

LINGUISTICS AND VIETNAMESE LINGUISTICS

COMPARISON OF THE APPRAISAL LANGUAGE “ATTITUDE” IN COMMENTARIES ON THE ISSUE OF “PEOPLE AND WORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19” IN *TUOI TRE* AND *NHAN DAN* NEWSPAPERS

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ABSTRACT: Appraisal Theory was proposed by Halliday, later by J.R. Martin and P.R.R. White inherited and developed in “The language of evaluation - appraisal in English” (2005) which increasingly claimed its potential in discourse analysis studies. This study applies Appraisal theory to identify and interpret the system of Affect of the evaluator (author and non-author) on the issue of People and work in the fight against Covid-19 in Tuoi Tre and Nhan Dan newspapers. The research results show that authors of Nhan dan newspaper exhibit less subjective emotion in their commentary articles compared to authors of Tuoi tre newspaper. Furthermore, the findings also reveal the influence of contextual factors (such as the guiding principles and objectives of the two newspapers, as well as the topic of the texts) on evaluative language (at the discourse level) from the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics.

KEY WORDS: Appraisal; attitude; affect; judgement; appreciation.

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1. Introduction

Appraisal Theory is a new approach to analyzing people’s opinions, evaluations, attitudes, and feelings toward entities, individuals, issues, events, topics, and their attributes. Most studies applying appraisal theory focus on realizing the polarity of attitudes, that is, studying whether texts reveal positive or negative attitudes toward the issue being discussed. Appraisal theory has been applied in research in many languages such as English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Japanese, etc. In Vietnam, the application of appraisal language theory to research is quite new, especially in the field of journalism.

The Covid-19 pandemic has passed, but its echoes still remain in the minds of all people living in this dark period. Those echoes can be the image of medical workers fighting day and night to save the lives of infected people; it can also be the chaos and confusion of the whole country, even the whole world when facing such a strange and complicated epidemic for the first time; it can also be the sharing of people with each other, helping each other survive the terrifying days; it can also be the stains caused by a group of greedy, inhuman people who want to profit from the lives of their compatriots. At this time, a series of articles have commented on our country’s fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

In this article, we focused on examining commentaries on the issue of *People and work in the fight against Covid-19* in *Tuoi Tre* and *Nhan Dan* newspapers to both examine society's attitude towards the fight against Covid-19 and compare the way the two newspapers, *Tuoi Tre* and *Nhan Dan*, expressed their attitudes.

2. Theoretical Background

Appraisal Theory is a theory developed based on the theoretical model of systemic functional linguistics. The appraisal framework of this theory is a functional model with interpersonal meaning at the level of discourse semantics. Martin & White (2005) asserted that “an approach to exploring, describing and explaining the way language is used to evaluate, to adopt stances, to construct textual personas and to manage interpersonal positionings and relationships.” (Martin & White 2005: 1). They classified the appraisal framework into three subsystems: *Attitude*, *Graduation* and

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Engagement. Due to the limited length of the article, in this article, we only focus on studying the *Attitude*.

Attitude refers to emotional evaluation, including: *Affect*, *Judgement* and *Appreciation* (Martin & White 2005: 35).

- *Affect*: refers to the expression of positive or negative moods and feelings towards ongoing actions or towards surrounding entities. *Affect* is divided into four subsystems: disclination/inclination, unhappiness/happiness, insecurity/security, and dissatisfaction/satisfaction:

Disclination/inclination includes emotions related to wishes and desires, e.g., *miss*, *wish*, *long for/neglect*, *reject*, *ignore*.

Unhappiness/happiness includes emotions related to “things of the heart”, e.g., *appiness*, *smile*, *joy/sadness*, *hate*, *cry*.

Insecurity/security includes emotions related to “social security issues”, e.g., *confidence*, *trust/anxiety*, *scare*, *apprehension*.

Dissatisfaction/satisfaction includes emotions related to “goal pursuit”, e.g. *attention*, *satisfaction*, *comfort/discomfort*, *restlessness*, *boredom*.

- *Judgement*: relates to the attitude towards the behavior of the object that we admire or criticize, praise or condemn. *Judgement* is divided into 2 groups: *social esteems* and *social sanctions*. *Social esteems* include: Normality, Capacity, Tenacity. Normality: evaluates how special/unusual the object is (e.g. *fashionable/outdated*). Capacity: evaluates how capable the object is (e.g. *skilled/inexperienced*). Tenacity: is the object persistent/determined to do something? (e.g. *persistent/give up*). *Social sanctions* include: Veracity and Propriety. Veracity: is the object honest? (e.g. *honest/deceitful*). Propriety: concerned with issues of moral and legal standards (e.g. *moral*, *law-abiding/immoral*, *corrupt*).

- *Appreciation*: according to Martin & White (2005), is “our evaluations of ‘things’, especially things we make and performances we give, but also including natural phenomena – what such things are worth (how we value them).” (Martin & White 2005, p. 56). *Appreciation* is divided into three categories: Reaction, Composition and Valuation. Reaction is related to the impact of things and phenomena on the emotions of the evaluating subject. Composition is the subject’s evaluation of the structure of things and phenomena in two aspects: balance and complexity. Valuation is the evaluation of the value of things and phenomena, answering the question of whether they are valuable or beneficial.

This is the Appraisal linguistic framework for Attitude according to the general systemic functional linguistics proposed by Martin and White. However, due to the influence of the origin and purpose of evaluation, appraisal languages of Attitude in different text genres appearing at different times will be different.

