

**A Study on Attitude in China’s Political News Discourse in
the Light of Appraisal Theory: The Case of the Russia-
Ukraine crisis reports**

Heba Awny Abd El- Hamid Ismail

A PhD Researcher

The Department of English Language and Literature,

The Faculty of Arts, Suez University

المستخلص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في كيفية استخدام اللغة التقييمية في نصين إخباريين صينيين للحصول على فهم أيديولوجي حول كيفية عرض الأزمة الروسية الأوكرانية في وسائل الإعلام الصينية وقياس مدى انعكاس موارد التقييم اللغوي على هذه الأزمة. تم إجراء تحليل النصين بشكل أساسي من حيث مواقفهما التقييمية للأزمة الروسية الأوكرانية باستخدام نظرية Appraisal Theory (Martin and White, 2005) بهدف استكشاف توزيع موارد المواقف التقييمية في البيانات وتفسير المواقف المخفية وراء النصوص الإخبارية. وأظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن استخدام موارد الحكم يشكل النسبة الأكبر، تليها موارد التأثير، واستخدام موارد التقدير هو الأقل. الاستنتاج الآخر المستخلص من دراسة النصين هو أن نسبة موارد المواقف السلبية أكبر بكثير من موارد المواقف الإيجابية.

الكلمات الدالة :

نظرية Appraisal Theory ، المواقف التقييمية، النصوص الإخبارية الصينية،
الأزمة الروسية الأوكرانية

Abstract

This study investigates the use of evaluative language in two Chinese political news texts to obtain an ideological understanding of how the Russia-Ukraine crisis is shaped and reflected by appraisal resources in Chinese media. The analysis of the two texts is conducted mainly in terms of their attitudes based on the Appraisal Theory by Martin and White (2005) to explore the distribution of attitude language resources in the data, and interpret the attitude hidden behind the news texts. The findings of the study show that the use of judgement resources accounts for the largest proportion, followed by affect resources,

and the use of appreciation resources is the least. Another conclusion drawn from the investigation of the two texts is that the proportion of negative attitude resources is much larger than that of positive attitude resources.

Keywords: Appraisal Theory, Attitude, Chinese news texts, Russia – Ukraine crisis

1. Introduction

The Russo-Ukrainian War is an ongoing international conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which began in February 2014. On 24 February 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine in an escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War. The invasion grew to be the biggest assault on a European country since World War II. The reasons for the crisis that evolved in Ukraine are partly rooted in the country's historical and cultural division between the West and the East, in addition to its economic importance in the world's arena. Not only Russia and Ukraine, but also many other countries are involved in the Russia-Ukrainian conflict including China, which plays a remarkable role, through the use of its media, during this crisis.

The most crucial medium for media to fulfil the purpose of information transmission is language. One way to analyze the language of media and uncover hidden meanings is through the application of the Appraisal theory. The Appraisal theory (Martin and White 1990) is an approach to discourse analysis that deals with evaluative language. Many linguists and scholars adopt this theory to analyze different discourses. Appraisal theory is concerned with the linguistic resources by which a text comes to express, negotiate and naturalise particular inter-subjective and ultimately ideological positions. It examines the speaker's or

writer's use of evaluation tools to transmit attitudes, persuade audiences, shape views, and negotiate relationships. Therefore, the theory is concerned more particularly with the language of evaluation, attitude and emotion.

Facing the issue of the Russian-Ukraine conflict, major newspapers and magazines published a large number of articles criticizing this issue, the matter that motivated the current study to conduct an analysis of the language of Chinese political news texts to catch a glimpse of how news media approach the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

1.1 Objectives of the study

The current study aims at:

- 1- Identifying the positive/negative attitudinal stances in Chinese political news texts.
- 2- Exploring the presence/absence of objectivity in Chinese media's representation of the Russia-Ukraine crisis to the whole world.

1.2 Significance of the study

In the current study, the analysis of the evaluative language of the selected data reveals the ideologies held by the texts' authors, allowing the public to make informed judgments about the ongoing political events in general and the Russia-Ukraine crisis in particular.

1.3 Key Research Question

- 1- What are the positive and negative attitudinal stances revealed in the selected Chinese political news texts?

- 2- How does the writer of each text use evaluative language to positively/negatively represent the Russia-Ukraine crisis to the entire world?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Appraisal Theory & news texts in previous studies

One study that uses the Appraisal Theory to analyze political genres is Priyatmojo's (2011) study which tries to describe how Obama evaluates his political views in front of the American public in particular and the global populace in general. The corpus of the study is Obama's Inauguration Speech 2009. According to the study's findings, Obama thinks that because of its numerous issues and other nations' lack of political trust in the United States, America is in a precarious situation. Obama persuades his audience and convinces them that he can effectively address their issues.

A year later, Arunsirot (2012) conducted a study that examines commentary from Thai newspapers on the April 11, 2009 ASEAN Summit disruption. The aim of the study is to examine Appraisal Theory linguistic techniques to more thoroughly analyse the attitudes represented in newspaper commentaries. The data of this study is selected from 32 newspaper commentaries that are taken from nine online newspapers. The findings show that the commentators use adjectives, noun phrases, or verb phrases to elicit both positive and negative affective responses. With respect to attitude, the Thai newspaper commentaries include negative evaluative lexis. In the graduation category of appraisal, the explicit attitudes occur with grading up rather than grading down.

Under the same umbrella of the appraisal theory, Ding (2017) carried out a study that aims to analyze the attitudinal resources used by President Obama in his victory speech. The study focuses on determining how these resources are employed to restore public confidence, lessen hostility, call for racial unity, and unite the nation in the face of impending challenges. Findings of the study prove that Obama's goals, plans, programmes, and opinions are deftly justified in this victory address using a variety of evaluation materials.

