



Attitudinal System in Online Newspaper Articles Written by Female Authors

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Abstract

Authors emerge personal emotions and feelings to engage readers. They wrap them in the form of attitude which is under developed by Appraisal frameworks (Martin & White, 2005). Attitude covers affect, judgment and appreciation. This study employed descriptive qualitative method in the form of discourse analysis. It is intended to explore the distribution of attitude in online newspaper articles written by female authors. There were eight articles taken from three wellknown newspaper websites. They brought different topics such as environmental issue, health, crime, politics, and education. Gender as well as psychological theories from Coates (2016); Shields (2000); Guimond (2008) were employed. The findings revealed that the eighth female authors showed three sub-systems of attitude. There were 348 affect items found in the articles written by female authors. The judgment items were prominently perceived in the eighth articles as 58%. Appreciations became the second place as 28%. Affect items were least visible as 14%. This study is worthdoing due to English teaching contributions. It helps writers to shape their good writings by using Appraisal.

Key words: Attitude, Online Newspaper Articles, Female

INTRODUCTION

Online newspaper articles demand objectivity yet persuasive. Authors involve several personal feelings to their articles in order to give flavor to their writings. They need to build up a connection between the authors and the readers. So that the readers will ensure the articles. Therefore, a theory of language for evaluation is needed. It is called Appraisal. A theory of appraisal is developed by Martin and Rose (2003) as well as Martin and White (2005). Language is evaluated in the form of Appraisal theoretical frameworks. Appraisal is evaluation of attitudes that are negotiated in a text (Martin & Rose, 2003). The strength of the feelings are involved and the ways in which values are sourced and readers are aligned. It is along with Martin and White (2005). They claimed that it relates to the various negotiated attitudes, all kinds of emotional intensities involved and the means of demonstrating values and aligning readers in the discourse. Then, the point of Appraisal is on feelings or emotions.

Appraisal covers three systems. Martin and White (2005) divided the Appraisal into three systems. Those are attitude, engagement, and graduation. Attitude refers to emotional reactions, a judgment of behavior, and things evaluation. The next system is engagement. It deals with how the ways the authors/ the writers / the speakers engage their voices to keep their position on the topic. The last is graduation. It refers to scale or grade. It shows the scale or grade of the authors / the writers / the speakers to emphasize their writing/talk. In this present study, the writer focused on the attitude system. Attitude is then divided into three sub-systems including affect, judgment and graduation. Affect is associated with expression of feelings and emotions. Judgment is then related to evaluating or judging humans' behaviors. Appreciation is expression of things values.

Appraisal is then influenced by several factors. One of them is gender. Several linguists claimed that women and men have similarities and differences in language use. There were several similar and different pattern of men and women in using languages (Coates, 2016). This theory is supported by several previous studies which concerned with gender in language use. They are Juwita et al. (2018); Mulac et al. (2000); Palomares, (2009); Newman et al. (2008); Amir et al. (2012); Francis et al. (2001) and Shields (2000).

Gender stereotypes in language use is common thing. Women and men bring linguistic differences (Coates, 2016). It might happen because the topics they are talking about are different. Women prefer to discuss personal topics while men prefer public (Amir et al., 2012). Women tend to have personal or private conversation such gossiping, telling her daily activities and many more. Meanwhile, men prefer to talk about the current issues nowadays. It coincides with a previous finding from Robson et al. (2004). They argue that men more often assume task roles and women to socio-emotional roles. Gender differences possibly happen in writings. They might adopt different writing styles. Amir et al. (2012) stated that gender differences can be seen from specific linguistic characteristics such as usage of adverbials, repetition of the same words, especially nouns, and the use of synonyms and hyponyms. It coincides with Reid et al. (2003). They mentioned that Women tend to use more tentative language to men. Tentative language resembles to cautious and hedging language. Those are very crucial in academic writings. Tentative language puts forth ideas as ideas, rather than offering ideas as deffinite ideas.

