



Critical Discourse Analysis of Attitudinal Resources on the Israel-Palestine Conflict in *China Daily* and *The Los Angeles Times*

Mingxue Ma¹, Yi Du^{2*}

^{1,2}North China Electric Power University, No.2 Beinong Road, Huilongguan Town,
Changping District, Beijing, China

*Corresponding Author Email: 15991890253@163.com.

DOI: [10.33329/rjelal.13.2.175](https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.13.2.175)



Article info

Article Received: 13/04/2025
Article Accepted: 18/05/2025
Published online: 22/05/2025

Abstract

Appraisal theory in systemic functional linguistics, as an important tool for critical discourse analysis, can reveal the relationships among language, power, and ideology. Although news serves as a medium for objectively representing facts, the discourse often conceals various ideological tendencies. This essay analyzes news reports on the Israel-Palestine conflict from *China Daily* and the *Los Angeles Times* through the perspective of the attitude system in Appraisal theory, exploring the ideologies behind the textual language. The study finds that China advocates for peace and expresses opposition to the conflict, while the U.S. generally holds a supportive stance. This difference is closely related to the distinct positions of China and the U.S.. The Israel-Palestine conflict is essentially a product of U.S. colonialism, imperialism, and hegemonic politics in the pursuit of dominance in the Middle East. In contrast, China has consistently promoted a peaceful image as a major power in the international community

Keywords: Appraisal Theory, Attitude Resources Critical Discourse Analysis; News Discourse, Israel-Palestine Conflict.

1. Introduction

On October 7, 2023, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) announced a military operation against Israel, code-named "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood," claiming to have launched at least 5,000 rockets into Israeli territory. In response, Israel declared a state of war and initiated "Operation Iron Swords" targeting Hamas in the Gaza Strip. This

marks the first declaration of war by Israel against Hamas in 50 years since the Yom Kippur War in 1973. The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the focal points of Middle Eastern tensions and is part of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. It cannot be simplistically characterized as a bilateral conflict between all Israeli Jews and all Palestinian Arabs; rather, it is rooted in a complex history involving religious, cultural,

and ethnic factors, along with significant external influences from major powers. These interrelated factors exacerbate the complexity of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

In today's world, the increasing frequency of interactions between nations due to information technology and globalization has allowed the impacts of the Israel-Palestine conflict to spread regionally and globally. Its destructive effects on international and regional order have attracted considerable attention from both domestic and international media, reflecting the differing attitudes of various countries toward the conflict.

News discourse is a primary subject of critical discourse analysis, as understanding the nature and influence of mass media is essential for analyzing modern social ideologies (Thompson, 1990: 264). News reporting goes beyond merely conveying information about the latest events; it often guides public opinion and encourages readers to accept the viewpoints and attitudes presented. Therefore, analyzing media discourse of the Israel-Palestine conflict in both China and the U.S. can reveal the underlying positions and ideologies reflected in the news.

Critical discourse analysis serves as an effective method for analyzing news discourse. The discourse, functional, and contextual theories from systemic functional linguistics have profoundly influenced critical discourse analysis (van Dijk, 1988). Appraisal theory, developed from the interpersonal function in systemic functional linguistics, has garnered significant attention in the analysis of news discourse, particularly regarding the attitudes and value orientations of news commentators. Different media outlets represent various positions and attitudes, which is why scholars often utilize the core system of Appraisal theory – the attitude system – in their research. Based on the above considerations, this paper chooses news reports from Chinese and American media about the Israel-Palestine conflict as subjects and adopts Critical Discourse

Analysis and attitude system of Appraisal Theory as theoretical framework. This study aims to analyze the similarities and differences of attitudinal attitudes presented in news reports from Chinese and American media and to uncover the positions and ideologies hidden behind the news coverage.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis

Fowler (1979) first introduced the concept of critical linguistics in his book *« Language and Control »*. Fairclough (1989) further developed this theory, coining the term "Critical Discourse Analysis" (CDA) in his work *« Language and Power »*. CDA is a method that analyzes discourse forms to study the relationships between discourse, power, and ideology. CDA not only examines discourse and texts themselves but also combines language research with critiques of ideology and social reality, aiming to uncover the power relations and ideologies concealed within discourse, emphasizing the role of discourse in constructing social power dynamics (Xin, 2005). Through CDA, we can reveal how discourse constructs social relations, identities, and power, and analyze how discourse generates and maintains meaning in social processes to address social issues (Hastings, 1998).