In recent years, Asad et. al. (2021) developed a research paper that aims to identify the attitudinal stances of two Pakistani Online newspapers: 'Dawn' and 'The News'. To discover the newspapers' stances, Martin and White (2005) Appraisal Analysis framework was employed along with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) by Norman Fairclough (1995). Findings of the research reveal that both newspapers implicitly evoke views by establishing an evaluative foundation that is clearly stated in the quoted text. Imran Khan, the prime minister of Pakistan, is referred to as the "Appraiser" in both news reports and has a key role in bringing attention to Pakistan's present problems.

Another study conducted within the theoretical frame work of Martin and White's Appraisal theory is the one done by Alsandeli and Alattar in 2022. The study examines how writers from America and Iraq use the evaluative resources in newspaper opinion articles (henceforth, op-eds). It looks at how op-ed's writers from the United States and Iraq use evaluative resources to establish their viewpoints, produce rhetorical effects, and advance their ideologies through influencing readers' and addressees' views towards various topics. Besides the Appraisal theory, the researchers adopt Van Dijk's (2006) ideology

perspective to achieve the study's goals. The study provides both qualitative and quantitative analysis methods. The study concludes that the ideological strategy of positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation greatly motivates the evaluative resources employed by American and Iraqi op-ed authors, and that both American and Iraqi op-ed writers employ comparable distributional evaluation strategies. The research also reveals that there are changes in the frequencies of the various sub-types of evaluative resources being studied across the corpus, as well as the overall frequencies.

Furthermore, Vinchristo (2022) conducted a study that examines Mood, Modality, and Attitude as a part of Appraisal theory in the Editorial News of the Sydney Morning Herald. The study aims to investigate the highest Interpersonal Meta function in terms of Mood, Modality, and Attitude in Editorial Discourse in Business-Related Issues. The data of the study includes a sample of ten editorial discourses in business-related issues from The Sydney Morning Herald. Results of the study show that more interrogative clauses were used than declarative ones, and that more probability positive clauses were used than negative and usuality ones. As for the attitude system analysis, it is found out that appreciation clauses were used more frequently than Judgment and Affect.

2.2 Contribution of the current study

Even though a great deal of study has been done on the Russia-Ukraine war, the majority of these studies concentrate on its political, historical, economic, or humanitarian aspects. Few studies have examined the language used in news articles about that topic, despite the fact it is crucial to learn how various media depict the conflict, what terminology they employ, and how these

decisions affect how the public interprets and comprehends the events. In order to close this gap, the current study aims to apply the Appraisal theory to an analysis of Chinese news texts about the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

3. Theoretical Framework

Appraisal, or evaluative language, is a key term in systemic functional linguistics, discourse analysis and other branches related to applied linguistics. Appraisal is “concerned with evaluation: the kinds of attitudes that are negotiated in a text, the strength of the feelings involved and the ways in which values are sourced and readers aligned” (Martin and Rose, 2003, p.22). The appraisal theory examines the speaker's or writer's use of evaluation tools to transmit attitudes, persuade audiences, shape views, and negotiate relationships. This theory connects a text's language choices to its ideological underpinnings. The possibility for choosing an appropriate expression or word enables readers infer the author's attitudes towards the phenomenon being discussed. According to the appraisal theory, writers or speakers can communicate their approval or disapproval either directly or indirectly in a single sentence. The resources of Appraisal are used for negotiating social relationships, by telling the listeners or readers how one feels about things and people.

Martin and White (2005) provide an explanation of the choices of words and the organization of text that affect the reader and promote social values. They also explain the construction of stances and interpersonal relationships and positioning in ‘Appraisal’ theory. It is concerned with how the author positions his readers by criticizing or applauding and approving or disapproving. ‘Appraisal’ theory describes how authors take positions on discourses in their context based on shared feelings,

emotions, assessments, and alignments of individuals by the authorial identities' construction (Martin & White, 2005).

As for resources of appraisal, there are three sub-systems to an appraisal analysis: attitude, graduation and engagement. Each of these sub-systems has its own set of sub-systems. The following part presents the attitude system with its three sub-systems as it is the main theoretical framework of the current research.

3.1 Definition of Attitude

Attitude is the first and major category in appraisal analysis. Martin and Rose (2003) define Attitude as “something to do with evaluating things, people’s character, and their feelings”. The evaluation is done to a text by seeing its realization in the clauses. When evaluating a text, the researcher must attempt to glean what the speaker has said, as he or she frequently combines personal experience with his evaluation of the subject matter and present his attitude in the text.

3.2 Types of Attitudes

According to Martin and Rose (2003), there are three different types of attitudes: affect, judgement, and appreciation.

Affect

Jin (2019) discusses that the affect system is the core of the whole attitude system, from which the judgment system and the appreciation system are generated. The affect system is a resource for analysing linguistic phenomena. It is used to describe the emotional responses of language users to behaviours, texts, processes, and phenomena.

According to Martin and White (2005), affect is means of how individuals express their feelings in discourse. It deals with people's positive and negative emotions, including reacting to behavior, process or phenomena. De Souza (2006) states that "affect concerns linguistic resources speakers utilize for expressing their feelings in terms of their emotional states".

Judgment

According to Martin and Rose (2003), judgement refers to the process of people's evaluation in discourse. The term "judgement" can be viewed as the institutionalisation of emotions in the context of proposals (norms about how people should or shouldn't behave). As Droga and Humphrey (2002) state, judgment is used to evaluate "what people do, say or believe according to institutionalized values". Martin and White (2005) explain that judgement is concerned with the declarations or expressions of attitudes towards behavior, which can be either applauded or criticized.

Similar to affect, judgment can be either positive or negative. According to Martin and Rose (2003), based on different evaluative standards, Judgment System can be classified into two broad categories, defined as Social Esteem and Social Sanction.

Martin and Rose (2007) explain that Social Esteem involves attitudinal values without legal implications. To be more precise, actions taken under the heading of "Social Esteem" will be evaluated in accordance with widely held societal norms that discourage or criticise incorrect behaviour. Social Esteem concerns norms involving: normality (which refers to the quality or state of being normal), capacity (which refers to a person's

ability to perform a task), and tenacity (which refers to the quality or state of being tenacious and reliable).