Gender and emotions might be linked. Emotion is one of significant thing in gender bias. Newman et al. (2008) mentioned that emotion words come to be another area of conflicting finding in the gender differences studies. On the other side, gender differences can be seen from a psychological theory. There are several important psychological attributes that distinguish women and men. Women are more perceived as interdependent or relational self-construal (Guimond, 2008). Meanwhile, men are viewed as independent or agentic self-construal. Women tend to develop their social . But men are likely to reflect their social dominance and assertiveness. Women prefer to develop tendermindedness to assertiveness. Therefore, they are reported more intense experiences and expressions (Shields, 2000).

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is closely related to journalistics, especially newspaper articles (Iedema & Feez, 2004) and (Hanitzsch, 2007).

Appraisal is the developed theory from interpersonal meaning which is under Systemic Functional Linguistics. It is used to evaluate language. Appraisal is used to evaluate objectivity and subjectivity in the journalistic discourse. It is go along with previous study conducted by Stenvall (2008). He claimed that emotions inherently challenge the journalistic ideals of objectivity and subjectivity. The authorial voices are then able to be spotted by Appraisal analysis in the journalistic discourse. There are several types or sections of online newspaper articles such as editorials, headlines, opinions, news items, etc. This study focuses on opinions as to the term of online newspaper articles.

The authors might be able to reveal their personal voices in the opinion articles. Those voices can be presented as the author's personal feelings or emotions. It concides with previous study conducted by Stenvall (2008). The Appraisal system is intended to figure out emotions in the news report. Emotion is the author's personal feeling. It is called as attitude in Appraisal system. The equation of emotion brings presupposition of feeling expressions. Men are more likely objective, straightforward, and concise than women (Francis et al., 2003). Meanwhile, women adopt a more personal approach in their writings. Therefore, they involve emotions and social matters in their writings. In short, women tend to employ more emotions and feelings in their writings.

This study is intended to investigate the realization of attitude in online newspaper written by female authors. Furthermore, the writer eagers to reveal the distribution of attitude. Attitude in Appraisal is then divided into three namely affect, judgment and appreciation.

METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative method which is in the form of discourse analysis. Discourse analysis is defined to look for broad themes and functions of language in action using approaches called conversation analysis and genre analysis (Hodges et al., 2008). This study was aimed to find out the attitude manifested in online newspaper articles written by the female authors. The objects of this study were online newspaper articles from 8 female authors. The articles belong to the opinion sections. They were taken from three famous newspaper sites namely The Guardian, The Jakarta Post, and The Jakarta Globe. The topics were about politics, crime and law, health and

lifestyles, environmental issues, and educational matters. The titles of those articles might be different. Yet the topics should be equal. The equality principle is then achieved. The data was written articles, which are in the form of clauses or complex clauses. The units of analysis in this study are appraising items and appraised items. They were analyzed and classified based on the category of attitude system in this study. The data classification applied appraisal instrument of analysis proposed by Martin and Rose (2003) and Martin and White (2005). During classifying the data, the writer highlighted attitude items in all the eighth articles. Some procedures of analyzing data were classifying, quantifying, evaluating, and reporting. To minimize the writer's subjectivity, the writer needs triangulation. The term triangulation is divided into five, namely time triangulation, space triangulation, combined levels of triangulation, theoretical triangulation, and investigator triangulation (Cohen et al., 2017). Then, the writer employed investigator triangulation to validate the data analysis and data findings. The expert validator is not only validating the data but also giving suggestions to the writer.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis is employed Appraisal Analytical Framework by Martin and White (2005). The finding showed that all the eight female authors employed attitude system in their writings. All of them cover up three sub-systems of attitude namely affect, judgment and graduation in their articles. The below table shows the distribution of attitude items found in the eight articles written by female authors.

