

Appraisal Analysis of Western and Eastern Ministers Discourse in Al Jazeera News

Ali Hussein Abdulameer, Siti Noor Fazelah Mohd Noor and
Azmi Abdul Latiff

Abstract--- *The purpose of this study was to describe and analyze Eastern and Western ministers Attitudes towards the announcement by US President Donald Trump on December 6, 2017, in which his decision about the recognition of the US administration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in the discourse using the Appraisal System Analysis. The discourse analysis was done by breaking down the discourse into several sentences and analyzing them to find out the Appraisal Devices and the types of Attitudes used. Analyzing the data, it could be inferred that the speech employed three kinds of Attitudes; Affect, Judgment, Appreciation. There were 55 clauses consist of 10 Affects, 4 Judgments, and 41 Appreciations. The findings reveal that negative Appreciation is most commonly attributed to the Trump's decision on Jerusalem by the Eastern ministers and on the other hand Western ministers appraised the decision with positive Appreciation in Al Jazeera news which point to which ministers concern with Trump's behavior and the objective world rather than with the emotional field.*

Keywords--- *Political Discourse, Eastern Ministers, Political Communication.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Analyzing Political Discourse is considered to be a knowledgeable field which pays attention to study political communication within the society, whether by text, discourse, images, signs, symbols or other marks (Bolinaga, 2017). It aims to answer some specific questions, including "how political discourse works? And how it performs its functions, which are often related to the acquisition, legitimization, and retention of power?" "Analyzing Political Discourse focuses on analyzing its linguistic structure, performance, distribution, reception, influence, and responsiveness" (Hamood, 2019). Political discourse causes a large attendance, due to their influence on economic, cultural and societal (Abdulameer and Noor, 2019).

As Anggraini (2018) states the political discourse is worth noting that Analyzing Political Discourse is a broad field of study involving politics, communication studies, sociology, psychology, cognitive science, anthropology, and others. Therefore, it is possible to say that it is considered to be the thought, direction or position on any intellectual, political, economic or cultural subject published or broadcast through any method such as the mass media for the purpose of achieving a specific goal for an individual, or organization in which it includes economic, cultural and social implications, but from a certain political thought and position. What distinguishes the political discourse is that its understanding is based on the context in which the discourse is delivered. It does not always refer to direct meanings but it is based on ambiguity, inclusion and indirect methods, which in turn helps to achieve communication through influencing and persuading the recipient.

*Ali Hussein Abdulameer, Centre for Language Studies, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Malaysia Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaysia.
E-mail: GW170009@siswa.uthm.edu.my*

*Siti Noor Fazelah Mohd Noor, Centre for Language Studies, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Malaysia Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaysia.
Azmi Abdul Latiff, Centre for Language Studies, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Malaysia Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaysia.*

The ruling elites in various countries throughout history have used many tools to market their program. Political discourses have been one of the most important tools and means. So, the political discourse has become an idea and had many messages to different parties. It seeks to achieve its objectives, spread its message, and obtain the support of the political elite for public policy and its directions (Aschale, 2013). The official political discourse is the most influential tool as it deals with texts, policies and political decisions related to regional and international relations of the ruling power of the state. According to its content and objectives, it is a source of ideological, intellectual and political approaches which formal authority resorts to legitimize its decisions and encourage its people to participate in general life (Aschale, 2013). Such as the announcement by US President Donald Trump on December 6, 2017, in which his decision about the recognition of the US administration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, is considered to be a new episode in his series of political discourses that appear in the media from time to time to provoke international speculation about plans and intentions of the new administration. Therefore, the discourse requires good reading and be analyzed politically (Fairclough, 1995).

