
Appraisal in the Jakarta Post Article Entitled “Ending Poverty, Ending Violence Against Women”

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ABSTRACT

In communication, humans may express their ideas by involving their attitudes, feelings, judgement, or emotions that can be identified from the expressions or words used. There is a system called appraisal can be used to study interpersonal meanings of the utterances. This study aims at investigating types of appraisals in the Jakarta Post article entitled *Ending Poverty, Ending Violence against Women* and finding out which appraisal mostly occurred in the article. The procedures of data collection were a) identifying the appraisal items; b) classifying the appraisal items; c) calculating the occurrence of each category; d) summarizing the kinds of appraisal items; e) interpreting the appraisal items. The obtained data were analyzed quantitatively. The result shows that appreciation, affect, judgment, and amplification are used in the article; and the most dominant category used is judgment. This implies that in writing articles in newspapers, the writers tend to give judgement on the issues discussed.

ARTICLE INFO

Paper type:

Empirical Research

Article history:

Received 25 January 2016

Revised 15 February 2017

Accepted 23 May 2017

Available online xxxx

Keywords:

- Appraisal
- The Jakarta Post
- Judgement
- Appreciation
- Affect
- Amplification

1. Introduction

Language has many functions. One of them is to express speakers/writers feelings, emotions, opinions, and attitudes toward people or things. This function can be conveyed through appraisal. According to [1], appraisal is a system of interpersonal meanings in which people negotiate their social relationships by telling their listeners/readers how they feel about things and people. In doing this, people often use evaluation devices or appraisal devices.

There are many kinds of lexical appraisal devices which can be used by the speakers/writers to appraise other people or things. These devices are applied to express certain attitudes of the speakers/writers toward other people or things, for examples a) *I love Bian very much*; b) *You are a brave soldier*; and c) *What a beautiful painting!* The word “love” in sentence a is an appraisal device which carries emotional attitude towards “Bian”, the word “brave” in sentence b is an evaluative resource which carries value judgment toward the soldier according to some social norms, and the word “beautiful” in sentence c carries aesthetical attitude towards the painting. The words such as *love, brave, beautiful* are applied by the writers/speakers to appraise persons or things mentioned in the sentences.

In relation with appreciating, Martin (1994) as stated by [2] proposes a framework to analyze appraisal. Appraisal framework is an analytical approach which is used to explore, describe, and explain the ways a language is used to evaluate, adopt stances, construct textual personas and manage interpersonal positioning and relationships. It provides an analytical tool for us to better understand the issues associated with evaluative

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language and with the negotiation of intersubjective positions (White, 2001) in [3]. In other words, it is the framework aiming to describe the various ways of linguistic realization of interpersonal meanings in language use.

The framework of analysis which has been mentioned above contains four categories of appraisal, namely: Appreciation, Affect, Judgment, and Amplification. Appreciation is the subsystem of resources for aesthetic evaluation of objects, artifacts, entities, presentation, etc. It is the speakers/writers' reactions to and evaluations of reality. It has three subcategories: reaction, composition, and valuation. Each of this subcategory has both positive and negative dimension; Affect is the emotional response to the person, thing, happening or state of affairs. It is concerned with registering positive and negative feelings. It has three subtypes, they are: un/happiness, in/security, and dis/satisfaction; Judgment involves expressing evaluations about the ethics, morality, or social values of people's behavior. It has both positive and negative dimension. It has two main subtypes; they are social sanction and social esteem. Further, [4] expand the subtypes of judgment into some subcategories. Social sanction consists of normality (how special?), capacity (how capable?), and tenacity (how dependable?); meanwhile social esteem includes veracity (how honest?) and propriety (how far beyond reproach?); and Amplification is the way speakers/writers magnify or minimize the intensity and degree of the reality they are negotiating. It captures the lexical resources speakers can draw on to grade their attitudes towards people, things or events. It has three subcategories, they are: enrichment, augmenting, and mitigation.