Social Sanction involves a group of regulations with legal or moral implications. In other words, actions that are subject to social sanctions will be assessed morally or legally, and bad actions are frequently condemned as sins or punished as crimes. Social Sanction includes the judgment of human behaviors involving veracity (the quality of being honest or trustworthy) and propriety (the quality of being socially or ethically acceptable). (Martin and Rose, 2007)

Appreciation:

Jin (2019) defines the appreciation system as the appreciation of the aesthetics of texts and phenomena by language users. As Droga and Humphrey 2002 state, appreciation deals with emotions towards “objects, processes and states of affairs”. Appreciation is concerned with how linguistic resources are used by speakers to express positive or negative evaluations of entities or phenomena.

Similar to affect and judgement, appreciation can be used as both a positive and a negative evaluative resource. Appreciation is divided into three sub-types: Reaction, Value, and Composition.

Firstly, reaction is concerned with judgement by reference of the degree to which the ‘things’ grab the attention of people. Reaction involves Impact and Quality. Impact is about how the ‘things’ attract people, while Quality is about how the ‘things’ satisfy people. Secondly, valuation is used to appreciate the social significance of the ‘things’ and the social significance can be

evaluated either positively as significant and noteworthy or negatively as detrimental and destructive. Thirdly, composition is about the evaluation of the organization of the ‘things’ according to its balance and complexity.

4. Methodology and Data Collection

4.1 Research Design

The current study adopts a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the selected data. Firstly, the quantitative analysis is conducted to detect the distributions of three sub-systems of attitudinal resources in the selected data. Secondly, qualitative study is carried out in this research to explain the significance of using specific attitudinal resources in Chinese news texts.

4.2 Data Collection

The data of this research is two news articles adopted from China Daily newspaper. China Daily was put into formal operation in June 1981 following a one-month testing period. It was China's first national daily newspaper published in the English language following the People's Republic's founding in 1949. Among all the Chinese English-language newspapers, China Daily is the one with the largest print distribution.

The following table illustrates the headlines of the articles under analysis, their dates of publication, authors’ names, word count, and main themes.

4.3 Political and Social Context of the articles:

Article 1: The article was published after a five-hour Russian-Ukrainian negotiation session which took place in Belovezhskaya

	Article's headline	Date of publication	Author's Name	Word count	Theme
1	Talks to end conflict must be supported	March 14, 2022	NA	543 words	The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and the potential for finding common ground.
2	NATO urged to stop twisting China's role	April 13, 2022	Chen Yingqun	1091 words	China's request to NATO to end their false accusations about China's position in the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Pushcha, on February 28. The Russian delegation was led by presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky, who declared that the Russian delegation was ready to speak with the Ukrainian side for as long as it may take to reach agreements.

Article 2: The article was published following and commenting on the NATO Foreign Ministers held in April 6-7, 2022, in Brussels, to discuss President Putin's ruthless and unwarranted invasion of Ukraine. In the meeting, Ukraine's allies were providing more financial and humanitarian support, as well as anti-tank weapons, air defense systems, and other equipment, to help Ukraine exercise its right to self-defense.

5. Data Analysis

This section presents the qualitative and quantitative analysis of Attitude resources in China Daily articles.

5.1 Article 1: Talks to end conflict must be supported

5.1.1 Affect

Affect Type	Positive		Negative		Total	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Un/happiness	5	22.7 %	0	0 %	5	22.7 %
In/security	2	9.1 %	15	68.2 %	17	77.3 %
Dis/satisfaction	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
Total	7	31.8 %	15	68.2 %	22	100 %

(1) Distribution of Affect Resources

According to table 1, it can be found that there are 22 resources of affect in article 1, of which 7 are positive resources, accounting

for 31.8%, while there are 15 negative resources, accounting for the vast majority, that is, 68.2 %. Two of the three subsystems of affect system are involved; 5 of them are un/happiness, accounting for 22.7 %, and 17 of them are in/security, accounting for 77.3 %, while there is no evidence of dis/satisfaction resources.

The following are selected extracts that show the affect attitudinal resources in the text.

Affect: Un/happiness

1. their latest round of talks both Russia and Ukraine seem to be a little more **upbeat**.
2. It would certainly be **welcome** if the two sides are able to produce "positive results
3. it may still be wise to keep **optimism** in check.
4. The rhetoric of Washington and London and the weapons the United States and the United Kingdom...these two Western capitals.. they are basically **happy** with things as they are, and **hope** to prolong the fighting

Affect: In/Security

5. The **conflict** has already claimed hundreds of lives, **wounded** thousands more, and **forced** more than 2.5 million Ukrainians to **flee** their homeland, resulting in the most **devastating** humanitarian crisis in Europe
6. the rhetoric about humanitarian **concerns**, especially that about "humanitarian corridors", fell largely flat
7. While the longer the war stretches on, the more **casualties** and **losses** the Russian forces will **suffer**

8. Russia is subject to mounting international **pressure**
9. the two **warring** parties may be trying to find a way to end the **violence**
10. these two Western capitals.. while lamenting the **plight** of the Ukrainian people, they are basically happy with things as they are, and hope to prolong the **fighting**
11. China always tries to **resolve** differences and disputes ... and **de-escalate** the situation.

As shown in the previous extracts, examples 1,2,3 and 4 reveal positive affect of happiness, which is realized through the words ‘upbeat’, ‘welcome’, ‘optimism’, ‘happy’, and ‘hope’. Examples 1, 2, and 3 show the writer’s feelings, and also expresses China’s position towards the talks and the negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. The use of these words refers to China’s role in the situation as the hopeful and optimistic party who wants things to get better and wishes that the battle ends as soon as possible. Example number 4 also illustrates the use of positive affect of happiness, but this time to refer to the position of Washington and London towards the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, portraying them negatively as the party who wants to escalate the conflict.

