# Cultural Theme of Engagement in News Texts in Critical Discourse: *Voice in Projection*

## Chalimah[1], R Santosa[2], Djatmika[2], and T Wiratno[2]

[1]Doctoral Student of Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta, Indonesia
[2]Graduate Program Lecturer of Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta, Indonesia

E-mail: chalimahstkipjb@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

This study has an aim to explore the written data of the cultural theme in news texts which are included in the critical discourse in the area of conflicts in different religion, different belief and different ideology taken from online news, namely USA Today and CNN. The data are analyzed by using systemic functional linguistics, especially theory of appraisal in engagement by using voice in projection. The descriptive qualitative study is applied. The findings show that both USA Today and CNN online news are reliable. The projection uses indirect speech (IS), scare quotes (SQ), scare quotes and indirect speech and adjective clause (SQISAC), adjective clause (AC), indirect speech and scare quotes (ISSQ), indirect speech and noun clause (ISNC), adjective clause and noun clause (ACNC) and direct speech (DS) with the total number 82% in USA Today and 83% in CNN. One voice (OV) is 18% in USA Today and 17% in CNN. The high number of voice in projection shows the valid source taken from the official sources and the one voice shows the implicit author's opinion in the news.

**Keywords:** *Cultural Theme; Engagement; News Texts; Critical Discourse; Voice; Projection*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The clash between Israel and Palestine has been known as the international problem which seems difficult to be solved. The clash has been informed to the world by the online news so that it is essential to investigate the kind of voice sources to know the information source. The voice can be analyzed from the linguistic side by using systemic functional linguistic or systemic functional grammar named engagement and the critical point can be seen from the critical discourse in the ideological matter. Many previous studies have been conducted to analyze the critical discourse by using systemic functional linguistics [1]–[5] but they have not seen from the view of engagement through voices which becomes the gap in this study. [1] has investigated the critical reading through appraisal in EFL students, [5] has analyzed appraisal language but it is in the comments on face book and [2] has analyzed the discourse but it still focuses on

English and Arabic version. [3] have analyzed the mood system in the religious texts but has not discussed about the engagement. [4] has made a study on the critical discourse "the City of David by Israel" in general too. This study aims to determine the voice forms to get the source information based on linguistic data used to determine the cultural theme of the engagement. The benefit of this study is to show that appraisal can be used to explain the language role and the language functions [6] and shows the opinions in the discourse [7].

This study is in linguistic area to analyze the social phenomena to find the social purpose to represent the reality in this world. The voice as a part of the language use is a tool to illustrate the attitude and shows the reality of the world image of the culture. Systemic functional linguistics can help to see the political issues and the power which have formed the society discourse [8]. The online newspaper has strength to facilitate the power distribution which also controls what and how the news presents in the form of selection and transformation through linguistic description [9]. The news can legitimate the argumentative forms to support the idea by using statements and speaker status. However, [9] has only discussed further about epistemic modality and has not explained how the information given to show where the arguments and the information come from. This study fills the space to present the information source to find out the person or the institution who has given the evaluation by using appraisal theory especially theory related with the engagement. The voice projection can be seen through direct and indirect speech (showing the words written are someone's utterance), noun clause (showing the writer's or other people thinking or feeling), subjunctive (showing the expectation beyond the reality), names for speech acts (showing the beginning and the end of the events happened in the text), adjective clause (projecting the information within the clauses, and scare quotes (a sign that someone's words are used) [10].

The relation between systemic functional linguistics and critical discourse cannot be separated [11]. Both of the systemic functional linguistics and critical discourse explain the cultural contexts related with register and genre, have the function to analyze the language use and the language change, explore the identity and relation among the participants, and also show the domination. The engagement is one way to explore the language use which can be used to determine the forms of voices used in the news texts. The more projection used means that the information is valid and legal based on the official information and the less one voice used means that the texts contain the author's opinion on the problem situated in the texts.