From the appraisal framework above, it can be seen that appraisal is particularly about the ways the writers/speakers approve and disapprove, enthuse and abhor, applaud and criticize, and with the way the writers/speakers position their readers/listeners. This framework has been applied by some researchers in the appraisal studies. The study on appraisal in students' writing was done by [5]. The result shows that the judgment category is the most frequently used by the student in his writing [5]. Further, [3] also investigates the use of appraisal in public service advertising discourse. His result shows that judgments were occurred more than affect and appreciation. Considering the result of these two studies, I also would like to conduct a study on the appraisal used by the writer in one of the Jakarta Post articles, entitled *Ending Poverty, Ending Violence against Women* written by Devi Asmarani. The aim of the study is to investigate the types of appraisal categories applied by the writer in her writing and to find out which subtype of the appraisal category which is mostly performed by the writer.

2. Research Methods

The object of the study is an article taken from the Jakarta Post. The title of the article is *Ending Poverty, Ending Violence Against Women*. It was published on November 25, 2015. The unit of the analysis is the lexical items containing the appraisal system. The framework of analysis used is the framework of appraisal proposed by Martin (1994) in [2]. The procedures were a) identifying the appraisal items occurred in the text ; b) classifying the appraisal items based on the framework of analysis used; c) calculating the occurrence of each category of the appraisal category; d) summarizing the kinds of appraisal items used by the writer; d) interpreting the appraisal items.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1 Findings

This study attempts to answer two research questions dealing with the types of appraisal categories applied by the writer in the article entitled *Ending Poverty, Ending Violence against Women?*, and the category which is mostly used in this article.

Having identified and analyzed the text, I will present some findings as follows.

Table 1. The Occurrence of Appreciation Category

Appreciation Category							Total
Reaction		Composition		Valuation			
+	-	+	-	+	-		
4	0	0	1	0	0	5	
4		1		0			

Table 2. The Occurrence of Affect Category

Affect Category							Total
Un/Happiness		In/Security		Dis/Satisfaction			
+	-	+	-	+	-		
0	3	2		0	0	5	
3		2		0			

Table 3. The Occurrence of Judgment Category

Judgment Category									Total	
Social Esteem			Social Sanction							
Normality		Capacity	Tenacity		Veracity		Propriety			
+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	
2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
7		0		0		0		0		

Table 4. The Occurrence of Amplification Category

Amplification Category			Total
Enrichment		Mitigation	
Augmenting			
1		2	3

From the four tables above, it is clearly seen that all subtypes of the appraisal category occur in the article. In terms of appreciation, the writer employs two out of three categories of appreciation, they are reaction and composition. In terms of affect, the writer uses two subcategories, they are un/happiness and in/security. In regard to judgment, the writer only applies normality which belongs to social esteem subtype. In regard to amplification, the writer makes use of all subtypes, namely enrichment, augmenting, and mitigation.

The above tables also provide a clear picture about the frequency of the occurrence of each appraisal category. The appraisal category which is mostly used by the writer is judgment, and the least category which is used is amplification. It can be drawn as the following graphics.

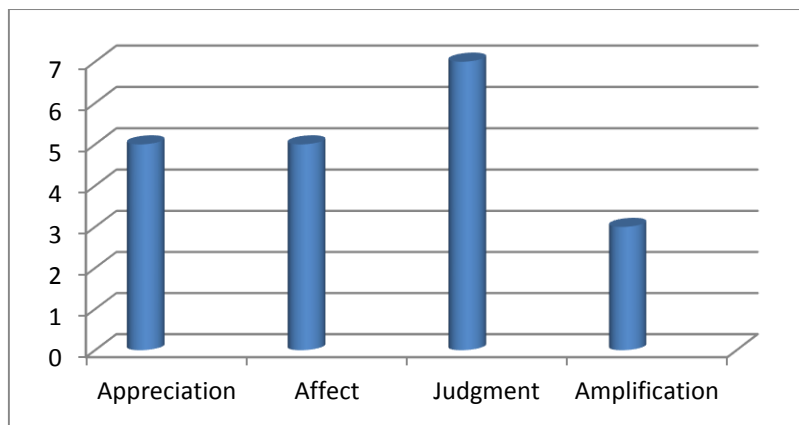


Chart 1. Distribution of the Appraisal Categories

3.2 Discussion

3.2.1 Judgment

Judgment is the negative or positive attitudinal evaluation of human behavior by reference to social norms or rules. From the data, it appears that this appraisal category is mostly used by the writer, especially on the normality of social esteem subtype. The example of the sentences can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5. The Sentences/Clauses in the Text Containing Judgment Items

