ELT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD: THE BOUNDARIES AND BEYOND

Language of Evaluation in President Joe Biden's Statement on Afghanistan

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Abstract

This study tries to reveal evaluation language of Joe Biden in his political statement about Afghanistan through the use of appraisal resources specifically attitude. In conducting this study, the researchers employ descriptive qualitative method. Meanwhile, in collecting the data, researchers gained the data from the whitehouse.gov website purposively. A theory of appraisal which is developed by Martin & White (2005) was used to analyze the data. The result of the study shows that judgment is the highest number found in the data. Jo Biden mostly used judgment to indicate his emotion towards what happened in Afghanistan. Then it is followed by affect and appreciation respectively. Whereas, the findings of the gradability of attitudinal meanings show that in giving his statement, President Joe Biden tends to have high degree. It is shown in some part of the data that he tries to show his concern about Afghanistan's condition. This gradability is described through affect, judgment and appreciation.

Keywords: appraisal, attitude, gradability, political, statement

Introduction

Statement is utterances that produced by actors or authors does not only function to explain their mind towards the receivers but also to change receiver's perspectives (Persada & Syahrudin, 2018). Meanwhile, (Grolier, 1992:44) argues that statement is a way of giving information by stating or the act of stating in speech and writing. Then, (Chaer, 1995:14) states the characteristic that constitute the essence of language as a symbol of the sound system, are arbitrary, productive, dynamic, diverse, and human. It means that a statement used for those who want to deliver an important information to the audience.

A statement also used by Joe Biden in his political speech. He is a 46th President of United Stated. He became the president of the United States from January 20, 2021. He used a statement for his speech to the American people and the world. On August 14, 2021, Joe Biden gave a statement on Afghanistan due to the chaotic situation. Hence, in his speech he will evacuate American Army and the allied who still in Afghanistan.

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He made a statement on Afghanistan because The Taliban is taken over Afghanistan. The Taliban is an Islamic fundamentalist group that ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. On August 14, the Taliban took control of Afghanistan just two weeks before the United States was supposed to complete its troop departure after a two-decade conflict. Taliban's quick takeover of Afghanistan's capital city. Most Afghans were concerned that the country would devolve into chaos or that the Taliban would carry out revenge attacks on individuals who collaborated with America or the government. Many people fear that the Taliban will reimpose the strict interpretation of Islamic law that they used to rule Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. However, the people who live in Afghanistan not just an Afghan people but also included about 4,500 American citizens who wanted to leave the Afghanistan.

A statement by Joe Biden in his speech used persuasive. It is about Joe Biden's point of view towards Afghanistan condition at that time. In this research, the researchers purpose an analysis of the evaluation of language used in Joe Biden's statement using Systemic Functional Linguistics especially the use of Appraisal theory. It is the foundation of Martin and White's (2005) development Appraisal theory.

Systemic Functional Linguistics which is developed by Halliday's in 1960s has been developed by many scholars in the area of applied linguistics, discourse analysis, linguistics forensic, etc (2014). Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) is a theory of language-centered on the notion language-focused the belief of language characteristic that perspectives language as characteristics, systemic and functional (Halliday M. , 1994:69). Moreover, Halliday also argues systemic functional linguistics is a tool in linguistics that can be used to analyse text. Meanwhile, according to (Eggins, An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics, 1994:2), systemic functional linguistics is a method to language that is targeted on how humans use language with every different in conducting each day of social life.

