

Antagonist's Language in The Jakarta Post Editorial: Appraisal Critical Discourse Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the antagonist's language in representing his arguments in the Jakarta Post editorial. The sources of data of this study were gained from the Editorial of The Jakarta Post newspaper which were published in February 2024. The data were collected purposively by choosing five out of twenty-seven editorials. In conducting this study, the researchers employ descriptive qualitative method to describe the language phenomenon used by the journalist in representing their arguments. Meanwhile, the theoretical framework of Appraisal theory used in this study was proposed by Martin and Rose (2007). Furthermore, in analyzing the data content analysis is used to analyze the data. The findings of this study reveal that the distinctive patterns of appraisal expression in the editorial is reflecting the antagonist's perspectives and ideological orientation. The analysis highlights the role of language by the journalist can influence readers' attitudes, beliefs, and worldviews within the socio-political context through. The exploitation of attitude appraisal indicates that the journalists share their thoughts and opinions firmly. Meanwhile, the use of engagement is to positioned themselves in the arguments they delivered and the application of graduation is to strengthen their arguments.

Keywords: antagonist, appraisal, critical discourse analysis, editorial, ideology

INTRODUCTION

Newspapers have been providing the public with news and updates on significant everyday events for centuries. In addition, Newspapers have provided first-hand news on a daily news cycle since the early 19th century, when their daily format became popular (Tanikawa, 2017). Even though newspapers successfully adapted to competition from radio, news magazines, and television over the past century, the emergence of online and digital media beginning in the late 1990s has posed a serious threat to

their position as the primary source of text news. According to Jack Fuller (1996), News is a report of what a news organization has recently learned about matters of some significance or interest to the specific community that news organization serves. Newspapers are a valuable source of information about what is happening around you, it can be about politics, environment issues, social events, lifestyle, and so on.

According to Reah (2002) the editorial column is a significant article in a newspaper that declares the editor's opinion about an item of news or an issue. Furthermore, Schaffer et al, (2009) add that three of the most common purposes of editorials are explaining, evaluating, and persuading the readers. Editorials play a significant role in influencing readers' perceptions and attitudes toward various socio-political issues. Nowadays, people tend to read news and editorials on online sites which makes it easier to access. In Indonesia, as a democratic country, there are tons of online newspapers such as Kompas, Tempo, Tribun Network, Suara Merdeka, Indonesia Today, and so on. One of the famous Indonesia news media, The Jakarta Post, is a prominent English-language newspaper in Indonesia based in West Jakarta, Indonesia regularly publishes editorials that offer critical commentary on national and international events. Which is the reason that the writer of the paper decided to use The Jakarta Post as the source of data.

Some previous studies have been conducted by some scholar such as Soepriatmadji & Vidhiasi (2011) who conducted a study on "Appraisal System Recognized in The Jakarta Post's Editorial "The Asian Cage" on July 20, 2011." They discovered that the Appraisal Systems used in The Jakarta Post online newspaper editorial entitled "The ASEAN Cage" are Attitude, Engagement and Graduation. There are 20 sentences recognized in The Jakarta Post's editorial. Another scholar, Pratama A. P. & Rustipa K. also did a search about 'Mood Type and Appraisal Realized in The Online Jakarta Post Editorial Issued on March 12th 2018 "Voters Need More Candidate"' and found that the type of mood found in the editorial text is declarative. The appraisal systems realized in the editorial text entitled are engagement, attitude, and graduation which mostly use engagement. This research is different from the previous research. First, this research uses different data. Second, this research analyzes not only one but three editorials with each focus of analyzing the three domains of the appraisal theory, Attitude, Engagement, and Graduation. This article was conducted to find out the antagonist's editorial language which is reflected in the text.

This research focuses to identify the use of appraisal including attitude, engagement, and graduation to reveal the antagonists language in presenting his views in editorials published in The Jakarta Post issued in February, 2024. Martin and Rose (2007) established an appraisal framework that offers a thorough method for examining the graduation, engagement, and attitude in discourse. This allows for a comprehensive

examination of the ways in which language expresses evaluation, places the reader in a particular position, and creates social relations. In the context of modern media, where editorials can have a big influence on public conversation and opinion formation, this research is especially important. The underlying ideologies and power dynamics at work in editorial writing can be seen by analyzing the linguistic mechanics that underlie the antagonists' representation. In addition, by applying appraisal analysis to a specific type of discourse genre, this study advances the area of critical linguistic analysis.