3. Sources of data and research methods

3.1. Sources of data

Data of the study were 24 commentaries on the issue of *People and work in the fight against Covid-19* in *Nhan Dan newspaper* (section: *Think together*) and *Tuoi Tre newspaper* (section: *news and thoughts*), from December 2021 to June 2022, including:

Table 1. List of commentaries on the issue of “People and work in the fight against Covid-19” in *Tuoi Tre* and *Nhan Dan newspapers*

No.	Name of commentaries	Authors	Source
1.	Trở lại phải hơn trước (Come back and must be better)	Trần Hoàng Ngân	Tuoi tre, 01/01/2022
2.	Áo giáp 3 lớp sống “bình thường mới” (The 3-layer armor to live in the “new normal”)	Lan Anh	Tuoi tre, 03/01/2022
3.	Không để tiêu cực ẩn nấp trong “vùng covid” (Don’t let negativity lurk in the “covid zone”)	Lê Kiên	Tuoi tre, 6/1/2022

4.	“Trăm hoa đua nở” không hợp lý (The unreasonable "Let a hundred flowers bloom")	Nguyễn Sĩ Dũng	Tuoi tre, 19/1/2022
5.	Họ đã chiến đấu vì tổ quốc (They fought for the country)	Nguyễn Minh Hòa	Tuoi tre, 20/1/2022
6.	Tự tin mở cửa (Open the door with confidence)	Trần Ngọc Thơ	Tuoi tre, 28/1/2022
7.	Cần tự tin, tình hình đã khác (Be confident, things have changed)	Nguyễn Sĩ Dũng	Tuoi tre, 12/2/2022
8.	Thay đổi “bản tin đếm ca” (Change the “case-counting bulletins”)	L.Anh – D.Liêu	Tuoi tre, 7/3/2022
9.	Có “vũ khí” thì hãy tung ra sớm (If you have a "weapon", use it early)	Lan Anh	Tuoi tre, 11/3/2022
10.	Thay đổi quan điểm chống dịch (Changes in the epidemic fighting perspective)	Lan Anh	Tuoi tre, 24/3/2022
11.	Những chuyến bay giải cứu (Rescue flights)	Lê Đức Dục	Tuoi tre, 16/4/2022
12.	Hai năm đi qua và hai tiếng “gia đình” (Two years passed and the word "family")	Trần Thanh	Tuoi tre, 26/6/2022
13.	Tiếp tục đẩy mạnh tiêm vắc-xin (Keep promoting vaccination)	Thanh Mai	Nhan dan, 15/12/2021
14.	“Chia lửa” với tuyến đầu chống dịch ("Sharing the fire" with the front line against the epidemic)	Linh Phan	Nhan dan, 21/12/2021
15.	Tăng cường “vắc-xin ý thức” (promote the "awareness vaccine")	Thành Nam	Nhan dan, 27/12/2021
16.	Nỗ lực hơn nữa trong cuộc chiến chống covid-19 (More efforts in the fight against covid-19)	Minh Hoàng	Nhan dan, 7/1/2022
17.	Mở rộng vùng xanh (Expanding green zones)	Minh Hoàng	Nhan dan, 18/1/2022
18.	Khắc phục sớm việc trên “mở” dưới “đóng” (Promptly solve the state of "open" above but "closed" below)	Quang Đông	Nhan dan, 20/1/2022
19.	Thích ứng an toàn (Safe adaptation)	Minh Hoàng	Nhan dan, 18/2/2022
20.	Cần sớm đưa bộ xét nghiệm vào mặt hàng bình ổn giá (Testing kits should soon be included in the price stabilization list)	Trung Hiếu	Nhan dan, 24/2/2022
21.	Không được đánh mất niềm tin (Don't lose faith)	Thành Nam	Nhan dan, 25/2/2022
22.	Nhịp sống bình thường mới đang trở lại (The new normal is returning)	Tô Hà	Nhan dan, 26/2/2022
23.	Chủ động chống dịch (Proactively fight the epidemic)	Trung Hiếu	Nhan dan, 9/5/2022
24.	Đừng chủ quan trong phòng, chống dịch (No subjectivity in disease prevention and control)	Trung Hiếu	Nhan dan, 4/6/2022

The above commentaries in the “*Nhan Dan*” newspaper were all written during the time when the whole world, including Vietnam, was facing the Covid-19 epidemic.

3.2. Research methods

We used descriptive method with qualitative and quantitative analysis. Quantitative data were used for interpretation of the frequency of use of linguistic means expressing Attitude systems.

4. Research results

4.1. Overview

Surveying 24 commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 (12 commentaries in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, 12 commentaries in *Nhan Dan* newspaper), we obtained the following general results:

Table 2. Survey results of types of “Attitude” in commentaries on the issue of “People and work in the fight against Covid-19” in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper

Attitude	Polarity				Total	
	Positivity (+)		Negativity (-)			
	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Affect	34	18.18%	36	19.25%	70	37.43%
Judgement	25	13.37%	33	17.65%	58	31.02%
Appreciation	26	13.9%	33	17.65%	59	31.55%
Total	85	45.45%	102	54.55%	187	100%

Table 3. Survey results of types of “Attitude” in commentaries on the issue of “People and work in the fight against Covid-19” in *Nhan Dan* newspaper

Attitude	Polarity				Total	
	Positivity (+)		Negativity (-)			
	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Affect	29	17.79%	24	14.73%	53	32.52%
Judgement	39	23.92%	35	21.48%	74	45.4%
Appreciation	10	6.13%	26	15.95%	36	22.08%
Total	78	47.85%	85	52.15%	163	100%

Based on the survey results in tables 2 and 3, it could be seen that *Attitude* in commentaries appeared more frequently in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper than in *Nhan Dan* newspaper.

