



# Meaning Realized on Online News About 'France Under Attack'

Anjar Setiawan<sup>1</sup>, Dodi Mulyadi<sup>2</sup> Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang anjar17@unimus.ac.id, dodi@unimus.ac.id

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## ABSTRACT

This research analyses the meaning realized on online news texts about 'France under attack' taken from The Jakarta Post, The Spectator, and Najam TV National. This is a descriptive qualitative research. The data were taken from the three news texts by classifying the clauses that related to the appraisal and then analyzing based on the subsystems of appraisal. The results showed that the news authors used three subsystems of appraisal included attitude, engagement, and graduation. In attitude, there were found the use of affect, judgement, and appreciation. There were also found of engagement consisted of monogloss and hetergloss. Further, the authors also applied graduation to make news more seems accurate. **Keywords: meaning; online news texts; appraisal; discourse analysis** 

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The appraisal system is a linguistic feature related to means author or speaker conveys emotions or feelings, builds a bond with listeners or readers, position themselves against what is said or written, and adjust or play the feeling scale in speech or writing (Martin & White, 2005 in Novita, 2019). Appraisal theory is a development of one of the language meta-functions proposed by Halliday, namely interpersonal meta-functions (Martin & White, 2005 in Smith, 2015). Interpersonal metaphors are generally related to how personal and social relationships are built through language (Halliday, 2014: 30). The appraisal framework is an evaluative language theory developed in tradition functional systemic linguistics which explores, describes and explains how language is used to evaluate, show mental attitudes, compose textual personas and manage attitudes and interpersonal relationships. The appraisal framework is consisting of three subsystems operating in parallel. Attitude is used to see how someone expresses the situation. Positioning considers a person's position. Graduation investigates how it is used the function of language strengthens or weakens attitudes and engagement or positioning (Martin & White, 2005 in Smith, 2015)

Those mean that the appraisal approach explores how speakers and writers convey judgments about people in general, writers or other speakers, and their utterances, material objects, events and circumstances, thus forming alliances with people who share this view and distance themselves from people with different views. In language, ideational functions are functions related to content or propositions. Function Interpersonal language itself is related to interaction functions and expressions of language users' attitudes. Lastly, textual function deals with how a text is structured as a message. Therefore, the writer can identify if the language in the text cannot be separated from these three elements. Further, the author considers that there is an urgency to compile and develop a theoretical basis that leads to developing a translation model for tourism promotion media that utilizes appraisal theory in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (Permana, 2018).

In short, this metafunction refers to language as a means of interacting and express attitudes and obligations (Suparto, 2018). Further, Martin & White (2005) divide the appraisal system into three subsystems, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation. Attitude refers to the expression of feelings speaker or writer, including emotional reactions, assessment of a person's attitude, and evaluation of objects. Engagement governs how the speaker or writer positioning itself against the text and the listener or reader and how it is build bonds with listeners or readers. Meanwhile, graduation relates to the scale or gradation of ratings involving attitude and engagement.

As mentioned above, the attitude subsystem relates to feelings that are reflected in both one's utterances and words in writing. Martin & White (2005) divided attitude into three aspects include affect, judgment, and appreciation. Affect relates specifically to response emotional to something, whether other people, yourself, or events. Affect can be in the form of adjectives, adverbs, and nominalization (a verb or adjective that is turned into a noun). The explanation above can be concluded that affect is a matter of judgment both positive and negative, which focuses more on the feelings experienced to every speaker / counterpart to something that is discussed. The second one is judgment. It relates to both positive and negative attitudes, against human behavior. Simply put, judgment is related to judgment which is ethical, including judgments relating to practice of religious values (Martin & White, 2005). For judgment, as far as the resource is gradable, the levels are related to adjustment of evaluation level- how strong / weak the feeling is, i.e., force: in the context of non-gradable resource levels have an effect adjust the boundary strength between categories, construction cores, and peripheral types of something, called focus. Meanwhile, appreciation refers to assessment of natural phenomena. In short, appreciation relates to assessments that are aesthetic (Martin & White, 2005).

In other words, the attitude subsystem focuses on judgment to yourself or others, events, circumstances, or actions that are reflected in it both in one's words and in writing. These assessments can be positive or negative assessment. Martin & White (2005) in Catur (2011) divided attitude into affects, judgment, and appreciation. Affect relates specifically to response emotional to something, whether other people, yourself, or events. Affect can be in the form of adjectives, such as: sad, happy, angry; verbs like: like, hate, happy; adverbs, such as: with joy, with anger; and nominalization (a verb or adjective that is turned into a noun): happiness, sadness, anger, and hatred.