According (Martin and White, 2005) classify appraisal into three types. Attitude is concerned with our feelings, including emotional reaction, behavioural judgments, and the evaluation of things. Attitude itself classify into three types of feeling, those are: affect, judgment, and appreciation. Engagement is concerned with sourcing attitudes and the interaction of voices in the context of argument. Its aim is to establish the specific dialogic posture associated with given meanings and to describe what is at stake when one meaning is used instead of another. Graduation is concerned with grading phenomenon in which sensations are heightened and categories are distorted. Gradability is a concern for graduation. It acts on two axes of scalability: intensity or amount grading and prototypicality and the precision with which category borders are formed. It has two dimensions: force and focus. In a summary, Appraisal is depicted in the figure below:
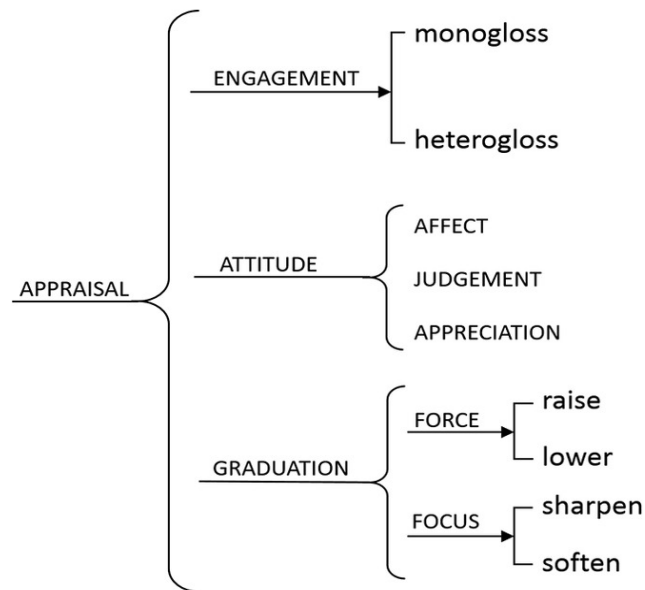
Figure 1: Model of Attitude Appraisal (Martin and White, 2005)

The core of the appraisal system is attitude, which refers to the inter-subjective evaluation of individuals and processes using a value system with emotional reaction and cultural constraints. Language resources in an attitude system describe language users' emotions toward behaviour, text, and phenomena, and they employ lexical resources to judge behaviour and appreciate the value of things. As a result, attitude can be separated into three categories: affect, judgment, and appreciation, which fall under the purview of psychology, ethics, and aesthetics.

Gradability was also used by the researchers in this study. The gradability mechanism was only utilized to confirm Joe Biden's statement about Afghanistan. In general, the gradability system could be represented by putting into consideration the modality usage. By applying modality, the speaker/writer may be able to persuade the reader/audience on what they report/talk/discuss. The meaning in the Attitude Appraisal System is also graded from low to high.

The demonstration of Appraisal can be found through the prior study. For instance, Farid Luthfi (2018) with the title "Attitude in Forbes Website News Article: An Appraisal Analysis". On his analyze, he found that Attitude devices are found in Forbes Website Article and its realization into positive and negative. Hence, Judgment is dominantly used with the amount of 207 in positive and 79 in negative since the Forbes News Article. Then, Appraisal Attitude also used by Fatmawati and Cahyono (2018) entitled "Power of Sakdiyah Ma'ruf in Stand-Up Comedy Through Appraisal Approach". In another research, Tingsu (2016) entitled "Positive Discourse Analysis of Xi Jinping's Speech at the National University of Singapore under Appraisal Thoery" used appraisal theory to find positive discourse on Xi Jinping's speech. Using the same theory, Yuyu Zhang (2018) entitled "Attitudinal Analysis of President

Xi's Remarks at Press Conference of BRICS Xiamen Summit from the Perspective of Appraisal Theory" try to find appraisal attitude analysis on Xi's press conference. Then, Wenxiu Song (2019) entitled "An Adaption-Based Study on Attitude Resources in Political Discourse" tries to find attitude appraisal in political discourse.

As previously explained, this study aims to disclose about Attitude Appraisal in Joe Biden statements on Afghanistan using Appraisal theory by Martin and White (2005) has not been done.

Research Methodology

The descriptive qualitative research approach, specifically text analysis was applied by the researchers to find Appraisal Attitude in Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan. Descriptive qualitative analysis is a method that employs data in the form of a sentence, an image, or the findings of field investigations that cannot be calculated.

In analyzing the data, the researchers used Appraisal framework proposed by Martin and White (2005). The researchers utilized a purposive sample strategy to collect data and chose Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan as the data source for this study. The data were retrieved from https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/14/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-afghanistan/. The speech transcript was downloaded on August 22, 2021.

