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The Attitude of Japanese Newspapers in Narrating Disaster Events: Appraisal in Critical Discourse Study

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Abstract

During the event of disasters, news media are considered as the most visible of all parties involved in the response and rehabilitation. News media frame disaster events in certain attitudes, which then significantly resonates with the magnitude of the disaster. This research aims at investigating the attitude of the Japanese newspaper in narrating disaster events. Using the descriptive qualitative method, this study adopts the appraisal theory (Martin & White, 2005) to embed and reveal appraisal in attitude features. The data were taken from three Japanese online newspapers reporting disaster events from 2019 to early 2020 with a total number of 100 articles. The findings show that of all attitudinal features, judgement is found as the most frequent source, followed by appreciation, and affect. It reveals newspapers' tendency to emphasize the attitude and to construe the evaluation toward the events or phenomena rather than revealing the feelings or emotions experienced by the emoter(s). Interestingly, the distribution of the attitudinal implies the attitude of Japanese newspapers on reporting disaster which is highly emphasized on admiring, criticizing, praise, and condemning disaster events. It is also found that the negative features are slightly higher than the positive ones, but to refer to the phenomena rather than the victims. This lexical strategy proves that Japanese newspapers play the role in mainstreaming disaster management policy which focuses on the reconstruction and rehabilitation after disaster events.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The newspaper covers all events happening in the world and presents them as reality recording. However, the narration of one event can differ in one to another newspaper (Jacobs, 1996). This raises the question of whether what is presented in the newspaper is the real facts or is influenced by the ideology of the newspaper itself. Like other discourse, newspaper as one of the media of news has been impregnated with the ideology that can affect how it narrates an event (Fowler, 2013). Furthermore, news has great power to urge its influence over the readers. The readers may modify their behaviour, ideas, or belief based on what they have read as a navigation to a particular social group (Bednarek & Caple, 2012; Montgomery, 2011; Quinn & Lamble, 2012). Therefore, it is said that the newspaper ideology can influence people's beliefs or perceptions toward an event.

As news is a discourse, we can talk about the communicative context of news in which news producers address specific audiences and aim for certain objectives (Bednarek & Caple, 2012). Thus, news producers can induce the value of the news through linguistic features namely lexical and syntactic features. These lexical and syntactic features are the main emphasis of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) which puts focus on language use; and therefore, SFL is a useful tool for CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis) to analyse texts and discourses (Lê & Wang, 2009). Emphasizing language use and its informative and social function, both SFL and CDA have a common interest in the link between language and society. Furthermore, using the framework of SFL, an elaborate system allowing linguistic analysis of a text from the perspective of the evaluative properties namely 'appraisal' was developed (Martin & White, 2005). The main focus of appraisal is the evaluative language which is used for the formation of a stance directly from the author's attitude expressed either explicitly or implicitly. The declarations of attitude are what Martin and White (2005, p. 95) called "dialogically directed towards aligning the addressee into a community of shared values and belief". In other words, appraisal analyses how the writer's/speaker's attitude is expressed and how it is directed towards aligning the reader/listener into a community of shared values and beliefs.

A large number of studies on appraisal in the newspaper have been conducted in various discourse namely sexuality, politics, gender, education, culture, religion (Bartley & Benitez-Castro, 2016; Chalimah et al., 2018; Jakaza, 2013; Khoo et al., 2012; Pranoto & Yuwono, 2017; Santaemilia & Maruenda, 2014; Wigunadi, 2014) and also in different sections on newspaper such as commentary and editorial (Arunsirot, 2012; Hai & Nguyen, 2019; Homayounzadeh & Mehrpour, 2013). Meanwhile, in the different sections of the newspaper, Arunsirot (2012) explored the newspaper commentaries and found negative evaluative lexis as predominant lexical strategies. Hai and Nguyen (2019), using contrastive appraisal analysis, compared the level of subjectivity in commentaries about political events taken from two online newspapers and found that the genres in the two newspapers share a variety of similarities in their subjectivity level although there are some differences in the frequency and the linguistic features of these resources. Analysing different sections,

Homayounzadeh and Mehrpour (2013) investigated the effect of culture on the journalistic style and the strategies used to report news in newspaper editorials. Using contrastive analysis, they found the selected editorials utilized quite similar strategies to preserve their own ideologies and to reduce the effects of the rival newspapers. In addition, the use of appraisal as evaluating properties was used in newspapers, more specifically in narrating disaster events. Liu and Stevenson (2013) conducted a cross-cultural media discourse by comparing disaster news reports on the Sichuan earthquake of May 2008 in a Chinese, an Australian Chinese, and an Australian newspaper. Zhang (2015) also studied the change of 10 years disaster report using appraisal in a Chinese newspaper.

