

## EXPLORING LANGUAGE IN MEDIA IN FOCUS FORM TO STRENGTHEN AND WEAKEN AFFECT IN SHOWING IDEOLOGY: SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS APPROACH

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**Abstract:** This critical discourse research explores how lexis can strengthen, sharpen, or soften the meaning. Furthermore, this research also focuses on showing the ideology through language evaluation or appraisal as a part of systemic functional linguistics. The main findings perform the domain and componential analysis of the lexis used, whether sharpening or softening meaning. There are 55 data of focus in news text against Israel in comment adjunct, mood adjunct, comparative, superlative, prepositional phrase, modality and reflexive. In the same form 69 data found focusing on the favour of Israel. The novelty is in the construction of building ideology by sharpening or softening meaning as the alignment strategy.

**Keywords:** focus, affect, strengthen, weaken, ideology

### INTRODUCTION

The critical discourse investigated relates with the news that provides information about the conflict between Israel and Palestine that happens for many years and still happens at the present. The research aims to explore how the choice of lexis written in the news by determining how the lexis sharpen or soften its meaning for the readers to understand the ideology given indirectly. The data are limited to analyse the lexis which shows the form of focus by using the theory appraisal as the ground theory stated by Martin and Rose (2007).

This research is essential to fill in the gap from the previous research that have not investigated the form and the meaning of focus in the news text, mainly referring to interpersonal meaning in systemic functional linguistics. These previous studies have already discussed about learning news text as genre as stated in Dewi, Wendra & Damayanti, (2017); Astutik, (2019); Karisna, (2020). The other previous studies had conducted research on the technical writing of news (Naschah, Rahmawati & Triasih, 2020; Fitriani & Rahmawati, 2020), others had investigated about critical discourse analysis in news related to government policies (Burhan, 2017; Tampubolon, et.al., 2017; Todo & Budiarta, 2018; Alfaritsi, Anggraeni, & Fadhil, 2020; Gunawibawa, Oktiani & Wibawa, 2020; Utama, Amalia & Yuliawati, 2020). Others also discuss critical discourse on news about election of presidents (Anshori & Sumarlam, 2018; Pramita, et.al., 2019), critical discourse on news about education in Indonesia (Kuswandari & Setiawan, 2017), the human rights case between Uyghur and China and the human rights case in Rohingya (Prayuda & Fawwaz, 2019; Isti'annah, 2019).

This research is included in the area of critical discourse analysis because the discourse that is analyzed relates with the conflict and the human rights case that can arise some arguments among the readers whether they agree or not with the information given. The critical discourse is analyzed by determining the interpersonal meaning that is considered in the group of affects to find out the form of focus used and its meaning (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 136-139).

### METHOD

The research analyzes the critical discourse related with the conflict between Israel and Palestine by finding out the forms of focus used in the text. The research also uses the systemic functional linguistics approach. The source of the data is from online news. The document analysis by using Systemic Functional linguistic theory especially related with the appraisal theory as the main device to collect the data. The data are analyzed by using domain analysis, taxonomy analysis, componential analysis, and cultural theme analysis (Santosa, 2017). The data are from the same online news investigated but in different angle. The previous research related with the online news can be found in Chalimah, Santosa, Djatmika, & Wiratno (2018) which evaluated the participants' attitude. It can also be found in Chalimah, Santosa, Djatmika & Wiratno (2018) to find the voice of projection. Chalimah, Santosa, Djatmika, & Wiratno (2019) investigated the appreciation value in critical discourse study. Chalimah, Santosa, Djatmika, & Wiratno (2020) investigated register in discussion genre on affect evaluation. Critical Discourse Analysis: Ideational Function in text can also be found in Chalimah, Santosa, Djatmika & Wiratno (2020).

The research uses triangulation method by using data collection technique with Systemic Functional Approach. The research also uses the triangulation of data source by taking the various data from various kinds of online newspapers. The research uses the expert validation to check the trustworthiness of the data, mainly in appraisal: graduation of focus.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussion are explained in this following description.