A large number of scholars have integrated Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) with disciplines such as cognitive linguistics, corpus linguistics, rhetoric, and ethnography, thereby expanding the breadth and depth of CDA research (Meadow, 2007; Hart, 2016; Baker, 2008; Jeffries & Walker, 2012; Tang, 2014; Liu, 2016). In addition, the critical discourse analysis of news discourse and political discourse has consistently been a focal topic. For example, Wang (2019) explored the image of Chinese enterprises in English media about the "Belt and Road Initiative," while Tian and Li (2020) examined the evolution of keywords in Chinese diplomatic discourse.

2.2 Appraisal Theory

Systemic Functional Linguistics serves as the theoretical foundation for critical discourse analysis. This framework views language as a resource for expressing meaning and posits three fundamental functions of language: textual, interpersonal, and ideational. Appraisal theory is a crucial component of interpersonal function, significantly enriching its development by focusing on how discourse expresses various attitudes and emotions through appraisal resources. It concerns itself with the attitudes negotiated in the discourse, the intensity of emotions involved, and the ways of signaling values and forming alliances with the reader (Martin & Rose, 2003: 23).

Wang (2001) argues that the core of the Appraisal system is the "system," with the focus on "Appraisal." Language serves as a "means" within this system, allowing the analysis of users' positions, viewpoints, and attitudes toward events through linguistic analysis. The Appraisal system comprises three components: attitude, engagement, and graduation. Each of these systems contains its own subsystems. Attitude is the core of the Appraisal system, directly expressing the speaker's views, attitudes, and positions; engagement indicates the sources of attitudes; and graduation involves the scaling of attitudes and engagement throughout the discourse. Under the attitude system, there are three subsystems: affect, judgment, and appreciation. Affect refers to our most "natural" way of discussing things, reflecting emotional responses toward events or actions, which can be positive or negative, generally expressed through psychological and relational processes. Judgment evaluates people's behaviors according to social norms and standards, divided into social esteem and social sanction. Appreciation assesses things and processes, categorized into reaction, composition, and value. Reaction refers to the emotional impact of things and processes; composition denotes the complexity and details of events or processes; value evaluates things or

processes from social and meaningful perspectives.

Since the proposal of Appraisal Theory (AT), it has been widely applied as a valuable tool in linguistic research, especially in translation and various types of discourse analysis. Si and Pang (2018) pointed out that Appraisal Theory holds significant importance in translation theory and practice because it serves as a tool for comparing evaluative meanings between the source text and the translated text. Numerous studies have employed Appraisal Theory in discourse analysis, including news reports, political speeches, academic writing, advertisements, and history textbooks. In the context of political speeches, researchers analyze the construction of the speaker's identity and the underlying ideology by interpreting the speech texts. Zhang and Zhou (2018) analyzed Trump's inaugural speech, providing readers with a research approach and method for studying political speech discourse, thereby enhancing their sensitivity to the language of political speeches and their ability to interpret speech texts. Research on academic writing has provided guidance on writing strategies for novice researchers and serves as a reference for academic paper writing. Liardét (2019), analyzed interpersonal grammar metaphors in Chinese academic writing, advising writers to adopt dialogic expansion strategies. In advertising discourse, appraisal strategies are used to attract audiences. Zhang and Wu (2018) compared male and female perfume advertisements, revealing how attitudinal resources construct gender identity. This distinction reflects the social cognition associated with gender differences. Myskow (2018) studied evaluation in historical discourse through a comparison of secondary school and university history textbooks, offering pedagogical implications based on Appraisal Theory for teaching historical texts.

However, research on how Chinese and American media report on the Israel-Palestine

conflict were scarce. Besides, current critical discourse analyses of news discourse in China mainly focus on linguistic features such as modality and transitivity. As a result, they largely remain at the textual level and do not deeply explore the attitudinal tendencies and underlying ideological issues reflected in the discourse. Thus, this paper aims to reveal the underlying stance in news reporting by analyzing the attitudes presented in Chinese and American news discourse of the Israel-Palestine conflict through the framework of appraisal theory.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

The corpus for this study consists of news reports related to the Israel-Palestine conflict from *China Daily* and *Los Angeles Times* between October 7, 2023, and November 8, 2023, using the keywords "Israel" and "Palestinian." *China Daily*, as a representative of Chinese media and the only English-language newspaper that effectively engages with the international mainstream, reflects China's political stance and ideology (Liu Ning, 2018). *Los Angeles Times* was chosen as a representative of American media because it is one of the three major newspapers in the U.S. and holds significant social influence domestically. To ensure comparability, the selected articles from *China Daily* consist of 7 reports totaling 4,335 words, while the 3 reports from *Los Angeles Times* total 4,373 words, making the word counts roughly equivalent.

