter

participant can also be analysed since it has its own process 'is designed' which is classified as a Material process and 'our proposed gift of non-lethal equipment' is its goal. The actor of this process is omitted because the sentence is in the passive voice. The rest of the sentence is a *role Circumstance* telling us which role the gift was designed for.The next sentence has an actor (The UK), a Material process (has already supplied) and a goal (Ukraine). The rest of the sentence is recognised as a Circumstance. We can also break the latter as follows: Extent Circumstance (with £850,000 worth), Matter Circumstance (of equipment), Accompaniment Circumstance (including first aid kits, sleeping bags and night-vision goggles), and Role Circumstance (as part of its pledge) and (to provide assistance).
 In sentence four, the nominal group British military personnelis known as actor to the Material process (have been training) and the goal here is also a nominal group (members of the Ukrainian army).

Sentence five resembles sentence 1A in terms of passive voice and absence of the doer. So, the gift is a goal to the Material process has been outlined. The final clause "in a departmentalminute" is a MannerCircumstance.
In the last sentence, there is a Material process (objects) and an actor (no MP). However, there is no goal here because (no MP objects) is an intransitiveclause where no object is required. There is also a Manner Circumstance (within 14 sitting days). The second process of this sentence is Material as well (will be carried out), (delivery) is it goal and (in the coming weeks) is a Manner Circumstance   while the actor is absent because of passivation.

3 Interpersonal Representation Analysis:

This analysis is engaged with the attitude of people related to the text, whether it is a reader, a writer or someone in the text. In this respect, I will analyse another extract (101 words) showing the different trends of attitudes involved within the 5 sentences.

> **Extract 2**
>
> 1. In a written parliamentary statement he said there had been a reduction in violence since August's ceasefire.
>
> 2. But he said the absence of a "political settlement" to the crisis meant troops had to "remain deployed forward".
>
> 3. He said the UK government was "committed to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty".
>
> 4. "Our proposed gift of non-lethal equipment is designed to prevent further Ukrainian fatalities and casualties and to help improve resilience on the ground," Mr Fallon said.
>
> 5. The UK has already supplied Ukraine with £850,000 worth of equipment including first aid kits, sleeping bags and night-vision goggles as part of its pledge to provide assistance.

There are three dimensions of evaluating inter-personality within a text: power, contact and emotion. The text under treatment is a newspaper article which means it is written for public and writers here normally have no direct contact with their readers. The writer did not involve himself nor the reader in this text, subsequently his/her role was to 'report'. There are three grammatical moods: imperative, interrogative and declarative. The moods usually determine the speech function e.g. imperative is used for giving commands/instruction. This determination, however, is not an absolute one because different functions can occur in different moods. Since the writer excluded the readers, no interrogative mood is used in this text. But it was definitely possible to ask two types of questions that do not need a reply. Firstly, expositoryquestions – these are questions where the writer engages the reader with a thinking process before giving them the answer. The second one is rhetoricalquestions – where the answer is known by everyone. All the sentences of Extract 2 are in the declarativemood and their purpose is to give information except sentence 2 which had a command (hadtoremaindeployed), so it is considered as a sentence in the imperativemood. ''Had to'' in such contexts is called Modalconstruction referring to a specific power and relationship. Another thing that may affect involvement of participants is the passive voice. A good example for this

is sentence 4 where we have no clue who designed the equipment although we can infer that it is the people in charge and perhaps that is why the writer didn't mention them.

3.1 Attitude:
Attitude's focus is emotional; it looks at the linguistic choices that demonstrate feelings and judgements of both participants and process. As previously mentioned, this text is about reporting facts as they are so most of it comes with no feelings and/or judgements. In Extract 2, we have only two sentences that express attitude: 2 and 3. In sentence 2, the speaker is judging that absence by demanding deployment of troops. This is known as Appreciation for it is about evaluating objects whereas in sentence 3 he is saying that supporting Ukraine's sovereignty is a duty for the UK government. As pointed outpreviously, government means the people who work for it, therefore this attitude is called Judgement. A third type of attitude, which is not in this extract, is Affect (evaluation of emotions).