The similarity between the two newspapers was that the *Attitude* system appeared in both poles: positivity and negativity. In which, negativity had a higher rate than positivity.

Regarding the differences, the frequency and proportion between the *Attitude* subsystems of the two newspapers were not similar. Of the total 187 expressions of *Attitude* in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, *Affect* appeared the most (37.43%), *Appreciation* ranked second (31.55%), and then *Judgement* (31.02%). As for *Nhan Dan* newspaper, *Judgement* appeared the most (45.4%), followed by *Affect* (32.52%) and *Appreciation* (22.08%). This showed that, in the issue of fighting Covid-19, the authors of *Nhan Dan* newspaper often focused on making comments about people and ways to fight the epidemic more than expressing emotions. On the contrary, the authors of *Tuoi Tre* newspaper expressed their own emotions as well as the emotions of people living in this dark period rather than evaluating people and the work of fighting the epidemic. These differences stemmed from the principles and ways of choosing content to write articles of the two newspapers. In this regard, *Nhan Dan* newspaper chose commentaries on the country's anti-epidemic policies and methods, because its mission was to orient and disseminate the Party and State's viewpoints to the people. As for *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, in addition to its mission of dissemination, orienting and setting an example, its outstanding mission was to highlight the concerns and “hot” issues of society, therefore, commentaries on this issue in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper often focused on people's emotions and desires when facing the epidemic.

4.2. Appraisal language of Attitude in commentaries on the issue of "People and work in the fight against Covid-19" in Tuoi Tre newspaper

*The subsystem Affect

Surveying 12 commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, we obtained the following results on the subsystem *Affect*:

Table 4. Survey results of the subsystem *Affect* in commentaries on the issue of "People and work in the fight against Covid-19" in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper

Types of Affect	Polarity				Total	
	Positivity (+)		Negativity (-)			
	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Inclination	22	11.76%	2	1.07%	24	12.83%
Happiness	10	5.35%	13	6.95%	23	12.3%
Security	2	1.07%	15	8.02%	17	9.09%
Satisfaction	0	0%	6	3.21%	6	3.21%
Total	34	18.18%	36	19.25%	70	37.43%

According to the results of Table 4, *Inclination* was the most common type of *Affect* (12.83%). These were people's wishes and hopes for a "new normal" life after the Covid-19 pandemic. *Happiness* had the second highest rate (12.3%). People were happy to survive the pandemic and could start a new life, but they were also anxious, scared, and hurt by the huge consequences that the pandemic had caused to people. Next was *Security* (9.09%) and finally *Satisfaction* (3.21%). People felt scared and worried about their own lives and their families' lives during the pandemic when there was no cure or effective measures to prevent it; they felt indignant when some people took advantage of the pandemic situation to benefit themselves. That was the reason why negativity appeared much more than positivity in these two types of *Affect*. For example:

(1) *With the medicine, hopefully it will end the situation where many families are "hungry for medicine" to treat COVID-19 and have to buy hand-goods medicine at high prices.* (*Tuoi Tre*, January 3, 2022)

(Có thuốc, hy vọng sẽ chấm dứt tình trạng nhiều gia đình "đói thuốc" trị COVID-19 phải tự tìm mua thuốc theo đường xách tay với giá cao.)

(2) *Happy as such but they are also burdened with worries, such as what will happen after Tet, will they return to the factory or stay at their hometown, what will their income be...?* (*Tuoi Tre*, January 28, 2022)

(Vui là thế nhưng họ cũng nặng trĩu nỗi lo, như sau Tết sẽ ra sao, trở lại nhà máy hay ở quê, thu nhập ra sao...?)

(3) *It is the return and reliance on one's own family, one's own husband/wife, parents or children when we are insecure and all the fun outside the door is temporarily closed.* (*Tuoi Tre*, June 26, 2022)

(Đó là sự quay về và tựa nương vào chính gia đình, vào chính chồng/vợ mình, vào cha mẹ hay con trẻ giữa lúc chúng ta bất an và mọi cuộc vui bên-ngoài-cánh-cửa tạm thời khép lại.)

(4) *We cannot accept a "lockdown" situation for any reason.* (*Tuoi Tre*, January 28, 2022)

(Chúng ta không thể chấp nhận tình trạng "khóa cửa" vì bất kỳ lý do gì.)

Table 5. Example analysis of the subsystem *Affect*

Ex.	Subjects	Expressive language	Types of Affect	Explanation
(1)	Authors	Hope	Inclination	The author hoped that when the Ministry of Health introduced medicine to treat Covid-19, it would help end the situation where many people, out of worry and fear, bought medicine of unknown origin and at high

				prices. This attitude of <i>Inclination</i> (+) was realized by the author with the verb <i>hope</i> .
(2)	They (the workers)	- Happy - Worried	- Happiness Unhappiness	The epidemic had shown signs of positive changes, workers were allowed to travel freely (when ensuring the conditions given by the Ministry of Health), so they spread out to their hometowns to celebrate Tet. After nearly two years of being away from their loved ones due to the epidemic, everyone was happy, but they were also worried about their future livelihood. This feeling of <i>Happiness</i> (+/-) was expressed by the words: <i>happy</i> , <i>worried</i> .
(3)	We (authors and readers)	Unsafe	Insecurity	Everyone feels unsafe in the face of the epidemic. The word <i>unsafe</i> represents the author's and readers' feelings of <i>Security</i> (-).
(4)	We	Dissatisfaction	Dissatisfaction	“Locking the door” to protect against the epidemic but also locking the economic door, directly affecting the lives of workers. Therefore, the author put himself in the position of the workers to express this feeling of <i>dissatisfaction</i> .