All in all, the aforementioned studies above have focused on appraisal theory on distinctive discourses and sections in the newspaper. However, little research has been done on how appraisal theory is applied to show newspaper attitude when narrating disaster events. It is interesting to study because, in such crisis times as disasters, people tend to read the newspaper because they consider media as being more credible (Utz et al., 2013). Hence, how the events are narrated will surely influence readers' perceptions. For this reason, this study aims at filling in the gap by answering the following questions:

1. How is the attitude of Japanese newspapers conveyed in the lexical strategies used to narrate disaster events?
2. How is the attitude in Japanese newspapers related to disaster management in Japan?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

The main concern in SFL is how language is utilized by its users to obtain everyday social life and how social worlds are established through language. Therefore, it leads to investigations of how language is structured to achieve socio-cultural meanings. SFL, therefore, focuses on the analysis of texts, considering their relationship to the social context in which they occur. SFL has three general social functions. The first function is interpersonal which helps to see the relationship among the discourse participants through the analysis of cohesive elements related to lexical distribution. The second function is ideational which helps to see how discourse participants express their experience resulted from the analysis of the mood system. The last function is textual which looks at how text is organized; it mainly concerns the position of theme and rheme (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013). However, this study includes only interpersonal function from which appraisal discourse focusing on how attitudes are analysed is derived (Martin & Rose, 2007).

Meanwhile, CDA is an interdisciplinary analytical viewpoint which looks into the relationship between power and discourse, and particularly it investigates the way in which authority, dominance, and social inequality are constructed, sustained, reproduced, and resisted in the discourse of written texts and spoken words. CDA aims at unpacking the common sense of social and cultural ideologies which are embedded in all the forms of language that we use (Fairclough, 2009). Moreover, many SFL

studies have been conducted within CDA (Kuswoyo, 2016; Kuswoyo & Rido, 2019; Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2019). Viewed from the appraisal discourse, CDA and SFL have three functions (Young & Harrison, 2004). First, both CDA and SFL are used to give a view on language as social construction by seeing the language's role in society and the way in delivering the language. Second, both CDA and SFL see the language which can influence the context and vice versa. Third, both CDA and SFL give attention to making sense of the semantic aspect of language culturally and historically.

2.2 Appraisal Theory

Appraisal theory is based on tenor in context situation and interpersonal meaning in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). This theory is taken from M. A. K Halliday's interpersonal meaning in language at the level of discourse semantics (Martin & White, 2005) for expressing the speaker or writer's opinion in a particular context and linguistic meaning with whom they communicate (Martin, 2000). Appraisal theory concerns with three points: (1) the way speakers/writers approve and disapprove, (2) the way text can produce feeling and values and the linguistic mechanisms share emotion, taste, and normative, and (3) the way speakers/writers construe their particular authorial identities or personae (Martin & White, 2005). In addition, the appraisal is a theory to describe and explain how speakers/writers use language to show their feeling and their relationship to listeners/readers. Martin and White (2005) divided appraisal into three interacting domains, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation. Attitude concerns feelings, including emotional reactions, judgements of behaviour, and evaluation of things. Engagement directs towards identifying the particular dialogic positioning associated with given meanings and towards describing what is at stake when one meaning rather than another is employed. Graduation has something to do with grading phenomena whereby feelings are amplified and categories blurred. The resources for appraisal are as shown below.

