

Constructing Evaluation and Emotion: Attitude in Adila Hassim's Speech at the International Court of Justice

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Abstract: *Based on the attitude system of appraisal theory, this study primarily examined Adila Hassim's speech at the International Court of Justice, which addressed allegations of genocidal intent during the 2023 conflict in the Palestinian territories. It focused on the linguistic choices embedded within the speech to convey feelings, judgments, and evaluations to the audience, constructing a persuasive argument against the Israeli massive attack on Gaza. The analysis, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative methods, was semi-annotated using Corpus UAM 3.3v, a linguistic annotation tool, to examine attitude-related lexical items. The findings showed that various attitude resources were present in the analyzed discourse, among which judgmental resources were the most prominent in condemning Israel's actions regarding legality, morality, and social standards. This was followed by affect resources to create an emotional engagement with the audience, while appreciation was the least-used resource to maintain a serious tone. In addition to this, Hassim used negative polarity extensively to highlight the humanitarian crisis and the violation of human rights in Gaza. Considering the nature of the speech, the findings effectively align with Adila Hassim's purpose, as she combined judgment (evaluating Israel's actions as illegal) with affect (conveying emotional responses) to deliver a compelling message, persuading the audience to support her position.*

Keywords: legal discourse, appraisal theory, attitude, affect, judgment, appreciation

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most distinctive human phenomena, serving as a multi-functional system for conveying meanings and facilitating social interactions. Language is not just a collection of words but a social semiotic system "conditioned by key aspects of the social context" (Martin & White, 2005, p. 162). Hence, people adjust their linguistic choices by selecting specific vocabularies, modifying structures, or adopting particular tones, depending on language users, their relationships, the type of communication, and the topic being discussed.

With this in mind, legal discourse is a specialized language used within legal settings. It includes both written and spoken communications, such as legislation and courtroom interaction, as well as non-verbal components, like physical evidence and the physical setup of the courtroom (Cheng & Danesi, 2019). As Dai and Zhou observed (2019), the language of law is "a language with special purposes, which is differentiated from the 'ordinary' language in regular use" (p. 1918). More specifically, Richard (2018, as cited in Khafaga, 2023) pointed out that legal discourse includes specific lexis to

convey legal meanings to achieve specific communicative goals in legal contexts. These functions shape legal language to be more precise, formal, and complex, accompanied by special rhetorical strategies. Examining linguistic elements of legal language provides insightful perspectives about the role of language in presenting well-structured legal arguments, and effectively influencing decision-making processes. Adila Hassim's speech, at the International Justice Court (ICJ) in 2023, was a remarkable example of effective legal discourse, demonstrating the power of language to persuade and influence an audience. Her ability to navigate complex issues clearly and concisely made her speech compelling and engaging.

To better understand the context behind Adila Hassim's speech, it's important to shed light on the recent war between Gaza and Israel. On October 7, 2023, the Palestinian armed group Hamas launched multiple attacks against Israel, resulting in the deaths of over 1,400 Israelis and the capture of more than 240 hostages (Wilson et al., 2023). These events have sparked varied global reactions. Some have justified the attacks as retaliation for years of occupation, while others have condemned them, referring to them as the largest-scale massacre of Jews since the Holocaust (Gavrielov, 2023). In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed 'mighty vengeance' against Hamas ('Israel's Netanyahu vows', 2023), leading to a full-scale military response, including airstrikes and a ground invasion of Gaza, which has resulted in over 40,000 casualties (Picheta, 2024).

In light of these events, South Africa accused Israel of committing genocidal acts against civilians, defined by international law as acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group (Berg, 2024). The case was filed against Israel at the ICJ on December 29, 2023. Some of the most prominent international lawyers, including Adila Hassim, represented the South African legal team, which called for provisional measures (Burga, 2024). Remarkably, the case was highly controversial and involved complex issues such as human rights, genocide, and international law, generating significant debate and attention worldwide.

In the court, Hassim delivered a powerful speech, addressing the illegal consequences of the attack on Palestinians. She detailed all the acts conducted by Israel, including, but not limited to, collective slaughter, massive destruction, obstructing humanitarian aid, and forced evacuations to prove Israel's genocidal actions. She emphasized that people in Gaza had been subjected to unprecedented, horrendous conditions of violence, poverty, and a humanitarian crisis, providing a clear picture of the gravity of Palestinians' circumstances. Her speech significantly emphasizes how language impacts emotions and conveys powerful messages. Therefore, this study aims to analyze her speech from the attitudinal perspective of appraisal theory.