Engagement refers to the type of clause that reflects the attachment between the writer or speaker and what is written in accordance with the interpersonal impact of the reader or listener. Furthermore, according to Martin & White (2005) in Nurhadi (2017)



engagement (clause types) basically there are only two types, namely monogloss and heterogloss. Mono-gloss (bare declaration) is a clause without any additional modes modality, for example the clause 'The woman was killed.' Meanwhile, heterogloss is characterized by variations / shifts meaning, such as 'The woman seemed to be killed'. Based on the above statement, it can be concluded that engagement is an expression of assessment expressed agree / disagree in regard with a statement from the speaker / counterpart to something that is discussed. For example: "The child is humble even though the son of a rich person". The word "although" shows a form of engagement or a statement contrary to the situation of the child. Usually the children of the rich are seen arrogant, while the child in that context indicates a person a rich boy who was not arrogant.

In addition, Martin & White (2005) in Pusparini (2017) stated that 'graduation' is a scale of meaning shift consisting of force, namely by applying special emphasis. For instance, the phrase good service and focus are the emphasis that can go up or down, for example the word 'a bit' the attribute is 'difficult' then the phrase 'a bit difficult' can be interpreted as a bit difficult, but also easy. Thus, there is a shift focus. From the explanation above, it is clear that force is a realm of scale intensity, whereas focus is a category delimiter where it can go up or down. The above statement can be concluded that the graduation is regarding the assessment of how the statement is gradually expressed either directly or indirectly to something that is discussed.

Further, graduation is regarding the assessment of how the statement is gradually expressed either directly or indirectly to something being discussed. Another type that is used in the form of graduation is modality. Sugiarto (2015) concluded that graduation is a scale of meaning shift consisting of force (pressure) and focus (point of meaning). According to Martin & White (2005), force is the use of gradable, which can be measured, both implicitly and explicitly. Gradable is meant here is that the attribute can be made by comparison, for example 'He is more valued than ...' Meanwhile, focus which is non-graded can go up or down, but not to be compared. The two examples below show force and focus.

Several relevant studies in appraisal and discourse analysis had been conducted by Catur (2011), Permana (2018), Muhammad (2016), and Novita (2019). They analyzed the realization appraisal of online news text taken from several sources. In addition, they also limited one appraisal subsystem to identify the text. The results indicated that several words belonged to attitude of affect, judgment and appreciation. The authors used words to convey information to readers. They also concerned different vocabulary choices that is used in text genres as well intertextuality influenced by ideology of mass media authors and editors. Other relevant appraisal research had been conducted by Wei (2015), Sugiarto (2015) and Retnowati (2016). In the research, Wei (2011) identified an appraisal system for commercial ad text in tabloids. His research resulted that most positive appreciation appears in researched ad text. This is understood as a way for product owners to engage readers, who are potential consumers, to buy products that are advertised. Sugiarto (2015) examined the use of the appraisal system, in particular attitude. The results of his research indicated that judgment is a subsystem attitude that appears the



most. Meanwhile, Retnowati (2016) examined the use of appraisal tools at the political speeches. In research that focused solely on use affect, the researchers found that the two characters used it more adjective and nominalization rather than verbs and adverbs to express his feelings.

Different from the previous studies, this paper focuses on analyzing the text found on online news and seek to analyze three subsystems of appraisal used by the author. As stated by Catur (2011) mass media is a tool used in conveying messages from source to audience using mechanical means of communication such as newspapers, films, radio, and TV. It means that mass media is a channel used in mass communication for provide information and also entertainment.

Nowadays, people are able to get information faster, not only through print media but also through electronic media. They prefer to access news through several newspaper sites on the internet (Permana, 2018). One of the functions of the mass media is to provide information (to inform). In this case, the media as a component of communication is becoming an intermediary from the communicator to the communicant. Then the information media is used as a tool to collect and rearrange an information so that it becomes useful material for the recipient information. Information media as a means of conveying an information must be on target in order to be conveyed properly to target audience so that it can be of benefit to both the maker and the recipient information.

According to Sudaryanto (2015) online media is the general term for a form of media based on telecommunications and multimedia (read-computer and internet). It contains a portal, website (website), radio-online, TV-online, online press, mail-online, etc., with their respective characteristics in accordance with the facilities that allow the user to use them. Furthermore, news sites are one of the sub-systems of online media. The mention of online media among several media experts is quite diverse. One of the most common online media designs applied in modern journalistic practices today is a news site. The news site or information portal as the name implies is an information gateway that allows information access to various features of online technology facilities and the news therein (McQuail, D, 2011). Moreover, the electronic newspaper or digital newspaper (online news) can be easily accessed through computer or cell phone. Some of digital newspapers are The Jakarta Post from Indonesia, The Spectator from United Kingdom, and NajamTV National from Pakistan.