In extracts numbers 5 and 6 the negative affect of insecurity appears in the words: ‘conflict’, ‘wounded’, ‘forced’, ‘flee’, ‘devastating’, and ‘concerns’ to highlight China’s vision about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and how serious the situation is from China’s point of view.

In extracts numbers 7 and 8, using the words: ‘casualties’, ‘losses’, ‘suffer’, and ‘pressure’ highlights the negative affect of insecurity about Russia’s position in this war. The language used in these examples reveals China’s support and empathy with

Russia and shows how destructive the war is for the Russian side also, not only the Ukrainian side.

Extracts numbers 9 and 10 reveal the negative affect of insecurity through the words: ‘warring’, ‘violence’, ‘plight’, and ‘fighting’. These words are used to convey China’s feeling of insecurity towards the Russia-Ukraine war and to assert that it is a conflict that must end quickly.

The positive affect of security which appears in the words ‘resolve’ and ‘de-escalate’ in extract number 11 is employed to describe China’s efforts and positive role in ending the serious conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

5.1.2 Judgement

Judgement Type	Positive		Negative		Total	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Social Esteem: Capacity	10	55.6 %	8	44.4 %	18	100 %
Total	10	55.6 %	8	44.4 %	18	100 %

(2) Distribution of Judgement Resources

According to table 2, it can be shown that there are 10 resources of judgement in article 1, all of which are of social esteem (capacity) type. 10 of them are positive resources, accounting for the vast majority, that is, 55.6 %, while there are 8 negative resources, accounting for 44.4 %.

The following are selected extracts that preview judgement attitudinal resources in the text.

Judgement: Social Esteem: Capacity

1. Russia is already beginning to talk **constructively**.
2. A Russian negotiator was quoted as saying the same day that the talks had made "**substantial**" progress
3. US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman also reported having seen on Russia's part "some signs of a **willingness** to have **real, serious** negotiations".
4. the two sides are able to produce "**positive** results within days," as some officials on both sides anticipate.
5. But considering their first three rounds of talks in Belarus **failed** to make any **substantive** progress, the diplomatic engagement ended up **fruitless**.
6. it may still be **wise** to keep optimism in check.
7. the weapons the United States and the United Kingdom are providing Ukraine are aimed at **fanning** the flames of the conflict.
8. they can to **debilitate** Russia as much as possible and **undermine** the unity of the European Union.
9. Not only have these two countries **hyped up** and **fueled** the tensions for months and allowed them to spiral out of control, they have also tried to use the crisis to **smear** China.

10. Yet China always tries to play a **constructive** part in facilitating dialogue.

11. It is China's **consistent** position that sanctions are always part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

The previous extracts contain judgement of social esteem (capacity) resources. Extracts 1,2 and 3 reveal positive judgement of Russia and its useful participation in the talks with Ukraine, as explained in the use of the word ‘constructively’ in extract number 1. In extracts 2 and 3, the words: ‘substantial’, ‘willingness’, ‘real’, and ‘serious’ are used to express the writer’s positive judgement of Russia’s good and serious intention to negotiate with Ukraine and end the conflict.

In extract number 4, the author reveals a positive judgement of both the Russian and Ukrainian sides and the successful results of their current talks through the use of the word ‘positive’. On the other hand, the author uses the words ‘failed’ and ‘fruitless’ in extract 5 to express his negative judgement of the talks that were conducted previously between Russia and Ukraine, that lead to no agreement between the two sides. In extracts number 6, the author is back to provide a positive judgement of whoever will keep optimistic about the negotiation through the use of the word ‘wise’, that is, in an implied manner, referring to China as the wise side that is always hopeful and supportive of the negotiation.

Extracts numbers 7, 8, and 9 provide a negative judgement of the two countries of the United States and the United Kingdom. The author negatively judges these two countries’ action of ‘fanning’ the flame of the conflict and hyping up and fueling the tension through the weapons they provide Ukraine with. The author also provides a negative judgement of these two countries

attempt to weaken China through the use of the words: ‘debilitate’, ‘undermine’, and ‘smear’.

In extracts number 10 and 11, which is the final paragraph in the article, the writer is back to reveal positive judgement of China’s beneficial contribution in resolving the Russia-Ukraine crisis. That is clear through the use of the words ‘constructive’ and ‘consistent’.

5.1.3 Appreciation

Appreciation Type	Positive		Negative		Total	Percentage
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
Reaction: Impact	0	0	1	20 %	1	20 %
Value	4	80 %	0	0	4	80 %
Total	4	80 %	1	20 %	5	100 %

(3) Distribution of Appreciation Resources

According to table 3, it is shown that there are 5 resources of appreciation in article 1, of which 4 are positive resources, accounting for the vast majority, that is, 80%, while there is 1 negative resource, accounting for 20 %. Two of the subsystems of appraisal system are involved; 1 of them is reaction (impact) type, accounting for 20 %, and 4 are of value type, accounting for 80 %, while there is no evidence of reaction (quality) and composition resources in the text.

The following are selected extracts that highlight appreciation attitudinal resources in the text.

Appreciation: valuation

1. "I think that we will **achieve** some results literally in a matter of days".
2. A Russian negotiator was quoted as saying the same day that the talks had made "substantial" **progress**,
3. Yet while the two warring parties may be trying to find a way to end the violence, and various parties are making diplomatic **overtures** aimed at **facilitating** this, there are also parties clearly acting to the contrary.

Appreciation: Reaction: Impact

4. Russia is subject to **mounting** international pressure, militarily, economically, politically and morally.

The above extracts show the appreciation attitudinal resources of both valuation and impact that are provided in the text. Extract number 1 is a quotation said by the Ukrainian negotiator and presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak in an online video message. The verb 'achieve' in this example is used to refer to the positive appreciation of Ukraine to Russia's surprising constructive talks, and highlights Ukraine's wish to stop this war. In extract number two, the word 'progress' is used to express the author's positive appreciation of the efforts which Russia is exerting to resolve the conflict and reach an agreement.