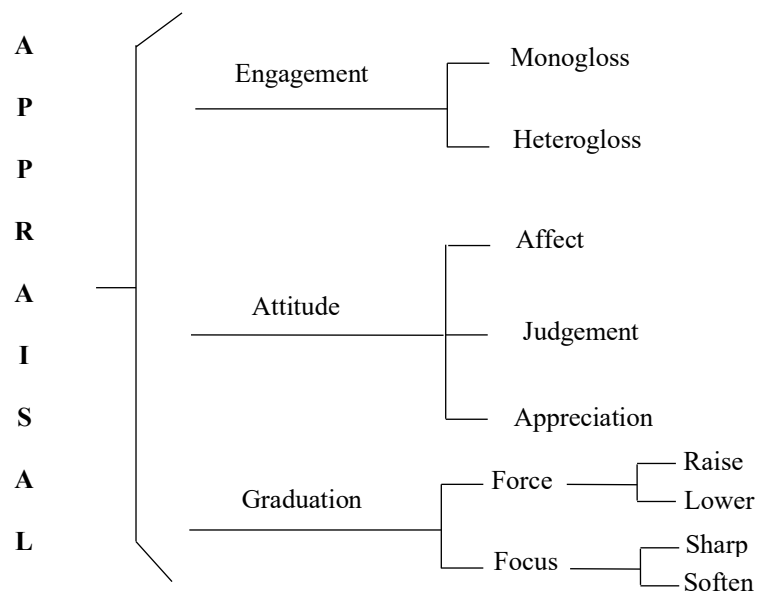


Figure 1. An overview of appraisal resources (Martin & White, 2005).

For the study, this paper focuses only on the attitude domain of the Japanese newspaper attitude in disaster narrative. [Martin and White \(2005\)](#) mentioned that attitude pertains to the way people use their feeling, including emotional reactions, judgements of behaviour, and evaluation of things. It explores feeling into two realizations namely the positive attitude (or, the likable) and the negative attitude (or, the unlikeable attitude). The feelings constructed in a text involve three semantic regions including emotion, ethics, and aesthetics. Each sub-type of attitude deals with each of the previously mentioned regions. The results are to outline different functions or strategies used in each subtype. The sub-types of attitude are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Subtypes of attitude.

Attitude	Affect	Un/happiness	
		In/security	
		Dis/satisfaction	
	Judgement	Social esteem	Normality luck
			Capacity
			Tenacity
		Social sanction	Veracity
	Appreciation	Reaction	Property
			Impact
			Quality
		Composition	Balance
			Complexity
		Valuation	

The first sub-type, ‘affect’, has something to do with registering positive and negative feelings. In elaborating the feeling, we refer to conscious participants experiencing the emotion as an ‘emoter’ and the phenomenon responsible for the emotion as ‘trigger’. In addition, to classify the ‘affect’, we consider six factors: (1) whether the feelings are popularly construed by the culture as positive or negative ones, (2) whether the feelings are realized as a surge of emotion involving some kind of embodied paralinguistic or extralinguistic manifestation or more internally experienced as a kind of emotive state of ongoing mental process, (3) whether the feelings construed are directed at or reacting to some specific emotional ‘triggers’, (4) how the feelings are graded, (5) whether the feelings involve intention rather than reaction, and (6) whether the feelings are categorized into the three major sets of affect typology: un/happiness, in/security, and dis/satisfaction. The three sets can be categorized based on the surge of behaviour and they can be either positive or negative.

The second sub-type, ‘judgement’, considers the attitude toward behaviour, which we admire or criticize, praise or condemn. Generally, judgement is divided into social esteem and social sanction with different characteristics. Social esteem covers ‘normality’ (how unusual someone is), ‘capacity’ (how capable they are), and ‘tenacity’ (how resolute they are). Meanwhile, social sanction has to do with ‘veracity’ (how truthful someone is) and ‘propriety’ (how ethical someone is). Again, each of them can be positive or negative evaluations.

The third sub-type, ‘appreciation’, deals with evaluations of semiotic and natural phenomena. Generally, appreciation is divided into ‘reaction’, ‘composition’, and ‘valuation’. In ‘reaction’, it has to do with the reaction which either catches our attention or pleases us. Meanwhile, ‘composition’ has to do with the balance and

complexity as to whether the text is balance or hard to follow. Lastly, ‘value’ has to do with whether the text is worthwhile.