According to the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, language involves three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The ideational metafunction construes human experiences, while the interpersonal metafunction focuses on relationships between language users and their audiences. In contrast, the textual metafunction is concerned with a discourse's coherence and cohesion (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Taken together, these three metafunctions "operate simultaneously in all utterances", creating meaning in language (Martin & White, 2005, p. 1). In this regard, appraisal theory is an extension of Halliday's SFL framework, which has built the foundations for analyzing interpersonal interactions (Martin & Rose, 2007). This theory's development can be traced back to Halliday's research on mood and modality, which examined how language conveys interpersonal functions. After 1990, the study of interpersonal meanings shifted to focus on a more lexical approach to analyzing monologic texts. Later, the framework was refined with new

developments and expanded to include various genres such as literary criticism, print media, art criticism, administrative discourse, and history discourse (Martin & White, 2005).

Appraisal theory is a lexicogrammar resource of words, phrases, and structures that contribute to constructing interpersonal meanings alongside involvement and negotiation. As Martin and White (2005) stated, appraisal theory aims to understand “how evaluation is established, amplified, targeted and sourced” (p. 9). Specifically, it examines how language, both directly and indirectly, is used to negotiate and express attitudes, feelings, and evaluations about people, events, and phenomena. This comprehensive framework offers a systemic approach of linguistic resources to adopt stances, create identities, and navigate interpersonal relationships. Ultimately, it highlights the role of language as a social activity tool influenced by context, where speakers/writers strategically select linguistic choices to establish alignment with their audience/readers, shape their perception, and consequently impact their decisions (Martin & White, 2005; Martin & Rose, 2007).

The appraisal system divides the evaluative meanings into three categories. Among them is engagement, which refers to creating a sense of solidarity through resources such as modality and projection. Then, graduation reflects the scale of intensifying evaluations. Attitude, which is the focus of this paper, is defined as “the indication of whether the speaker thinks that something (a person, thing, action, event, situation, idea, etc.) is good or bad” (Thompson, 2014, p. 80). It focuses on writers' or speakers' language choices to convey their feelings, pass their judgments, and evaluate things, people, events, and situations. It goes beyond emotions to include more comprehensive feelings, involving three subsystems: affect, judgment, and appreciation, which can be expressed positively or negatively (Martin & White, 2005). The taxonomy of appraisal theory is illustrated in Figure 1:

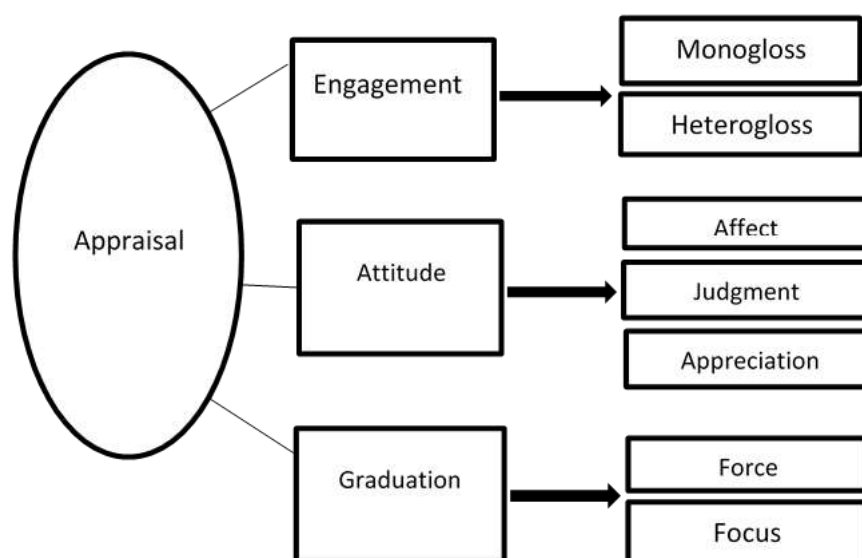


Figure 1. Appraisal Resources (adapted from Martin & White, 2005, p. 38).