This paper aims to do two things: (1) identify and classify the appraisal that are used to portray antagonists in editorials published in The Jakarta Post; (2) examine how these linguistic decisions influence antagonists' social positioning and negative assessments. Through this analysis, the paper seeks to provide insights into the role of language in media representation and its influence on shaping public perceptions of antagonistic figures. The theoretical framework and methodology applied to this study will be described in a comprehensive manner in the elements that follow. We will also provide a detailed analysis of a few chosen editorial texts and discuss the findings on the basis of the larger socio-political context of Indonesian media.

METHOD

In this paper, qualitative research is the research method used. Qualitative research is to explore and understand the meaning of individuals or groups to describe a social or human problem (Creswell, 2007). The goal of qualitative research is to comprehend and investigate how people or groups interpret social or human issues (Creswell, 2007). The editorial material was taken from The Jakarta Post's online editorial postings entitled "Don't expand Middle East conflict" published on 13th February 2024 (<https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2024/02/13/dont-expand-middle-east-conflict.html>). "Let's not normalized genocide" published on 21st February 2024 (<https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2024/02/21/lets-not-normalize-genocide.html>), and "Nobody wins Ukraine war" published on 29th February 2024 (<https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2024/02/29/nobody-wins-ukraine-war.html>). In order to obtain the data source, the writer examined The Jakarta Post's editorials, categorized the three editorials that would be analyzed, downloaded the text, and divided it into individual clauses for analytical purposes. Following that, the author reviewed the divided analytical units, recognizing the sentences, grouping and labeling the sentences, calculating the classified sentences, and evaluating the results according to interpersonal theory and the evaluation system.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The writer of the paper showed the classified appraisals gained from the data analyzed from the three editorials in The Jakarta Post issued in February, 2024.

Table 1. Appraisal analysis on three editorials in The Jakarta Post issued in February, 2024.

No	Types of Appraisals	Category	1 st Editorial		2 nd Editorial		3 rd Editorial	
			☐	%	☐	%	☐	%
1	Attitude	Affect	1	1,92%	0	0,00%	0	0,00%
		Judgment	6	11,54%	29	32,58%	43	33,86%
		Appreciation	1	1,92%	0	0,00%	0	0,00%
2	Graduation	Force	7	13,46%	10	11,24%	19	14,96%
		Focus	1	1,92%	15	16,85%	8	6,30%
3	Engagement	Heterogloss	31	59,62%	27	30,34%	47	37,01%
		Monogloss	5	9,62%	8	8,99%	10	7,87%
Total			52	100%	89	100%	127	100%

It can be seen from the Table above that there are a total number of 268 appraisals found in the three editorials. These data are classified into 80 of attitudes (including affect, judgement, and appreciation), 60 Graduation (including force and focus), and 128 Engagement (including heterogloss and monogloss). The data showed that the most dominant attitude subsystem used is Engagement, which is reflected in 109 instances of heterogloss and 20 instances of monogloss. The authors of the Jakarta Post, who used Engagement as their most dominant type of word, demonstrated how they prioritize incorporating diverse perspectives and fostering a dialogue-oriented approach in their editorials. By predominantly employing engagement, specifically heterogloss, the authors signal their commitment to presenting multiple viewpoints and creating an inclusive discourse. This approach is particularly significant in a media landscape where presenting a balanced and multifaceted view of issues is crucial for fostering informed public debate. The use of heterogloss allows the authors to introduce and engage with different voices, thereby enriching the readers' understanding of the issues discussed. The frequent use of engagement, particularly heterogloss engagement, indicates the authors' strategy to manage controversial and complex topics. By

acknowledging various perspectives and potential counterarguments, the editorials can address contentious issues more comprehensively and sensitively. This is especially important for topics that involve significant public interest and differing opinions, such as political conflicts, social justice issues, and international relations. The use of engagement as the most dominant appraisal device also suggests that the authors aim to encourage critical thinking among their readers. By presenting multiple voices and perspectives, the editorials invite readers to consider various angles and form their own informed opinions.

