



## **Experience Realized in Edweek.org by a Black Student: An Appraisal Analysis of the Attitudinal Perspective**

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**Rezza Fatwassani \***  
Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia,  
[rezza\\_fatwa@studens.unnes.ac.id](mailto:rezza_fatwa@studens.unnes.ac.id)

**\*Corresponding Author's Email:**  
[rezza\\_fatwa@students.unnes.ac.id](mailto:rezza_fatwa@students.unnes.ac.id)

### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this research is to describe the message expressed by a black American student as contained in the Edweek portal which was published in 2020. Specifically, the research tried to identifying the language choice of the published text. The research focused on the attitudinal perspective of the appraisal system. The identification including the aspect of affect, judgment, and appreciation. As the data collection, a text about Almah's experience "This is My Everything" was chosen for further analysis. The research showed that the positive attitudinal lexis was equaled with the negative one. When the data were calculated in detail, the percentage of affect was 34%, judgment 58%, and appreciation 8%. The presence of equal data showed that there were mixed feelings expressed by a student when she shared her experience of racial abuse.

**Keywords:** Appraisal, attitude, affect, judgment, appreciation

### **Introduction**

Dealing with the attitudinal investigation, an appraisal provides a strategic system to investigate the content of a text. Based on Halliday's domain of interpersonal meanings, Martin developed appraisal theory to evaluate the attitude contained within the text. As Martin & Jordan (1987) mentioned that a text may contain interpersonal meaning which represents a person's feelings as a realization of expression upon one thing. The feeling itself can be identified using appraisal theory. In appraisal, attitude is connected to social interaction among

human beings. Attitude is realized by how a person shares his/her feelings about an object or person to the readers or listeners (Nurdiyani, 2019; Ross & Caldwell, 2020; ).

Appraisal theory is divided into three sub-systems or categories, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation. The term of attitude refers to a person's emotions, which include emotional reactions, behavioral judgments, and object assessments (Pasaribu & Dewi, 2021). On the other hand, engagement is concern to the involvement of interpretative sources with the attitude on a written text or person's interaction (Gales, 2011; Oteíza, 2017). Meanwhile, graduation is addressed on how attitude is applied. As the role to interpret people's feelings, the appraisal can be related to the power of a text and makes the text meaningful. Consequently, the ideas of the document, including information taken from online media, should be felt and understood by people.

The effective use of appraisal devices should always be understood by an online media writer so that he or she can negotiate his or her definitions realized with the readers on the media forum (Fitriati et al., 2018). On the other hand, as a reader, he/she should devise him/herself with sufficient understanding and working knowledge of the evaluation framework used in the types of media forum that is being read to come to the required understanding and interpretation of the meanings negotiated through the text by the writer. It demonstrates that it will be very relevant to use Assessment when creating a text in writing. This research, therefore, explored how the vocabulary that is essential to the publication text functions to communicate knowledge with the readers.

This study is aimed at finding out the conveyed messages in the Edweek portal which were published in 2020. Edweek (Education Week) is an American-based news portal that provides education news, analysis, and opinion. In this case, Edweek raises an issue on race and racism in school. Previously, ten black high school students from across the country in the U.S.A. joined a virtual discussion to talk about their experiences discussing race in the classroom. The focus of this research is published text produced to inform the result of the discussion. To specify, a text concerned with Almar's experience "This is My Everything" was chosen for further analysis.

## Methodology

This was a qualitative study. It was an appropriate method to investigate how a student expresses her feelings on the raising issue about race in America through discussion. As presented in the introduction, the racial abuse in America inviting protest from various elements. In specific, the researcher put interest in analyzing a text of one representative student who joins the class discussion.

The data analysis followed Martin and White's Appraisal Framework (2015), This framework was derived from Systemic Functional Linguistics in order to make a better organization and investigation of interpersonal meanings construction in texts. The selected text "This Is My Everyday Thing" was used as the data. It was taken from edweek.org, a news portal that provides education news, analysis, and opinion. Furthermore, the data was coded using the attitude system's criteria. Finally, data analysis was used to decipher the text's

meaning. Due to space and time limitations, this research concentrated only on the attitude system, which encompasses the affects, judgments, and appreciation.

## Findings

Data were tabulated following their related analysis. The distribution of attitude within the text is presented as below.

Table 1 Distribution of Attitude within the Texts

Attitudinal	Subcategory	Characteristic of subcategory		Total	
		(+)	(-)		
Affect	realis: satisfaction	1		4	34%
	insecurity: disquiet		1		
	security: trust	1			
	irrealis: inclination: desire	1			
Judgment	social sanction: propriety	2	4	7	58%
	social esteem: normality		1		
Appreciation	Reaction	1		1	8%

### *Affect*

It can be seen from Table 1 that in general, the number of positive attitudes is higher than that of negative attitudes. The higher positive effect reflects the presence of proper attitude or feelings exhibited by the student (Nurhadi, 2017; Devira & Westin, 2021). Samples showing positive and negative affect will be revealed herewith. The affect is written in bold according to how it is tabulated.

Feeling satisfied was expressed in a phrase of text. It was expressed in the text that Almaw as a representative student argued that the racism issue has become a hot topic of discussion in the world for a long time. She satisfies with having a chance to speak up. This satisfy expression is represented in the below phrase.