To elaborate further, affect focuses on how the appraiser conveys his/her feelings (Thompson, 2014). It aims to evoke empathy among readers and audiences and then emotionally connect with them. These emotions are categorized into un/happiness, dis/satisfaction, in/security, and dis/inclination. Judgment involves assessing and evaluating an individual's behavior according to ethical principles, social

norms, and expectations. It includes two types: social esteem and social sanctions. Judgment of esteem includes normality, capacity, and tenacity. Normality assesses how usual an individual's behavior is; capacity refers to their ability; and tenacity concerns their resolution. In contrast, judgment of sanction encompasses evaluations of veracity (honesty) and propriety (upholding morals and ethical values). On the other hand, appreciation, the aesthetic evaluation of artifacts, objects, texts, and processes, has three categories. Reaction assesses impact (how attention-grabbing) and quality (attributes influencing feelings). Composition examines balance (object consistency) and complexity (ease/difficulty). Valuation assesses social value (Martin & White, 2005).

Having explored the individual categories within appraisal theory, it is essential to recognize their interconnected nature. Figure 2 illustrates the relationship between the three subtypes of appraisal theory. It suggests that judgment and appreciation are closely related, although they function differently as distinct concepts. Crucially, both of them are considered institutionalized feelings, extending beyond personal opinion to include social rules and values, with affect as a core component of both (Martin & White, 2005).

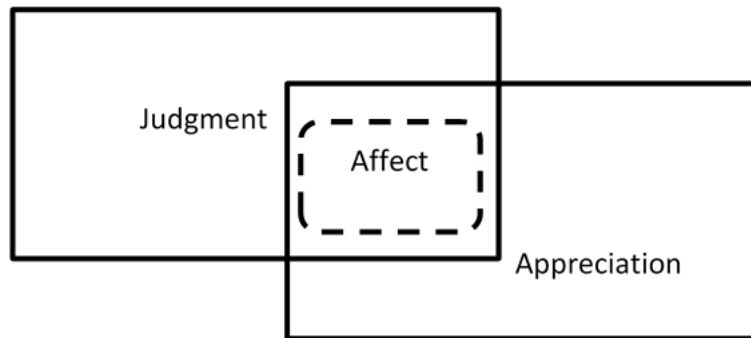


Figure 2. Judgment and appreciation as institutionalized affect (Adapted from Martin & White, 2005, p. 45).

Scholars have used this framework to examine how language is applied in courtrooms to persuade audiences in various legal contexts. For example, Deuna and Ballesteros-Lintao (2022) conducted a study to analyze the use of evaluative language in a Philippine drug trial using the appraisal framework. The study found that the most common attitudinal subtype of evaluation was judgment, particularly in assessing witness credibility and reliability. Appreciation was also used to evaluate the quality of evidence and arguments. Affect, however, was the least used subtype to maintain a formal and neutral tone. Similarly, Shi's (2018) study analyzed attitude expressions in Chinese courtroom discourse using transcripts from eight trials. It concluded that judgment was the most used element to influence the court's decision, followed by appreciation, with affect being the least used to maintain a sense of neutrality. Moreover, Dai and Zhou (2019) used the case of Steven Avery as an example of how appraisal theory can be employed in criminal court discourse. The study found that engagement resources were most prominent, highlighting court language's communicative and persuasive functions.

The application of appraisal theory to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has also provided important insights into how language shapes and influences public opinions. For instance, Anshary et al. (2024) investigated how news media use language to influence audiences' perceptions. The study focused on

two media sources—Al Jazeera and BBC—and examined their discourse strategy to convey specific viewpoints on the bombing of a school in Gaza, using the attitude framework. The findings implied that Al-Jazeera openly adopted an evaluative stance, whereas BBC avoided making explicit judgments, suggesting a more objective tone. Further, Chalimah et al. (2018) addressed the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from the perspective of religious discrimination. The study aimed to analyze a CNN news article, focusing on affect. The findings revealed that negative emotions were the most prominent, aiming to evoke the readers' feelings. In the same vein, Warshagha et al. (2024) conducted a study examining the language choices of Al Jazeera English and The Washington Post to represent the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The results showed that both media outlets used emotional language to provoke instead of informing.

