

# Evaluating Attitudes in News Text: Appraisal in Critical Discourse Study

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**Abstract**— The discrimination in religious affair has become a global problem which is very essential to be noticed in a linguistic way, especially for conflict between Israel and Palestinians on Gaza which keep on happening for many years. This study contributes in critical discourse study by interpreting the discourse to understand social culture from the linguistic perspectives by analyzing text through systemic functional linguistics: appraisal system. The gap of the study which differs from other researches is namely analyzing the news item from Cable News Network (CNN) dated in April in 2018 in the religious case investigated in the aspects of language evaluation. The study focuses on attitude: affect to find out the classification of feeling used in the text to construe the cultural aspects. The design of the study is descriptive qualitative. There are two kinds of validity implemented in this study. They are expert validity and source validity. The expert validity is reached through the comments given by the experts. The findings of the study show that the text consists of appraisal which shows unhappiness: antipathy (23.81%); security: confidence (23.81%); dissatisfaction: displeasure (14.29%); insecurity: disquiet (9.52%); behavioral surge (9.52%); insecurity: surprise (4.76%); inclination (4.76%); security: trust (4.76%); unhappiness: misery (4.76%). The appraisal can show that the text has applied negative feeling on unhappiness: antipathy of Israel to Palestinians and security: confidence between them who both of them feel strongly confident in their each deed.

**Keywords**— critical; discourse; appraisal; attitude; culture

## I. INTRODUCTION

The discrimination still happens in treating countries with the reason of different religions. It is very essential to investigate the discrimination between Palestinians and Israel in linguistic point of view. This study gives a great contribution in analyzing text through systemic functional grammar: appraisal. The appraisal convinces as the way to evaluate the lexis and the structure used in text to know the kinds of feeling expressed. There are three reasons why appraisal can show the meaning of the text well (Martin and White, 2005: 10-11) namely: (1) appraisal realizes the attitude through a phrase of discourse; (2) the realization of attitude is in grammatical categories such as an adjective (epithet), a verb

(process), an adverb (comment adjunct); (3) there is the question of grammatical metaphor such as nominalization and modality.

There is a very close relation between critical discourse analysis and systemic functional linguistic: appraisal. There are relations between Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) stated in (Young and Harrison, 2004: 1) that become the focus of linguistic investigation, namely: both CDA and SFL are used to give a view on language as a social construction by seeing the language role in society and see the way in delivering the language, both CDA and SFL see the language which can influence the context and vice versa, how the context influences the language, both CDA and SFL give attention to the semantic aspect seen from the cultural aspect and the historical aspect.

A large number of researches have conducted a study on appraisal and there is still a gap found. Dong (2006) investigated appraisal on students' writing in blog; Pascual and Unger (2010) focused on appraisal in proposals which got international grant; Isaac (2012) analyzed arguments of ten international non native speaker who uses English for academic purposes by using appraisal theory; Hadidi and Parvin (2015) conducted a study on appraisal in novel; Wei, Wherrity, and Zhang (2015) reviewed appraisal theory from the current research in China and abroad; Haristyanti (2015) saw appraisal used by Barack Obama in his speech; Drasovean and Tagg (2015) studied on online participants' comments. The study on appraisal by analyzing newspaper online in religion context in critical discourse analysis has not been done and it becomes the gap of the study.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEWS

The literature reviews consist of aim of the critical discourse study to make sure that this study can meet the proper aim and the relation of appraisal with critical discourse analysis to convince that appraisal can be a referential theory to analyze the data.

### A. Aim of Critical Discourse Study/Analysis

There are some aims of critical discourse analysis that should be known such as: (1) to make the issue of discrimination accepted by the world to protect the marginal group; (2) to make the world understand the social and political problem; (3) to conduct the empirical study with applicable theory; (4) to explain the social interaction and social structure; (5) to determine, to confirm, and to against the abuse of power and domination (Van Dijk, 2001: 353).

### B. Relation of Systemic Functional Linguistics: Appraisal and Critical Discourse Analysis

Young and Harrison (2004:2) state that Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) have a great relation. SFL is as one way to explain and describe the relation of theory and application in detail by looking at the relation between language and society, language and power, language and social change. This is the way which can convince that SFL can dig the relation between power and ideology in detail through discourse analysis in real language context by giving explicit, transparent, and right result.

SFL has three general social functions. The first is interpersonal. The interpersonal function helps to see the relationship. The second is ideational. The ideational function helps to see the experience. The last is textual. The textual function assists to organize the text. In this study, SFL can explore the interpersonal function: appraisal to analyze the negotiating attitudes in depth. (Martin and Rose, 2007:7).