The recent news texts about France Under Attack were published in The Jakarta Post entitled 'France Under Attack', on The Spectator entitled 'Europe is Under Attack Because of its Culture, not its Cartoon', and on NajamTV National entitled "France is under attack: French President announces additional deployment of soldiers in wake of terror attack". The attacks are strong criticism of Muslims for the caricature of the Prophet Muhammad that was reprinted by the French satire magazine Charlie Hebdo in September. The editorial board of The Jakarta Post classified the news to Opinion column. The news discussed about the updated condition in France during the attack. As known, on October 16, 2020, a teacher based in Paris, Samuel Paty, was killed by a Chechen teenager named Abdoullakh Abouyezidovitc. Abdoullakh Abouyezidovitc is known to have killed Samuel Paty because he taught free speech with a caricature of the Prophet



Muhammad from the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. Abouyezidovitc was killed by the Paris Police on the same day he killed Paty. The action resulted in tensions between the French government and the Muslim community. The French President, Emmanuel Macron, called the incident as form of radical Islam which was born out of a crisis in religion itself.

Thus, I will examine those news texts using appraisal system of attitude, engagement, and graduation related to those news texts.

# 2. METHOD OF RESEARCH

This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The characteristics of qualitative research are the use of intuitive knowledge alongside propositional knowledge or discursive expressed in language (Lincoln & Guba in Pusparini (2017)). This research is also descriptive because it aims to describe in detail the phenomena studied in the field (Sugiyono, 2007). Moreover, language research methods are concerned with research objectives and involves the collection and selection of data. This research describes the findings of the appraisal analysis on the online news entitled France Under Attack which was taken from three websites of The Jakarta Post, The Spectator, and NajamTV National.

The data in this study were obtained from lexical and word groups containing an appraisal system in the form of attitude, engagement, and graduation contained in the online news texts from The Jakarta Post entitled 'France Under Attack', The Spectator entitled 'France is Under Attack Because of its Culture, not its Cartoon', and NajamTV National entitled "France is under attack: French President announces additional deployment of soldiers in wake of terror attack". Sampling technique is also used to present data in accordance with which needed. Sutopo (2006) in Pusparini (2017) stated that qualitative research has techniques sampling (sampling) based on research objectives. This sampling technique is suitable for this research to classify which ones are included in the data and which is not data. Only the lexis and word groups contain the system appraisal in the form of identifiable attitude, engagement, and graduation as data. In addition, this research was begun by reviewing the document or sample analysis with the Systemic Functional linguistics to describe the appraisal system that appears in the texts. Further, the data will be classified and analyzed in the subsystem of attitude, engagement, and graduation.

Therefore, this qualitative research consists of four stages, namely: 1) domain analysis, 2) taxonomic analysis, 3) analysis components, and 4) analysis of cultural themes. In the domain analysis, the researcher identified whether data belonged to appraisal or not. Taxonomic analysis used to classify data based on the appraisal system analysis. Componential analysis is used to see the appraisal system relationship is in the text. Analyze cultural themes to find common threads after linking the results of previous analyzes with secondary data.



# **3. DISCUSSION**

The following shows the analysis of attitude, engagement and graduation in three news texts were used in the study.

Text	Attitude						Engagement		Graduation				The
	Aff		Judg		App		Mon	Het	Forc		Foc		Total of
	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	-		(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	Clauses
1	2	3	1	-	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	12
2	-	-	2	-	1	-	5	1	2	1	3	-	15
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5

Table 1. Analysis of Attitude, Engagement, and Graduation

\*aff:affect, judg:judgement, app:appreciation, forc:force, foc:focus, mon:monogloss, het:heterogloss.

The table above indicated that Monogloss engagement is more commonly found in texts 2 and 3. Those mean that the authors tried to assert that meaning is revealed to be from him or her by using several words I in the texts. In addition, the subsystems of attitude and graduation were also found in the three texts. Thus, this research found the use of appraisal used by the authors to give the information.

Furthermore, following are some examples of attitude analysis taken from the three texts on online news.