## 2.    METHOD

The design of this study uses descriptive qualitative design. The data are taken from **two** kinds of online news (USA Today and CNN) which can be accessed easily. The USA Today news has the title "Scores killed as violence greets dedication of U.S. Embassy in Israel" and the CNN news has the title "violence erupts along Gaza-Israel border as Palestinians march again".

 The data source validity is used because the data is taken from the official news site and the reliability is got by comparing the findings from both of the online news. The data is related with the source or projection which is analyzed by using systemic functional linguistics or through the grammar analysis. The data are explored to find out the form of engagement used that can convince the world about the information source in the critical discourse by using componential analysis.

## 3.   RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data are explored whether they are one voice or the projection to state who actually gives the information in the news. The other people's utterances which are used are commonly found in the form of grammar. The grammar forms show the implicit and explicit meanings. The data can be the single form of grammar or the combination of grammar forms.

The data of the functional grammar are written in some symbols to make it more understandable: indirect speech (IS), scare quotes (SQ), scare quotes and indirect speech and adjective clause (SQISAC), adjective clause (AC), indirect speech and scare quotes (ISSQ), indirect speech and noun clause (ISNC), adjective clause and noun clause (ACNC), direct speech (DS), indirect speech and adjective clause (ISAC), noun clause (NC) and one voice (OV).

Table 1. Analysis of engagement in usa today

| No. | Engagement | Types | Σ | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Heterogloss/Projection | Indirect Speech (IS) | 8 | 23 |
| | | Scare Quotes (SQ) | 7 | 20 |
| | | Scare Quotes and Indirect Speech and adjective clause (SQISAC) | 1 | 3 |
| | | Adjective Clause (AC) | 5 | 15 |
| | | Indirect Speech and Scare Quotes (ISSQ) | 3 | 9 |
| | | Indirect Speech and Noun Clause (ISNC) | 1 | 3 |
| | | Adjective Clause and Noun Clause (ACNC) | 1 | 3 |
| | | Direct Speech (DS) | 2 | 6 |
| | Total | | 28 | 82 |
| No. | Engagement | Type | Σ | % |
| 2 | Monogloss (M) | One Voice (OV) | 6 | 18 |
| | Total | | 34 | 100 |

From the data above, the data show that the indirect speech (IS) is used 8 times by using "said, saying, calling for, compound and told"; the scare quotes (SQ) is used 7 times by using the sign ("…"); the scare quotes and indirect speech and adjective clause (SQISAC) is used only once by using "..", called for, who; the adjective clause (AC) is used 5 times by using who, which, where; the indirect speech and scare quotes (ISSQ) is used 3 times by using the sign ("…") and said; the indirect speech and noun clause (ISNC) is used once by using the sign (said and adding that); the adjective clause and noun clause (ACNC) is used once by using whose, when at once in one statement. The direct speech (DS) is used twice by using the sign ("…", said). 82% of the data can be interpreted that the information sources are taken from the official governments and given by the people who are involved in the conflicts. Only 18% of the data shows that the author also gives the additional opinion.

Table 2.Analysis of Engagement in CNN

| No. | Engagement | Types | Σ | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Heterogloss/Projection | Indirect Speech (IS) | 8 | 27 |
| | | Scare Quotes (SQ) | 4 | 13 |
| | | Scare Quotes and Indirect Speech and adjective clause (SQISAC) | 2 | 7 |
| | | Adjective Clause (AC) | 2 | 7 |
| | | Indirect Speech and Scare Quotes (ISSQ) | 4 | 13 |
| | | Indirect Speech and Adjective Clause (ISAC) | 1 | 3 |
| | | Noun Clause (NC) | 3 | 10 |
| | | Direct Speech (DS) | 1 | 3 |
| | Total | | 25 | 83 |
| No. | Engagement | Type | Σ | % |
| 2 | Monogloss (M) | One Voice (OV) | 5 | 17 |
| | Total | | 30 | 100 |

The data show that CNN uses the indirect speech (IS) 8 times by using the words: said, saying, call to and according to. The scare quotes or SQ ("...") is used four times. The square quotes and indirect speech and adjective clause (SQISAC) is used twice by using ("…", say, which) and ("…"), in accordance with, who, said). The adjective clause (AC) is used twice by using the sign which and when. The indirect speech and scare quotes (ISSQ) is used four times by using the sign "..." and said. The indirect speech and adjective clause (ISAC) is used once by using the sign said and who in one utterance. The noun clause (NC) is used 3 times by using that implicitly and what. The direct speech (DS) is also used once by using "..." said. The one voice (OV) is used five times. The data can be interpreted that 83% of the information given is from the official government and the rest of them (17%) is given based on the author's opinion.