In extract number three, the two words 'overtures' and 'facilitating' are employed to assert the writer's positive appreciation of the parties that support ending the war, with an implied reference to China as one of these parties, while

comparing it to other parties, such as the United States, that aim to escalate the situation in Ukraine.

Extract number 4 reveals the author’s negative appreciation of the destructive impact of the war on Russia, highlighting the increasing pressure on this country on the military, economically, politically and morally, the thing that reveals China’s sympathy with Russia.

Overview of Attitude Resources in Article 1: Talks to end conflict must be supported: China Daily editorial

Attitude Type	Number	Percentage
Affect	22	48.8 %
Judgement	18	40 %
Appreciation	5	11.1 %
Total	45	100 %

(4) Distribution of Attitude Resources

According to table 4, it can be seen that there is a total of 45 attitude resources in China Daily’s article “Talks to end conflict must be supported”. Among the three subsystems of attitude resources, affect occupies the largest proportion. There are 22 types of affect resources in the article with the proportion of 48.8%. Judgement takes the second place, and there are totally 18 judgement resources, occupying 40 %. Appreciation is the last one. There are 5 appreciation resources in the text, accounting for 11.1 %.

Attitude-polarity	Number	Percentage
Positive	21	46.7 %
Negative	24	53.3 %

Total	45	100 %
-------	----	-------

(5) Distribution of Attitude-polarity

As for the attitude-polarity, it can be concluded, according to table 5, that negative attitude outweighs positive attitude. In general, there are 21 positive attitudes in the article, accounting for 46.7% and 24 negative attitudes, occupying 53.3%. The distribution and frequency of attitude-polarity can indicate that Chinese reporters have negative attitudes towards the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the matter that support China's desire to end this conflict as quick and safe as possible, and this desire is reflected in China's continuous calls for conducting negotiations between the two Russian and Ukrainian sides to reach an agreement and end the war.

5.2. Article 2: NATO urged to stop twisting China's role

5.2.1 Affect

Affect Type	Positive		Negative		Total	Percentage
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
Un/happiness	0	0 %	2	5.3	2	5.3 %
In/security	10	26.3 %	26	68.4 %	36	94.7 %
Dis/satisfaction	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
Total	10	26.3 %	28	73.7 %	38	100 %

(6) Distribution of Affect Resources

According to table 6, it can be seen that there are 38 resources of affect in article 2, of which 10 are positive resources, accounting for 26.3 %, while there are 28 negative resources, accounting for the vast majority, that is, 73.7 %. Two of the three subsystems of affect system are involved; un/happiness and in/security. There are 2 un/happiness resources, accounting for 5.3 %, and 36 in/security resources, accounting for 94.7 %, while there are no evidence of dis/satisfaction resources.

The following are selected extracts that show the affect attitudinal resources in the text.

Affect: Un/Happiness

1. China **deplores** and rejects this, and has made solemn representations with NATO many times.
2. as the Russia-Ukraine conflict lasts, Europe, which is hugely affected, is becoming more **emotional**

Affect: In/Security

3. comments by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg have once again distorted China's responsible position of promoting **peace** talks to **resolve** the Ukraine crisis
4. NATO allies see it as "a serious **challenge**" that China has not condemned Russia over the **conflict** with Ukraine.
5. China's "growing influence and **coercive** policies".
6. to make NATO members feel **safer** and more **secure**, he expected that they will deepen their **cooperation** with Asia-Pacific partners

7. NATO's eastward expansion and its moves to deepen cooperation with Asia-Pacific partners is "very dangerous" to world peace.
8. NATO has deliberately played up the 'China threat'
9. China's national defense construction is defensive in nature and is not aggressive at all.
10. After the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out, the US further strengthened its control over NATO.
11. It did so by providing Ukraine with money and weapons and pummeling Russia with sweeping and indiscriminate sanctions.
12. China has been working actively toward realizing a cessation of hostilities as soon as possible, averting a humanitarian crisis and restoring stability.
13. NATO has been busy pressuring other countries to take sides in the conflict.
14. the US .. trying to convince Europe that China is a "threat "to Europe... Washington can urge its European allies to work together to smear, contain and suppress China.
15. European countries have had different concerns with the US.. the European countries focused more on economic challenges from China but did not see China as a threat to their security.
16. While claiming to be a defensive organization, NATO has been constantly making trouble and creating confrontations.
17. NATO has waged wars against sovereign countries and fired shells indiscriminately in ways that caused civilian deaths, he said.

18. China has always been a builder of world **peace** .. and a **guardian** of international order.

As shown in the above extracts, the first and second extracts reveal negative affect of unhappiness. Extract number 1 describes China's feeling of sadness, through the use of the verb 'deplores', as a result of the provocative comments by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg about China's position in the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Extract number two uses the word 'emotional' to highlight the negative emotional consequences of the war on Europe as a whole.

Extracts numbers 3, 4, and 5 refer to the comments said by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg about China's position in the Russia-Ukraine crisis. The positive affect of security is revealed through the words: 'peace' and 'resolve' when the author of the article talks about China's position in the conflict, and the author opposed this to the negative affect of security that clearly appears in Stoltenberg's words: 'challenge', 'conflict', and 'coercive' about China's policy in dealing with the situation.

Extracts numbers 6 and 7 are talking about NATO's moves to deepen cooperation with Asia-Pacific partners. Extract number 6 refers to Stoltenberg's opinion about these moves describing them as 'safer' and 'secure' (positive affect of security) for NATO members. On the other hand, extract number 7 refers to Xu Liping's, director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Center for Southeast Asian Studies, opinion about these moves describing them as 'dangerous' (negative affect of security) to the peace of the whole world.