- 1. 'For Muslims, visualization of the prophet is highly offensive'. (A3)
- 2. 'The president of France for his courageous decision 'to....'. (B2)
- 3. '....Islam as a peaceful and just religion...'. (A8)

Clause A3 belonged to negative affect: unhappiness and misery. The use of the term of offensive reflected the Muslim's feeling in responding the visualization of prophet Muhammad did by people in France. Clause B2 referred to moral positive judgement where the president of France got salutation from Canadian' president. In the text, it stated that France' president did not hesitate to respect other countries. Last, clause A8 denoted to positive appreciation. Here, the vice president of Indonesia explained that Islam is a peaceful religion. Ma'ruf Amin stated that the teaching of peace can of course be proven by how the Prophet Muhammad SAW taught and disseminated it to unbelievers at that time. The Prophet was not hostile to them, but the Prophet built and created prosperity for these unbelievers. It is no different from the development of Islam in Indonesia. This time, online news about 'France under attack' discusses the religion of Islam which highly upholds peace between humans. But there are minorities who have certain goals to destroy the image of Islam which upholds this peace. Further, there are so many people in this millennium who have particular interests and do not want to see a peaceful Islam. As known that Islam in Indonesia is growing rapidly every day, especially with the awareness of the obligation as a Muslim to continue to uphold Islam in everyday life.



Therefore, the attitudes in the texts used in those clauses could be balanced with the amount of heterogloss engagement in the text. This made their attitude deep and the text could still be controlled and did not provoke the readers.

Further, authors or journalists can use the attitude area to dramatize their stories or to show interest in the issue he is reporting. The subjectivity raised by journalists through their attitudes

can endanger himself and the newspaper he worked for. Subjectivity even this is against the journalistic code of ethics where journalists should be able to be objective in conveying issues in their coverage so as not to cause them public unrest who read the news. Journalists' objectivity too can provoke readers to think the same way journalists do want.

The second subsystem of appraisal used by the author in writing the news was engagement.

Two types of Engagement were found in the texts, as follows.

- 1. 'Let **us** imagine...'. (B1)
- 2. 'I was one of the...'. (B25)
- 3. 'I have therefore decided...'. (C3)

The clauses above showed that the authors used the words I and us to give/represent the personal perspective to an object. Therefore, the words belonged to monogloss engagement.

Moreover, the use of heterogloss engagement were shown as follows.

- 1. '...they are **prone** to stigma...'. (A12).
- 2. '...Associated Press honestly believe that... (B7).

Clause A12 was meant that Muslims in France worried about the extremism Muslims to easily give negative issues related to problems happened. Muslims extreme Islam that are meant by society is Islam which cannot adapt to differences and prefers to spread fake news and violence. This is what is happening in France now. Therefore, the Muslim community there is more careful in looking for news.

Clause B7 discussed that the press associated was in doubt that the three people visited to church were the actors of the case. On the other side, the use of heterogloss engagement also created the news presented more accurate. This was because the journalists did not only use their own opinion in conveying the news but they had a lot of comments from the interview data sources. Here, heterogloss engagement which gained the news text makes the news produced was authentic because they come from many informants. Journalists interviewed informants whom he deems competent with the news that he is going to create so as to produce accurate news.

The last subsystem of appraisal was also found in the texts. It was graduation. There were two kinds of graduation included force and focus.



- 1. 'Now here has it been more successful...'. (B18)
- 2. 'Far better to target Europe,...'. (B15).

Clause B18 means that the condition of France now is better that England. The police and citizen did their best to solve the problems. Meanwhile, clause B15 stated that France should be better to have the different religion and culture there. Further, the use of graduation in the texts mostly used high force with an attitudinal lexis which made the written news more seems accurate to the reader. It relates assessment with how the statement is expressed against something that is discussed either directly or indirectly.

Moreover, the clauses above indicated that France has received support from Europeans who emphasize "strong European unity" behind its stance on Islamic violence, after the beheading of a French teacher.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the results and discussion above, some conclusions can be drawn as follows.

The three of online news taken from The Jakarta Post, The Spectator, and NajamTV National used appraisal to convey the information to the readers. The subsystems of appraisal included attitude, engagement, and graduation. In attitude, there were found the use of affect, judgement, and appreciation. There were also found of engagement consisted of monogloss and hetergloss. Further, the news items authors also applied graduation to make news more seems accurate.

In addition, each newspaper or news item has a different appraisal system pattern. Attitude what is in the news text can be used by journalists to express interest or inclination in what he is preaching. However, the journalists' lack of objectivity was still covered by the boom the use of heterogloss engagement in the form of projecting sources in the news text which is served. Meanwhile, the graduation of raise-force made the news more impactful, and the use of force: intensification- isolating can make that news generated more embedded in the reader's mind.

Suggestion, authors or journalists should be wiser in informing news to the community so as not to confuse the atmosphere or make it difficult provoked readers. Readers also need to be wiser responding to issues that occur so that they are not easily provoked by news read. Readers also have to cross check again every info they get so as not to be consumed by hoax news.



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