Despite the crucial role of legal discourse in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it has received limited scholarly attention. A recent study by Fauziah and Simatupang (2024) analyzed Adila Hassim's speech at the ICJ, focusing on the roles of transitivity processes in conveying a compelling argument. However, this current study addresses a notable gap in the literature by combining two key areas of research: legal discourse analysis and the Israeli-Palestinian. In contrast to previous studies that have explored these areas independently, this research offers a novel dimension by applying appraisal theory to a legal discourse within the context of this complex conflict, with the aid of UAM Corpus Tool 3.3v. This study intends to analyze the attitudinal language in Adila Hassim's speech. It specifically aims to identify the most frequent type of attitudinal resources and assess their impact on the speech. Furthermore, the study will analyze the dominant polarity system within the speech to understand its influence on the speaker's message and examine how these attitudinal resources are realized throughout the speech.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

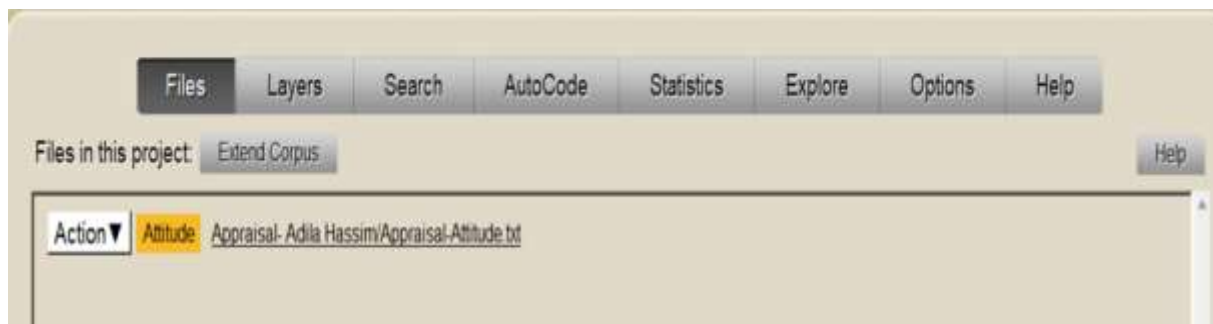
This study applied appraisal theory (Martin & White, 2005) as its theoretical framework to identify and analyze the subtypes of attitude (affect, judgment, and appreciation) in Adila Hassim's speech at the International Court of Justice. Based on the characteristics of this study, a mixed-methods approach was used to address the research questions. The quantitative data, consisting of distributions of three sub-systems of attitudinal resources and their polarity, were generated using the UAM Corpus Tool 3.3v. According to Creswell (2007, as cited in Adriyadi et al., 2020), a qualitative approach is useful for investigating how people express meanings related to social or human issues. Therefore, a qualitative analysis was also conducted to identify the types of analyzed attitudinal resources, exploring the meanings behind the evaluative utterances and how they function within the speech.

Data Collection

The data for this study is the text of Adila Hassim's speech at the International Court of Justice hearings on January 10, 2023, as mentioned in the introduction. The speech, comprising 2392 words, was accessed from <https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/icj-hearing-the-south-african-case-in-full/>. As the speech is publicly available, its use for research raises no ethical concerns. The Analysis

The Analysis

To begin the analysis, the text was first uploaded to UAM Corpus software. After incorporating the file, a new layer was added, and manual annotation was chosen to analyze the evaluative resources in the speech. Specifically, the built-in manual Attitude Scheme was chosen for the analysis. First, the button [Attitude] was clicked to start the annotation, as shown in Figure 3.



As shown in Figure 4, the three boxes were the main tools for manual

Figure 3. The Layer for Annotation annotation. The first box on the left displays the Appraisal Type [Attitude], which was assigned to the layer for annotation. The next box includes the Attitudinal Subtypes: [Affect, Judgment, Appreciation]. The last box, labelled [Gloss], provides a brief explanation of the chosen item in the middle box. To annotate a segment in the text (e.g., privilege), the Attitude type was clicked in the middle box, and various features were then assigned to that segment and so on. To generate numerical results, the button [Statistics] was clicked.