**The subsystem Judgement*

The results of the Judgement subsystem survey in commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Survey results of the subsystem “Judgement” in commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper

work in the fight against Covid-19 in India. The newspaper:

JUDGEMENT		Polarity				Total	
		Positivity (+)		Negativity (-)			
		Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Socialesteems	Normality	4	2.14%	5	2.67%	9	4.81%
	Capacity	12	6.42%	5	2.67%	17	9.09%
	Tenacity	8	4.28%	0	0%	8	4.28%
Socialsanctions	Veracity	1	0.53%	0	0%	1	0.53%
	Propriety	0	0%	23	12.31%	23	12.31%
Total		25	13.37%	33	17.65%	58	31.02%

The statistical results in Table 6 showed that the *Judgement* had the negativity value higher than the positivity. Of which, *Propriety* was the type with the highest negativity rate of 12.31%. In the commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19, the authors mentioned some people and organizations that had “fished in troubled waters”, taking advantage of the epidemic for their own personal gain. What was most reprehensible was that they profited for themselves on the lives and trust of poor and suffering people. Therefore, the authors negatively evaluated the *Propriety* of these subjects. *Capacity* was the type ranked second in frequency. However, *Capacity* had a higher positivity value (6.42%) than negativity value (2.67%). The authors highly appreciated the capacity of individuals, organizations and people in the fight for survival against the epidemic. Next was *Normality* with 4.81%, *Tenacity* accounted for 4.28% and *Veracity* accounted for only

0.53%. What was special was that Tenacity only appeared in the positivity, not in the negativity. This showed that the authors of *Tuoi Tre* newspaper highly appreciated our country's efforts in preventing and fighting the epidemic. For example:

(5) *COVID-19 is still there, the future is still bumpy but we are stronger so "we must come back better than before" so that the income and life of each person, each family, each locality and country are better and happier than before.* (Tuoi Tre, January 1, 2022)

(COVID-19 còn đó, phía trước vẫn gập ghềnh nhưng chúng ta đã mạnh mẽ hơn vì thế "trở lại phải hơn trước" để thu nhập, cuộc sống của mỗi người, mỗi gia đình, mỗi địa phương và quốc gia tốt hơn, hạnh phúc hơn trước.)

(6) *They threw themselves into a place where the line between life and death was extremely thin, they could get sick, could die, could have unpredictable consequences for life, but no one refused, no one gave up, no one was afraid.* (Tuoi Tre, January 20, 2022)

(Họ đã lẫn xả vào nơi mà ranh sống chết vô cùng mỏng manh, có thể nhiễm bệnh, có thể chết, có thể mang di chứng khôn lường suốt đời nhưng không ai từ chối, không ai bỏ ngũ, không ai run sợ.)

(7) *Thus, there is collusion between some corrupt officials in the apparatus and outside businesses for personal gain.* (Tuoi Tre, January 6, 2022)

(Như vậy là có sự câu kết giữa một số cán bộ biến chất trong bộ máy và doanh nghiệp bên ngoài để trục lợi.)

Table 7. Analysis of examples of Judgement

Ex.	Subjects	Objects of the judgement	Expressive language	Types of judgement	Explanation
(5)	Authors	Us (authors and readers)	Strong	Capacity (+)	The authors believed that everyone (including the authors) had become stronger in the face of the epidemic, and would "come back stronger than before". The adjective <i>strong</i> showed our assessment of <i>Capacity</i> (+).
(6)	Authors	They (Medical staff)	Throw themselves	Tenacity (+)	Nurses, doctors, and caregivers, regardless of difficulties and dangers, have been on duty day and night, caring for and treating patients. The author highly appreciates their efforts and tenacity.
(7)	Authors	Some officials who committed violations	Collusion, corruption, and profiteering	Propriety (-)	<i>Collusion, corruption, and profiteering</i> are behaviors and qualities that violate social ethics. The author used those words to evaluate the <i>Propriety</i> (-) of some officials who committed violations in the Viet A test kit case.

*Subsystem Appreciation

In 12 commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against the Covid-19 in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, we obtained the results of the subsystem *Appreciation* in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Survey results of the subsystem "Appreciation" in commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper

Appreciation	Polarity		Total
	Positivity (+)	Negativity (-)	

	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Reaction	7	3.74%	3	1.61%	10	5.35%
Composition	0	0%	23	12.3%	23	12.3%
Valuation	19	10.16%	7	3.74%	26	13.9%
Total	26	13.9%	33	17.65%	59	31.55%

In the subsystem *Appreciation*, *Valuation* appeared the most with 26 times (accounting for 13.9%), followed by *Composition* with 23 times (accounting for 12.3%). All these 23 times assessed the extent and development of the epidemic, so they belonged to the negativity (*pandemic, unpredictable, bad developments, difficult to predict, adversity...*). Last came *Reaction* with 5.35%. For example:

(8) *In fact, up to now, the number of infection cases still “impresses” people more than red or orange.* (Tuoi Tre, March 7, 2022)

(Thực tế cho thấy đến lúc này, số ca nhiễm vẫn gây “ấn tượng” với người dân hơn là màu đỏ hay cam.)

(9) *Humanity has entered 2022 with many hopes and dreams, and the goal that every country is aiming for is to control and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic so that we can study, do business, entertain, and do useful and meaningful things.* (Tuoi Tre, January 1, 2022)

(Nhân loại đã bước vào năm 2022 với nhiều hy vọng, ước mơ và mục tiêu mọi quốc gia hướng tới, đó là chế ngự và chiến thắng đại dịch COVID-19 để còn học tập, làm ăn, giải trí, làm điều có ích, có ý nghĩa.)