Appraisal is a discourse semantic resource which construes interpersonal meaning. Appraisal has three domains namely attitude, engagement, and graduation (Martin and White, 2005: 35). This study focuses on the attitudes which evaluate language to show the kinds of feeling or affect.

Martin and Rose (2007:63-64) have given some ways to help in classifying the affect as in the following way:

- (1) Determine if the feelings are in positive or negative one.  
For example: the girl is *glad* (positive); the girl is *sad* (negative).
- (2) Determine whether the feelings show an emotion or a mental state. For example: the man *smiled* (behavioral); the man *felt happy* (mental).
- (3) Determine if the feelings show the conscious reaction to other or undirected mood which shows uncertainty why the people feel that way. For example: the boy *likes* the professor/the professor *pleases* the boy (reaction to other); the boy was *happy* (undirected mood)
- (4) Determine whether the feelings are graded in lower or higher level. For example: the girl *likes* the gift (low); the girl *loves* the gift (median); the girl *adores* the gift (high)
- (5) Determine if the feelings involve intention (unreal) or reaction (real). For example: the girl *likes* the gift (real: the gift is on her hand); the girl *wants* the gift (unreal: there is a will to get the gift)
- (6) Determine the group of emotions into three kinds

un/happiness, in/security, and dissatisfaction/satisfaction. For example: *she laughed/she cried* (un/happiness); *she was anxious/she was confident* (in/security); *she paid attention/she yawned* (dissatisfaction/satisfaction)

## III. METHODS

There are two parts explored in the method. They are research design and validity with reliability.

### A. Research Design

This study applies the descriptive qualitative. The data are taken from an international newspaper online named Cable News Network (CNN) dated in April in 2018 reported by Ian Lee, Abeer Salman and Ameera Ahmed downloaded from <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/04/13/middleeast/gaza-israel-border-protests-intl/index.html>. The title of the news genre is '1 Palestinian killed, nearly 1,000 injured in latest Gaza protests, Palestinian officials say'. The data are analyzed by using SFL: appraisal. This study limits the investigation on the affect only to find out the kinds of feelings to make interpretation of functional meaning and to determine the social culture of the participants. The analysis of affect is seen from the lexis chosen.

### B. Validity and Reliability

There are two kinds of validity used in this research. The first is expert validity. The analysis of the data pays attention to the expert's suggestion who knows well about the appraisal theory. The second is source validity. This study refers to three referential theories given by Martin and White (2005), Martin and Rose (2007) who explore the theory of appraisal in detail, and also Thompson (2014) who gives further examples on grammatical metaphor which has a relation with the affect.

The reliability is also reached from the three sources. This study classifies the lexis by considering the theories stated in three theories explained by Martin and White (2005), Martin and Rose (2007), and Thompson (2014). The data are reliable when it is suitable with the classification and theory stated in the three theories stated.

## IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data are analyzed based on the affect classification proposed by Martin and Rose (2007:63-64) and also pay attention to the appraisal theory stated by Martin and White (2005) and Thompson (2014). The classification and the description of findings are further explained as the following:

TABLE I. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 1

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Insecurity: disquiet	Israeli soldiers <i>stand</i> as Palestinian protesters gather along the Gaza-Israel border fence on Friday	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Israeli troops on Palestinians

The datum shows that the lexis *stand* is considered in the group emotion as insecurity because *stand* here means: restless. The Israeli soldiers feel insecure so that they decide to stand to protect Gaza from Palestinian. The lexis *stand* belongs to real affect as it involves reaction and it also a part of metaphorical grammar which has a function to strengthen the words.

TABLE II. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 2

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Unhappiness: antipathy and Dissatisfaction: displeasure	One Palestinian <i>was killed</i> and 968 others <i>injured</i> in Gaza on Friday, Palestinian health officials said, as Palestinian protesters <i>demonstrated</i> for a third week along the border fence between Gaza and Israel	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Palestinians' side. They feel unhappiness and displeasure

Table II gives information that the lexis *was killed* and *injured* includes in the group emotion as unhappiness: antipathy while the lexis *demonstrated* is as dissatisfaction: displeasure. The lexis *was killed* and *injured* shows the reaction to others. The statement can be written in another way: 'one Palestinian was killed/Israeli soldiers assassinated one Palestinian'; '968 others injured/Israeli soldiers hurt 968 others'.

TABLE III. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 3

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Dissatisfaction: displeasure	The protests, dubbed "The March of Return" <i>have resulted in confrontations</i> between Palestinians and Israeli troops	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by in both Israeli troops and Palestinians' sides.

Table III shows the affect classification is as real affect because the feeling involves reaction to create confrontation or violence. The negative affect is shown throw the words *have resulted in confrontation* which express dissatisfaction: displeasure.