Table.1
The Distribution of Attitude in the Online Newspaper Articles Written by
Female and Male Authors

Author	Attitude			Total
Female	Affect	Judgment	Appreciation	
F1	4	23	15	42

F2	8	26	3	37
F3	2	22	6	30
F4	15	26	13	54
F5	1	10	14	24
F6	10	22	11	43
F7	6	36	14	56
F8	4	36	22	62
Total	50	201	97	348
%	14%	58%	28%	100%

The writer found out that there were 348 attitude items in the eight articles. Based on the Table.1, it can be seen that all the eight female authors employ three sub-systems of attitude. The highest distribution items are judgment. The writer found that there were many items which were indicated as humans' behaviours judgments. The amount reached 201 items or 58%. The second place goes to appreciation. The writer also found that all the female authors emerge things evaluation as appreciation. The amount reached 97 items or 28%. Meanwhile, affect becomes the least distribution. There were 50 affect items found in those eight articles. The amount reached 50 or 14%.

This finding coincides with several previous studies conducted by Souza (2006); Ghasani and Sofwan (2017); and Faot et al. (2019). They claimed that appreciation items are prominently perceived in their findings. It indicates that the authors make their sentences/clauses/utterances which are related to the topic of the articles by giving appreciation to things or phenomenons. When the authors are supporting the topic articles, then they will give positive appreciations. On the other hand, if they are against the topics, then negative appreciation items will be more produced. Souza (2006) mentioned that appreciation was to reveal re-contextualization of the field of identification concerning evaluations of things and phenomenons. For detailed explanations of attitude, the writer will elaborate in the following sections.

Affect

Affect is about personal feelings that are conveyed to express intention toward the context. The feelings can be presented in positive or negative feelings (Martin & Rose, (2003); Martin & White, 2005).

The distribution of affect then can be analyzed into four terms namely dis/inclination, un/happiness, in/security, and dis/satisfaction. It can be spotted in the following table to show the detailed distribution of affect items in the online newspaper articles written by the female authors.

Table 2.

The Distribution of Affect in the Online Newspaper Articles Written by the Female Authors

Affect	Polarity (+ / -) (positive / negative)	Female (F)
Dis/Inclination	(+)	0
	(-)	0
Un/Happiness	(+)	5
	(-)	7
In/Security	(+)	8
	(-)	13
Dis/Satisfaction	(+)	6
	(-)	11
Total		50

The data finding showed that there were 50 affect items found by the writer. Based on Table.2 above shows that the female authors produced more more un/happiness, in/security, and dis/satisfaction. Thus, the female is likely to convey and express their personal feelings of unhappiness, fear/insecurity, and dissatisfaction towards the topic articles they are discussing in their articles. Several excerpts of appraising items in term of affect are described below.

(1) *I also remember walking past the PDAM office near my childhood house, seeing an old, deserted-looking building¹ and thinking: no wonder the water supply in my house is so poor.*

The first female author (F1) tried to express her emotions of dissatisfaction towards the water supply in their house. She tried to build up her emotion by addressing negative judgment to PDAM building near her house.

(2) *Alone, isolated, and continuously repressed¹*

(3) *In the words of the International Labour Organisation, "If you desire¹ peace, cultivate justice."*

The second female author (F2) intended to express her feelings of dissatisfaction. She tried to portray how pity the condition of Papua recently was. She implied Papua as a lonely and isolated province among provinces in Indonesia. She also addressed her dissatisfaction with the Indonesian government and International organization regarding to cultivating justice in the land of Papua.

(4) *... most of the classrooms¹ did not consider² laptops as useful³ as direct interaction with competent teachers.*

The third female author (F3) conveyed their negative satisfaction (dissatisfaction). She thought that digital tools for teachers were not useful recently. She considered that laptops were not useful enough for direct teaching interaction in the classroom.

(5) *But he kept asking me the same thing over and over.*

(6) *Worst¹, he sent sexy pictures of some random girls to our chat room and asked things that made me uneasy.*

(7) *I was so irritated¹*

(8) *... that I ventured¹ to speak up about my discomfort and told him to stop treating me that way.*

The fourth female author (F4) brings sexual harassment as her topic article. In this case, she displayed so much of her emotions. Since she ever experienced the same thing as the sexual violence victim. There, she framed her insecurity and unhappiness towards sexual harassment which was faced by Baiq Nuril and also herself.