From the analysis of appraisal devices, it is noticed that the first editorial entitled "Don't expand Middle East conflict" mainly used engagement (59,62%). The journalist used engagement because this strategy allows for the introduction of various voices and perspectives, which is essential in addressing such a complex and sensitive topic as the Middle East conflict. Engagement in the Appraisal framework, particularly the heterogloss, engagement, helps to manage the potential contentiousness of the subject by acknowledging different viewpoints and thus positioning the editorial as a balanced and considerate piece. By using engagement, the journalist can present arguments and counterarguments, reflecting the multifaceted nature of geopolitical conflicts. This not only enhances the credibility of the editorial but also encourages readers to consider the issue from multiple angles, making a more comprehensive understanding. For example, the editorial might include quotes from political leaders, references to international agreements, and opinions from various stakeholders involved in the conflict. This approach helps to mitigate bias and presents the publication as a responsible and thoughtful commentator on international affairs. Furthermore, engagement devices such as modality and attribution are employed to temper statements, making them less absolute and more open to interpretation. Modal verbs like "might," "could," and "should" suggest possibilities rather than certainties, allowing the journalist to express caution and avoid overly definitive claims about the future course of the conflict. Attribution, on the other hand, attributes statements to specific sources, thereby distancing the editorial voice from the opinion expressed and reducing the risk of appearing overtly partisan.

The second editorial entitled "Let's not normalize genocide" mainly used attitude, judgement (32,58%). The journalist used judgement because this appraisal device allows for the explicit evaluation of behavior, actions, and character, which is crucial when addressing a significant topics such as genocide. To draw attention to the importance of genocide and form public opinion against its normalization, judgment within the Appraisal framework allows the expression of strong moral opinions and social evaluations. The editorial "Let's not normalize genocide" makes a choice and makes use of judgment to criticize acts and policies related to genocide,

characterizing them as categorically unsuitable and evil. This method clearly states the moral attitude that should be taken in the face of serious violations of human rights, eliminating any possibility for ambiguity or neutrality. By appealing to readers' ethical behaviors and humanity, the use of judgment also persuades people to oppose genocide. This strategy supports the editorial's objective of encouraging an active and involved audience by enabling readers to understand the seriousness of the problem and feel encouraged to take action.

The last journalist from the last editorial with the title "Nobody wins Ukraine war" used engagement, particularly heterogloss (37,01%), as their dominant language device, similar to the first editorial entitled "Don't expand Middle East conflict." This method was used because it makes it possible to include a variety of opinions and points of view, which is crucial when talking about a complicated and complex topic like the war in Ukraine. Being involved in a discourse which includes many ideas and comprehends other opinions is known as heterogloss, and more precisely, engagement.

Following that, after the writer of this paper reviewed the divided analytical units, recognizing the sentences, grouping and labeling the sentences, calculating the classified sentences, and evaluating the results according to interpersonal theory and the evaluation system, the author will discuss and offers comprehensive explanations of the appraisals founded within the data analysis.

a. Attitude

According to the theory of Martin and Rose (2007), Attitudes have to do with evaluating things, people's character and their feelings. Such evaluations can be more or less intense, that is they may be more or less amplified. And the attitude may be the writer's own or it may be attributed to some other source. There are 3 main kinds of attitude which are affect, judgment, and appreciation.

1. Affect

Affect is a way to express emotion (Martin and Rose, 2007). Below are the examples of affects found in the data.

Excerpt 1

They come across more as a desperate attempt at a show of force from a country that no longer has the unequivocal power it may have enjoyed once. (1st editorial)

In this sentence, the word "enjoyed" is classified as affect in the appraisal framework because it portrays an emotional state. The word "enjoyed" is affect because it reflects an emotional state of experiencing pleasure, satisfaction, or benefit. It implies a positive emotional experience. It also portrays that the country used to be satisfied from its previously held power. The use of "enjoyed" in this sentence emphasizing a loss of positive experience. This shift from a positive affective state to a negative state

which reinforces the emotional impact of the change in circumstances. By using "enjoyed," the sentence not only describes the previous state of power but also express its emotional significance, making it an example of affect in the appraisal framework. This choice of word helps to convey the underlying sentiment of loss, making the reader's understand the emotional feeling of the country's changing power.

2. Judgment

Judgment is a way to judge a character (Martin and Rose, 2007). In this part, we present the findings related to the judgment found in the data.

Excerpt 2

It will be nothing short of horrific. (1st editorial)

Judgment in the appraisal framework refers to the evaluation of behavior, actions, or events according to normative principles, ethics, or social standards. It involves assessing the actions of individuals or entities as good or bad, right or wrong, appropriate or inappropriate. In this sentence, the word "horrific" evaluates the event as extremely negative and morally unacceptable. It implies that what happened in the middle east conflict is being described as horrific is beyond just causing fear. Describing something as horrific suggests that it violates accepted standards of decency or humanity, and is therefore judged harshly. It implies that the outcome is not just unpleasant, but deeply troubling and unacceptable by any reasonable standard. This type of evaluation is important to the judgment category in the appraisal framework.