3.2 Graduation:
Graduation is the linguistic options used to scale an action or evaluate someone/something. In sentence 1, 'reduction' is a Forceengagement. Another example of this is £850,000 of sentence 5 which shows us a value of an amount.

3.3 Engagement:
In this text, the writer did not take a position on what s/he was reporting. This makes the whole of Extract 2 what we call (Monogloss); where the writer wants the reader to agree or disagree with the content. Moreover, neither tentative nor definite assertions are used here, therefore it is named bareassertion.

4 Textual Representation Analysis:
In this section, the organisation of a third extractwill be discussed (114 words) and how its sentences are connected and related to each other. The first component is known as Thematic Structure and the second is Cohesion.

4.1 Thematic Structure:
The theme is a meaningful unit that comes at the beginning and the rheme is what follows it. The theme can be one of three: topical 'normally the subject of a sentence', textual 'conjunctions and textual adjuncts' or interpersonal 'names, titles, adjuncts of certainty, adjuncts of personal comments and a finite before the subject in declarative moods'.

Extract 3

Ukraine crisis: UK to send tents and winter clothing

1. Tents and winter clothing will be sent to the Ukrainian army as it continues to resist Russian-backed separatists, the defence secretary has said.

2. Michael Fallon said 170 large tents and 600 sets of clothing worth £971,000 including transport costs will be sent.

3. In a written parliamentary statement he said there had been a reduction in violence since August's ceasefire.

4. But he said the absence of a "political settlement" to the crisis meant troops had to "remain deployed forward".

'Improve resilience'

5. Mr Fallon said about 8,000 people had been killed in the fighting between the Ukrainian armed forces and separatists receiving "direct military support" from Russia.

The theme of the title is an interpersonal one:Ukrainecrisis. It is really well-hidden because no verb is used after it. Also the use of the colon is unreal since crisis never talk. We can infer that it is the rheme of the actual theme 'UK' but the writer put it at the beginning in purpose and it is not limited to being the theme of the title but it is the main theme of the whole topic. This way what comes after Ukrainecrisis is the rheme and within that very rheme there is another interpersonal theme 'UK' and the rest is the rheme of the second theme.

Sentence 1 has the unmarkedtopicalthemeTentsandwinterclothing and the rest is its rheme. There are also 2 other themes within this rheme: an unmarkedtopicaltheme "it" and an interpersonalthemethedefencesecretary. As it should be established by now, the rheme of each is what follows it to the end of the sentence.

Sentence 2 begins with an interpersonal theme (MichaelFallon) and its rheme carries 2 unmarked topical themes: (170largetentsand600 sets of clothing worth £971,000), and(transport costs).

The first markedtopicaltheme, realised by a circumstantialadjunct, comes in the third sentence (In a written parliamentary statement). There is an interpersonal theme 'he' enclosed in the rheme as well as the unmarked topical theme 'there'.

"But" is the textualtheme of sentence 4. There are also 3 other themes within the rheme of this sentence: an interpersonal theme (he), the embedded clause acting as a subject the absence of a ''politicalsettlement'' as a marked topical theme and an unmarked topical theme (troops).

Finally, sentence 5 includes an unmarked topical theme (MrFallon) and its rheme includes 2 themes: the adjunct of certainty about as an interpersonal theme, and (8,000people) as a marked topical theme.

In terms of thematic progression, sentence 1 and 5 have linearthemes while sentences 2, 3 and 4 have constant ones. Cohesion is how lexis and grammar relate in the text. This includes Reference, Ellipsis, Substitution, conjunction and lexicalcohesion. (Halliday and Hasan; 1970)

Extract 3 has 2 pronominalreferences: it in sentence 1 referring to the Ukrainian army and he in sentences 3 and 4 referring to Mr Fallon. There is also the comparative referenceas in sentence 1. The two reference types mentioned are Anaphoric ''referring backwards''. In sentence 5, we can find the only one Cataphoricreference, using the empty noun 'about' to refer to 8,000 people.

Cohesion
Ellipsis appears once in the extract in the subtitle "Improve Resilience" instead of saying: 'We designed equipment to help improve resilience'.