3.2. Data Analysis

The analysis employs a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to summarize the attitudes of mainstream media in both countries toward the Israel-Palestine conflict. Given that the appraisal resources are not exhaustive, this study develops an annotation framework using the UAM Corpus Tool version 3.3, with manual annotation based

on contextual analysis. The attitudinal resources are categorized and their occurrence and distribution are illustrated in the form of tables. Qualitative research follows the classification framework of the Appraisal theory's attitude system, counting the proportion of various attitude resources at the lexical level, and providing analysis and examples based on the annotated data.

4. Analysis of China and U.S. Media Coverage of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

4.1. Overall Distribution of Attitudinal Resources

Table 1 presents the distribution of attitudinal resources in news reports from both *China Daily* and *the Los Angeles Times*. Given that these two newspapers belong to different countries, their ideological, cultural, and political backgrounds differ significantly, leading to inevitable discrepancies in their coverage. The table reveals two main differences: firstly, the frequency of attitudinal resources in *China Daily* is slightly lower than that in *the Los Angeles Times*. Secondly, within *China Daily*, the balance between judgment and appreciation resources is more even compared to the distribution of these resources in *the Los Angeles Times*, where the proportions differ more markedly.

However, there are also similarities in the use of attitudinal resources in the coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict by *China Daily* and *the Los Angeles Times*: Appreciation resources make up the largest proportion, accounting for 43.98% in *China Daily* and 45.94% in *the Los Angeles Times*. Judgment resources follow, at 42.41% and 36.36%, respectively, while affect resources occupy the smallest account, at 13.61% for *China Daily* and 17.70% for *the Los Angeles Times*. The following section will analyze the distribution and specific occurrence of affect resources, judgment resources, and appreciation resources in the news reports from both countries.

Table 1: Distribution of Attitudinal Resources in China and U.S. News Reports

News Source	News Discourse Word Count	Affect Resources (Frequency and %)	Judgement Resources (Frequency and %)	Appreciation Resource (Frequency and %)	Total Resources
China Daily	4,335	26 (13.61%)	81 (42.41%)	84 (43.98%)	191 (100%)
Los Angeles Times	4,373	37 (17.70%)	76 (36.36%)	96 (45.94%)	209 (100%)

4.2 Comparative Analysis of Affect Resources

Affect refers to a psychological response or inclination towards actions, processes, or phenomena. As a representation of the speaker's or author's emotions and feelings towards behaviors, processes, phenomena, or texts, affect serves as the core subsystem of the

attitudinal system. According to Martin and White (2005), affective awareness primarily focuses on participants, including groups, institutions, and individuals. Analyzing the affect resources in the reports from China and the U.S. can reveal the underlying cognitive attitudes and positions they hold.

Table 2: Comparison of Affect Resource Types in China and U.S. News Reports

News Source	Positive Affect Resources Frequency & Proportion	Negative Affect Resources Frequency & Proportion	Total
<i>China Daily</i>	5 (19.23%)	21 (80.77%)	26 (100%)
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	15 (40.54%)	22 (59.46%)	37 (100%)

Table 2 compares the types of affect resources used in China and U.S. news reports. It shows that *the Los Angeles Times* uses slightly more affect resources than *China Daily* (37 compared to 26). Within *the Los Angeles Times*, both positive and negative affect resources are higher than those in *China Daily*. However, *China Daily* displays a much greater proportion of negative affect resources compared to positive ones (80.77% negative versus 19.23% positive), while *the Los Angeles Times* maintains a relatively balanced frequency of positive (40.54%) and negative (59.46%) affect resources. Affect resources convey both positive and negative emotions. Positive polarity words always express affirmative meanings, while

negative polarity words always convey negative meanings (Liu, 2010). Only based on the comparison of the balance between positive and negative affect resources in Chinese and American reports, it can be concluded that China shows a more negative attitude towards the Israel-Palestine conflict as a whole compared to the United States. The following analysis will delve into their applications and evaluative targets.