Excerpt 3

The international community seems to be resigned to the fact that there is absolutely nothing they can do to stop Israel's genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. (2nd editorial)

In the sentence the word "genocidal" is classified as judgment in the appraisal framework because it provides a moral and ethical evaluation of Israel's action towards Palestine. The term "genocidal" carries a heavy moral weight, as genocide is one of the most serious crimes under international law, involving the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. By describing actions as "genocidal," the writer is making a strong ethical adjudgement of those actions. By using "genocidal," the sentence provides a strong normative and ethical evaluation of the actions in question. This aligns with judgment in the appraisal framework, as it communicates a clear stance on the moral and ethical unacceptability of the described acts.

Excerpt 4

These failures are sending the wrong message to the world, not only about how impotent the world bodies have become, but more dangerously, for ambitious leaders like Netanyahu and Russia's Vladimir Putin, that you can get away with invasion, occupation and even genocide. (3rd editorial)

The word "ambitious" is classified as judgment in the appraisal framework because it evaluates the character and motivations of the leaders mentioned. The word "ambitious" provides an evaluation of the leaders' characteristics. The meaning of it can be interpreted in various ways depending on the context. In this sentence, "ambitious" implies a strong drive to achieve power and control. Judgment often involves moral or ethical evaluation. Describing leaders as "ambitious" in this context carries an implicit critique. It shows that their ambitions lead them to engage in harmful actions such as invasion, occupation, and even genocide. This use of "ambitious" implies a negative judgment, as it associates their ambition with unethical and dangerous behavior. The term "ambitious" here is not merely descriptive but evaluative, indicating that the ambition of these leaders exceeds acceptable social and political norms. It assesses their actions and motivations as problematic and dangerous, reflecting a judgment of their character in relation to societal standards of ethical leadership. By labeling Netanyahu and Putin as "ambitious," the writer of the editorial critiques their behavior as driven by excessive and harmful ambition. This ambition is seen as leading to aggressive and unethical actions, which are judged negatively.

3. Appreciation

Appreciation is a way to value the worth of things (Martin and Rose, 2007). In this part, researchers present the examples of appreciation found in the data.

Excerpt 5

Last week's shuttle diplomacy by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to the Middle East was doomed to fail unless Washington used its power to tell Israel to end the killings. (1st editorial)

The phrase "doomed to fail" is classified as appreciation in the appraisal framework because it provides an evaluative judgement of the outcome of Blinken's diplomatic efforts. It implies that the shuttle diplomacy lacks the necessary effectiveness and is flawed unless Washington used its power to tell Israel to end the killings. Appreciation can involve both positive and negative evaluations. In this case, "doomed to fail" is a negative appreciation, highlighting the inefficacy of the diplomatic efforts without a change in approach. It suggests that based on past experiences or current circumstances, the effort is expected to be unsuccessful unless specific actions are taken. "Doomed to fail" is classified as appreciation because it gives a negative evaluation of the shuttle diplomacy's quality and effectiveness.

Graduation

According to the theory of Martin and Rose (2007), One distinctive feature of attitudes is that they are gradable. In graduation, there are two main kinds of it including force and focus.

1. Force

Force includes words that intensify meanings, such as very, really, extremely and vocabulary items that include degrees of intensivity, such as happy/delighted/ecstatic (Martin and Rose, 2007). Below are the examples of force found in the data.

Excerpt 6

We can no longer dismiss these civilian casualties as “collateral damage”, certainly not when 28,000 people in Gaza, including many women and children, have been killed in Israel’s operation launched in retaliation for the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas rebels that triggered this conflict in the first place. (1st editorial)

In the sentence, the phrase “certainly not” is classified as graduation in the appraisal framework because it intensifies the force of the negation. The phrase “certainly not” intensifies the negation, making it stronger and more emphatic. It scales up the force of the argument, leaving no room for doubt or ambiguity. In summary, “certainly not” is classified as graduation because it intensifies the negation and amplifies the force of the argument, reinforcing the writer of the editorial’s opinion on the issue. This aligns with the criteria of graduation in the appraisal framework, which deals with scaling and intensifying meanings.