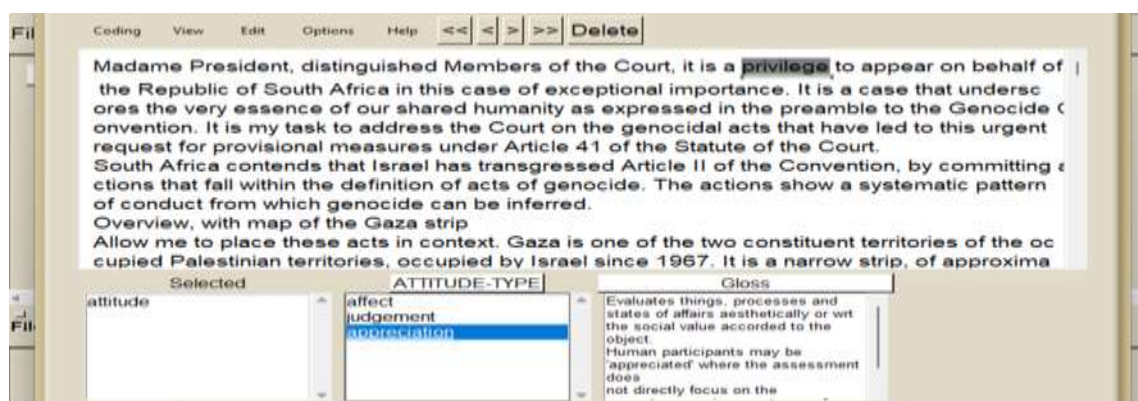


Figure 4. The Code-document Window

The analysis focused on the realization of interpersonal meanings through words and phrases, examining the speech sentence by sentence to identify expressed attitudes. After completing the manual annotation, the annotated elements were thoroughly checked. Based on these results, conclusions were drawn and discussed in detail.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of the analysis with related discussions. It summarizes the frequencies and distributions of the appraisal elements in the data, focusing on the attitude subsystems (affect, judgment, and appreciation) and their polarity (positive, negative, and neutral). It also explains how

the evaluative elements are realized and how the speaker employed these patterns to establish the alleged war crimes of genocide.

Figure 5 illustrates the distribution of attitudinal resources identified in the speech, showing a total of 151 attitudinal stances. As discussed earlier, appraisal theory examines how language expresses emotions, assessments, and evaluations to create interpersonal meanings. In this case, judgmental assessments were used more frequently than emotional and aesthetic responses, which conforms with Deuna and Ballesteros-Lintao (2022) and Shi's (2018) findings, emphasizing a focus on evaluating behavior to determine accountability.

| Feature | N | Percent |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Total Units | 151 | |
| ATTITUDE-TYPE | N=151 | |
| - affect | 40 | 26.49% |
| - judgement | 88 | 58.28% |
| - appreciation | 23 | 15.23% |

Figure 5. Attitude Resources Distribution

More specifically, judgment stances account for 58.28% of the total findings, followed by affect (26.49%) and appreciation (15.23%). This prioritization of judgment over affect and appreciation highlights the speaker's strategy in evaluating the actions of the Israeli military, emphasizing the importance of behavior assessment in proving genocidal intent. By focusing on judgment, Hassim sought to create feelings of disapproval and build a persuasive case for legal condemnation, thus positioning the audience to consider Israel's actions negatively. This aligns with the speaker's aim to hold Israel accountable for the alleged war crimes in Gaza.

Moreover, negative polarity accounts for 142 data units, as shown in Figure 6. This negativity is mainly expressed through judgmental and emotionally charged assessments, underscoring the severity of the accusations against Israel. By revealing the suffering faced by the Palestinian people, the speaker aimed to evoke sympathy and urge the ICJ and the international community to take immediate action. This could include ordering Israel to halt its military assault on Gaza and providing humanitarian aid to the victims.

| Feature | N | Percent |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Total Units | 142 | |
| ATTITUDE-TYPE | N=142 | |
| - affect | 39 | 27.46% |
| - judgement | 88 | 61.97% |
| - appreciation | 15 | 10.56% |

Figure 6. Distribution of Attitude Polarity

The Analysis of Judgment Resources

Tokens of judgment “deals with attitudes towards behavior, which we admire or criticize, praise or condemn” (Martin & White, 2005, p. 42). Hassim's speech, focused on exposing the Israeli army's alleged illegal actions, contained 88 instances of judgment (see Table 1). All judgmental lexis expressed negative sentiments towards Israel; no positive judgments were present. Further analysis reveals that negative propriety was the most frequent category (83 instances), followed by negative veracity (4 instances) and negative capacity (1 instance). Normality and tenacity were not represented; as personal qualities are irrelevant in such a legal context. Notably, the heavy use of social sanction assessments indicates that the speaker was primarily concerned with the unacceptable actions of Israel, implying a need for accountability and punishment for those actions.