In *China Daily*, positive affect resources predominantly include terms like "hope" and "expect," which reflect a tendency towards an immediate ceasefire and peaceful resolution of the conflict. Conversely, the negative affect resources often comprise words such as

"concern," "outrage," and "sadden," primarily highlighting the harms brought about by war and the suffering of victims. This usage underscores China's diplomatic image that values peace and its commitment to peaceful foreign policy.

In the *Los Angeles Times*, positive affect resources mainly consist of safety-related terms such as "confident" and "believe," focusing on Israel's attitude towards the ongoing conflict. The negative affect resources include terms like "sadden," "fear," and "horrified," which also reflect the damages caused by war; however, it's noteworthy that these words are frequently voiced by civilians, relatives, and friends of victims, rather than representing the U.S. government's stance.

For instance, in Example (1), "regret" is used as a negative affect resource. Chinese Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun expresses pity for the Security Council's failure to agree on an immediate ceasefire resolution, reflecting China's desire for global peace and its diplomatic image that emphasizes harmony. Military conflict between Israel and Palestine has led to countless deaths as well as missing. Example (2) features Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin expressing sorrow over the casualties among victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict, conveying sympathy for the victims and their families. It portrays the outcome of the Israel-Palestine conflict as a tragedy, aiming to highlight the aftermath of the war brings a disaster to people. In Example (3), a Jewish politician from California expresses gratitude for American leaders' support of Israel, which illustrates the U.S. stance of aggressive hegemony in supporting Israel against Palestine, contrasting sharply with China's peace-oriented approach. Because of the missile attack from the air, many Gazans had to move from their homes. Example (4) describes Gazans hoping to escape Israeli airstrikes, which illustrates the severe impact of war on the people of Gaza and their yearning for ceasefire and peace.

Example (1). "We greatly regret that the Security Council was unable to reach an agreement on it. Humanitarian issues should not be politicized, and the protection of civilians should be a priority for all parties." (*China Daily*)

Example (2). "Wang confirmed on Thursday that three Chinese nationals were killed, two are missing and several were injured in the Palestine-Israel conflict. 'We are deeply saddened by the passing of the victims, and extend deep condolence and sympathy to the bereaved families and the injured,' Wang told a daily news conference." (*China Daily*)

Example (3). "Nothing can justify this brutal and grotesque violence. Israel has the right and responsibility to defend its civilians, and we are grateful to the many American leaders - including President Biden, Vice President Harris, Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler and members of Congress from California - who have spoken out clearly and unequivocally in support of Israel at this difficult moment." (*Los Angeles Times*)

Example (4). "A second north-south corridor along the coast will be opened for Gazans to flee", Israel said. Tens of thousands of people, many on foot, have been moving down the strip's main north-south highway in recent days in hopes of escaping Israeli airstrikes that have laid waste to entire neighborhoods as well as the Israeli incursion that opened a new phase of ground combat in tight urban spaces." (*Los Angeles Times*)

Through the comparison of affect resources, it is evident that both China and the U.S. express a sympathetic and sorrowful attitude towards the impacts of the Israel-Palestine conflict on civilians. However, China tends to adopt a more actively supportive stance towards a ceasefire in its reporting, while U.S. leaders more often express verbal and behavioral support for Israel to continue its military actions against Palestine.

4.2 Comparative Analysis of Judgment Resources

Judgment refers to the assessment of actions based on standards such as laws, social norms, and ethical principles. It also can be categorized into positive and negative judgments. Positive judgments celebrate and commend behaviors, whereas negative judgments attract criticism and reproach. Judgment is typically evaluated through social esteem and social sanction. Social esteem

evaluates behaviors positively or negatively without legal or moral implications, assessing whether individual actions conform to norms, exhibit competence, or demonstrate perseverance, which covers three subcategories: normality, capacity and tenacity. Social sanction evaluates behaviors based on ethical, legal, and religious standards, providing praise or condemnation concerning the rightness or wrongness of actions, categorized into veracity and propriety.