The result shows that the engagement used in the form of projection is used more than the one voice to guarantee that the information comes from the valid source by using direct and indirect speech, noun clause, adjective clause and scare quotes as the symbol or semiotics both in USA Today and CNN news to show that the information in the written text are taken from someone else's words namely the official governments and the people in the conflict. The USA Today and CNN guarantee that the information is almost valid (82% and 83%) although there is also very few utterances to show the ideology of the author stated in the news (18% and 17%). It proves that the theory of appraisal in systemic functional linguistics can be used for exploring the data in the cultural theme of news texts and it can help to convince that the information source is valid and legal.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The engagement seen from the form of projection or one voice explains the source of the information given so that it can be used to decide whether the source of the information is valid or not, whether it is official or not official. The important findings also show that the cultural theme presents the projection in the form of subjunctive and names for speech acts are not found in the news. The study argues that the subjunctive does not appear because the news only wants

to give the real information and does not show any wish or the expectation either from the author or from the institution who gives the information. The data are completely real information for the news and deliver it to the readers about the conflicts happen. This study has a limitation on the use of projection or voice but it has not explored in the form of modality and conjunction. The researcher suggests for the future studies to investigate further about engagement in modality and in conjunction.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## REFERENCES

[1]     F. A. Haromi, "Teaching through Appraisal: Developing Critical Reading in Iranian EFL Learners," *Procedia - Soc. Behav. Sci.*, vol. 98, pp. 127–136, 2014.

[2]     S. A. Abdudayem, "Evaluative Positioning in Online Hard News Reporting A Comparative Evaluative Analysis of Al Jazeera English and Arabic Coverage of Change of Leadership in Egypt during the Period 1 July to 3 July," Institute of the Hamad bin Khalifa University, 2015.

[3]     B. Noor, Mehwish; Ali, Moazzam; Muhabat, Fakharh; Kazemian, "Systemic Functional Linguistics Mood Analysis of the Last Address of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)," *Int. J. Lang. Linguist.*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 1–9, 2016.

[4]     D. Landy, "The place of Palestinians in tourist and Zionist discourses in the 'City of David', occupied East Jerusalem," *Crit. Discourse Stud.*, vol. 14, no. 3, pp. 309–323, 2017.

[5]     G. H. Tran and X. M. Ngo, "News comments on facebook – a systemic functional linguistic analysis of moves and appraisal language in reader-reader interaction," *J. World Lang.*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 46–80, 2018.

[6]     L. Young and C. Harrison, "Introduction to the Collection," in *Systemic Functional Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis: Studies in Social Change*, London: Continuum, 2004.

[7]     J. R. Martin and P. R. R. White, *The Language of Evaluation (Appraisal in English)*. New York: palgrave macmillan, 2005.

[8]     T. Bloor and M. Bloor, *The Functional Analysis of English*. London: Arnold, 2004.

[9]     C. Hart, *Critical discourse analysis and cognitive linguistics*, vol. 15, no. 4. United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

[10]    J. R. Martin and D. Rose, *Working with Discourse: Meaning beyond the Clause*. London and New York: Continuum, 2007.

[11]    J. L. Meurer, "Role Prescription, Social Practices, and Social Structures: A Sociological Basis for the Contextualization of Analysis in SFL and CDA. Edited by Lynne Young and Claire Harrison," in *Systemic Functional Linguistics and Critical Discourse*

*Analysis: Studies in Social Change*, L. Young and C. Harrison, Eds. London: Continuum, 2004, pp. 85–96.