TABLE IV. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 4

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Unhappiness: antipathy	The Palestinian Health Ministry said Islam Hirzallah, 28, <i>was shot</i> in the stomach east of Gaza City and <i>died</i> of his wounds.	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Palestinian in the form of unhappiness because of Israel's antipathy

The datum belongs to affect classification considered as reaction to other for the lexis *was shot and died*'. The sentence can be written in another way, such as *the Palestinian Health Ministry said Islam Hirzallah, 28, was shot in the stomach*

*east of Gaza City and died of his wounds* can be written *Israeli troops killed Islam Hirzallah, 28*. The negative affect shows negative reaction of unhappiness: antipathy.

TABLE V. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 5

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Unhappiness: antipathy	Many of the injuries were <i>the result of live ammunition and tear gas fired</i> by Israeli soldiers, the ministry said.	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Palestinian in the form of unhappiness because of Israel's antipathy

The datum gives information that the affect classification is considered as reaction to other seen from the words *the result of live ammunition and tear gas fired*. It can be changed into another reaction form with the same meaning such as *Israeli troops attacked with live ammunition and tear gas*. The negative feeling is included in unhappiness: antipathy as the real affect.

TABLE VI. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 6

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Insecurity: surprise	In one incident, captured on video released by the ministry, a paramedic station set up near the southern city of Khan Younis to treat the wounded was hit by tear gas. Ten paramedics <i>were treated</i> for tear gas inhalation.	Negative	Negative feeling of insecurity: surprise is felt by Palestinians

The datum shows the affect classification as real affect in the form of insecurity: surprise. Actually, the paramedics may not be attacked as the rule in war but this situation happens which realizes a shocked or surprised feeling.

TABLE VII. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 7

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Inclination and security: trust and confidence	Palestinian protesters <i>cover their faces against teargas</i> during a protest at the Gaza-Israel border	Positive	Positive feeling is felt by the Palestinians to show their inclination

The datum gives a clue that it is the affect classification as reaction to others shown by the use of lexis *cover*. Moreover, it also shows real affect of inclination *brave*. The inclination is well described from the words *cover their faces against teargas*. The positive feeling of security: trust and security: confidence comes up from Palestinians when they are definitely sure that they are in the right side.

TABLE VIII. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 8

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Security: confidence	The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) <i>said in a statement</i> that 10,000 Palestinians had gathered in five locations along the border fence. The IDF <i>said</i> several attempts to "harm or breach the security infrastructure" along the border had taken place, including the detonation of an explosive device near the disused crossing point at Karni, and the throwing of firebombs.	Positive	Positive feeling is felt by Israel in confidence of their statement and their deed

The datum gives information that the affect classification is security: confidence noticed from the lexis *said in a statement* and *said*. The data describes that Israel is confident in giving statement and in doing the action because it harms their side.

TABLE IX. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 9

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Security: confidence	The IDF <i>said</i> it was responding with what it called riot dispersal means, and that it was firing in accordance with the rules of engagement	Positive	Positive feeling is felt by Israel in confidence of their statement and their deed

The datum shows that the affect classification is considered in the group of emotion as security: confidence. The lexis *said* shows that Israel wants to give explanation with verbal sign that what has been done has a right reason in accordance with the rules of engagement.

TABLE X. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 10

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Security: confidence	The Israeli military and officials <i>have repeatedly said</i> they will not allow any breach of the fence, and that those who do not abide by the rules of engagement will be shot.	Positive	Positive feeling is felt by Israel in confidence of their statement and their deed

The datum shows that the affect classification is in the group of emotion of security: confidence. There is also an intensifier used such as *repeatedly* that makes the emotion stronger. It means that they have a great confidence seen

through the real action in the form of giving statement and giving punishment for breaking the rule.

TABLE XI. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 11

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Unhappiness: antipathy	In all, <i>35 Palestinians have been killed</i> in Gaza since the latest round of demonstrations began on March 30, according to a CNN count. <i>Thousands have been injured</i> .	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Palestinians in unhappiness because of Israel's antipathy

The datum shows that the affect classification is as reaction to other shown by the lexis *have been killed* and *have been injured* considered as unhappiness: antipathy. The reaction to other is well described when the words can be changed into another form such as *have assassinated* and *have hurt*.

TABLE XII. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 12

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Security: confidence	The goal of the "March of Return" protests, Palestinians <i>say</i> , is to cross the border fence and return to what they say are their lands, which became part of Israel seven decades ago.	Positive	Positive feeling is felt by Palestinian

The datum gives information that affect classification shows the group of emotion of security: confidence. The lexis used is *say* as the verbal sign which has an aim to give confirmation that what Palestinians do is their rights to return or to take the land back.