The writer has used 3 cohesive conjunctions: an adversative(But), a causal(meant) and a temporal(as). He has also repeated(said) 4 times, (tentsandclothing) 3 times and (willbesent) twice.

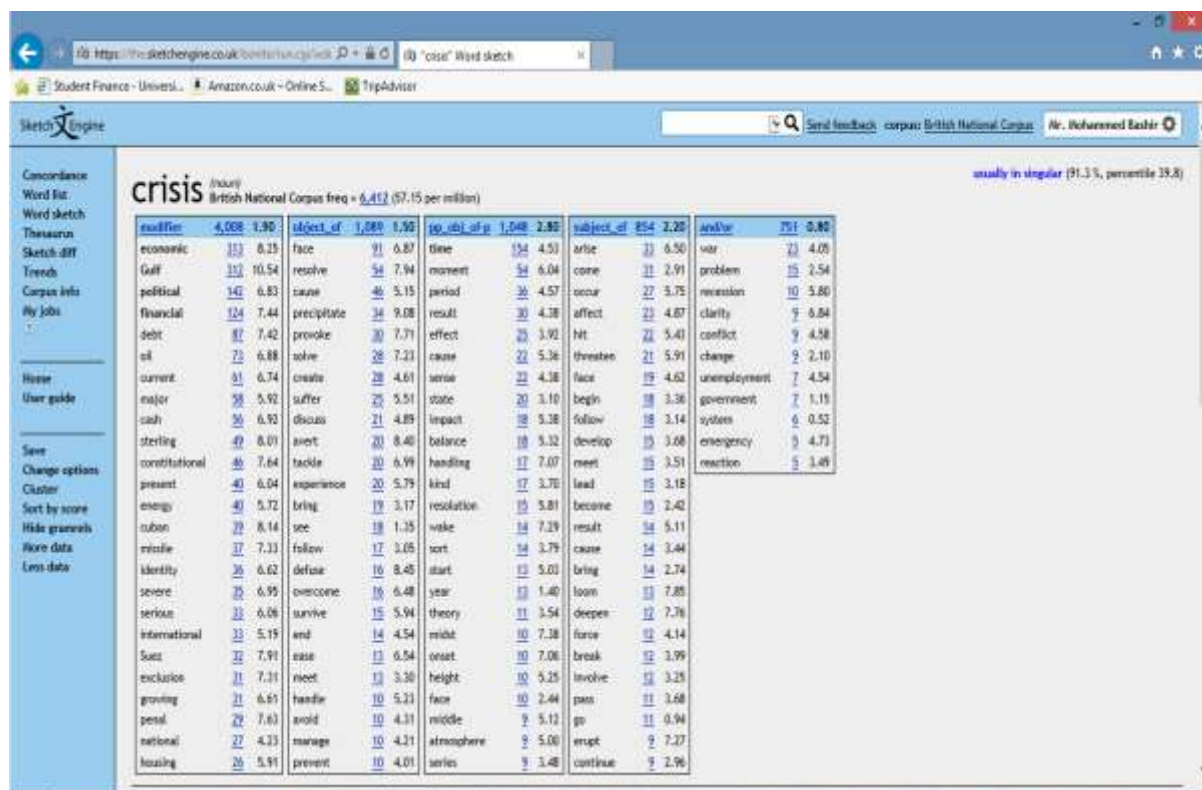**Appendix 1 – Sketch Engine search results for the word 'Crisis'.**
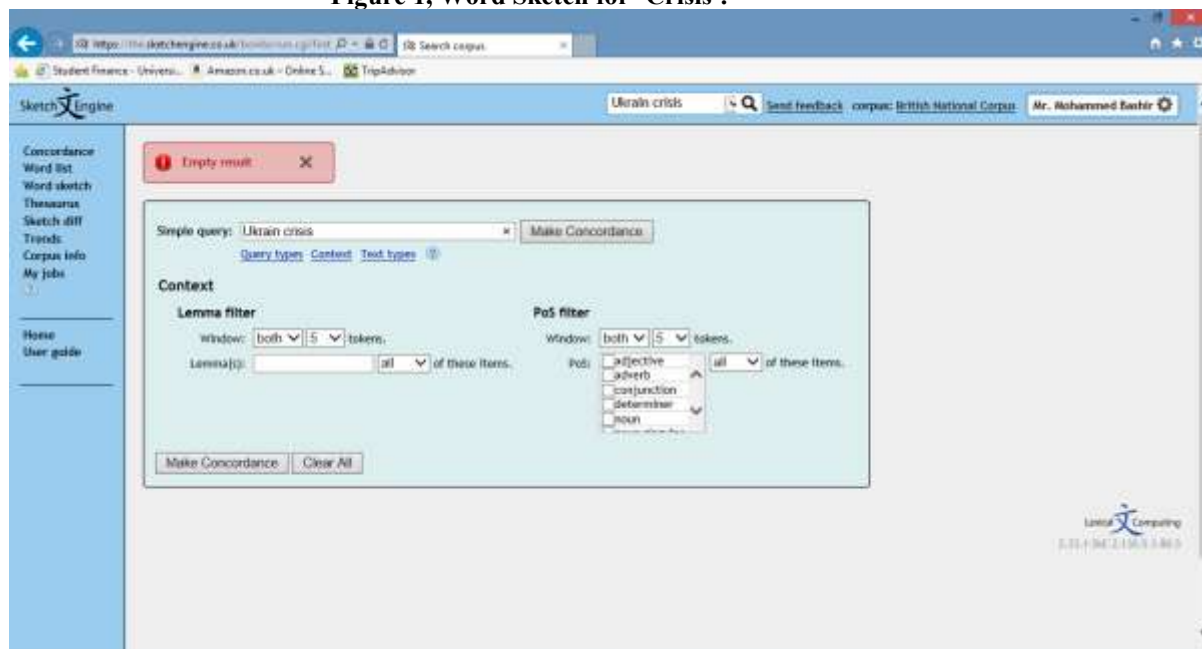