### Findings

The result of focus in sharpening and softening in the news against Israel dominates the use of median modality. The data show that the modal auxiliary in median level is used to evaluate the common misery, antipathy, displeasure and trust. The focus of affect appears in this following table.

**Table 1. Focus of Affect against Israel**

Valued	Sharpen	Soften	Median
Israel's violence and settlement	comparative (1lexis)		modal auxiliary (7 lexis)
Palestinians' struggle	comment adjunct (2 lexis); mood adjunct (2 lexis); comparative (2 lexis); superlative (2 lexis); prepositional phrase (1 lexis)	prepositional phrase (1 lexis); modal auxiliary (1 lexis)	modal auxiliary (5 lexis)
Hamas' attack			modal auxiliary (1lexis)

US’ support for Israel	comment adjunct (3 lexis); mood adjunct (2 lexis); comparative (1 lexis); superlative )3 lexis); prepositional phrase (1 lexis)	modal auxiliary (1 lexis)	modal auxiliary (8 lexis)
Other’s Support for Israel	superlative (2 lexis); reflexive (1 lexis)	-	modal auxiliary (2 lexis)
Other’s Support for Palestine	comment adjunct (2 lexis); superlative (2 lexis); modal auxiliary (1 lexis)	-	modal auxiliary (1 lexis)
	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>

Table 1 above explained that the focus of affect in Israel’s violence and settlement tends to use modal auxiliary in median level to evaluate the misery from the example of the lexis **would take** (*whatever action*) (BBC 2). The use of auxiliary *would* is used to challenge the normality of Israel’s policy to do anything to stop any small reaction that realizes the ideology against Israel by giving negative evaluation to Israel. From the table, the focus of affect in Palestinians’ struggle also uses many median modal auxiliaries in an almost dominant way to evaluate the misery and displeasure seen in the example of lexis **will go** (*to bury*) and **will come** (*again to demonstrate*) (BBC 1). The lexis shows the common misery and displeasure which is felt by the Palestinians. The example of the lexis realizes the ideology against Israel.

Then, there is only one datum of focus found to evaluate Hamas. The focus of affect in Hamas uses median modality to evaluate unhappiness: antipathy as the normal self-defence of the nation done by Hamas seen in the example of the lexis **will hit** (*Israel if Israel strikes inside Gaza*) in CNN2. The normal defense done by Hamas is clearly written in the form of conditional sentence becomes the realization of ideology against Israel. The focus of affect in US’ support for Israel also mainly uses median modality to evaluate trust seen in the lexis (*US*) **can be trusted** (BBC 1). The clause shows that US is normal to assist its allies by seeing the supporting clause *we stand with our friends and allies* that has a contrast meaning in Palestine’s side which is used to provide the ideology against U.S. and Israel.

The focus of affect in others' support for Israel is different from others because it uses superlative for many times to evaluate the inclination that can be seen in the example of lexis **expect** (*to do their best right now*) and adds the use of adverb *specifically on Hamas and Islamic Jihad* (BBC 2). Based on the clause, the lexis gives the stressed meaning by using the lexis *best* to face Hamas and Islamic Jihad in military that can show the ideology against Israel. The focus of affect in others' support for Palestine also uses superlative to sharpen its meaning in the form of evaluating displeasure seen in the lexis *slammed by most of the international community* (CNN 1). The superlative gives stress in the big quantity of nations rejects the relocation of US embassy that is against Israel.

**Table 2. Focus of Affect for Israel**

Appraised	Sharpen	Soften	Median
Israel's violence and settlement	comment adjunct (3 lexis); mood adjunct (1 lexis); superlative (1 lexis)	low modality (1 lexis)	modal auxiliary (6 lexis)
Palestinians' struggle	comment adjunct (6 lexis); mood adjunct (3 lexis); comparative (2 lexis); adjective phrase (1 lexis)	prepositional phrase (1 lexis); possessive (1 lexis); modal auxiliary (4 lexis)	modal auxiliary (7 lexis)
Hamas' attack	comment adjunct (3 lexis)	modal auxiliary (1 lexis)	modal auxiliary (1 lexis)
US' support for Israel	mood adjunct (1 lexis); comparative (1 lexis); prepositional phrase (1 lexis); reflexive (1 lexis)	modal auxiliary (2 lexis)	modal auxiliary (3 lexis)
Other's Support for Israel	comment adjunct (1 lexis);	-	-