S2 : race should continue to be discussed in class long after the protests have simmered down, said Helena Almaw, 17 and a senior at DSST: Green Valley Ranch High School in Denver.

The data showed the presence of positive affect. It is categorized as a realis phrase which is included in the satisfaction subcategory. In the text, Almaw argued that the issue of race has simmered down which represents her satisfaction. It means that she finally has a moment to share her experience when facing racial abuse at school. This expressed word was realized based on the fact that occurred in the U.S.A.

In another sentence, it found that the writer aimed to deliver Almaw's feeling on what she dealt with by stating an utterance as what she said. The bold phrase represents a negative characteristic of affect that shows an un-expectation. Below is the tabulated sentence.

S5 : You know, this is not something I have to deal with one day or one week – this is my everyday thing.

The phrase expressed in S5 showed that Almaw has already faced racial bullying from a long time ago, and she feels it like an everyday thing. This coded phrase is categorized into the aspect of insecurity which included to a disquiet subcategory. From the phrase, we can get the point that Almaw has to face racial abuse like facing it every day. The writer wants to share with the reader that she did not expect it.

Furthermore, the next sentence presents the continuity of Almaw's opinion. She expects every student to feel safe talking about race as expressed below.

S6 : School should be the place where students feel safe talking about race, Almaw said.

If we look at the word feel safe, we can say that it included into the affect of security that shows positive criteria of trust characteristic. But if we look at the whole sentence, it shows a sentence that expresses an expectation that has not been realized. It means that there is a possibility that positive criteria can be negative if we look at the intrinsic meaning of the whole text.

Almaw expects to continue as expressed in the S8 data. She expects for a better value obtained from a discussion about race and diversity. Below is the sentence that represents her expectation.

S8 : She wishes positive aspects of race and diversity were discussed, too.

The above sentence represents the speaker's feeling of expectation. The word "wishes" is categorized as the positive affect of desire. The writer wants to inform the reader that Almaw expects for more positive aspect she gets from the discussion. It is a representative feeling that someone has a dream of a good thing.

### ***Judgment***

Judgment entails making positive or negative judgments on human behavior in context of societal standards system (Alwohaibi & Alyousef, 2023). As confirmed in the findings, judgment has the most number expressed in the text. Most of it is negative judgment. Social sanction of propriety and social esteem of normality were two judgment categories found in the texts. Moral values between good and bad, right or wrong are categorized into the evaluation of social sanction (Mayo & Taboada, 2017). Meanwhile, social esteem refers to social conventions or norms adopted by the community.

In this finding, judgment is marked with underlined words or phrases. The data showed that judgment is dominated by the social sanction of propriety rather than and social esteem

of normality. We can say that negative judgment outnumbered the attitude value than the positive one (Prastikawati, 2021; Rohimajaya & Hamer, 2022). The majority of findings were negative social sanctions of propriety. Below are the representative words or phrases of judgment.

S2 : race should continue to be discussed in class long after the protests have simmered down, said Helena Almaw, 17 and a senior at DSST: Green Valley Ranch High School in Denver.

S3 : Race shouldn't, in my opinion, just be talked about when there's a huge problem that has come up in our society," she said.

S6 : School should be the place where students feel safe talking about race, Almaw said,  
S7 : and it shouldn't always be about injustices or inequities.

S9 : "It shouldn't have to be us seeing a person getting killed for us to talk about it," she said.

S10 : And that should start early on, Almaw said.

Social sanction of propriety was represented by the domination of the word "should" and "shouldn't". Word "shouldn't" indicate a negative category that means how far the discussion about race, justice, and victims (in S3, S7, and S9) should be the approach. Meanwhile, the word "should" represent the solution as the positive ethic expressed by Almaw. The word "just" in the S3 also coded as judgment, means that it was "a stressing" expression for talking about racism issues. What Almaw wants to say that even if the race and racism issue has decreased, we should keep concerned with it.

S4 : More people are coming out and talking about racial injustice and the injustices that are in our country but only for a small amount of time, and then it blows over.

Another data obtained from S4, indicated a negative category of social esteem of normality. Racial injustice and the injustices represent Almaw's feeling that it still occurs in this world.

### *Appreciation*

Appreciation relates to an evaluation of objects, including the attitude or phenomena that can be evaluated with feeling (Li, 2016; Tupala, 2019). Compared with affect and judgment, appreciation stays in the last position. This shows that the writer uses affect and judgment than evaluating objects. The only data coded that related to appreciation is located in the first sentence as below. The appreciation is written in the underlying according to how it is tabulated.

S1 : While many teachers have held class conversations on race after high-profile incidents such as the police killing of George Floyd, ...

Sample S1 is an example of the clause which realizes the reaction category (+). The clause exposes the writer's utterance that shows the reason for raising and writing the issue of racism in American schools.

## Conclusion

The study revealed that there was an equal presence of positive and negative attitude vocabulary. Upon doing a comprehensive analysis of the data, it was determined that the percentages for affect, judgment, and appreciation were 34%, 58%, and 8% respectively. The presence of equitably distributed data indicated the existence of divergent sentiments voiced by a student as she recounted her encounter with racial mistreatment. Further, the research shows that the number of judgments is outnumbered the number of affect and appreciation. Appreciation has the least percentage than others. However, the equal amount between positive and negative attitudinal lexis indicates that there are mixed feelings expressed by a student when she shares her experience on racial abuse.

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