(9) *Still, the new deaths from the outbreak have caused growing panic*

The fifth female author (F5) only found one affect item in the article. She flowed her writing so plain and neutral. It happens since she brings a scientific topic, that is about the original history of coronavirus. No wonder, the author displayed less personal feelings.

(10) *Mind you¹, I've been disappointed² in Keir's list of 10 pledges – [he's] still³ going to nationalize everything, too left⁴*

(11) *Most¹ were strongly² for Starmer, though³ a few⁴ gloomily⁵ sought to dodge the critical choice by opting for Lisa Nandy, who has indeed⁶ had a good⁷ campaign.*

(12) *The election felt like¹ the shock of 1992, the despair². But³ Labour recovered by 1997.*

The sixth female author (F6) brings a political issue of labor leaders in the UK. There were a lot of affect items displayed by the authors. Mostly, they showed their dissatisfaction or disappointment with Keir Starmer's achievement during his career.

(13) *... And in each instance where I have been refused⁹ a test, a key factor has been that I did not¹⁰ satisfy¹¹ the protocol based on the fact that I hadn't travelled¹² to one of five countries.*

(14) *I am still² sick¹. I am still⁴ self-quarantined at home³, and I am still⁶ in the dark.⁵*

The seventh female author (F7) intended to criticize the procedures of getting the Rapid / Swab test in America. She displayed many dissatisfaction items. She was disappointed regarding to the test protocols which she experienced during the test. In excerpt number (14) she clearly expressed her emotion that she really needed the test. However, she was refused because of the test protocols. The sentence "I am still in the dark" implies that the author does need help. It contains a metaphor that disguises the authorial's feelings.

(15) *In the week before schools closed in March, the WhatsApp group chat for my daughter's reception class pinged incessantly² with messages.¹*

(16) *Parents were split between deep distrust¹ of the government's prevarication and ingress to give them the benefit of doubt².*

(17) *All¹ of us were struggling², if we were honest³, to find a rationale behind the stuttering⁴ decision-making of our leaders.*

The plan of reopening school during the pandemic is an interesting discussion. The eighth female author (F8) tried to display her emotion as she was the student's parent. She framed her insecurity and dissatisfaction if the plan was carried out. She showed up her deep distrust of parents towards the government policy.

Judgment

Judgment is about a human's behavior or character to convey information in the interaction (Martin & White, 2005). The human's behavior judgment also covers positive and negative. The judgment then can be classified into normality, capacity, Tenacity, veracity. And propriety. The table below shows the distribution of judgment in online newspaper articles written by female authors.

Table 3.
 The Distribution of Judgment in the Online Newspaper Articles Written by the Female Authors

Judgment	Polarity (+ / -) (positive/negative)	Female (F)
Normality	(+)	13
	(-)	23
Capacity	(+)	50
	(-)	46
Tenacity	(+)	22
	(-)	14
Veracity	(+)	0
	(-)	2
Propriety	(+)	14
	(-)	17
Total		201

There were 201 judgment items found out in the eight female articles. Below are the description of excerpts.

(18) *However¹, they have been unable² to keep up with the pace³ of urban growth and the water system supply depreciation, with the result that PDAM coverage is only⁴ 30 to 40 percent of its service area in 2011.*

(19) *...._However³, they ultimately⁵ failed⁴.*

The excerpts were found in the article written by the first female author. Those sentences indicate that the authors evaluate negative judgment to a group of people in the frame of negative capability. It can be seen by the use of the word "failed" and "unable". The authors that the government has failed to provide sufficient water supply.

(20) Digital platforms have so far failed¹ to significantly improve teacher attendance and student outcomes in Haiti report says².

(21) Not¹ all² teachers can³ afford smartphones.

The excerpts above are taken from the article written by the third female author. The author tried to frame the incapability of digital platforms to cope with the teacher problem in Haiti. Furthermore, she also highlighted the teachers' inability regarding smartphones.

Appreciation

Appreciation is used to evaluate things or phenomena in the interaction (Martin & White, 2005). Appreciation also covers negative and positive things evaluation. There are three kinds of appreciation including reaction, composition, and valuation. Below is the description of the distribution of appreciation.