Table 3: Comparison of Judgment Resources in Chinese and American News Reports

News Source	Normality	Capacity	Tenacity	Veracity	Propriety	Positive: Negative	Total
<i>China Daily</i>	7 (8.64%)	10 (12.35%)	6 (7.41%)	4 (4.94%)	54 (66.66%)	34; 47	81 (100%)
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	3 (3.95%)	10 (13.16%)	16 (21.05%)	4 (5.26%)	43 (56.58%)	43; 33	76 (100%)

Table 3 presents a comparison of judgment resources used in news reports from China and the U.S. It indicates that the frequency of judgment resources is similar between *China Daily* (81) and *the Los Angeles Times* (76). In *China Daily*, negative judgment resources outnumber positive ones (47 vs. 34), while in *the Los Angeles Times*, negative judgment resources are less frequent than positive ones (33 vs. 43). The predominant category in both outlets is "propriety," accounting for 66.66% in *China Daily* and 56.58% in *Los Angeles Times*. In *China Daily*, "capacity" (12.35%) follows, then "normality" (8.64%) and "tenacity" (7.41%), with "veracity" (4.94%) being the least represented. In contrast, *the Los Angeles Times* sees "tenacity" (21.05%) next, followed by "capacity" (13.16%) and "veracity" (5.26%), with "normality" (3.95%) at the last. The following analysis will delve deeper into the application of judgment resources in the news reports from both countries.

As shown in example (5), "selfish" evaluates the normality of the Chinese government's position, "sincerely" assesses the authenticity of China's advocacy for peace, and "firm" indicates determination. China's Permanent Representative to the UN, Zhang Jun, emphasized that China stands firmly on the side of peace and justice, genuinely hoping for peaceful coexistence between the two parties. It reveals Chinese government's resolution to remain objective on this issue, which conveys an evaluative message that China's position on this issue is firm and consistent. With over 5,000 years of civilization, the Chinese nation has always valued peace, and China is gradually becoming an important global force for peace in preventing war. In example (6), "harm" and "oppose" are negative judgement resources, as China condemns the harm to innocent civilians and violations of international law during the conflict, considering these actions to be egregious and lacking legitimacy, reflecting

China's justice and commitment to world peace. In example (7), "committed" reflects determination, while "ability" and "capacity" assess capability. U.S. leaders are firmly committed to supporting Israel in its conflict with Palestine, showcasing unconditional and resolute support for Israel. These positive judgement resources highlight the imperialist and hegemonic aspects of the U.S., indicating a desire for global dominance without maintaining peace. In example (8), "right" is employed to realize the positive propriety resource. The U.S. government acknowledges the normality, of Israel's war against Palestine, emphasizing Israel's right to self-defense while neglecting the humanitarian disaster faced by Palestinians and the adverse effects of Israel's actions. This behavior effectively "tips the scales."

Example (5): "China has no selfish agenda on the Palestinian issue, and sincerely hopes that Israelis and Palestinians can live together in peace," said China's Special Envoy on the Middle East Issue Zhai Jun. During a phone conversation with Rafi Harpaz, the deputy director-general in charge of Asia-Pacific affairs of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zhai stated that China stays firm on the side of peace and justice and is willing to work with the international community to promote

peace talks between the two sides to create conditions for peace. (*China Daily*)

Example (6): "We condemn all acts that harm civilians and oppose any violation of international law." (*China Daily*)

Example (7): The members of the House committed to doing "all we can to ensure Israel has the ability and capacity to restore and maintain its security and the safety of all its citizens." (*Los Angeles Times*)

Example (8): Administration officials have repeatedly defended Israel's right to retaliate against Hamas. (*Los Angeles Times*)

4.3 Comparative Analysis of Appreciation Resources

Appreciation refers to the evaluator's positive or negative assessment of events, things, and individuals, mainly employing aesthetic and social values (Hu Zhuanglin et al., 2008). Appreciation includes three subsystems: reaction, composition, and value. Response pertains to people's reactions to things, encompassing their attractiveness and influence. Composition involves the balance and complexity of things, assessing whether they are proportionate, simple, or complex. Value refers to judging whether things are valuable and meaningful.