(10) *Last year around this time, many people could not have imagined that they would have to stay at home for months. Time has kept passing, but it seems that people have experienced and learned great lessons.* (Tuoi Tre, June 26, 2022)

(Năm ngoái vào tầm này, nhiều người không thể ngờ rằng phải ở suốt trong nhà hàng tháng trời. Vậy rồi thời gian cứ trôi, nhưng dường như con người đã được trải nghiệm và học thêm những bài học lớn lao.)

Table 9. Analysis of examples of *Appreciation*

Ex.	Subjects doing the appreciation	Objects being appreciated	Expressive language	Types of <i>Appreciation</i>	Explanation
(8)	Authors	The number of infected cases	“Impresses”	Reaction (-)	The number of infected cases on the news has a strong impact on people's psychology, making them more worried than the red and orange boards dividing the epidemic areas. This <i>Reaction</i> (-) of people to the number of infected cases is realized by the verb phrase “ <i>impresses</i> ”.
(9)	Authors	The Covid-19 epidemic	Pandemic	Composition (-)	The author believes that the extent of the Covid-19 epidemic is large and complicated. The <i>Composition</i> (-) is expressed through the word <i>pandemic</i> .
(10)	Authors	That having to stay at home all the time	Great lessons	Valuation (+)	Dịch bệnh, lệnh cách ly buộc người dân phải ở nhà suốt hàng tháng trời. Điều này gây ảnh hưởng nghiêm trọng đến thu nhập của họ, nhưng bù lại, họ có thêm những bài học lớn lao về

					tình cảm gia đình. Do đó, tác giả nhận định việc phải ở suốt trong nhà là một việc có giá trị tích cực. The pandemic and quarantine orders forced people to stay at home for months. This severely affected their income, but in return, they learned <i>great lessons</i> about family affection. Therefore, the author believes that having to stay at home all the time is a positively valuable thing.
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**Subjects doing the evaluation*

The subjects expressing *Attitude* in the commentaries on this issue included two groups: authors and non-authors. The appearance frequency of the groups of subjects of the evaluation was presented in the following table 10.

Table 10. *Subjects doing the evaluation in commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in Tuoi Tre newspaper*

Types of Attitude Subjects doing the evaluation	Affect	Judgement	Appreciation	Total
Authors	36	51	48	135
Non-Authors	34	7	11	52
Total	70	58	59	187

Subjects that were authors appeared nearly 2.6 times more than subjects that were non-authors. This showed that authors in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper expressed their attitudes and assessments clearly.

4.3. Appraisal language expressing Attitude in commentaries on the issue of “People and work in the fight against Covid-19” in Nhan Dan newspaper

**The subsystem Affect*

In the commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Nhan Dan* newspaper, the subsystem Affect was expressed through four aspects: *Inclination, Happiness, Security and Satisfaction*.

Table 11. *Survey results of the subsystem “Affect” in commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in Nhan Dan newspaper (/163 words)*

Types of Affect	Polarity				Total	
	Positivity (+)		Negativity (-)			
	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Inclination	26	15.95%	4	2.45%	30	18.4%
Happiness	0	0%	4	2.45%	4	2.45%
Security	0	0%	13	7.99%	13	7.99%
Satisfaction	3	1.84%	3	1.84%	6	3.68%
Total	29	17.79%	24	14.73%	53	32.52%

Inclination was the most frequently appearing type with 30 times (accounting for 18.4%). Of which, only 6 times the author/non-author expressed their wishes, expectations or undesirability, and 24 times were exchanges and suggestions from the author with relevant parties and readers in providing solutions to overcome the limitations and shortcomings of the problem (realized by the modal verb *need*). It could be said that the authors of *Nhan Dan* newspaper rarely expressed their personal mood and emotions, mainly expressing objective wishes in solving problems. Next was *Happiness* with 7.99%, *Satisfaction* with 3.68%, and *Security* with only 2.45%. It was worth noting that both *Happiness* and *Safety* did not appear in positivity, only in negativity. This negative emotion came from people's anxiety and fear of the epidemic, they felt threatened in terms of health and life. Consider some typical examples:

(11) *Provinces and cities need to closely and specifically implement the campaign of "going to every alley, knocking on every door" to make a list of all elderly people and people with underlying medical conditions who have not been vaccinated and need to be vaccinated immediately... to complete the goal of fully vaccinating all people aged 18 and over by December 31 at the latest.* (*Nhan Dan*, December 15, 2021)

(Các tỉnh, thành phố cần sát sao, cụ thể trong thực hiện chiến dịch "đi từng ngõ, gõ từng nhà" lập danh sách tất cả những người cao tuổi, người có bệnh lý nền chưa tiêm vắc-xin cần phải tiêm ngay... để chậm nhất đến ngày 31/12 hoàn thành mục tiêu tiêm đủ hai mũi cho tất cả những người từ 18 tuổi trở lên.)

(12) *The team of doctors, nurses, and medical staff are under extremely heavy pressure from all sides: family and relatives are having difficulties in life, being infected, etc.* (*Nhan Dan*, December 21, 2021)

(Đội ngũ y sĩ, bác sĩ, nhân viên y tế phải chịu áp lực vô cùng nặng nề từ mọi phía: gia đình, người thân gặp khó khăn trong cuộc sống, bị nhiễm bệnh, ...)