Extracts number 8 and 9 reveal the author’s thoughts about NATO’s false accusation of China as ‘threat’ and ‘aggressive’ in nature (negative affect of security), while the author conveys a positive affect of security through using the word ‘defensive’ to describe China’s national construction.

Negative affect of security is clearly illustrated through the use of the words: “Strengthened, control, pummeling, sweeping, sanctions, pressuring, threat, urge” in extracts numbers 10, 11, 13, and 14. In these extracts, the author of the article discusses the U.S. and NATO’s attempt to control all NATO members’ opinions about China’s position with the aim of weakening China and Russia at the same time. However, extracts numbers 15 and 16 reveal the fact that there are some disagreements between NATO’s members and that some countries do not just follow the U.S. blindly. That is clearly revealed through the use of the words: “concerns, challenges, trouble, and confrontations” (negative affect of security).

Extract number 12 contains positive affect of security conveyed through the words: ‘cessation’ and ‘stability’ to describe China’s attempts to end ‘hostilities’ and ‘humanitarian crisis’ (negative affect of security). The contrast between positive and negative affect resources provided in this extract serves to praise China’s positive position in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. On the other side, extracts number 17 refers to NATO’s destructive acts against sovereign countries, through the words: “waged, fired, and deaths”, (negative affect of security), the thing that contradicts with the basic norms governing international relations.

5.2.2 Judgement

	Positive	Negative		
--	-----------------	-----------------	--	--

Judgement Type	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Total	Percent
Social Esteem: Capacity	10	20.4 %	34	69.4 %	44	89.8 %
Social Sanction: Propriety	4	8.2 %	1	2 %	5	10.2 %
Total	14	28.6 %	35	71.4 %	49	100 %

(7) Distribution of Judgement Resources

According to table 7, it can be seen that there are 49 resources of judgement in article 2, of which 14 are positive recourses, accounting for 28.6 %, while there are 35 negative resources, accounting for the vast majority, that is, 71.4 %. Only two subsystems of judgement are involved in the article. There are 44 resources of social esteem (capacity) type, accounting for the vast majority, that is, 89.8 %, while there are 5 resources of social sanction (propriety) type, which have the proportion of 10.2 %.

The following are selected extracts that preview judgement attitudinal resources in the text.

Judgement: Social Esteem: Capacity

1. **Provocative** comments by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg have once again **distorted** China's **responsible** position of promoting peace... and served to **hype up** Beijing's supposed threat to the security of the Western alliance's members.

2. a **serious** challenge that China has not condemned Russia over the conflict with Ukraine.
3. NATO has **deliberately played up** the 'China threat' to make their move of **smearing** and **suppressing** China legitimate
4. The **accusations** are **false** because China's national defense construction is defensive in nature and is not aggressive at all.
5. it is not surprising that NATO is following Washington's lead and even **forging** alliances in the Asia-Pacific region
6. But NATO's rhetoric on how it frames China is **hollow** and **clumsy**.
7. NATO hurriedly joined Washington in a bid to **obstruct** a political settlement, **fan** the flames and **magnify** the regional conflict.
8. China has been working **actively** toward realizing a cessation of hostilities as soon as possible, **averting** a humanitarian crisis
9. China adheres to an **independent** foreign policy of peace
10. While the US wants to see China more **prominently** on its agenda, the European countries are **less inclined** to do so.
11. it is **worth** observing any shift in how NATO describes China.
12. the US has been **exploiting** the Ukraine crisis by trying to convince Europe that China is a "threat "to Europe
13. Washington can urge its European allies to work together to **smear**, **contain** and **suppress** China.
14. But as the Russia-Ukraine conflict lasts, Europe, which is **hugely** affected, is becoming more emotional, so whether the US will **successfully** affect their attitude toward China still is **unclear**."

15. Stoltenberg has disregarded the facts when making **groundless accusations** and **smears** against China.
16. He has made **irresponsible** comments on China's foreign policies.
17. China has always been a **builder** of world peace, a **contributor** to global development.
18. He urged NATO to immediately stop spreading **disinformation** and making **provocative** remarks targeting China.
19. NATO has **disrupted** Europe. It should stop trying to **destabilize** Asia and the whole world.

Judgement: Social Sanction: Propriety

20. It did so by providing Ukraine with money and weapons and pummeling Russia with sweeping and **indiscriminate** sanctions.
21. China **adheres** to an independent foreign policy of peace and reaches its own conclusions on an issue's **merits**.
22. While asking other countries to **abide** by the basic norms **governing** international relations, NATO has waged wars against sovereign countries.

As shown in extract 1, the author of the article uses negative judgement of capacity to describe the comments said by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg about China's position in the Ukrainian war as 'Provocative'. The author also conveys negative judgement of capacity while referring to NATO's act of 'distorting' and 'hying up' China's position in the conflict. In the same extract, the author uses positive judgement of capacity in the word 'responsible' to refer to China's role in the conflict. In extract 2, the author reveals a negative judgement of capacity

through the word ‘serious’ to highlight NATO’s concerns about China’s support to Russia.

According to the above extracts, the author of the article reveals negative judgement of capacity about NATO’s intended plan to weaken China and smear its position in the Russian-Ukraine conflict. That was revealed through the use of the words: ‘deliberately, played up, smearing, suppressing, hollow, clumsy, groundless, accusations, irresponsible, disinformation, disrupted, and destabilize’, that are shown in extracts numbers 3, 6, 15, 16, 18, and 19. However, in extract number 4, the author used a negative judgement of capacity, through the words ‘false and accusation’ to react to NATO’s unfair accusation. He also uses positive judgement of capacity when praising China’s position and effective role in the conflict, through the words: ‘actively, averting, independent, builder, contributor’ (extracts numbers 8, 9, and 17)

In extract 5 and 7, the author criticizes the fact that NATO is following Washington blindly against China. That is clearly conveyed through the words: ‘forging, obstruct, fan, and magnify’. Nevertheless, extracts numbers 10 and 14 highlight the author’s opinion that despite following Washington in some situations, NATO sometimes has disagreements with the U.S. specially because of the huge effect that Europe encounters as a result of the Ukrainian war. That is obvious through the judgement of capacity revealed in the words: ‘prominently, less, inclined, hugely, successfully, and unclear’.