	superlative (2 lexis)		
Other's	comment	modal	modal
Support for Palestine	adjunct (2 lexis); mood adjunct (2 lexis); superlative (1 lexis)	auxiliary (1 lexis)	auxiliary (3) lexis)
Abbas	comparative (3 lexis); superlative (1 lexis);	-	modal auxiliary (1 lexis)
Journalist	superlative (1 lexis)	-	-
	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>

In table 2, focus of affect in Israel's violence and settlement uses more median modality to evaluate the inclination of Israel seen in the lexis **will ever agree to end the occupation** (Bloomberg 2) gives positive evaluation and shows ideology for Israel. The data of focus of affect in Palestinians' struggle uses more comment adjunct and median modality to evaluate the fear seen in the lexis **will remain deferred** in Bloomberg 2 that gives the negative evaluation to the struggle and tends to show ideology for Israel.

In the focus of affect in Hamas' attack tends to use comment adjunct to give valuation on inclination seen in the lexis **badly needed aid** (Bloomberg 2). It gives negative valuation to Hamas implicitly and shows the ideology for Israel and the data of focus of affect in US' support for Israel uses median modality more to evaluate insecurity: disquiet which is seen from the lexis **will mark** (*Palestinian's protest in Israel's anniversary*) which shows ideology for Israel (Guardian 2). The data of focus of affect in other's support for Israel is consistent to use superlative to give negative valuation on Palestinian president, Abbas, by using antipathy seen in the lexis **the most contemptuous anti-Semitic slurs** (Fox News 2) which shows ideology for Israel.

The data of focus of affect in other's support for Palestine uses more median modality to evaluate trust shown in the lexis **will be issued** contrast with the supporting information in the clause *we don't know for sure* that shows the possible death of Palestinian kid is not because of Israeli tear gas which shows ideology for Israel. In the data of focus of affect in Palestinian president use sharper comparative valuation in surprise which can be seen in the lexis **is moving closer to annexing** (Bloomberg 2) that shows the negotiation between the Palestinian president and Israel has not succeeded. In the data of focus of affect in journalist are consistent to use sharpen: superlative in valuating misery which can be seen in the lexis **the most wrenching conflicts** (New York Times 1) which refers to the power of images of Palestinian children shows the ideology for Israel.

## Discussion

The novelty shows the alignment strategy used in the online news that has ideology against Israel prefers using focus in median modality in evaluating unhappiness: misery to show possibility to have misery in every Israeli anniversary and prefers using focus in superlative in evaluating desire and displeasure which shows high desire to go home for Palestinians. The alignment strategy used in the news for Israel prefers using median modality to give valuation on possible desire to have peace in Israel's side not Hamas, prefers using superlative in unhappiness: antipathy to Hamas. The result is in line with the statement stated by Martin & Rose, (2007) and Pusparini, Djatmika, Santosa (2017) that appraisal can help the text to hide the subjectivity whether they support or oppose.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The data of focus are to sharpen and soften the meaning by using lexis and can show the alignment strategy. The news against Israel uses median modality to challenge the normality of Israeli military to the Palestinians, to challenge misery and displeasure felt by Palestinians, to challenge Israeli antipathy to Hamas, to challenge US' support in Jerusalem status for Israel. The news for Israel uses median modality and comparative to challenge Palestinians' attitude, Palestinian president and Hamas that reject Jerusalem as Israeli capital. This research still leaves the gap for the future research, namely: the valuation of graduation: force and focus on judgment and appreciation.