Table 1. Distribution of Judgment Subtypes and Polarity

| Attitude | Subtypes | Feelings | Frequency |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Judgment | Normality | + | 0 |
| | | - | 0 |
| | Capacity | + | 0 |
| | | - | 1 |
| | Tenacity | + | 0 |
| | | - | 0 |
| | Veracity | + | 0 |
| | | - | 4 |
| | Propriety | + | 0 |
| | | - | 83 |
| Total | | | 88 |

Specifically, Hassim focused on the actions of the Israeli military, suggesting that Israel was not merely fighting Hamas but intentionally carrying out mass killings to eliminate innocent civilians in Gaza. This particular emphasis on judgment contributes to raising public awareness, garnering support for humanitarian efforts, and holding Israel accountable for the alleged war crimes. For more understanding, see the stances below:

(1) *...committing actions that fall within the definition of acts of genocide.*

[judgment: negative: propriety]

In this instance, the manifestation of judgment is realized through the phrase “acts of genocide”, representing negative propriety. By asserting that Israeli actions constitute genocide under the Genocide Convention, the speaker implied a deliberate intent to destroy Gaza.

(2) *Palestinians in Gaza are being killed by Israeli weaponry and bombs from air, land, and sea.*

[judgment: negative: propriety]

The word “killed” expresses judgment, specifically criticism, highlighting the horrific situation in Gaza. It directly targets the killing of innocent civilians through various lethal attacks from air, land, and sea. The speaker emphasized the different patterns of violence, stating that Palestinians were surrounded by death, resulting in escalating casualties.

(3) *Hundreds of multigenerational families have been wiped out, with no remaining survivors.*

[judgment: negative: propriety]

In this example, the phrase "wiped out, no remaining survivors" expresses negative propriety, condemning Israel's military offensive in Gaza. This metaphor emphasizes the devastating loss of entire multigenerational families, suggesting the extensive killing and a deliberate strategy to inflict irreparable harm on the Palestinians.

(4) *Children are arrested, blindfolded, forced to undress and loaded onto trucks, taken to unknown locations.* *[judgment: negative: propriety]*

The above example is characterized by a judgmental stance, reflecting negative propriety. The speaker detailed another crime committed by Israel, claiming that Palestinian children had been subjected to abduction, abuse, and imprisonment. This grave human rights violation implies genocidal intent, as defined by the Genocide Convention.

(5) *Israel has deliberately imposed conditions on Gaza that cannot sustain life.* *[judgment: negative: propriety]*

In this example, the phrase "deliberately imposed" articulates a negative judgment against the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Hassim mentioned a form of illegal actions committed by Israel, highlighting their alleged systematic imposition of harmful and disastrous conditions intended to annihilate the people of Gaza.

(6) *The destruction is celebrated by the Israeli army.* *[judgment: negative: propriety]*

In this excerpt, judgment is realized through the word "celebrated", which implicitly conveys a sense of negative propriety. Hassim exposed Israeli soldiers and expressed her condemnation of their reaction to the destruction caused by their strikes, suggesting that their behavior is immoral and unethical.

(7) *Israel continues to impede the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to Palestinians.*

[judgment: negative: propriety]

The speaker condemned the IDF's continued blockage of aid to Gaza, using the word "impede" to express negative judgment. This implies a strategy to systematically starve and deprive Palestinians of basic necessities.

(8) *Israel's military assault on Gaza's healthcare system, which renders life unsustainable.* *[judgment: negative: propriety]*

The phrase exemplifies negative propriety, highlighting the IDF's alleged violation of humanitarian law by deliberately targeting Gaza's healthcare system. This has resulted in mass deaths, suffering, and the destruction of civilians' ability to survive, placing them under threat of death and emphasizing the dreadful conditions imposed upon them.

(9) *These bombs have also decimated the North, including refugee camps.* *[judgment: negative: veracity]*

The sentence indirectly judges the IDF's veracity, condemning their deceptive actions and violation of international law. Hassim noted that even Palestinian refugees were victims of IDF bombings, underscoring the widespread destruction and harm inflicted on vulnerable people in refugee camps.