Figure 1, Word Sketch for 'Crisis'.

Figure 2, Concordance for 'Ukraine Crisis'.

Figure 3, Concordance for 'economic Crisis' sorted to the right and to the left.

Figure 4, Collocations for 'economic Crisis'.

Appendix 2 – The text of analysis

Figure 1, The text 'Ukraine crisis: UK to send tents and winter clothing', retreived from the BBC websitehttp://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34870246

Figure 2, The text 'Ukraine crisis: UK to send tents and winter clothing', retreived from the BBC websitehttp://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34870246
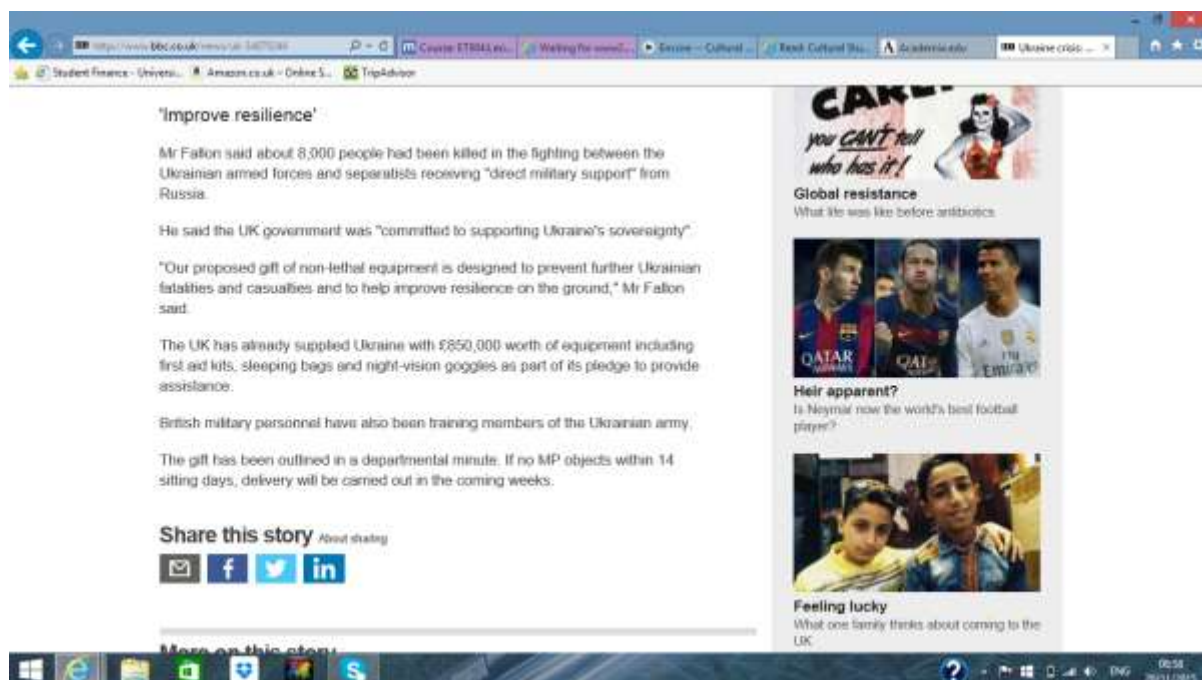
Figure 3, The text 'Ukraine crisis: UK to send tents and winter clothing', retreived from the BBC websitehttp://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34870246