Extracts numbers 20, 21, and 22 reveal the use of judgement (social sanction: propriety). In extract number 20, the author uses negative judgement of propriety through the word ‘indiscriminate’ to criticize NATO’s action of escalating the conflict through supporting illegal sanctions in Ukraine. In

extracts 21 and 22, the words: ‘adheres, merits, abide, and governing’ reveal positive judgement of propriety used by the author to praise China’s discipline through the conflict.

5.2.3 Appreciation

Appreciation Type	Positive		Negative		Total	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Reaction: Impact	3	33.3 %	2	22.2 %	5	55.5 %
Value	4	44.4 %	0	0 %	4	44.4 %
Total	7	77.7 %	2	22.2 %	9	100 %

(8) Distribution of Appreciation Resources

According to table 8, it is shown that there are 9 resources of appreciation in article 2, of which 7 are positive resources, accounting for the vast majority, that is, 77.7 %, while there are 2 negative resources, accounting for 22.2 %. Two of the subsystems of appraisal system are involved; 5 of them is reaction (impact) type, accounting for 55.5 %, and 4 are of value type, accounting for 44.4 %, while there is no evidence of reaction (quality) and composition resources in the text.

The following are selected extracts that highlight appreciation attitudinal resources in the text.

Appreciation: Valuation

1. Provocative comments by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg have once again distorted China's responsible position of **promoting** peace
2. Zhao added that China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global **development**
3. a new Cold War-type confrontation would be in nobody's interest, and avoiding it requires **openness** on all sides.
4. He urged NATO to immediately stop **spreading** disinformation and making provocative remarks targeting China

Appreciation: Reaction: Impact

5. He said that NATO's next iteration of its Strategic Concept will for the first time take account of the systemic challenges to the security of democracies posed by China's "**growing** influence and coercive policies".
6. to make NATO members feel safer and more secure, he expected that they will **deepen** their cooperation with Asia-Pacific partners
7. As the largest military alliance born out of the Cold War, NATO has long adhered to an obsolete concept of security, engaged in bloc confrontation according to the playbook of the old Cold War, and **reduced** itself to some country's tool for its hegemonic aims.

The above extracts (from 1 to 7) reveal appreciation of valuation and impact. Extracts numbers 1 and 2 reveal positive appreciation of China's support to peace and of its cooperative role in promoting global development. In extract number 3, the author conveys positive appreciation of valuation through the word 'openness' to highlight the fact that ending the Russia-Ukraine war should be desired by all countries in the world and requires efforts from all the sides involved in the conflict. Extract

number 4 highlights China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian's request to NATO to stop 'spreading' (negative appreciation of valuation) false information about China's position in the conflict, the thing that highlight China's dissatisfaction with NATO's acts against China.

Extract number 5 reveals negative appreciation from NATO's side to the impact of China's supporting position to Russia on the whole world. The statement was said by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and it expresses NATO's dissatisfaction with China's position in the conflict. Extract number 6 is also stated by Stoltenberg and reveals NATO's intention to 'deepen' their cooperation with Asia-Pacific partners, the thing that is appreciated negatively in the text from China's side. Finally, extract number 7 reveals negative appreciation of impact, through the word 'reduced', from China's side to NATO's coordination with certain countries with the objective of achieving hegemony over the entire world.

Overview of Attitude Resources in Article 2: NATO urged to stop twisting China's role

Attitude Type	Number	Percentage
Affect	38	39.6 %
Judgement	49	51 %
Appreciation	9	9.4 %
Total	96	100 %

(9) Distribution of Attitude Resources

According to table 9, the total number of attitude resources in China Daily's article "NATO urged to stop twisting China's role" is 96. Among the three subsystems of attitude resources,

judgement occupies the largest proportion. There are 49 types of judgement resources in the article with the proportion of 51%. Affect takes the second place, and there is a total of 38 affect resources, accounting for 39.6 %. Appreciation is the last one. There are 9 appreciation resources in the text, occupying 9.4 %.

Attitude-polarity	Number	Percentage
Positive	31	32.3 %
Negative	65	67.7 %
Total	96	100 %

(10) Distribution of Attitude-polarity

Regarding the attitude-polarity, it can be concluded, according to table 10, that negative attitude outweighs positive attitude. In general, there are 31 positive attitudes in the article, accounting for 32.3 % and 65 negative attitudes, occupying 67.7%. The distribution and frequency of attitude-polarity indicate that Chinese reporters have negative attitudes against NATO and the U.S. and their positions in the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

5. Findings and Conclusion

5.1 Findings

After analyzing the data quantitatively and qualitatively in the light of Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory, the researcher has managed to find answers to the key questions of this research. The first research question is 'What are the positive and negative attitudinal stances implemented in the selected Chinese political news texts?'. The answer to this question lies in the qualitative analysis of the selected data.

Based on the analysis of article 1 (Talks to end conflict must be supported), the language of the article's writer reveals positive

attitudes towards: (i) China's positive role in resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The writer uses positive evaluative language to highlight its desire and efforts to end this conflict as soon as possible, (ii) Russia's position in the conflict. The writer expresses feelings of empathy towards Russia because of the pressure it suffers as a result of this war. He also uses positive language to show appreciation of the serious efforts that Russia exerts to reach an agreement with Ukraine, (iii) both Ukraine's and Russia's current endeavors and constructive talks that aim to end the conflict. As for negative attitudes held by the writer of article 1, he uses evaluative language to express his negative attitudes against: (i) the Russian-Ukraine conflict itself. The writer uses negative attitudinal resources to express China's feelings of insecurity about the conflict and to show the devastating impact the war has on both Russian and Ukraine sides in particular and on the whole world in general, (ii) the United States' and United Kingdom's helpless position in the situation. The writer uses evaluative language that reveals these two countries' feelings of happiness with the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine, in addition to their support to Ukraine with the objective of weakening both Russia and China.