(13) *It is this turmoil and panic of a part of the population has contributed to making the market for drugs and medical equipment during the epidemic even more chaotic and disorganized; negatively affecting the psychology and daily life of the entire community.* (*Nhan Dan*, February 25, 2022)

(Chính tâm lý bất an, hoảng loạn của một bộ phận người dân đã góp phần khiến thị trường thuốc và các thiết bị y tế mùa dịch càng trở nên bất nháo, hỗn loạn; tác động tiêu cực đến tâm lý, sinh hoạt của cả cộng đồng.)

(14) *Notably, 25% of survey participants admitted to having decreased job satisfaction.* (*Nhan Dan*, December 21, 2021)

(Đáng chú ý, 25% số người tham gia khảo sát thừa nhận đã giảm mức độ hài lòng với công việc.)

Table 12. Example analyses of Affect

Ex.	Subjects	Expressive language	Type of Affect	Explanation
(11)	Authors	Need	Inclination	During the Covid-19 vaccination campaign, the author discussed with relevant units what they should do to achieve higher efficiency, which was also the author's wish. For these discussions/wishes, the subject of evaluation was hidden, only the evaluated object (<i>provinces, cities</i>) and the wish (<i>need</i>) appeared.
(12)	Team of doctors, nurses, medical staff	To be under extremely heavy pressure	Unhappiness	The author seemed to understand the feelings and situation of the medical team in the fight against the epidemic. They have to fight "selflessly" to save the lives of patients but are under pressure from many sides. This is

				their <i>unhappy</i> feeling. This <i>Happiness</i> (-) is identified through the verb phrase <i>to be under extremely heavy pressure</i> .
(13)	People	Confused, panicked	Insecurity	The Covid-19 pandemic has taken the lives of thousands of our compatriots. Therefore, people feel unsafe when facing the epidemic. They are <i>confused and panicked</i> .
(14)	25% of people (edical staff)	Decreased satisfaction	Dissatisfaction	Medical staff are required to work 100% of their capacity, working day and night, and are under immense pressure from all sides. This makes them feel <i>dissatisfied</i> with their work. This feeling is expressed by the phrase <i>decreased satisfaction</i> .

**The subsystem Judgement*

In 12 commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Nhan Dan* newspaper, the subsystem Judgement appeared the most in the *Attitude* system. The survey results of the Judgement group are presented in Table 13.

Table 13. Survey results of the subsystem “Judgement” in commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Nhan Dan* newspaper

JUDGEMENT		Polarity				Total	
		Positivity (+)		Negativity (-)			
		Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Social esteems	Normality	0	0%	1	0.61%	1	0.61%
	Capacity	21	12.88%	15	9.21%	36	22.09%
	Tenacity	18	11.04%	1	0.61%	19	11.65%
Social sanctions	Veracity	0	0%	3	1.84%	3	1.84%
	Propriety	0	0%	15	9.21%	15	9.21%
Total		39	23.92%	35	21.48%	74	45.4%

In the subsystem *Judgement*, the positivity value appeared more than the negativity. Of which, *Capacity* was the subgroup with the highest percentage of 22.09%. *Tenacity* accounted for 11.65% and ranked second. Next came *Propriety* with 9.21%, *Veracity* 1.84% and *Normality* 0.61%. *Propriety*, *Veracity* and *Normality* did not appear in positivity. The author criticized the behaviors and people who took advantage of adversity to enrich themselves. They enriched themselves illegally on the fear and trust of the people in a “life-threatening” situation. Therefore, these three subtypes only appeared in the negativity. *Capacity* and *Tenacity* mostly appeared in positivity because in these commentaries, the author praised and set examples of people who silently sacrificed for their compatriots, they fought hard for their compatriots. These were completely consistent with the purpose of *Nhan Dan* newspaper, which was to set good examples and criticize bad things in society. Consider some typical examples below:

(15) *Vietnam started to implement vaccinations in early March 2021, a bit slower than other countries, but then made quite an impressive breakthrough.* (*Nhan Dan*, December 15, 2021)

(Việt Nam bắt đầu triển khai tiêm chủng vắc-xin từ đầu tháng 3/2021, có chậm một chút so với các nước, nhưng sau đó đã có bước bứt tốc khá ấn tượng.)

(16) *Currently, medical staff across the city are working hard, making every effort, working day and night to prevent the spread of the disease, and promptly supporting and caring for those who are unfortunately infected with Covid-19.* (*Nhan Dan*, December 27, 2021)

(Hiện nay, đội ngũ y tế trên toàn thành phố đang căng sức, nỗ lực hết mình, làm việc bất kể ngày đêm nhằm ngăn chặn đà lây lan của dịch bệnh, hỗ trợ, chăm sóc kịp thời những người không may mắc Covid-19.)

(17) *In addition, in recent days, a number of corruption and negative cases of taking advantage of the epidemic for personal gain have been discovered and investigated. (Nhan Dan, January 7, 2022)*

(Bên cạnh đó, những ngày gần đây, một số vụ việc tham nhũng, tiêu cực lợi dụng dịch bệnh để trục lợi đã được phát hiện, điều tra.)