In order to obtain the full Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan, the researchers used the website whitehouse.gov. Then, to start the analysis, the researchers read the full transcript then classify into several clauses. Next, the researchers separated some clause into three types on Attitude: Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation. Furthermore, this research also focuses on the gradability to grade the Appraisal Attitude from high to low.

Results and Discussion

The researchers have found attitude devices in Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan which consists of affect, judgment, and appreciation. In this case, the researchers show the amount of attitude device into table below:

Attitude Type			$\sum$	%
	Positive	Negative		
Affect	8	6	14	32,55
Judgment	15	4	`19	44,20
Appreciation	6	4	10	23,25
Total			43	100

According to the table above, it can be seen that there are 43 occurrences of Attitudinal Appraisal system found in Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan which consist of 14 Affect (32,55%), Judgment 19 (44,20%), and Appreciation 10 (23,25%).

The highest number of Appraisal Attitude system in Judgment with 19 (42,42%) which consist of 15 positive and 4 negative meanings. Next, there is Affect found in the text 14 (33,33%) as the second most used item which consist of 8 positive and 6 negative meanings and Appreciation as the least used item with the finding in the text are 10 (24,25%) which consist of 6 positive and 4 negative meanings. In the realization of the finding based on the Joe Biden statement, the audience can see that Joe Biden used positive judgment to evaluate the condition of American people still live in the Afghanistan. Meanwhile, He used the judgment system negatively to evaluate and critic The Taliban due to the chaotic situation that happened in Afghanistan.

Affect

In this part of the analysis, the researchers present the analysis of affect in Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan. The researchers have substituted affect devices into positive and negative in the table. So that, the result is 8 positive and 6 negative affect that produced by Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan. Affect dealing with a person emotion. The finding of affects can be seen in the following examples below:

Excerpt 1

"The past several days, I have been in close contact with my national security team to give them direction on how to **protect [Positive Affect: Secure]** our interest and values as we end our military mission in Afghanistan."

It can be seen in excerpt one above that the bold word **"Protect"** is classified into positive affect. It informs that Joe Biden already made a decision during his speech. The decision that he made is to end the military mission in Afghanistan. In realization, He send an Army to rescue American citizen and allied who still in Afghanistan. By this case, Joe Biden cares with his people who are at risk.

Excerpt 2

"That is what we are going to do. Now let me be **clear [Positive Affect: Inclination]** about how we got here."

It can be seen in excerpt two above that the bold word **"Clear"** is classified into positive affect. It informs that Joe Biden wanted to explain something clearly in front of the audience. The explanation is about the history of war that happened in Afghanistan. Thus, He made it clear about the correlation United States with fundamentalist Islamic Organization that bomb America.

Excerpt 3

"Our heart **go out [Positive Affect: Satisfaction]** to the brave Afghan men and women who are now at risk."

It can be seen in excerpt three that the bold word **"go out"** refers to positive affect. It informs that the satisfaction of Joe Biden feeling towards the Afghan people who bravely face the war in Afghanistan. Joe Biden cares with the chaotic situation in Afghanistan.

Excerpt 4

"One more year, or five more years, of U.S. military presence **would not [Negative Affect]** have made a difference if the Afghan military **cannot [Negative Affect]** or **will not [Negative Affect]** hold its own country."

It can be seen in excerpt 4 that the bold word **"would not, cannot and will not"** refers to negative affect. It informs that Joe Biden made a satire message to the Afghan military and government who didn't make any kind a movement to protect their country, Afghanistan. Joe Biden made a statement clearly that there will be no difference if Afghan military and government still silent and just rely on U.S. Military. So, based on his speech, Joe Biden would appreciate and make a wish that Afghan military make a movement.

Excerpt 5

"Second, I have ordered our Armed Forces and our Intelligence Community to ensure that we **will [Positive Affect]** maintain the capability and the vigilance to address future terrorist threats from Afghanistan."