Excerpt 7

The international community seems to be resigned to the fact that there is absolutely nothing they can do to stop Israel’s genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. (2nd editorial)

Just like excerpt number 6, The phrase “absolutely nothing” is classified as graduation in the appraisal framework because it intensifies the degree of the negation. The phrase “absolutely nothing” intensifies the negation, making the statement more forceful. It shows the complete absence of capability or action by the international community to stop Israel’s genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. Graduation includes the process of amplifying the degree or extent of something. “Absolutely nothing” amplifies the extent of the helplessness or inaction of the international community, giving a total lack of influence or intervention. The use of “absolutely” strengthens the assertion that there is no possibility or capability for action. It leaves no room for partial or minimal efforts, highlighting the utter ineffectiveness of the international community in this context.

Excerpt 8

Both the aggressor and the defender have suffered greatly from the consequences of the war, although the former should take the blame for starting the fire. (3rd editorial)

Just like excerpt number 6 and 7, The word “greatly” is classified as graduation in the appraisal framework because it intensifies the extent of suffering. The word “greatly” intensifies the degree of suffering experienced by both the aggressor and the defender. It expresses the impact of the statement by emphasizing the severe extent of the consequences of the war.

By using "greatly," the statement strengthens the evaluation of the war's impact.

2. Focus

Focus involves 'sharpening' or 'softening' categories of people and things, using words such as about/exactly or real/sort of/kind of. (Martin and Rose, 2007).

Excerpt 9

Houthi rebels, Hezbollah and the Iraqi fighters in Syria are about the only forces around the world that have taken up arms to try to stop the genocide in Gaza. (1st editorial)

The phrase "about the only" is classified into force in the appraisal framework because it moderates the exclusivity of the statement. It reduces the absolute nature of the statement, suggesting that while these are the primary or nearly exclusive forces taking such action, there might be other forces that tried to stop the genocide in Gaza. This scales down its intensity. By using "about," the statement quantifies the exclusivity in a less rigid way. This softens the categorical boundary of being the "only" forces. Instead of making a definitive statement that these are the only forces, it scales the intensity slightly down to leave room for potential, unlikely, and exceptions.

Excerpt 10

It is now almost five months since Israel began pounding and destroying Gaza, with the death toll fast approaching 30,000. (2nd editorial)

The word "almost" is classified into focus in the appraisal framework because it adjusts the precision of the time. Instead of stating that it is precisely five months, "almost" indicates that the period is nearly five months, but not exactly. By using "almost," the statement becomes less absolute. This softens the categorical boundary, indicating that the five-month mark is very close but has not yet been reached. This aligns with the criteria of focus in the appraisal framework, which involves sharpening or softening the categorical boundaries of expressions.

Excerpt 11

In the end, there will be no real winner in the war. (3rd editorial)

The phrase "no real winner" is classified into focus in the appraisal framework because it sharpens the evaluation of the outcome. The phrase "no real winner" is the evaluation of the war's outcome. It specifies that despite the conflict, there won't be a clear, definite winner. By using "no real," the statement becomes more precise. It specifies that while there may be nominal winners, they won't achieve genuine victory or benefit significantly from the conflict. This aligns with the criteria of focus in the appraisal framework, which involves clarifying the precision or boundaries of evaluations.

Engagement

According to the theory of Martin and Rose (2007), Engagement covers resources that introduce additional voices into a discourse, via

projection, modalization or concession; the key choice here is one voice (monogloss) or more than one voice (heterogloss).

1. Heterogloss

Heterogloss is where the source of an attitude is other than the writer (Martin and Rose, 2007). Below are examples of heterogloss.

Excerpt 12

What started in October last year as a war between Israel and Hamsas in the Gaza Strip has not only escalated but it has also expanded, dragging other countries in and outside of the Middle East into direct conflict. (1st editorial)

In the sentence the word "but" is classified into Engagement, Heterogloss in the appraisal framework because it gives a contrast or counterpoint to the previous statement. It is classified into concession, counter expectancy. The word "but" contrasts the initial idea that What started in October last year as a war between Israel and Hamsas in the Gaza Strip has not only escalated, instead it has also expanded. By contrasting escalation with expansion, "but" engages the reader's attention and redirects their focus to a new aspect of the situation.

Excerpt 13

Indonesia and the rest of the world must fight harder the diplomatic battles through the UN to end all wars, occupations, atrocities and genocides. (2nd editorial)

The phrase "must" is classified into engagement, heterogloss in the appraisal framework because it expresses the modality of the action. The phrase "must fight harder" engages the reader by urging action. It gives the necessity and urgency of taking diplomatic action through the UN to address global issues like wars, occupations, atrocities, and genocides. By stating "must fight harder," the editorial takes a clear stance on the need for readers to increase diplomatic actions. It shows a perspective that stronger action is required from Indonesia and the international community.

