

A positive discourse analysis of “The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper” from the perspective of attitude resources

Wei Jinfang

Xi'an International Studies University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China, 710128

Abstract: *This study is based on the attitude system in J.R.Martin's appraisal theory, takes the English version of the Global Security Initiative concept paper as the research corpus, builds a small corpus by myself, and adopts a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods to explore the distribution of attitude resources in the global Security Initiative paper and the national image constructed. This research shows that the paper uses a large number of positive words, thus building the image of a responsible country willing to contribute China's wisdom and strength in solving global security issues.*

Keywords: *Appraisal theory, The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, Positive discourse analysis*

1. Introduction

The world today is full of challenges. It is also one brimming with hope. We are convinced that the historical trends of peace, development and win-win cooperation are unstoppable. With the rapid advance of globalization, the issue of global security has become increasingly prominent. It bears on people's well-being, world peace and development, and the future and destiny of all mankind. On February 21, 2023, President of China put forward the concept paper of the Global Security Initiative, advocating that all countries in the world should actively adapt to the deeply adjusted international pattern, respond to the global security challenges they face in a win-win manner, and aim to resolve global security conflicts and improve global governance. In recent years, global issues have received extensive attention at home and abroad, and reports on global issues are not uncommon, and there has also been an upsurge of research on the Global Security Initiative in China. However, most of the studies are conducted from the perspectives of communication and political science, mainly discussing the implementation path of the global security strategy, China's promotion strategy and important role, and the significance of the implementation of the Global Security Initiative^{[1][2]} (Wang 2023, Jia 2023), but few studies are conducted from the perspective of linguistics. Therefore, this paper will analyze the GSI concept from a linguistic perspective.

2. Theory foundation

2.1. Positive discourse analysis

Since the publication of Harris's paper discourse analysis in 1952^[3], many scholars at home and abroad have begun to study discourse analysis, such as speech act theory and conversation analysis, which can be used as the theoretical basis for discourse analysis research, and cohesion and coherence are the main contents of discourse analysis. After the breakthrough development in the 80s, the study of discourse analysis has risen to a new level. Since the 90s, with the emergence of Martin's appraisal theory, the theoretical basis of discourse analysis has been improved. With the rapid development of discourse analysis research, many new research perspectives have emerged, such as positive discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, and multimodal discourse analysis.

The study of positive discourse analysis in China started relatively late, but it has developed rapidly. Wang Zhenhua^[5] (2001) elaborated on the origin, background, and theoretical framework of positive discourse analysis. Zhu Yongsheng believes that the purpose of positive discourse analysis is to use a positive attitude to resolve conflicts and build a harmonious society^[6] (2006). Of course, the application of this theory has also yielded fruitful results. Chen Lingjun and Zhao Chuang analyzed the explicit and

implicit attitude resources in the Chinese Dream from the perspective of evaluation theory^[7] (2016). A number of scholars have also studied the evaluation resources contained in the “One Belt, One Road” initiative in combination with positive discourse analysis, and these studies have shown the image of an open, free and responsible major country^{[8][9]} (Jiang & Chen 2017, Liu & Zhang 2020). Therefore, it can be seen that domestic scholars interpret positive discourse analysis from different perspectives.

2.2. *Appraisal theory*

In the 90s of the 20th century, Martin proposed the concept of appraisal theory, so that the focus of research shifted to the lexical level, and made a deeper analysis of the resources contained in language, and a new theoretical framework came into being. The appraisal system consists of three subsystems, namely the attitude system, the engagement system and the graduation system, and the attitude system is the core of the entire appraisal system^[10]. The attitude system refers to the evaluation of people or things, so it has two aspects, positive and negative, and contains three subsystems, affect, judgment and appreciation.

Affect resources refer to the emotional tendencies of language users towards people or things, including four aspects, namely, happy/unhappy, security/insecurity, satisfaction/dissatisfaction, inclined/disinclined. When considering emotions, the concept of un/happiness often springs to mind and is a common element in every inventory we have come across. This process encompasses the emotional states of happiness or sadness, with the capability to steer these emotions towards a Trigger through preference or aversion. Insecurity encompasses our sense of tranquility and unease concerning our surroundings, naturally extending to those who share these emotions with us. Within communities characterized by gender stereotypes, these emotions are linked to domestic ‘motherhood’ – a state attuned to shielding oneself from external influences. Dis/satisfaction pertains to our sensations of accomplishment and irritation concerning our involvement in various activities, encompassing our dual roles as participants and observers. Within typically gender-specific communities, these emotions are linked to ‘fathering’ (and mentorship broadly) – focused on learning and achievement. Judgment resources refer to the judgment of the speaker's behavior in accordance with social moral norms and social ethics through language, including social esteem and social sanction. Social esteem tends to be policed in the oral culture, through chat, gossip, jokes and stories. Judgments of esteem are concerned with “normality” (how unusual someone is), “capacity” (how capable he is) and “tenacity” (how resolute he is). Social sanction is more often codified in writings, as edicts, decrees, rules, regulations and laws about how to behave under the supervision of church and state - with penalties and punishments as tools against those who do not follow or break the rules and tenets. Judgments of sanction are related to “veracity” (how truthful someone is) and “propriety” (how ethical he is). Appreciative resources refer to the judgment of things according to the aesthetic category and other social value judgment criteria, including three levels: reaction, composition and value. reaction is concerned with affection (emotive and desiderative); composition involves perception (our view of order); and valuation has something to do with cognition (our considered opinions). Therefore, this paper will use the attitude system in Martin's appraisal theory as a theoretical framework to analyze the attitude resources in the “Global Security Initiative” paper.