Table 14. Example analyses of Judgement

Ex.	Subjects	Objects of judgement	Expressive language	Type of judgement	Explanation
(15)	Authors	Vietnam	- Slow - Accelerated	Capacity (-/+)	Vietnam is considered a latecomer (<i>slow</i>) in Covid-19 vaccination but has reached the finish line earlier than other countries (<i>accelerated</i>). The author highly appreciates Vietnam's capacity compared to other countries in vaccination by using contrasting measures.
(16)	Authors	Medical staff across the city	- Straining, making every effort, working day and night. - Timely take care.	Tenacity (+) Capacity (+)	The author positively evaluated the tenacity of the medical staff across the city in treating infected people and in disease prevention. This assessment of Tenacity (+) was expressed by the phrases: <i>straining, making every effort, working day and night</i> . With that effort, they promptly cared for and treated Covid-19 patients. The author positively evaluated the (+) <i>Capacity</i> of the medical staff with the verb phrase <i>timely take care</i> .
(17)	Authors	0 (A number of violators)	- Corruption, negative exploitation, profiteering. - Discovered, investigated.	Propriety (-) Capacity (+)	In this example, the subject being judged did not appear, but it could be understood that it was some officials who violated the law because these subjects appeared in previous discourses. They made illegal profits while the whole country was struggling with the epidemic, which made the whole nation indignant and angry. This ethical violation was expressed by the author through the words: <i>corruption, negative exploitation, profiteering</i> . The author also highly appreciated the ability of the authorities in handling these subjects. The <i>Capacity</i> (+) assessment was realized by the phrase <i>discovered, investigated</i> .

**The subsystem Appreciation*

The subsystem *Appreciation* in the commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Nhan Dan* newspaper had the rate of the negativity twice as high as the positivity. The negativity value mainly came from the *Composition*. This result was presented in detail in Table 15.

Table 15. Survey results of the subsystem “Appreciation” in commentaries on the issue of people and work in the fight against Covid-19 in *Nhan Dan* newspaper

and work in the fight against Covid-19 in Nhan Dan newspaper

Appreciation	Polarity				Total	
	Positivity (+)		Negaivity (-)			
	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion	Frequency	Proportion
Reaction	1	0.61%	0	0%	1	0.61%
Composition	1	0.61%	16	9.82%	17	10.43%
Valuation	8	4.91%	10	6.13%	18	11.04%
Total	10	6.13%	26	15.95%	36	22.08%

In the subsystem *Appreciation*, *Reaction* only appeared once (accounting for 0.61%). *Composition* only appeared once with a positive assessment (accounting for 0.61%) about Vietnam’s flexible vaccination strategy, and 16 negative assessments (accounting for 9.82%) about the Covid-19 epidemic. The authors focused on assessing the level and complexity of the epidemic (*pandemic, develop in a very complicated and unpredictable manner, complicated...*). These analyses will be presented in the *Realization* section in the following sections. *Valuation* was the type with the highest frequency of appearance (accounting for 11.04%). For example:

(18) *The above facts show that the epidemic in Hanoi is developing in a very complicated and unpredictable manner.* (*Nhan Dan*, December 27, 2021)

(*Thực tế nêu trên cho thấy, dịch bệnh tại Hà Nội đang diễn biến hết sức phức tạp và khó lường.*)

(19) *In the fight against Covid-19, vaccines are identified as "weapons" that play an important role, both in the short term and in the long term.* (*Nhan Dan*, December 15, 2021)

(Trong cuộc chiến chống Covid-19, vắc-xin được xác định là “vũ khí” đóng vai trò quan trọng, vừa trước mắt vừa lâu dài.)

Table 16. Example analyses of *Appreciation*

Ex.	Subjects doing the appreciation	Objects being appreciated	Expressive language	Types of Appreciation	Explanation
(18)	Authors	the Covid-19 epidemic in Hanoi	Developing in a very complicated and unpredictable manner.	Composition (-)	The author commented that the development of the Covid-19 epidemic in Hanoi was complicated and unpredictable. The <i>Composition</i> (-) was expressed through the verb phrase “ <i>developing in a very complicated and unpredictable manner</i> ”.
(19)	Authors	Vaccines	“Weapons” playing an important role.	Valuation (+)	Vaccines were considered an effective measure to prevent Covid-19. The <i>Valuation</i> (+) was clearly shown by the phrase “ <i>weapons</i> ” playing an important role.

**Subjects doing the evaluation*

The subjects doing the evaluation in the *Attitude* system on the issue of fighting the Covid-29 epidemic in Nhan Dan newspaper could be authors or non-author subjects. The survey results on the subjects doing the evaluation are shown in table 17.

Table 17. *Subjects doing the evaluation in commentaries on people and work issues in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic in Nhan Dan newspaper*

Types of Attitude Subjects doing the evaluation	Affect	Judgement	Appreciation	Total
Authors	32	72	29	133
Non-author subjects	21	2	7	30
Total	53	74	36	163

The subjects doing the evaluation in the *Attitude* system of Nhan Dan newspaper were mostly authors and non-authors. The number of authors was 4.5 times higher than the number of non-authors.

4.4. Comparison of similarities and differences

(i) The subsystem Affect

- Similarities:

+ Within the subsystem *Affect*, *Inclination* was the most frequently appearing type in the two newspapers.

+ The subjects doing the evaluation in the subsystem *Affect* were mainly the authors.

This similarity showed that the authors in the two newspapers expressed their views and wishes clearly and directly.

- Differences

+ In *Inclination*, the authors of *Tuoi Tre* newspaper mainly expressed their personal moods and emotions, while the authors of *Nhan Dan* newspaper often expressed their wishes through discussions, suggestions or giving some solutions to overcome the problem, and the authors subjects were often hidden. This showed that the authors of *Nhan Dan* newspaper often aimed to give solutions to solve the problem more than expressing their own and the objects' moods compared to the authors of *Tuoi Tre* newspaper.

+ *Tuoi Tre* newspaper often mentioned the happy/sad mood (*Happiness*) of people when facing the epidemic. Meanwhile, *Nhan Dan* newspaper focused on the anxiety and insecurity (*Security*) of people when living with the Covid-19 epidemic.