(10) *Israel designating safe zones for Palestinians to seek refuge and then bombing these. [judgment: negative: veracity]*

The above sentence expresses a judgmental stance, classified as a negative judgment of veracity. Hassim exposed the immoral actions committed by the Israeli troops toward Palestinians. She indicated that even the safe zones designated by Israel were not secure for displaced people, who were still being bombed and killed there, emphasizing Israel's dishonesty during this war.

The Analysis of Affect Resources

Affect, the next attitude to be discussed, conveys an “emotive dimension of meaning”, reflecting the speaker’s emotions (Martin & White, 2005, p. 42). Table 2 shows a total of 40 instances of emotional affect units in the data. Negative affect resources constituted a greater amount of polarity compared to positive ones, aiming to significantly influence global perceptions. The negative resources prevailed at 97.5%, whereas the positive ones accounted for 2.5%. The speech vividly portrayed the intolerable suffering of Palestinians, with insecurity and unhappiness appearing 25 and 13 times, respectively. These frequent occurrences reveal the horrific consequences of Israel's attack on Gaza. By highlighting the negative impacts on people's well-being and safety, Hassim aimed to evoke empathy and emphatically underscore the severity of the situation.

Table 1. Distribution of Affect Subtypes & Polarity

| Attitude | Subtypes | Feelings | Frequency | |
|----------|------------------|----------|-----------|----|
| Affect | Un/happiness | + | 0 | |
| | | - | 13 | |
| | In/security | + | 0 | |
| | | - | 25 | |
| | Dis/satisfaction | + | 1 | |
| | | - | 1 | |
| | Dis/inclination | + | 0 | |
| | | - | 0 | |
| | Total | | | 40 |

The findings indicate a strong emotional charge, as the speaker attempted to vividly convey feelings of deep concern and dismay to the international community, thereby gaining the audience’s understanding and empathy. In other words, adding an emotional dimension to the legal arguments contributes to establishing emotional connections, and then triggering a response and garnering support for the victims. This is consistent with Thompson's (2014) observation that speakers and writers use “linguistic resources to negotiate evaluations with their addressees and to construct solidarity around shared values” (p. 80). The following are examples of affect items:

(1) *Nowhere is safe in Gaza [affect: negative: insecurity: disquiet]*

In Example 1, affect appraisal is depicted through the phrase “nowhere is safe”, serving as a source of insecurity. It demonstrates the extent of danger and lack of safety in Gaza and how the war posed threats to Palestinians’ well-being. The speaker highlighted the extreme vulnerability faced by the civilians, evoking a sense of urgency, fear, and distress.

(2) *The suffering of the Palestinian people—physical and mental—is undeniable.*

[affect: negative: unhappiness: misery]

The words “suffering” and “undeniable”, in Example 2, express negative affect (misery), highlighting the evident and indisputable pain of the Palestinian people, both physical and mental. This reflects the speaker's sadness and grief, emphasizing the deliberate harm inflicted upon them by Israel.

(3) *Families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety. [affect: negative: insecurity: disquiet]*
In this stance, affect is realized through the words “forced” and “in search of safety. It highlights the emotional and physical suffering of repeatedly displaced families. The speaker emphasized the instability and inability to settle, implying widespread danger and frequent displacement.

(4) *Palestinians in Gaza are subjected to relentless bombing wherever they go. [affect: negative: insecurity: disquiet]*
In this excerpt, affect appraisal is realized through the phrase “relentless bombing. It is classified as a recourse of insecurity, highlighting the intensity and permanence of the bombardment across Gaza. This underscores the lack of safety for civilians, exposing them to fear and panic and implying a continuous threat and anxiety.

(5) *What is provided is simply not enough. [affect: negative: dissatisfaction: displeasure]*
The phrase "not enough" shows a negative emotional stance, highlighting the humanitarian crisis threatening the survival of people in Gaza. Hassim expressed feelings of dissatisfaction about the inadequate aid due to the Israeli blockade. She implied that a deliberate deprivation strategy was potentially aimed at increasing Palestinian suffering, deprivation, or even death.