Appendix 3 – A dictionary entry for 'Crisis'

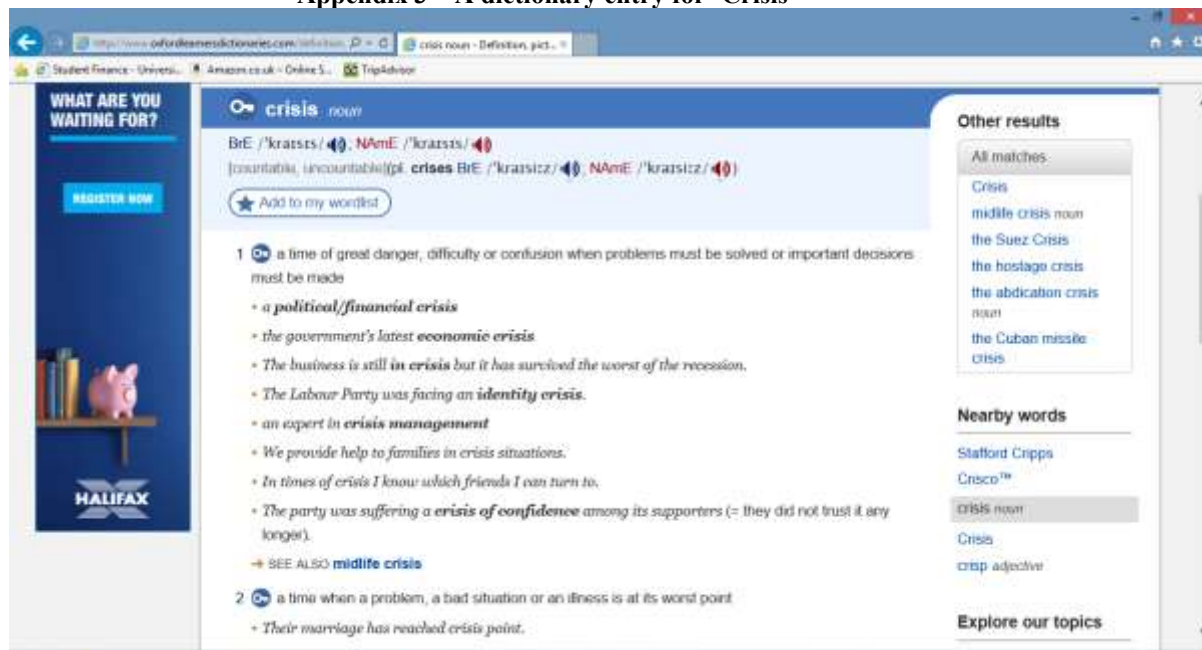**Figure 1, Oxford Learner's Dictionary, Online Search For 'Crisis'**

Appendix 4 – Tables of Processes and Participants

Actor	Process	Goal
	is designed	our proposed gift of non-lethal equipment
The UK	has already supplied	Ukraine
British military personel	have been training	

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