No	Sentence/Clause	Lexical Item	Social Esteem (Normality)		Appraiser	Appraised
			+	-		
1	Homeless and without livelihood...	Homeless		√	The writer	the condition of being raped
2	If the family was poor ...	Poor		√	The writer	the family condition of the raped girl
3	This scenario is all too familiar for activists who have long worked in the field of violence against women.	Familiar	√		The writer	the scenario of the family condition of the raped girl
4	When you are a poor woman...	Poor		√	The writer	the condition of being raped
5	It perpetuates harmful practices, beliefs and norms, whether culturally or religiously based, that are permissive of various manifestations of violence, from wife-beating to female genital mutilation and to child marriage.	Harmful		√	The writer	the practices of gender inequality
6	The National Police's Special Unit for Violence against Women, set up a few years ago, receives less appreciation within the institution than more prestigious departments, like criminal investigation.	Prestigious		√	The writer	The departments concerning criminal investigation.
7	And when it comes to sexual violence, the Criminal Code (KUHP) hardly sides with the victims.	Hardly		√	The writer	the support of the Criminal code to the victims of the violence

As stated in table 5, the writer uses more negative normality devices than the positive ones. The expressions are carefully selected by the writer to judge the poverty condition being described in the text. From the usage of the lexis, it clearly describes the writer's attitude toward the condition exposed in the text. She strongly disagrees with the case of a raped teenage girl, which is considered as violence against women. She sees that this girl is a victim. She judges that the case happened because of the girl's poverty (because the girl is poor, the girl becomes homeless). She even uses the word "poor" twice in different sentences to show to her readers that this condition is the most prominent agent of the case. She even clearly states this in the title of the article. The words *harmful*, *prestigious*, and *hardly* also express the writer's attitude toward the Indonesian laws, especially Laws concerning violence against women. These three words are used to judge the inequality of gender and laws. It seems that she is dissatisfied with the practices of laws in Indonesia and male and female discrimination in Indonesia. Even though she uses the word *familiar* which contains positive dimension of normality, the sense is negative. It is because the situation appraised in the sentence is the scenario of the family condition of the raped girl, which is poor.

3.2.2 Appreciation

Appreciation contains values, which express both aesthetic and non-aesthetic categories of social valuation, and it includes meanings such as significance and harmfulness. The example of sentences/clauses containing appreciation can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. The Sentences/Clauses in the Text Containing Appreciation Items

No	Sentences	Lexical item	Reaction		Composition		Appraiser	Appraised
			+	-	+	-		
1	The quality of services at these centers remains uneven , due to budget constraints and capacity issues.	uneven				√	The writer	the quality of services at the Service Center for Women and Children (P2TP2A)
2	The Law on Domestic Violence, while a much-needed breakthrough, does not cover violence in intimate relationships outside of marriage as well as sexual violence.	intimate	√				The writer	the coverage of the Law on Domestic Violence
3	These are significant challenges that need to be overcome.	significant	√				The writer	the neglect of considering domestic violence
4	However, eliminating violence against women must tackle the most fundamental issue, which is that many women are still victims of economic exclusion, with implications of not only poverty but also political disempowerment.	fundamental	√				The writer	The effort to eliminate violence against women
5	While laws and regulations are crucial to support gender-focused development strategies,	crucial	√				The writer	the existence of the laws and regulations to support gender-focused development strategies

It is clearly seen from the table that the writer uses more reaction subtype than composition. Reaction particularly answers the probe “Do the phenomena catch her attention?”, and “Do the phenomena please her?”. From the words which are used by the writer, it is vividly shown that the writer puts much attention toward the phenomena being exposed in the text. It is understandable since the writer is chief editor and co-founder of feminist online magazine- www.magdalena.com which a slanted guide to women and issues”, a web-magazine dedicated to the issues of women, empowerment, tolerance, pluralism and other aspects of a progressive society. She is a woman who puts her concern on women especially on the gender equality. The words like *significant*, *fundamental*, *crucial* are used by the writer to evaluate the efforts concerning the violence against women.