It can be seen in excerpt 5 that the bold word **"will"** refers to positive affect. It informs that Joe Biden already made a plan to protect his country if there is a threat from Afghanistan. It means that Joe Biden cares with his people and nation. Thus, He ordered an Armed Forces and Intelligence Community to investigate and maintain about future terror.

Judgment

In this part of the analysis, the researchers present the analysis of judgment in Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan. The researchers have substituted judgment device into positive and negative in the table. So that, the result is 15 positive and 4 negative judgment of Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan. The finding of judgment can be seen in the following examples below:

Excerpt 6

"Our heart go out to the **brave [Positive Judgment]** Afghan men and women who are now at risk."

It can be seen in excerpt one that the bold word **"brave"** refers to positive judgment. It informs that Joe Biden give positive evaluate to the Afghan men and women who bravely facing the bad condition that happened in Afghanistan.

Excerpt 7

"Over our country's 20 years at war Afghanistan has sent its **finest [Positive Judgment]** young men and women."

It can be seen in excerpt two that the bold word **"finest"** refers to positive judgment. It because Joe Biden gives an explanation and clarification that every year America sent their best men and women to come to Afghanistan. They, American people came to Afghanistan with a mission, that is peace. So that, Joe Biden made a positive judgment for his people.

Excerpt 8

"That mission resulted in the **death [Negative Judgment]** of Osama bin laden over a decade ago and the degradation of al Qaeda."

It can be seen in excerpt three that the bold word **"death"** refers to negative judgment. It informs that the death of Osama bin Laden was the result of the mission in America in September 11, 2001.

Excerpt 9

"Third, I have directed the Secretary of State **to support [Positive Judgment]** President Ghani and other Afghan leaders."

It can be seen in excerpt 4 that the bold word **"to support"** refers to positive judgment. It informs that Joe Biden expressed his care feeling towards President Ghani and other Afghan leaders about their safety. Joe Biden wanted that Afghan leaders is safe after the chaotic situation happened in Afghanistan. Thus, Joe Biden will support if there is any chance of Afghan leaders to take again their country against The Taliban.

Excerpt 10

"Fifth, I have **placed [Positive Judgment]** Ambassador Tracey Jacobson in charge of a whole-of-government effort to process, transport, and relocate Afghan Special Immigrant Visa applicant and other Afghan allies."

It can be seen in excerpt 5 that the bold word **"placed"** refers to positive judgment. The bold word means that Joe Biden already made an order to the Ambassador Tracey Jacobson to take an effort to process and relocate Afghan people who have a Special Immigrant and also Afghan allies to be evacuated.

Appreciation

In this part of the analysis, the researchers present the analysis of appreciation in Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan. The researchers have substituted appreciation device into positive and negative in the table. So that, the result is 6 positive and 4 negative appreciation of Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan. The finding of judgment can be seen in the following examples below:

Excerpt 11

"And an orderly and safe evacuation of Afghans who helped our troops during our mission and those at **special risk [Negative Appreciation]** from the Taliban advance. "

It can be seen in excerpt one that the bold word **"special risk"** refers to negative appreciation. The bold word explained about the statement of Joe Biden towards bad situation in the Afghanistan. He felt worry about Afghan men who try to help American to escape from Afghanistan. Hereinafter, His negative appreciation towards the condition in Afghanistan.

Excerpt 12

"That mission resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden over a decade ago and **degradation [Negative Appreciation]** of al Qaeda. "

It can be seen in excerpt two that the bold word **"degradation"** refers to negative appreciation. It happened because of the bold word explained that the war made the fundamentalist Islamic group who live in Afghanistan lose and didn't have any kind of power anymore after the death of Osama bin Laden.

Excerpt 13

"Secretary Blinken will also **engage [Positive Appreciation]** with key regional stakeholders."

It can be seen in excerpt three that the bold word **"engage"** refers to positive appreciation. The explanation of the bold word is about the connection of Joe Biden and regional stakeholders to make a plan evacuation for American people and allied who still in Afghanistan.

Excerpt 14

"I was the fourth President to preside over an American troop **presence [Positive Appreciation]** in Afghanistan."