(6) *Leaving large numbers of children orphaned. [affect: negative: unhappiness: misery]*
The word “orphaned” conveys a negative emotional stance, representing unhappiness and triggering deep feelings of misery. It highlights the tragic consequence of the Israeli atrocities, evoking feelings of loss, grief, and vulnerability. The speaker made an emotional appeal to effectively engage the audience's emotions, conveying sorrow for the painful condition in which the people of Gaza are trapped.

The Analysis of Appreciation Resources

Turning to appreciation, Table 3 illustrates the distribution and polarity of the appreciation subtypes in the analyzed data, showing the frequencies of evaluative language to assess objects, events, and phenomena. Over the whole speech, appreciation elements make up the least share among all attitudinal resources, with a frequency of 23 times. Regarding the key categories of appreciation, reaction occurred more frequently than composition and value, appearing 12 times.

Table 2. Distribution of Appreciation Subtypes and Polarity

| Attitude | Subtypes | Feelings | Frequency |
|--------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| Appreciation | Reaction | + | 3 |
| | | - | 9 |
| | Composition | + | 0 |
| | | - | 6 |
| | Social evaluation | + | 5 |
| | | - | 0 |
| Total | | | 23 |

Considering the data presented, the dominance of negative choices in the appreciation subtypes emphasizes the purpose of the speaker to demonstrate tangible consequences of the Israeli army's actions; and therefore connect with the audience on a deeper level by triggering feelings of empathy, outrage, and shock. This emotional engagement is pivotal in persuading the audience to comprehend the severity of the situation in Gaza. The following sentences include the use of appreciation in the speech:

(1) *Gaza's healthcare system ... is unable to cope with the sheer scale of the injuries. [appreciation: negative reaction: quality]*

In this statement, appreciation is determined by the lexis "unable to cope", which suggests a meaning of negative quality. The speaker referred to the total collapse of the healthcare system due to its severely limited capacity to treat an extremely large number of injured victims. This implies the scale of the intensive attacks on civilians, which caused the system to function ineffectively.

(2) *Shelters that have long exceeded their full capacity. [appreciation: negative reaction: quality]*

In Example 2, the phrase "exceeded their full capacity" falls under the category of appreciation subsystem. As a result of the massive strikes on Gaza, a large number of civilians had left their homes, struggling to find safe zones to hide. Consequently, shelters were overcrowded and functioned beyond their capacity. To clarify the horrendous situation, the speaker assessed the quality of shelters, focusing on their adequacy or shortcomings.

(3) *You think getting aid into Gaza is easy? [appreciation: negative composition: complexity]*

The above instance is an appreciative structure, evaluating the situation in Gaza regarding its complexity. This implies the difficulty in delivering aid to Gaza because of the Israeli siege that largely restricts access. The use of a rhetorical question emphasizes that the situation is not as easy as it seems, highlighting the complexity level, which likely involves many obstacles, challenges, and barriers.

(4) *Poor communications. Damaged roads. [appreciation: negative reaction: quality]*

In this excerpt, the adjectives “poor” and “damaged” stand as appreciation resources, reflecting a sense of negative quality. Hassim revealed the severe isolation in Gaza as a result of the breakdown in communication and infrastructure, suggesting the inability to contact the outside world and making it even harder to get help.

CONCLUSION

While previous studies analyzed particular types of discourse, this study focused specifically on legal speech by examining how Adila Hassim used affective expressions, judgmental evaluations, and appreciative language to inspire the audience. It provided valuable insights into how she attempted to build rapport, align with her audience, and persuade them to see the situation in Gaza through her perspective.

The findings showed that Hassim strategically employed judgmental language to condemn Israel's actions, evoke a moral reaction from the audience, and build a case for legal accountability. The dominance of negative elements in her speech emphasizes the seriousness of the accusations, demonstrating that Israel's actions were not merely unintended consequences of war, but deliberate acts intended to destroy the Palestinian population in Gaza. Essentially, these linguistic choices in the speech shape the overall tone of her message.

The significance of analyzing Hassim's speech provides a deeper understanding of how she carefully chose particular linguistic items to sway the audience to her side, demonstrating how appraisal theory can be used to understand the persuasive strategies, ideological positioning, and emotional appeals in legal arguments related to this conflict. Overall, demonstrating its applicability to a complex and sensitive case like this can highlight its potential for uncovering hidden meanings and persuasive strategies in legal communication.

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