Table 4: Comparison of Appreciation Resources in Chinese and American News Reports

News Source	Reaction	Composition	Value	Positive: Negative	Total
<i>China Daily</i>	12 (14.26%)	18 (21.43%)	54 (64.31%)	24:60	84 (100%)
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	23 (23.96%)	28 (29.17%)	45 (46.87%)	40:56	96 (100%)

Table 4 presents a comparison of the types of appreciation resources used in Chinese and American news reports. From Table 4, it can

be seen that the appreciation resources used in *China Daily* are slightly fewer than those in *the Los Angeles Times* (84 vs. 96). In *China Daily*,

positive appreciation resources are significantly fewer than negative ones (24:60), whereas *the Los Angeles Times* has a relatively balanced distribution of positive and negative appreciative resources (40:56). This indicates the differing underlying positions of China and the U.S. regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In *China Daily*, the most significant proportion of appreciative resources is value (64.31%), followed by composition (21.43%), and finally reaction (14.26%). Similarly, in *the Los Angeles Times*, the largest proportion is value (46.87%), followed by composition (29.17%), and reaction (23.96%). The predominance of value-based evaluative resources suggests that both Chinese and American media focus more on the impacts of war when reporting on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The following section will specifically analyze the application of appreciative resources in the reports from both countries.

In example (9), "key" is a positive value resource. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated that China supports the Arab League in playing a crucial role in the Palestinian issue. China and the Arab League have both called for a ceasefire and an immediate end to the violence to prevent further escalation of the situation and the resulting humanitarian disaster. China's strong endorsement of the Arab League's role signifies its support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, reflecting China's commitment to maintaining world peace. Negative resource of composition in example (10) realized by word "chaotic". The researcher noted that the U.S. military faces a chaotic situation, as an escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would require the U.S. to manage both the Russia-Ukraine battlefield and the Middle East, complicating its overall strategic implementation. This illustrates that the U.S.'s aggressive personal hegemony could lead to negative consequences to itself. Example (11) is the excerpt of a report concerned with Blinken's early attitude towards the attack. "Heartfelt" and "viscera" are negative reaction resources of

appreciation. Blinken's personal experiences make him more empathetic toward the October 7 Hamas attacks, making him the closest among U.S. officials to suggest that Israel is not fully adhering to the rules of war. This reflects a growing internal divide within the U.S. regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, indicating that the Biden administration's support for Israel faces some opposition, even from within its own government. Example (12) is a statement of Biden. The underlined word "clear" serves as a positive composition resource. Biden clearly expressed his readiness to provide assistance to Israel, demonstrating his bias towards Israel and disregard for the impacts and harms caused by this inhumane warfare.

Example (9): "China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Thursday that China supports the Arab League to play a key role in the Palestinian issue, saying China and Arab countries share a similar position on the issue." (*China Daily*)

Example (10): "So militarily, it's faced with such a chaotic situation," the researcher said. (*Los Angeles Times*)

Example (11): "Blinken, whose family includes Holocaust survivors and whose early reactions to the Oct. 7 attacks were heartfelt and visceral, has since then come the closest among administration officials to indicate that Israel is not completely obeying the rules of war." (*Los Angeles Times*)

Example (12): "I made clear to Prime Minister Netanyahu that we stand ready to offer all appropriate means of support to the government and people of Israel," Biden said in an earlier statement. (*Los Angeles Times*)

5. Conclusion

Under the guidance of Appraisal Theory, this study conducts a comparative analysis of attitudinal resources in news reports from *China Daily* and *Los Angeles Times* regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict, with the aim to examine the similarities and differences

in the use of attitudinal resources by both media and uncover the underlying ideologies behind their reporting. Through the analysis above, the main research findings are summarized as follows:

Firstly, judgment resources and appreciation resources account for a high proportion in both Chinese and American news reports, while affect resources are less prevalent.

Secondly, in the use of affect resources, negative affect resources significantly outnumber positive ones in *China Daily*, while *the Los Angeles Times* maintains a relatively balanced presence of both positive and negative affect resources. In terms of judgment resources, "normality" dominates in both *China Daily* and *the Los Angeles Times*; however, *China Daily* has more negative judgment resources than positive ones, whereas *the Los Angeles Times* has fewer negative than positive judgment resources. For appreciation resources, value occupies the highest proportion in both media, followed by composition, and finally reaction. In *China Daily*, positive appreciation resources are significantly fewer than negative ones, while *the Los Angeles Times* presents a more balanced ratio of positive and negative appreciation resources.

Thirdly, *China Daily* utilizes noticeably fewer positive attitude resources compared to negative ones, while *the Los Angeles Times* shows a relatively balanced ratio of positive and negative attitude resources.