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**APPENDIX**

**BBC 1**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
(protest) for weeks	Palestinians	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: prepositional phrase
for many years (failed)	we	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: prepositional phrase
will go to bury	Palestinians	unhappiness: misery	modal operator: median
will demonstrate	they	dissatisfaction: displeasure	modal operator: median
can imagine (in anger)	you (reader)	dissatisfaction: displeasure	modal operator: low
will come, will try	thousands of Palestinians	dissatisfaction: displeasure	modal operator: median
bigger	it	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: comparative
defend itself	Israel	security: confidence	sharpen: reflexive
can be trusted	US	security: trust	modal operator: median
deeply grateful	all of us	happiness: cheer	sharpen: comment adjunct

**BBC 2**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
will be back (another confrontation)	we	disinclination: fear	modal operator: median
do their best	I (Nickolay Mladenov)	inclination: desire	sharpen: superlative
two largest militants	groups	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: superlative
would take (action)	it	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
much tougher	Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: comparative

**BLOOMBERG 1**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
(appealed) wider recognition	Mahmoud Abbas	inclination: desire	sharpen: comparative
wider	recognition	security: confidence	sharpen: comparative
will renege	we	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
no longer act	US	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: comparative



should take the lead	the “Quartet”	inclination: desire	modal operator: median
would be fine	whatever	satisfaction: pleasure	modal operator: median

### BLOOMBERG 2

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
get worse	things	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: comparative
increasingly feel	Palestinians	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: comment adjunct
badly needed	Hamas	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct
won’t consider	the militant group	insecurity: surprise	modal operator: median
(move) closer	Israel	insecurity: surprise	sharpen: comparative
believe	Virtually no Palestinians	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: comment adjunct
will agree to end	Israel	inclination: desire	modal operator: median
originally promised	protests	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct
could prove (catastrophic)	the result	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: low
spreads	widespread unrest	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: low
could (fatally) undermine	that	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: low
out of patience	Palestinian public	unhappiness: misery	soften: prepositional group
incredibly dangerous	mid-May commemorati ons	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: comment adjunct
will remain	people (Palestinians)	inclination: desire	modal operator: median

### CNN 1

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
will be treated severely	any breach	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
coincided (land day)	largest protest	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: superlative
would be nonviolent	march	inclination: desire	modal operator: median
(was slammed by) most of the international community	Trump’s controversial decision	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: superlative
further	erosion of hope	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: comparative

**CNN 2**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
alternately dubbed	Palestinians	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: comment adjunct
will not allow	they	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
will be shot	Palestinians (do not abide)	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
would not allow	Israel	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
will strike	it (Israel)	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
will hit	Hamas	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
particularly urge (Israel)	I (Antonio Guterres)	insecurity: disquiet	sharpen: comment adjunct
must be able to exercise	Civilians	inclination: desire	modal operator: high
quickly turned (bloody)	day	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: comment adjunct
bloodiest	day	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: superlative

**FOX NEWS 1**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
newly married	man	insecurity: surprise	sharpen: mood adjunct

**FOX NEWS 2**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
sharply condemned	remarks	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: comment adjunct
most contemptuous	Abbas	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: superlative
most contemptuous	slurs	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: superlative
very distressing, terribly disheartening	Jason Greenblatt	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: mood adjunct
most disgraceful	slogans	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: superlative

**GUARDIAN 1**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
immediately open (an investigation)	The Palestinian foreign minister	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct

could lead (indictments)	the court	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: low
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## GUARDIAN 2

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
anxiously preparing (US embassy inauguration)	Police in Israel	security: confidence	sharpen: comment adjunct
will mark	move (14 May)	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: median
will celebrate	Israel	happiness: cheer	modal operator: median
may attempt (to breach)	those	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: low
may pass	embassy move	security: confidence	modal operator: low
could find (war)	we	disinclination: fear	modal operator: low
will be raised	security	security: confidence	modal operator: median
are going to be in	security forces	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: median
should be agreed	sovereignty	inclination: desire	modal operator: median
will reach its zenith on 14 May	marches	dissatisfaction: displeasure	modal operator: median
very sad	day	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: mood adjunct
will try (to breach)	protesters	dissatisfaction: displeasure	modal operator: median
will try (to infiltrate)	protesters	dissatisfaction: displeasure	modal operator: median
will be preceded (Trump's decision)	US embassy move	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: median