3.2.3 Affect

Affect is indicated mainly through verbs of emotion and concerned with the appraiser’s emotional states. In this case, authors can express their attitude towards some phenomenon by indicating how that phenomenon affected them emotionally and appraising something in affect terms. The sentences/clauses containing affect can be seen in [Table 7](#).

Table 7. The Sentences/Clauses in the Text Containing Affect Items

No	Sentences	Lexical item	Un/happiness		In/security		Appraiser	Appraised
			+	-	+	-		
1	The community of west Java, uneasy with controversies in their own backyard.....	uneasy		√			The writer	A controversy of a raped teenage girl
2making it hard for them to claim their rights to social protection programs that they are entitled to.	hard		√			The writer	the condition of being raped
3	Not only do they suffer physically and mentally, they also lose many of their rights, including that of employment, home, basic services and, if they're still of school age, education.	lose		√			The writer	the impact of being raped
4	About 200 safe houses have been built across the archipelago, merely a third of the regencies and municipalities in Indonesia.	safe			√		The writer	the government effort to establish the Integrated Service Center for Women and Children (P2TP2A)
5	the government and parliament must also work with civil society organizations and community leaders to ensure the flexibility of the programs....	ensure			√		The writer	the effort of gender-focused development

From the above table, we can see that the writer uses more un/happiness lexis than in/security lexis. It shows the writer's emotion that she is unhappy about the condition being exposed in the text that is violence against women. It is proven by the words *uneasy*, *hard*, and *lose*. Despite her unhappiness, she also vividly expresses her feelings by the words *safe* and *secure* to show her positive feelings and attitude toward the efforts made by the government to establish the Integrated Service Center for Women and Children (P2TP2A) and gender-focused development.

3.2.4 Amplification

Amplification captures the lexical resources speakers can draw on to grade their attitudes towards people, things or events. The sentences/ clauses containing amplification can be seen in [Table 8](#).

Table 8. The Sentences/Clauses in the Text Containing Amplification Items

No	Sentences/Clauses	Lexical items	Enrichment	Augmenting	Mitigation	Appraiser	Appraised
1	This is only the tip of the iceberg, because for every case reported, many remain hidden, leaving women and girls to suffer silently.	only			√	The writer	the cases of the violence against women
2	And of all the domestic violence cases reported to the police, only 10 percent end up in court.	All		√		The writer	the domestic violence cases
3	In addition, there is little support for a recovery process to help victims overcome their trauma.	little			√	The writer	the support to help the victims of the violence to recover

From the above table we can see that the writer employs more mitigation than the other subtypes of amplification. It is employed to mitigate or down-play her personal experiences. For example, the word *only* in example 1 shows us that the writer tries to play down the effect of surrounding appraisal.

4. Conclusion

Having discussed the findings, it can be concluded as follows.

- Types of appraisals in the article of the Jakarta Post entitled *Ending Poverty, Ending Violence against Women* are appreciation, affect, judgment, and amplification. She is unhappy about the case of a teenage raped girl which occurred in West Java. This is only one example among many cases of violence against women in Indonesia. She also sad that there is still gender inequality exists in the society. However, she feels secure that the government tries to make some efforts to protect the women by establishing the Integrated Service Center for Woman and Children (P2TP2A). She puts much concern on this issue. She gives a reaction on this phenomenon. In the article, she appreciates positively the laws to protect the women from violence. She judges that the main agent of violating women is the poverty. She uses lexical items to show this attitude; even she puts her judgment in the title of the article. However, in showing her feelings, she still uses mitigation to play down the effect of surrounding appraisals.
- The most frequently appraisal category used is judgment. Judgment is applied the most because the writer judges that the main agent of the violence against women is poverty. She even puts this in the title of the article. To show her attitude, she uses lexical items showing her judgment toward this issue.

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