Language can be used to express the writer's/speaker's opinion on people, things and situations. There exist opinion-related meanings in language as resources of evaluation or appraisal in language. As one kind of appraisal resources, attitude plays an important role in the expression of interpersonal meanings of language. Attitude refers to a way that you behave towards someone or in a particular situation, especially when this shows how you feel. In Appraisal Framework, as is proposed by Martin and his colleagues, Attitude refers to values by which speakers pass judgments and associate emotional/affectual responses with participants and processes (White, 2001). Appraisal Framework provides an analytical tool for us to evaluate the stances and the ideology of Eastern and Western ministers consider the announcement by the President Trump on December 6, 2017, in which his decision about the recognition of the US administration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in Al Jazeera and The Guardian newspapers.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Appraisal Framework is a particular approach to exploring, describing and explaining the way language is used to evaluate, adopt stance, construct textual persona and arrange interpersonal positions and relationships. Appraisal Theory, as the extension and supplement for Halliday's Systemic-Functional Theory, concerns how various resources are applied to convey attitudes and negotiate relationships and comprises three sub-types: Attitude, Engagement and Graduation" (Abdulameer and Noor, 2018). Attitude in the present article is a label used to cover all the attitudinal meanings in the Appraisal Framework. Within the Appraisal Framework, Attitude itself is divided into three sub-systems, i.e. Affect, Judgment and Appreciation, with Affect referring to the characterization of phenomena by reference to emotion, Judgment the evaluation of human behavior with respect to social norms and Appreciation the evaluation of objects and products (rather than human behavior) by reference to aesthetic principles and other systems of social value (White, 2001). Appraisal Framework is an analytical approach to explore, describe and explain the ways a language is used to evaluate, adopt stances, construct textual personas and manage interpersonal positioning and relationships. Thus it explores how speakers/writers pass judgments on other speakers/writers, their utterances, material objects, happenings and states of affairs, and thereby form alliances with

those who share these views and distance themselves from those who do not. It explores how attitudes, judgments and emotive responses are explicitly presented in texts and how they may be more indirectly implied, presupposed or assumed. Besides, it explores how expressions of such attitudes and judgments are, in many instances, carefully managed so as to take into account the ever-present possibility of challenge or contradiction from those who hold differing views. In sum, Appraisal Framework is a system of interpersonal meanings. Speakers/writers use the resources of Appraisal to negotiate their social relationships, by telling their listeners/readers how they feel about things and people, in other words, what their attitudes are.

III. STUDIES USING THE APPRAISAL SYSTEM IN POLITICAL SPEECH

Tavassoli, Jalilifar and White (2018) investigate the representations of the Syrian refugee crisis in commentary articles published in two British newspapers with different political orientations, *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*. The study draws on the appraisal model as a linguistic tool to analyse the attitudinal language of the articles indicative of the stances adopted by the newspapers. Tupala (2019) explored how to best annotate evaluative expressions in official institutional documents which are usually considered as factual and formal rather than attitudinal and affectual. Using a corpus of migration documents of the European Union as a point of reference, I outline a way of analysis in which each case of appraisal is systematically accounted for and annotated accurately with regard to the socio-cultural context of the EU, serving to deepen and widen the scope of the appraisal analysis. Ultimately, the study of evaluative patterns used in institutional discourse can reveal the ways in which evaluation is integrated into the structures of formal institutional language and how evaluation towards different phenomena (e.g. migration) is constructed.

Based on James R. Martin's Appraisal Theory, Siyou and Zhongwen (2018) attempts to make a contrastive analysis between Xi Jinping's and Donald Trump's speeches at World Economic Forum in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The purpose is to explore how they convey ideology in their speeches, how they make use of language resources to coordinate emotions, judgments and appreciation, as well as how they engage and graduate semantic contents, thereby exploring the mutual construction of language and power. Leung (2018) focuses on three selected texts about Brexit delivered by British Prime Minister Theresa May in early 2017. Analytic tools from systemic functional linguistics (SFL) were employed to investigate the thematic choices in these three texts. Rose and Caldwell (2020) explores a selection of the tweets of President Donald Trump, specifically in relation to his use of negativity as a rhetorical political strategy. The study is guided by a corpus-based comparative keyword analysis and the analytical framework of Appraisal, from Systemic Functional Linguistics, which is concerned with the language of evaluation.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The dataset comprised 2698 words from two publications, and these data were analyzed using tools from Systemic Functional Linguistics (Appraisal System), Texts were downloaded and then copied and pasted into a widely available word processing software package. They were then divided into clauses, and embedded clauses were identified. Then, the clauses were pasted into a widely available spreadsheet software package for the appraisal analysis - where each publication was given its own specific spreadsheet or 'book'. Under the three systems of

Appraisal Framework, attention will be mainly paid to the application of attitude, which also encompasses three categories: affect, judgment and appreciation. The qualitative analytical technique is adopted in this study. Firstly, it will explore the linguistic elements that may realize attitudinal values; secondly, the evaluation of elements will be collected and presented in the form of tables; thirdly, these elements will be analyzed and evaluated to see how they contribute to the conveyance of attitudinal position in the samples. Through the analysis, it is hoped that those interpersonal features in samples could be summarized to support or query the hypothesis.