Table 4.
The Distribution of Appreciation in the Online Newspaper Articles Written by the Female Authors

Author	Appreciation		
	Reaction	Composition	Valuation
F1	8	5	2
F2	0	1	2
F3	1	2	3
F4	10	2	1
F5	3	6	3
F6	6	0	4
F7	6	5	3
F8	11	3	8
Total	45	24	26
%	47,4	25,2	27,4

Table 4 maps out that the distribution of three kinds of appreciation in which reaction, is the most frequently used by female authors. On the contrary, the composition is the least frequently identified. The term "reaction" in this case indicates that both authors express their positive or negative reactions towards the things or phenomena in the topics. When the author is supporting or coming around the topic, then he/she is going to use more positive reaction items. On the other hand, when the author is against the topic, then he/she is going to employ more negative reaction items. This data finding goes hand in hand with a previous study from Souza (2006). He claimed that appreciation was done to reveal re-contextualization of the field of

identification concerning evaluations of things and phenomenons. Regarding reaction in data findings, it also goes hand in hand with White (2009). He mentioned that reaction is interpersonally tuned. It is perceived as the emotional impact of the work/topics/issues on the readers or listeners. Below are several excerpts to support the findings.

- (22) One day a fellow journalist asked me to stay over at his place where we could¹ spend the night together and "chitchat²",
- (23) *I might¹ be one of a handful⁵ of women who managed to² escape such a frustrating situation³ by standing up to and rejecting such irritating treatment⁴.*
- (24) *As a result, these women could¹ — at the worst possible moment² — fall victim to sexual harassment at the workplace.*
- (25) *One such unfortunate woman¹ was Baiq Nuril Maknun, a 42-year-old former employee of a senior high school in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), who repeatedly² received lewd phone calls from the principal, and experienced a string of unpleasant incidents³ after exposing his harassment.*
- (26) *A friend said that¹ back in her university days, a middle-aged administrative staffer² liked to tease female students by throwing flirty jokes here and there.*

Those excerpts above imply the author showed off more evaluation of things or phenomenons. The issue above is about sexual violence faced by Baiq Nuril. The fourth female author (M4) strongly expressed her negative reaction to several things or phenomenons such as frustrating situations, irritating treatment, unpleasant incidents, and flirty jokes. Those addressed negative appreciation for things or phenomenons regarding the case of Baiq Nuril.

- (27) *I pointed out the absurdity¹ of that and was told to call the CDC.*
- (28) *In the meantime, my tenacious¹ doctor was able to establish that my nasal swabs had never been processed² and my test had been 'rejected'³ by the health department – with no communication or explanation.*
- (29) *The bungling of this endeavor is spectacular¹, the lived experience of it, a theatre of the absurd.²*

CONCLUSION

Appraisal is a theory of language for evaluation. It lets the authors to explore more toward the authors' intention to convey the meaning of utterances. In this study, the writer focused on the attitude system. Attitude is divided into three sub-systems namely affect, judgment, and appreciation. Judgment becomes the most prominently items perceived in the eight articles. The female authors display their judgments to humans' behaviours or characteristics. The second place goes to appreciation. The females also display their things evaluation in their articles. On the other hand, affect becomes the least items seen in the articles. In short, The female authors employed more personal emotions and feeling expressions in their articles. Emotions or personal feelings are displayed to give a sense of the reader's involvement. The female authors tried to get the readers involved deeper in the topic they were discussing. Moreover, they wanted to build up a link or connection between the authors and the readers by presenting several emotions and personal feelings in the frame of attitude system. The emotions can be presented by illustrating their own experiences based on the topic articles. The writer can sum up that most of the data findings in this study confirm several previous theories and studies.

The conclusion explained above lead the writer to draw several suggestions. It is very beneficial for the English language learners to pay more attention to interpersonal meanings, particularly the use of Appraisal. They need to explore more about Appraisal to shape their voices effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, as an English teachers, the appraisal is also needed to be introduced at school levels. Students need to know to frame their subjective voices into their writings. So that the link between authors and readers can be built up.

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