(ii) The subsystem Judgement

- Similarities: Regarding this issue, both newspapers focused on evaluating objects in three aspects: *Capacity*, *Tenacity* and *Propriety*. The authors highly appreciated the capacity and tenacity of the people, the frontline forces against the epidemic and the efforts of the Government in finding and implementing epidemic prevention measures; at the same time, criticized the moral degradation of a number of officials who took advantage of the complicated epidemic situation to profit from the blood of their compatriots.

- Differences: In *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, the rate of negative *Judgements* was higher than the positive ones. On the contrary, in *Nhan Dan* newspaper, the rate of positive *Judgements* was higher than the negative ones. In addition, the frequency of *Judgements* in *Nhan Dan* newspaper (74 times) was also higher than that of *Tuoi Tre* newspaper (58 times). This showed that *Nhan Dan* newspaper authors focused less on expressing emotions than *Tuoi Tre* newspaper but focused more on evaluating people and events than *Tuoi Tre* newspaper.

(iii) *The subsystem Appreciation*

- Similarities: in the subsystem *Appreciation*, authors in both newspapers had a higher rate of negativity than positivity. At the same time, both newspapers focused on evaluation in terms of *Composition* and *Valuation*. *Composition* appeared in both newspapers in a negative way, with little or no positive cases recognized. The object that authors in both newspapers gave negative ratings to was the extent and nature of the Covid-19 epidemic. The Covid-19 epidemic was large in scale and complex in nature, so it was rated negatively. This showed that both newspapers had similar views and attitudes when referring to the epidemic.

- Differences: the polarity proportion in *Valuation* of the two newspapers was opposite. In *Nhan Dan* newspaper, the positivity was lower than the negativity. Because the Covid-19 epidemic had caused severe damage to the people and the country, the *Valuation* in *Nhan Dan* newspaper also appeared in more negative aspects than positive ones. In *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, the positivity was higher than the negativity. *Tuoi Tre* newspaper did not record much about the impact of the epidemic on people but focused on commenting on the effectiveness of epidemic prevention measures. Our country had proactively fought the epidemic and the initial epidemic prevention measures had been effective, therefore, the authors presented more *Valuation* (+) than negative ones. This difference came from the way the two newspapers chose content to comment on.

(iv) *Subjects doing the evaluation*

The similarity between the two newspapers in terms of the subjects doing the evaluation was that the authors subjects appeared more often than the non-author subjects.

The differences: the distance between the author and non-author subjects of the two newspapers was not similar. The distance in *Nhan Dan* newspaper was larger than that in *Tuoi Tre* newspaper. Moreover, when the subjects doing the evaluation were the authors, *Nhan Dan* newspaper tended to separate the subjects and the objects of evaluation, and also hid the subjects doing the evaluation in the evaluation discourse. As for *Tuoi Tre* newspaper, the author often placed him/herself with the objects of evaluation and the presence of the author clearly appeared in the evaluation discourse (we). It could be said that the authors of *Nhan Dan* newspaper often stood outside and observed the objects objectively, while the authors of *Tuoi Tre* newspaper blended in with the objects, having a more subjective view than *Nhan Dan* newspaper.

5. Conclusion

The article focused on clarifying the *Attitude* system in commentaries on the issue of *People and Work in the fight against Covid-19 in Nhan Dan and Tuoi Tre newspapers*. On that basis, the article pointed out the similarities and differences in the expression of *Affect*, *Judgement*, *Appreciation* and the subjects doing the evaluation in those commentaries in the two newspapers. The research results of the subsystems *Affect*, *Judgement*, *Appreciation* belonging to the *Attitude* system in commentaries on the issue of *People and Work in the fight against Covid-19 in Nhan Dan and Tuoi Tre newspapers* also showed the influence of factors at the contextual level (the motto, purpose of the two newspapers, the topic of the text) on the appraisal language (at the discourse level) from the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics. The study is expected to be a useful reference for teaching and researching the appraisal language of the commentary genre, especially in the field of journalism from the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics.

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**Đối chiếu ngôn ngữ đánh giá “thái độ” trong các văn bản bình luận
về vấn đề “người và việc trong cuộc chiến chống dịch Covid-19”
trên Báo Tuổi trẻ và Nhân dân**

Tóm tắt: Lí thuyết đánh giá được Halliday đề xuất, sau đó được J.R. Martin và P.R.R. White kế thừa và phát triển trong “The language of evaluation - appraisal in English” (2005) ngày càng khẳng định tiềm năng của mình trong các nghiên cứu phân tích diễn ngôn. Nghiên cứu này áp dụng lí thuyết đánh giá để nhận diện và diễn giải hệ thống Thái độ của người đánh giá (tác giả và không phải tác giả) về vấn đề Người và việc trong cuộc chiến chống dịch Covid-19 trên báo Tuổi trẻ và Nhân dân. Kết quả nghiên cứu cho thấy các tác giả báo Nhân dân ít thể hiện cảm xúc chủ quan trong bài bình luận hơn các tác giả báo Tuổi trẻ. Ngoài ra, kết quả nghiên cứu cũng cho thấy cũng cho thấy sự chi phối của các yếu tố ở tầng ngữ cảnh (tôn chỉ, mục đích của hai tờ báo, chủ đề văn bản) đối với ngôn ngữ đánh giá (thuộc tầng diễn ngôn) từ góc nhìn của Ngôn ngữ học chức năng hệ thống.

Từ khóa: Lí thuyết đánh giá; Thái độ; Cảm xúc; Phán xét; Thẩm giá.