V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS OF EASTERN AND WESTERN MINISTERS IN AL JAZEERA NEWS

Trump’s decision has different evaluation by Eastern ministers in Al Jazeera news, newspaper as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Distribution of Attitude Resources in Eastern Discourse

<i>Attitude resources</i>	<i>Affect</i>	<i>Appreciation</i>	<i>Judgment</i>	<i>Total</i>
No.	5	15	2	22
Percentage	23%	67%	10%	100%

Subdivision of Appreciation

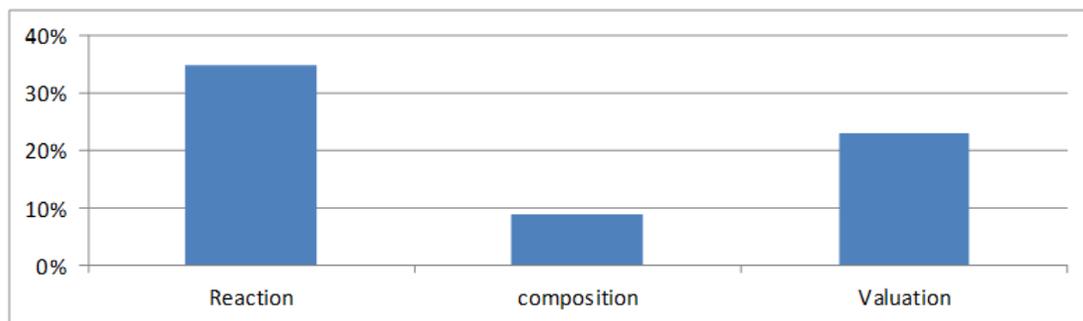


Table 2: Distribution of Positive/Negative Attitude and Explicit/Implicit Attitude in Discourse of Eastern Minister in Al Jazeera News

<i>Polarity/explicitness</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Positive	0	0
Negative	22	100%
Explicit	18	81%
Implicit	4	19%

It can be observed in table 1 above that the Eastern ministers have appraised Trump's decision on Jerusalem in total of 22, instances in Al Jazeera news. The Eastern ministers appraised Trump’s decision on Jerusalem totally negatively and they use all types of attitude but the system of Appreciation mostly dominant. They mostly use explicit attitude as for table 2 as seen in some excerpts below.

1. Al Jazeera, 7 Dec 2017 “Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatar's foreign minister, said Trump's decision was a "death sentence" for all who seek peace and "a dangerous escalation".
2. Al Jazeera News 7 Dec 2017“Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed "profound regret" following Trump's announcement. The move broke UN resolutions on "maintaining the political, historical, legal and humanitarian status quo in Jerusalem".

3. Al Jazeera, 10 Dec 2017, “Defence minister says the US move on Jerusalem is 'a slap in the face for the entire Muslim world”.

In excerpt 1, the Qatar's minister utilized negative reaction to evaluate Trump's decision attributing the decision as 'death' and 'dangerous escalation'. Both expressions indicate that Qatar minister has made strong disagreement and almost disdained Trump's decision. In excerpt 2, Kuwait's minister also evaluated Trump's move by using negative appreciation instance. Malaysia's Defense Minister appraised Trump's move negatively using inscribing to describe the decision as 'a slap in the face' in this expression Malaysia’s minister defense declared a strong disagreement with Trump's declaration as in excerpt 3. Below table 3, represents the Frequency and Proportion of Eastern ministers evaluated Trump’s decision in Al Jazeera news.

