

Les commentaires métalinguistiques des internautes sur les sites d'information belges

Users' metalinguistic comments on Belgian news websites

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Abstract: This article analyses some metalinguistic comments posted by users on seven Belgian news websites in French. Comments are a space the public uses to express its criticisms of and views about journalists: we propose here an approach to social speech concerning journalists' language. Selected via three systematic requests (on *belgicisme*, *anglicisme* and *langue française*), our examples show that web users react to different types of "mistakes" and interact about them, but also present journalists as "inadequate models". Finally, we suggest that there is an affiliation between online news comments and traditional columns on language usage: even though it is a more open space for discussion, online comments are shown to uphold purist discourse with regard to language in the media.

Key words: comments, journalism, purism, news websites, sociolinguistics, French language.