3. Research Methods

3.1. *Research question*

How the attitudinal resources are distributed in the GSI concept paper and what are the positive implications for solving global security issues?

3.2. *Data collection*

Global security issues have always attracted the attention of countries around the world, and on February 21, 2023, the Global Security Initiative concept paper was officially released. Therefore, this study uses the English version of the bilingual Dianjin column in “China Daily” as the corpus and builds a small corpus. Then, UAM annotation software is used to annotate attitude resources, and then the positive implications conveyed by the security protocol concept paper is analyzed.

4. Results and Discussion

According to the definition and classification of affect, judgment and appreciation in appraisal theory, a total of 158 language units with affect, judgment and appreciation resource expressions were finally counted by using the UAM corpus annotation tool, and the frequency of judgment resources was the highest, followed by appreciation resources, and the affect resources were the least. Among them, there were 65 judgment resources, accounting for 40.1%, 62 appreciation resources, accounting for 38.3%, and 31 affect resources, accounting for 19.1% (Figure 1). It can be seen that judging resources and appreciate resources are the resources that are mainly used to express attitudes. The subjectivity of expression decreases from affect resources to judgment resources to appreciation resources, while the degree of objectivity continues to increase. The initiative uses a great deal of judgment and appreciation to avoid personal feelings and maintain objectivity and impartiality. This article focuses on how the GSI has demonstrated China's image as a responsible major power through the use of attitude resources.

Aspect: feature		
Counting: global		
ATTITUDE	N	%
- appreciation	65	40.1
- judgement	62	38.3
- affect	31	19.1
TOTAL:	158	97.5%

Figure 1. Distribution of attitude resources

4.1. Affect

Affect resources appear the least frequently, but the objective analysis of facts using affect resources in this initiative paper comes from the evaluation conveyed by China on the one hand, and the evaluation conducted by other countries on the other hand, especially those that participate in the governance of global security issues and are affected by global security issues. The attitude resources conveyed by China as the main body will affect the emotional establishment of people around the world.

E.g.1 China is willing to provide other developing countries with 5,000 training opportunities in the next five years to train professionals for addressing global security issues.

This example shows us that China is a participant in global security governance, and the word "be willing to" expresses China's willingness to provide financial assistance to developing countries to help them solve global security problems, and also shows that China is willing to contribute to the cause of global security and build an image of a responsible great country. The paper starts with objective facts, making it easier for readers to experience the affect resources in it. Therefore, it shows that China maintains friendly relations with developing countries, and China actively helps developing countries, so as to establish a good image of an international power.

E.g.2 It is our common aspiration to achieve lasting world peace, so that all countries can enjoy a peaceful and stable external environment and their people can live a happy life with their rights fully guaranteed.

The word peaceful in Example 2 expresses the desire of the people of the world to build a peaceful world, hoping to eliminate the unstable factors that affect world peace, and also shows that China is willing to contribute Chinese wisdom and strength to maintain world peace and solve global security problems, thus building an image of a positive and responsible major country. The word "Happy" expresses the yearning of people in developing countries for a better life, the guarantee of power they hope to obtain, and the desire for a better standard of living. At the same time, it also shows China's efforts to promote the common development of all countries in the world, and hopes that the benefits of development will benefit every developing country, so that the living standards of the people in developing countries can be improved and their happiness can be enhanced.

E.g.3 Actively participate in formulating a "New Agenda for Peace" and other proposals put forth in "Our Common Agenda" by the UN Secretary-General. Support UN efforts to enhance conflict prevention and fully harness the peace-building architecture to assist post-conflict states in peace-building.

The term "actively" indicates China's willingness to take the initiative to help countries around the world solve the threats of global problems they face. China will support all countries in post-conflict peace-building and make their best efforts for world peace.

4.2. Judgement

The language expression containing judgment resources was the most, with a total of 65 occurrences, accounting for 40.1%. By using resources of positive judgment, China has contributed to building a safe, fair, harmonious and beautiful world, and has established a positive image as a major country.

Among the many judgment resources, the words joint, mutual, deep, and committed are frequently used, thus reflecting China's advocacy for countries around the world to work together to solve various security problems in the world.

E.g.4 Stay committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries. Sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs are basic principles of international law and the most fundamental norms governing contemporary international relations.

