

Exercise 1

The following item appeared in the *Bay of Plenty Times* on Monday, June 11, 1906. It reports the death of New Zealand's Premier (that is, Prime Minister), Richard Seddon. He had been travelling back to New Zealand from Australia on a ship, the *Oswestry Grange*, when he suddenly took ill and died on June 10.

How does the piece compare to reportage today? How would a similar event be reported in New Zealand today?

(Received 11, 11.58 a.m.)
SYDNEY, June 11.
Mr. Seddon died at sea yesterday.
A most profound sensation was caused in the city when the news was posted that the *Oswestry Grange* was returning to port with her flag half mast and that Mr Seddon had died suddenly.
(Received 11, 12.58 p.m.)
SYDNEY, June 11.
Mr Seddon died of heart failure at 9 o'clock last night.

Article courtesy of *Papers Past* (<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>)

Exercise 2

In 2013 *Native Affairs*, a current affairs programme on Māori Television, reported on alleged financial impropriety by senior members of a Māori organisation.

Some in Māoridom criticised *Native Affairs* for the story. Māori Party co-leader Tariana Turia “I find it really difficult that there is a major focus on all the things that are wrong amongst our people rather than what’s right. When Māori Television started it was a wonderful opportunity to look at the potential of our people and the great things they were doing.” Likewise, *Native Affairs* received many emails and telephone calls, with people asking why one Māori organisation was investigating another. Some said the report reflected the “Pākehāfication” on Māori news media (*Mediawatch*, October 27, 2013)

Lincoln Tan is an Auckland-based reporter Lincoln Tan originally came from Singapore and was of Chinese ethnicity. Back in 2006, he co-wrote an article in *The New Zealand Herald* about a dramatic increase in the number of Chinese students becoming prostitutes. Tan also co-edited an English language Asian newspaper, *iBall*, which ran a major article on the issue (Tan & Middleton, 2006).

A little while later, Tan wrote another article in the *Herald*, explaining that a local Chinese reporter had approached him asking him to think about his responsibility to the Chinese community to protect the reputation of the Chinese in New Zealand. He also said his newspaper was sent an email that complained: “They say you are Chinese but traitor Chinese, so if you want to be one of us you must unite with us. I hope you consider your colour and stand united with the people of China in NZ so you can one day become first class Chinese to us and stop taking side of white people” (Tan, 2006, para. 22).

Do you agree with these criticisms? What do you see is the role of the news media?

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

Tan, L. & Middleton, J. (2006, May 12). *Chinese students take on sex for cash*. Retrieved from www.knowledge-basket.co.nz