## HUFFINGTON POST 1

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
most controversial and momentous	embassy move	disinclination: fear	sharpen: superlative
for peace	our greatest hope	inclination: desire	sharpen: superlative
fully committed	The United States	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct
gain more	it	security: confidence	sharpen: comparative
can live in peace	all people	inclination: desire	modal operator: low
intentionally and cynically provoking	Hamas	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: comment adjunct
should negotiate	Israelis and Palestinians	inclination: desire	modal operator: median

**HUFFINGTON POST 2**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
very proud	I (father)	satisfaction: pleasure	sharpen: mood adjunct
too close (border)	protesters	insecurity: disquiet	sharpen: adverb as mood adjunct
had been participating	about 14,000	insecurity: disquiet	soften: prepositional group
will be replicated	demonstrations	dissatisfaction: displeasure	modal operator: median
would lose its Jewish majority	country	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: median

**NEW YORK TIMES 1**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
most wrenching	conflicts	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: superlative
frantically wiped	she	insecurity: surprise	sharpen: comment adjunct
very difficult	this	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: adverb as mood adjunct
could deliver on threats	its supporters	security: trust	modal operator: low
largely (winning international sympathy)	protests	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct
will be issued	no death certificate	security: trust	modal operator: median
solely responsible	patent ductus arteriosus	insecurity: disquiet	sharpen: comment adjunct
only pain, frustration and memory	there	unhappiness: misery	sharpen: mood adjunct
can leave	nobody	unhappiness: misery	modal operator: low

**NEW YORK TIMES 2**

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
immediately carry (a full investigation)	Palestinian Authority	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct
quickly assailed	Israel	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: comment adjunct
legally invalid	Israel	security: confidence	sharpen: comment adjunct
should cover	referral	security: trust	modal operator: median
will cover	referral	security: trust	modal operator: median
will be expected to accelerate	court	inclination: desire	modal operator: median

could be indicted	Israeli leaders	capacity: capable	modal operator: low
can request an investigation	any member country	inclination: desire	modal operator: low
urgently dispatch	United Nations Human Rights Council	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct
the latest Gaza	protests	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: superlative
currently investigating	court	insecurity: disquiet	sharpen: comment adjunct

#### TIMES OF INDIA 1

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
reacted strongly	government	unhappiness: antipathy	intensifier: adverb of manner

#### TIMES OF INDIA 2

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
urgently need	we	inclination: desire	sharpen: comment adjunct

#### USA TODAY 1

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
cynically provoking	group	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: comment adjunct
defend itself	Israel	security: confidence	sharpen: reflexive
long hoped	Palestinians	inclination: desire	sharpen: adj group
for many years failed	we	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: prepositional phrase
clashed	more than 500 demonstrators	insecurity: disquiet	sharpen: comparative
at least one arrest	police	insecurity: disquiet	sharpen: superlative
ours	Jerusalem	security: confidence	soften: possessive adjective

#### USA TODAY 2

Valuing	Valued	Valuation	Focus
could prosecute	ICC	security: trust	modal operator: low
the most egregious	atrocities	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: superlative
indeed (outright dangerous)	ICC	dissatisfaction: displeasure	sharpen: mood adjunct
will file	I (Fatou Bensouda)	security: confidence	modal operator: median

will not allow	we (U.S and Israel)	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: median
would not only sanction the ICC	Trump	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: median
will remember	we (the U.S.)	insecurity: disquiet	modal operator: median
would shutter	Trump	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
should not be exploited	this action	disinclination: fear	modal operator: median
collectively punish	Monday's announcement	unhappiness: antipathy	sharpen: comment adjunct
will further inflame	State Department's decision	unhappiness: antipathy	modal operator: median
would take	the Palestinians	inclination: desire	modal operator: median
our most powerful	deterrents	security: trust	sharpen: superlative