Excerpt 14

Russia's two-year invasion of Ukraine has once again proven the truth of the old proverb "Menang jadi arang, kalah jadi abu" (win to charcoal, lose to dust).

The addition of the Indonesian proverb "Menang jadi arang, kalah jadi abu" is classified as heterogloss as it reflects a broader cultural context beyond the main language used in the text, expressing more of the editorial's expression. A proverb is considered heterogloss because it introduces a different linguistic form that enriches the text and gives additional layers of meaning. Proverbs are typically rooted in specific cultures or communities. They often carry implicit meanings and values that may not directly translate into the dominant language of the discourse. In this case, the Indonesian proverb adds a distinct cultural perspective to the editorial that may resonate differently with readers familiar with its context. By writing an Indonesian proverb, the writer expands the linguistic repertoire of the text. This enhances the depth of expression and offers a nuanced viewpoint

that goes beyond straightforward language. It invites readers to consider alternative perspectives or insights that may not be explicitly stated in the editorial's main language.

Monogloss

Monogloss is where the source is simply the author (Martin and Rose, 2007). The examples are presented below.

Excerpt 15

Unless we take heed of the lessons from these two big wars, we are looking at World War III. (1st editorial)

In this sentence, the phrases "we take heed" and "we are looking" are classified as monogloss because the sentence does not entertain or acknowledge any alternative perspectives or potential disagreements. It presents the scenario as a straightforward consequence—if "we" (the implied global community) do not learn from past wars, then World War III is possible to happen. Both phrases are assertive and declarative. "We take heed" and "we are looking" are statements that do not invite alternative interpretations or debate. They imply a certain understanding without suggesting that other outcomes or opinions are possible. In this sentence, the absence of such modals strengthens the monoglossic presentation. Thus, the phrases "we take heed" and "we are looking" are monogloss because they assert a single viewpoint without acknowledging other potential perspectives or voices.

Excerpt 16

We sure would do more given the opportunity. (2nd editorial)

Kind of alike with excerpt number 15, the phrase "we sure would do" in the sentence is classified as monogloss because it expresses a single evaluation without any other opinion or alternative perspectives resources. It reflects a straightforward opinion of what "we" would do if given the chance, without ambiguity or multiplicity of voices.

Excerpt 17

But they were wrong, and Putin now seems to be waiting for Western support for Ukraine to wither. (3rd editorial)

In the appraisal framework, the phrase "seems to be" in the sentence above is classified as monogloss because "seems to be" expresses a single evaluative perspective or interpretation of Putin's actions. It suggests that based on observable behaviors or indications, it appears or seems that Putin is waiting for Western support for Ukraine to wither. There's no indication of multiple conflicting interpretations or viewpoints regarding Putin's intentions in this context, thus making it a monogloss appraisal.

Discussion

The analysis of the editorial text in the three editorials of The Jakarta Post published in February 2024 reveal that the most dominant appraisal used in two out of three editorials is engagement, specifically Heterogloss.

It indicates that the journalists tend to be more objective in delivering their arguments. These findings support a study conducted by Pratama & Rustipa (2020) that they also indicate the use of other voices (engagement) tend to make the argument objective rather than subjective. Meanwhile, the journalist also gives their attitude coveting affect, judgment, and appreciation to give their strong arguments and evaluation towards the news they presented. This study is in line with the research done by Soepriatmadji & Vidhiasi (2011) that they also discovered the use of attitude is to evaluate, appreciate, and give their emotion towards the news or information they delivered in the editorials. The last is the use of graduation found in the three editorials is not as much as other systems. The use of graduation, force, is dominant compared to focus because the journalists want to emphasize their arguments to convince the readers about the news they presented such as the use of intensifiers: very and really and modality i.e can, must, and should. The finding is in line with the study conducted by Akhiroh (2022). She argues that the use of graduation is to strengthen the journalist's arguments, so it will convince the audience about the news they read.

CONCLUSION

A closer look of the appraisal methods used to evaluate the three Jakarta Post editorials reveals a predominant use of engagement, especially heterogloss. It reflects the journalists dedication to delivering an open and democratic conversation, addressing sensitively controversial topics, developing critical thinking, and preserving ethical journalism. The editorials emphasis on engagement promotes a deeper and more complex public conversation, which benefits readers by making them more aware and observant.

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