The term "Committed" has a positive connotation, which shows readers China's determination to safeguard global security, actively safeguard the development interests and legitimate rights and interests of developing countries, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

E.g.5 China calls on all parties to carry out single or multiple cooperation in aspects including but not limited to the following ones, so as to pursue mutual learning and complementarity and to jointly promote world peace and tranquility.

The two positive judgment resources of joint and mutual convey to the reader that maintaining world peace is not a task that can be accomplished by one country, but requires the joint efforts of all countries in the world, and only when all countries work together can security problems be completely solved. Therefore, China advocates that all countries in the world should carry out in-depth cooperation, and only when all countries work together can the long-term security and stability of the world be guaranteed, and can all countries in the world develop together.

E.g.6 We call on all countries to practice true multilateralism; firmly uphold the international system with the UN at its core, the international order underpinned by "international law" and the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the "UN Charter".

The word true indicates that what is needed by all countries in the world is a constructive multilateral relationship, where the interests of development and world peace should benefit every country. We need to abandon the false and superficial multilateral relationship and make a substantive contribution to solving global security problems.

4.3. Appreciation

According to the data, appreciation resources ranked second in this security initiative document, accounting for 38.3%. The use of appreciation resources is mainly used to express the balance and complexity of things, which can help us to analyze the process of development of things from a micro perspective and evaluate them. Of course, it can also help us to evaluate things more deeply from a macro perspective.

E.g.7 Support the three international drug control conventions of the UN, safeguard the international drug control system, and advocate coordination, shared responsibility and sincere cooperation in the international community to jointly address challenges posed by the drug problem and build a community with a shared future for mankind that is free from the harm of drugs.

The word "Shared" conveys a positive meaning to the reader. At the same time, each country should shoulder its own responsibilities, cooperate sincerely, work together to build a better future shared by all people in the world, and strive to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

E.g.8 We believe security will only be firmly established and sustainable when it is underpinned by morality, justice and the right ideas.

The term sustainable is used extensively in the "GSI document" and conveys positive evaluative meaning to readers. What China advocates is sustainable world security, not immediate security that focuses only on immediate interests. Security concerns every person in every country, so it is a great cause that cannot be ignored and countries need to work together to build a path to sustainable development.

E.g.9 Major countries shoulder particularly important responsibilities of maintaining international

peace and security. Call on major countries to lead by example in honoring equality, good faith, cooperation and the rule of law, and in complying with the “UN Charter” and “international law”.

The word important indicates the importance of solving global security problems, the importance of world peace, and it has a bearing on the future and destiny of all countries in the world. The countries of the world are closely linked, and no country can escape the issue of global security. Therefore, solving global problems requires all countries to join hands and work together in order to have a peaceful and beautiful future.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, the English version of the “GSI paper” is used as the corpus, and the attitude system of appraisal theory is used as the theoretical framework, and the UAM corpus tool is used to analyze the corpus. It is found that a large number of positive words are used in this initiative paper, among which judgment resources are the most used, appreciation resources are second, and affect resources are the least. As a result, China has built an image of a great country that contributes to global security issues, promotes common development, and is mutually beneficial.

References

- [1] Wang Mingguo. *The international community's multiple perceptions of the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and China's strategy for advancing it.*[J]. *Journal of International Security Studies*, 2023(03),28-52+157-158.
- [2] Jia Wenshang & Sun Chen. *An Analysis of the Implementation Path of the Global Security Initiative: From the Perspective of the Evolution of the Global Security Mechanism* [J]. *Journal of International Security Studies*, 2023(02),26-45+163.
- [3] Harris, Z. S. *Discourse Analysis. Language*, (1952), 28(1), 1.
- [4] Martin, J. *Positive discourse analysis: solidarity and change*[M]. *Revista Canaria Ingaleses*, 2004(49):179-202
- [5] Wang Zhenhua. *Appraisal systems and their operation: new developments in systemic functional linguistics* [J]. *Journal of Foreign Languages*, 2001(06),13-20.
- [6] Zhu Yongsheng. *Positive Discourse Analysis: A counterpoint to and complement critical discourse analysis* [J]. *English Studies*, 2004(04),36-42.
- [7] Chen Lingjun & Zhao Chuang. *The "Chinese Dream" in News Discourse: Discourse Analysis from the Perspective of Evaluation Theory and Attitude* [J]. *Journal of Tianjin Foreign Studies University*, 2016(04),34-39+81.
- [8] Jiang Guodong & Chen Xu. *The Belt and Road Initiative in Foreign News: Discourse Analysis under the Intervention System of Evaluation Theory* [J]. *Foreign*
- [9] Liu Guobing & Zhang Xiaolian. *An Analysis of Attitude Resources in Chinese Media Coverage of the Belt and Road Initiative: A Case Study of China Daily* [J]. *Journal of Xi'an International Studies University*, 2020(02),15-21. *Languages Research.*, 2017(05), 6-9.
- [10] Martin, J. & D. Rose. *Working with discourse: Meaning beyond the Discourse*[M]. *Peking university press*, 2003.