From the analysis, it is evident that *China Daily's* coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is more negative and objective, reflecting a perception of the conflict as a humanitarian crisis. The frequent negative Appraisals indicate China's deep concern over civilian casualties, its condemnation of harm to civilians, and violations of international law. China calls for restraint from all parties, an immediate ceasefire, an end to violence, and the resumption of peace talks to seek a lasting resolution. Although *the Los Angeles Times* also condemns the conflict, it simultaneously reflects

the Biden administration's support for Israel, asserting that Israel's actions are justified and legitimate. The U.S. emphasizes its support for Israel's right to self-defense while neglecting the humanitarian crisis faced by Palestinians, which exemplifies American hegemonic power.

The differences in Chinese and American news discourse stem from cultural and social institutional disparities. China adheres to an independent and peaceful foreign policy, unwaveringly pursuing peaceful development and actively promoting international cooperation, positioning itself as a maintainer of world peace. In contrast, the U.S. seeks to maintain its unipolar hegemony and supports unjust aggression to solidify its standing in the global landscape, aspiring for world dominance. As textual analysts, we should enhance our analytical skills to help readers understand the underlying positions within news discourse, thereby effectively navigating diverse information.

References

- Anne, H, Daphna, M. & Zared, S. (2022) Examining Readers' Emotional Responses to Stories: An Appraisal Theory Perspective[J]. *Journal of Media Psychology*, 35(3).
- Fang, Q. & Kexin J. (2021). Attitudes Towards Global Warming on Twitter: A Hedonometer-Appraisal Analysis. *Journal of Global Information Management* (7).
- Gong, Y. A. (2020). Study of the Attitudinal Resources in the Movie Reviews of The Wandering Earth—From the Perspective of Appraisal Theory[J]. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 11(2).
- Lei, T. (2022). An Analysis of Attitude Resources on Coverage concerning COVID-19 in New York Times[J]. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 5(9).

- Liu, Z. P. (2022). Appraisal System and News Discourse. *Studies in Literature and Language* (1).
- Lu, Z. (2023) Discourse Analysis of "Fukushima Nuclear-contaminated Water" News Reports from the Perspective of Attitude in Appraisal Theory[J]. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 6(8).
- Margo, P. V. (2023). COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and shaming on TikTok: A multimodal appraisal analysis. *Multimodality Society* (2).
- Meng, S. X. (2021). An Analysis of Political News from the Perspective of Graduation System within Appraisal Theory. *Journal of Sociology and Ethnology*(8),
- Martin, J. R. & D. Rose. (2003). *Working with Discourse: Meaning Beyond the Clause*[M]. London & New York: Continuum Press.
- Martin, J. R. & P. R. White. (2008). *The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English*[M]. Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.
- Martin, J. R. (2000). *Beyond Exchange: Appraisal theory in English*[M]. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Yang, Y. T. (2023). An Analysis of the English Translation of My Cultural Mountains and Rivers from the Perspective of Appraisal Theory. *Lecture Notes on Language and Literature* (11).
- 金怡彤, 户进菊.(2023).评价理论视角下的中英新闻语篇分析——以2022北京冬奥会为例. *英语广场*(08).
- 刘立华.(2020)评价理论研究[M].北京:外语教学与研究出版社
- 李战子.(2022).评价理论在国际传播语境中的应用与拓展. *外语研究*(02).
- 刘宁.(2018).基于语料库的中美媒体关于中国雾霾报道的对比研究——以批评话语分析为视角. *北京第二外国语学院学报*(05).
- 孙铭悦, 张德禄.(2018).评价策略分析框架探索——以英语社论语篇为例. *外语学刊*(02).
- 王辉,高松.(2019).评价理论视角下态度资源的比较研究. *文学教育(上)*(08).
- 王振华.(2001).评价系统及其运作——系统功能语言学的新发展. *外国语(上海外国语大学学报)*(06),
- 王振华, 瞿桃.(2020).多模态语篇的评价研究:过去、现在与未来. *外国语(上海外国语大学学报)*(06).
- 吴让越, 赵小晶.(2022).评价理论视域下的和谐话语体系对外传播研究. *外语学刊*(02),36-41.
- 杨阳.(2021).评价理论视角下对中美媒体关于新冠肺炎疫情报道的批评话语分析. *北京第二外国语学院学报*(05).
- 张新新, 赵雪爱.(2017).经济新闻中态度资源的积极话语分析. *安徽理工大学学报(社会科学版)*(01).
- 朱雍华 朱雷.(2021).评价理论视野下英美政治新闻人际功能探略——以《华盛顿邮报》和《卫报》的华为事件报道为例. *衡水学院学报*(05)