<i>News</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Appraiser</i>	<i>App</i>	<i>Judg</i>	<i>Aff</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
AJ	Minister						
1-		Arab League	(-)val 2			5	23%
			(-)Reac 2		(-)sat 1		
2-		Iran	(-)Val 2			4	21%
			(-)Reac 2				
3-		Egypt	(-)Com1	(-)prop 1	(-)sat 1	3	14%
4-		Palestine	(-)Com1				
			(-)Reac 1		(-)Sat 1	3	14%
5-		Kuwait	(-)Reac 1		(-)Happ1	2	9%
6-		Malaysia	(-)Reac 2			2	9%
7-		Jordan			(-)Happ1	1	5%
8-		Saudi		(-)Vera1		1	5%

It can be observed in the table 3, Arab League ministers mostly appraised Trump’s decision than other ministers with negative attitude resources especially by subsystem of Appreciation to show their negative reaction and valuation towards Trump’s decision to indicate that Trump’s declaration lack of objectivity because it unilateral decision . The current findings support by a study by Thahara, Gunawan, Abdul Samad, Weda, and Rahman (2019) concluded that media lack for objectivity in reporting the events about 212 reunion movements in the case of Prabowo.

In addition; Arab League has the historical and political importance, as well as its symbolic impact to evaluate the decision negatively and religious position of Jerusalem for the Muslims. They stress the Muslim character of the city and Muslim entitlement to it, and their attachment to Jerusalem constitutes part of their doctrinal views of the city (Abu Amr, 1995). The current study explored that Eastern ministers have religion, historical and political reasons to evaluate Trump’s decision negatively. In short, Trump’s decision on Jerusalem appraised by Eastern ministers mostly with negative inscribed Appreciation.

On the other hand, the Western ministers as well evaluated Trump's decision in Al Jazeera news as shown in the table 4, below.

Attitude resources	Affect	Appreciation	Judgment	Total
No.	0	3	0	3
Percentage	0	100	0	100%

Subdivided of Appreciation

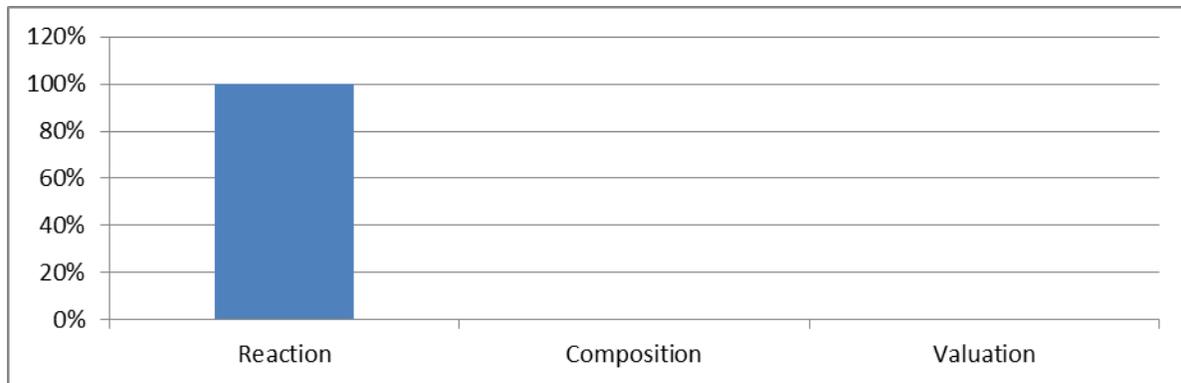


Table 5: Distribution of Positive/Negative Attitude and Explicit/Implicit Attitude in Discourse of Eastern Minister in Al Jazeera News

<i>Polarity/explicitness</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Positive	3	100%
Negative	0	0
Explicit	3	100%
Implicit	0	0

It can be observed in the table 5, that the Western ministers have appraised Trump's decision on Jerusalem in total of three, positive instances and they only use Appreciation explicit in Al Jazeera news as seen in excerpt below.

4. Al Jazeera news 8 Dec 2017 *“On Wednesday, the Czech foreign ministry indicated that it recognised Jerusalem “to be in fact the capital of Israel”, in a statement posted on its website”*

In the excerpt 4 the Czech foreign minister appraised Trump's decision on Jerusalem with positive reaction, and attribute as the capital of Israel. Below table 6, represents Frequency and Proportion of Western ministers evaluate Trump's decision in Al Jazeera news.