As for the analysis of article 2 (NATO urged to stop twisting China's role), it reveals the writer's positive attitude towards: (i) China and its attempts to end the Russian-Ukraine war, spread peace, and enhance development of the entire world. On the other hand, the writer's evaluative language in the article reveals negative attitudes against: (i) NATO for its attempts to escalate the conflict, efforts to weaken and smear China's position through false accusation, and for its moves to coordinate with the United States and deepen cooperation with Asia- Pacific partners with the objective of forming power that is able to face China and Russia.

The second research question is ‘How does the writer of each text use evaluative language to positively/negatively represent the Russia-Ukraine crisis to the entire world?’. The answer to this question can be inferred from the quantitative analysis of the research’s data. To answer this question, a quantitative analysis of attitude Resources and attitude-polarity in both articles is needed as follows.

Attitude Type	Article 1	Article 2	Total	Percentage
Affect	22	38	60	42.6 %
Judgement	18	49	67	47.5 %
Appreciation	5	9	14	9.9 %
Total	45	96	141	100 %
Attitude-polarity	Article 1	Article 2	Total	Percentage
Positive	21	31	52	36.9 %
Negative	24	65	89	63.1 %
Total	45	96	141	100 %

(11) Distribution of Attitude Resources and Attitude-polarity in articles 1 and 2

According to table 11, among the 141 attitude resources in both selected articles, judgement resources account for the largest proportion (47.5 %), followed by affect resources (42.6 %), and finally appreciation resources (9.9 %). It is also clearly seen that the three types of attitude resources reveal mainly negative attitude, which reflects China’s negative emotional and negative attitude tendency towards the Russia-Ukraine conflict and towards some parties that are involved in the conflict, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and the rest of NATO member countries. Positive attitude only appears in the selected

data when it comes to referring to China's position in the conflict, the matter that contributes to building a united, cooperative, responsible and reliable image of China against the entire world.

Reference

- Alsandeli, I., & Alattar, R. (2022). An analytic study of the evaluative resources used in American and Iraqi opinion columns. *Arab World English Journal*, 13(2), 214–238. <https://doi.org/10.24093/awej/vol13no2.15>
- Arunsirot, S. (2012). The Use of Appraisal Theory to Analyze Thai Newspaper Commentaries. *MANUSYA: Journal of Humanities Regular*, 15 (1), 70-89.
- Asad, S., Noor, S. N. F. B. M., Indah, R. N., & Jaes, L. B. (2021). Attitude realization in news reports: An interpretation through an appraisal analysis. *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 11(1), 177-186. <https://doi.org/10.17509/ijal.v10i3.31763>
- De Souza, A. (2006). The construal of interpersonal meanings in the discourse of national anthems: An appraisal analysis. *International Journal of Linguistics*.13 (4), 531-550.
- Ding, A. (2017). The Analysis of Attitudinal Resources in Obama's Victory Speech from Perspective of Appraisal Theory. *Higher Education of Social Science*, 11(1), 37-44. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/9376>
- Droga, L., & Humphrey, S. (2002). *Getting Started with Functional Grammar*. Sydney: Target Texts.

- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical discourse analysis: The critical study of language*. Longman Group limited. Longman Group Limited.
- Jin, J (2019). Political News Discourse Analysis Based on an Attitudinal Perspective of the Appraisal Theory—Taking the New York Times' Report China-DPRK Relations as an Example. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 9(10), 1357-1361. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17507/tpls.0910.15>
- Khaldi, W. (2022). *Why Putin decided to go to war against Ukraine? A critical discourse analysis of Putin's discourse* [Master's thesis, Malmö University].
- Ma'arif, H., & Maksum, A. (2022). A critical discourse analysis russophobia rhetoric in UN Security Council's speech by Antony J. Blinken. *Intermestic: Journal of International Studies*, 7(1), 253-276. <https://doi.org/10.24198/intermestic.v7n1.12>
- Martin, J. & Rose, D. (2003). *Working with Discourse: Meaning Beyond the Clause*. London: Continuum.
- Martin, J., & White, P. (2005). *The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Martin, J., & Rose, D. (2007). *Working with Discourse: Meaning Beyond the Clause*. London: Continuum.
- Pan, Z., & Kosicki, G. M. (1993). Framing analysis: An approach to news discourse. *Political Communication*, 10(1), 55–75.

- Peschlova, K. (2014). Discourse Strategies in Response to the Crimean Crisis: The Case of Lithuania and Slovakia. *Budapest: Central European University*, 31(2), 130-135. http://www.etd.ceu.hu/2014/peschlova_kristina.pdf
- Priyatmojo, S. (2011). Political Discourse: Obama's Appraisal Attitude. *LANGUAGE CIRCLE Journal of Language and Literature*, 1 (1), 13-26.
- Sliesarieva, A. (2020). *The Defender vs. the Censor: CDA Analysis of 2017 Russian Web-Source Ban in Ukraine* [Master's thesis, Uppsala University].
- Van Dijk, T. A. (2006). Politics, ideology and discourse. In: Ruth Wodak, (Ed.), *Elsevier Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics. Volume on Politics and Language*, 728-740.
- Vinchrsto A. A. (2022). Interpersonal Meta function Analysis of Editorial Discourse in Business-Related Issues Using English Systemic Linguistics. *Eurasian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 8(1), 44-57. Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.32601/ejal.911518>
- Ye, W. (2022). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Rhetoric in President Biden's 2022 Warsaw Speech. *Journal of Educational Research and Policies*, 4 (5), 53-56. <http://www.bryanhousepub.org>