TABLE XIII. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 13

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Unhappiness: antipathy and insecurity: disquiet	Israel <i>blames</i> Hamas and Islamic Jihad for the violence, and <i>has said</i> those killed were "known terrorists" while the dead include some members of Hamas and other militant groups, a journalist and other civilians also have been killed. The injured include women and children.	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Israel in the form of unhappiness : antipathy and insecurity: disquiet



The datum shows affect classification in unhappiness: antipathy and insecurity: disquiet which show hate and restless when they think Palestinians are a part of terrorists shown by the verbal sign *say* and the lexis *blame* which shows behavioral process which shows hate.

TABLE XIV. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 14

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Behavioral surge	Hasan Ahsrawi, a member of the Palestinian Labor Organization (PLO) Executive Committee, <i>slammed</i> Israel's use of live-fire in a statement last week. "We <b>strongly condemn</b> Israel's deliberate and violent attacks against unarmed Palestinian protestors," she said.	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Palestinian on Israel shown by behavioral surge

The affect classification is considered as behavioral surge seen from the lexis used *slammed* and *condemn*. Both of them are used to express negative feeling. There is also intensifier used *strongly* which shows the negative feeling is expressed stronger than usual.

TABLE XV. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 15

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Behavioral surge and Dissatisfaction: displeasure	Rights group Amnesty International <i>called</i> Friday for the Israeli authorities to "put an immediate end to the excessive and lethal force being used to suppress Palestinian demonstrations in Gaza."	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Palestinian on Israel shown by behavioral surge and dissatisfaction: displeasure at once

The datum shows that affect classification as behavioral surge seen from the use of lexis *call for* which shows dissatisfaction: displeasure. The Palestinians want to end Israel's pressure in Gaza.

TABLE XVI. APPRAISAL IN INFORMATION 16

Affect Classification	Realization of Lexis	Kinds of Feeling	Descriptive Information
Unhappiness: misery	The United Nations <i>has failed twice</i> to agree on the release of a statement addressing the violence in Gaza. According to two UN diplomats, the US <i>prevented</i> draft statements from being issued.	Negative	Negative feeling is felt by Palestinians because UN has failed to stop the violence and US has prevented to issue the peace draft in Gaza

The datum shows that the affect classification is considered as unhappiness: misery or sorrow which is shown by the lexis *fail* and *prevent*. There is also intensifier shown by ordinal number *twice* which describes the event that it has happened more than one and it explores the deep negative feeling inside.

After exploring the data one by one, the number of negative feelings can be derived in the following table XVII.

TABLE XVII. PERCENTAGE OF AFFECT

Kinds of Affect	Total Number	Percentage
Unhappiness: antipathy	5	23.81%
Security: confidence	5	23.81%
Dissatisfaction: displeasure	3	14.29%
Insecurity: disquiet	2	9.52%
Behavioral surge	2	9.52%
Insecurity: surprise	1	4.76%
Inclination: bravery	1	4.76%
Security: trust	1	4.76%
Unhappiness: misery	1	4.76%

Considering the findings above related with the other previous researchers' findings is very essential to show the contribution clearly. This study has given new information that appraisal can also be conducted on news item different from the other researches to show the kinds of affect to urge the world to pay attention to the kinds of feeling felt by the marginal sides (Palestinian). It also supports the statements stated by Wei, Wherrity, and Zhang (2015) as one of the proofs that appraisal is an appropriate tool to analyze the attitude and interpersonal meanings both in discourse like what have been conducted by Dong (2006); Pascual and Unger (2010); Isaac (2012); Hadidi and Parvin (2015); Drasovean and Tagg (2015) and in critical discourse conducted by Haristyanti (2015) on Obama's speech.

## V. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings above, appraisal can show the kinds of feelings or affect clearly. The affect which is the most applicable feeling used in the news shows unhappiness: antipathy and security: confidence (23.81%). The datum means that appraisal systems explore the language evaluation to show how much unhappiness and security felt in the news text. There is a big antipathy from Israel to Palestinians and both of them have the same confidence that they are right in their own ways. The second applicable feeling used is dissatisfaction: displeasure (14.29%). The dissatisfaction: displeasure is mostly felt by Palestinians because there are many of them who are killed and injured and they think the conflict can never meet the end and even the solution to live in peace. There is one information states that both of Palestinian and Israel also feel dissatisfied with the confrontation happens. The third feeling used is insecurity: disquiet and behavioral surge (9.52%). Insecurity: disquiet is only felt by Israeli troops while behavioral surge is only shown by Palestinians. The

affect which shows insecurity: surprise, inclination, security: trust, unhappiness: misery have the same percentage (4.76%) which means that the feelings are uncommon to be expressed.

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