<i>News</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Appraiser</i>	<i>App</i>	<i>Judg</i>	<i>Aff</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
AJ	Minister						
1-	Czech		(-)Reac 3			3	100%

It can be seen in table 6, Czech minister only appraised Trump's decision in AJ positive valuation of Appreciation subsystem to show appreciation of Czech for the Trump's decision and to show the objectivity of the decision. The current finding support by a study by Zhang (2016) concluded economic news used positive attitude to indicate the objectivity and the impact and the quality of their news. The study by Ekawati (2015) employed Appraisal analysis to study the attitude of people in Sydney Morning Herald and Herald Sun newspapers and found the Indonesia evaluate in negative Judgement whereas; Australia portrayed with positive. Which mean the current study discovered that Czech minister concern with value the Trump's behavior than emotional field or to Judge on Trump's decision.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study has discussed the findings of the Attitude analysis, examining how Eastern and Western ministers evaluates Trump's decision as represented in Al Jazeera newspaper. The findings revealed that negative appreciation is most commonly attributed to the Trump's decision on Jerusalem by Eastern ministers and with explicit attitude. On the other hand Western ministers especially Czech's minister appreciated Trump's move positively reaction explicit to refer the objectivity of his reaction regarded Trump's move and explain the impact and quality of

Trump's declaration on Jerusalem in Al Jazeera newspaper.

REFERENCES

- [1] Shadeed, Y., Ayesh, A., & Itmeizeh, M. (2019). Critical Discourse Analysis of Donald Trump's Speech on Recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel.
- [2] Anggraini, N. (2018). Transitivity Process and Ideological Construction of Donald Trump's Speeches. Surabaya UINSA.
- [3] Aschale, A. (2013). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Barack Obama's Speeches vis-a-vis Middle East and North Africa. Iran: Addis Ababa University.
- [4] Andrea Bolinaga. (2017). the People's Whisperers: A Comparative Discourse Analysis of Donald Trump's and Silvio Berlusconi's Campaign Speeches. Master Thesis. Faculty of the University of Miami. May.
- [5] Fairclough, N (1995). Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language. New York: Longman Publishing.
- [6] Martin, J.R., & White, P.R.R. (2005). The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- [7] Abdulameer, A. H., & Noor, S.N.F.M. (2018) Appraisal Analysis Review of Language in political speech. *Opción*, 34, N° 85, 2484 – 2500.
- [8] Tavassoli, F., Jalilifar, A., & White, P.R. (2019). British newspapers' stance towards the Syrian refugee crisis: An appraisal model study. *Discourse & Society*, 30(1), 64-84.
- [9] Tupala, M. (2019). Applying quantitative appraisal analysis to the study of institutional discourse: the case of EU migration documents. *Functional Linguistics*, 6(1), 2.
- [10] Zhang, S., & Pei, Z. (2018, October). Analysis of Political Language Based on Appraisal Theory: The Mutual Construction of Language and Power—Taking Xi Jinping and Donald Trump's Speeches at World Economic Forum as Examples. In *2018 International Conference on Social Science and Education Reform (ICSSER 2018)*. Atlantis Press.
- [11] Leung, R.C. (2018). Analysis of the UK prime ministerial discourse on Brexit: Thematic choices and their implications. *Discourse and Interaction*, 11(2), 45-64.
- [12] Ross, A.S., & Caldwell, D. (2020). 'Going negative': An APPRAISAL analysis of the rhetoric of Donald Trump on Twitter. *Language & Communication*, 70, 13-27.
- [13] Abdulameer, A.H., & Noor, S.N.F.M. Systemic Functional Linguistics of Political Articles in Eastern and Western Online News. *Humanities & Social Sciences Reviews*, 7, No 5.
- [14] Ekawati, R. (2015). Language appraisal on attitudinal systems for exploring ideology in death penalty in Sydney Morning Herald and Herald Sun editorials. *Jurnal Humaniora*, 27(3), 362-372.
- [15] Zhang, B., & Xu, H. (2016, February). Privacy nudges for mobile applications: Effects on the creepiness emotion and privacy attitudes. In *Proceedings of the 19th ACM conference on computer-supported cooperative work & social computing* (pp. 1676-1690).
- [16] Thahara, Y., Gunawan, F., Samad, I.A., Weda, S., & Rahman, F. (2019). Prabowo's Anger during 212 Reunion: Appraisal System of CNN Indonesia News Text. *International Journal of Literature, Language and Linguistics (IJLLL)*, 5(1), 217-224.