It can be seen in excerpt 4 that the bold word **"presence"** refers to positive appreciation. It explained that Joe Biden was the fourth President who ever sent an American troop to the Afghanistan. It means that Joe Biden sent an Army to the Afghanistan with a peace mission to support Afghanistan against Taliban.

Excerpt 15

"Fourth, we have **conveyed [Positive Appreciation]** to the Taliban representatives in Doha, via our Combatant Commander, that any action on their part on the ground in Afghanistan, that puts U.S. personnel or our mission at risk there, will be met with a swift and strong U.S. military response."

It can be seen in excerpt 5 that the bold word **"conveyed"** refers to positive appreciation. It informs that Joe Biden already made a sign to the Taliban to don't ever make a movement to attack Afghanistan or U.S. military. Because if Taliban did, there will be a counter attack that stronger to the Taliban.

Gradability

In this research, the researchers also highlight Joe Biden's power realization through the gradability of the Attitude Appraisal system in this study. After the utterances were evaluated and categorized into the Attitude System of Appraisal, they were reclassified to differentiate their gradability. The realization of Joe Biden's power through gradability can be seen in the table 2 below:

Table 2 The Gradability of Attitude of Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan at Whitehouse.gov

Attitude's Realization	Gradability			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Affect	5	7	2	14
Judgment	8	7	4	19
Appreciation	6	1	3	10
Total	19	15	9	43

The table shows that Table 2 shows that Joe Biden used 19 low-grade of attitude which consist of 5 low-graded of affect, 8 low-grade of judgment, and 6 low-graded of appreciation. Next, statement Joe Biden on Afghanistan used 15 medium-graded of attitude which consist of 7 medium-graded of affect, 7 medium-graded of judgment, and 1 medium-graded of appreciation. Then, Joe Biden also used

of high-graded of attitude which consist of 2 high-graded of affect, 4 high-graded of judgment, and 3 high-graded of appreciation.

The statement of Joe Biden on Afghanistan based on the website whitehouse.gov August 14, 2021 prefers to use low-graded of attitude and medium-grade of attitude than high-graded. It happens because Joe Biden on his speech want to deliver message carefully to the audience. In his speech, He deliver a message to the audience clear and not in hurry because He didn't want to give any kind of statement that could make a double meaning. During his speech, He gives a promise to evacuate American and Afghan allied who still in Afghanistan.

Conclusion

After analyzing the data about Joe Biden statement on Afghanistan based on the website of whitehouse.gov, the researchers conclude that Joe Biden statement towards Afghanistan is more often use judgment rather than affect and appreciation. The researchers found that there are 43 attitude systems which consists of 14 (32,55%) affect, 19 (44,20%) judgment, and 10 (23,25%) appreciation.

In terms of power, Joe Biden shows himself as a powerful person and has higher position than the hearer. He tried to deliver a message to the audience especially American people who will be evacuated from Afghanistan. Joe Biden also made a promise to Afghan people who ever helped America during his mission in Afghanistan to be evacuated as soon as possible. In order to make a statement, Joe Biden deliver a message carefully and clearly as He used low-graded attitude more dominant than medium or high-graded attitude. As the results, Joe Biden used 19 low-graded Attitude then following by 15 medium-graded Attitude, and the least is high-graded attitude which only has 9. It happened because Joe Biden delivered a message carefully to avoid a mistake at deliver a speech due to the chaotic situation that still happened in Afghanistan at that time. Furthermore, Joe Biden also used medium and higher-graded of attitude because He has a power and higher position than the audience as He is the president of the United States which his statement will make an effect on the situation that still happening in Afghanistan. It is worth noting that judgment is the most dominant theme in Joe Biden's statement on Afghanistan, followed by affect. In reference to the preceding results, the following recommendations were made: (1) It can help students obtain a better knowledge of the appraisal attitude. (2) This study can be used as a reference for lecturers to better understanding of evaluation attitude, and the president speech transcript can be used to select acceptable media for their students who are directly related to appraisal attitude in the president speech transcript. (3) For the researcher, the researcher offers to other researchers that they conduct related research on a different object and with more in-depth, farther, and better techniques.

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