2.3 Previous Studies

In similar and relevant topics, the appraisal was used to investigate the disaster news report in different newspapers. [Liu and Stevenson \(2013\)](#) studied the cross-cultural media discourse by comparing disaster news reports on the Sichuan earthquake of May 2008 in three different newspapers; Chinese, Australian Chinese, and Australian newspapers. Compiling five news report from each newspaper, the data were taken from different newspapers which had different target readers: People’s Daily (PD) for Chinese people in China, Australian Chinese Daily (ACD) for Chinese immigrants, Chinese students, and business people and investors in Australia, and Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) for Australian. Analysing the features of each subtype of attitudinal resource, the study found different results of the three newspapers. The findings showed that in PD and ACD, the highest percentage of attitudinal subtype found was judgement, which relates to evaluations of people, whereas in SMH, the highest percentage was appreciation, which relates to the evaluation of non-human entities. This revealed that in PD and ACD, writers focused on the assessment of participants and their behaviours, while in SMH the focus was more on the evaluation of the earthquake situation.

Another appraisal study on disaster reports was conducted by [Zhang \(2015\)](#). A comparative study on China Daily’s disaster news was done to examine the improvement of disaster reporting in 10 years’ time interval. The newspapers articles compared were reporting the 1998 Shangyi earthquake and the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. Employing all types of appraisal resources, the results showed that the increasing number of attitudinal and engagement resources was found in the 2008 earthquake report. In addition, negative attitudinal resources and affect increased in the 2008 earthquake. It implied that there was a change in the disaster reports of China Daily as the disaster report put more concern to ordinary people-oriented reporting strategy; attention was paid more to people’s true feelings.

2.4 Disaster Management in Japan

The management organization to handle the crisis in Japan is the Director General for Disaster Management which is led by the Minister of State for Disaster Management ([Japan Cabinet Office, 2015](#)). Structurally, there are eight offices under the Director that are responsible for distinctive roles, starting from the prevention to the rehabilitation stages. Of these eight offices, six are focusing on the disaster prevention stage. It shows that Japan put more action and concern on how to mitigate disasters. In the event of a disaster, the local government is given the authority to handle the situation. Therefore, all efforts are done to increase local government capacity. Resources to support the disaster mitigation are enhanced to prepare the community in facing the disasters. This preparedness is created due to Japanese awareness of the hazards they are facing such as natural disasters, nuclear power disasters, new influenza, or other types of disasters ([Ikeda et al., 2008](#)). All efforts are done to mainstream the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) by increasing capacity and reducing the risk. The stakeholders involved in DRR are the public sector, private

sector, and the community itself as the first responders in terms of disaster. Japan emphasizes the collaboration of all stakeholders in reducing the risk of disaster.

As a lot of lessons learned possessed by Japan from all occurring disasters in the past, Japan created frameworks as the action to build the resilience of nations and communities to disaster. The first framework is called Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, which later was adopted by countries all over the world, having five priorities, they are to 1) ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation, 2) identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning, 3) use knowledge, innovation, and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels, 4) reduce the underlying risk factors, and 5) strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all level. The next framework is created to substitute Hyogo Framework called the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). The later framework specifies the four Priorities for Action of (1) understanding disaster risk, (2) strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, (3) investing in disaster risk reduction and resilience, and (4) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to 'Build Back Better' in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction (Maly, 2018).

From the two mentioned frameworks, the role of media, as one of the stakeholders, is improving. Besides the fact that the role of media in communicating evacuation orders to residents in municipalities was increasing significantly from 21% to 50% since 2003-2014 (Japan Cabinet Office, 2015), the media role is shifting nowadays to raise public awareness. The more active and constructive role of media is highlighted as one effort to enhance capacity. All governmental programs to enhance the community's capacity are published through the media. Therefore, since the government uses media as a tool not only to communicate the crisis but also to disseminate the mitigation programs, the community can rely on the information published in media (Liyanarachchige, 2016).

3. METHODS

This study implements a descriptive qualitative method. The appraisal devices embedded in the text are uncovered and described by this method. Several lexical properties categorised in each sub-type of the attitudinal resource were systematically coded. The data were taken from three Japanese online newspapers: The Japan Times, Japan Today, and The Asahi Shimbun. For the representativeness, the researchers took more than 30 articles from each newspaper with a total of 100 articles. The articles taken were those posted under the disaster section ranging from 2019-2020. As the tool to systematically organize the corpus, the researchers used Sketch Engine as a language corpus management and query system. As argued that the use of corpus linguistic gives a meaningful contribution in linguistics especially in Discourse and ESP (Anthony, 2013; Puspita, 2019). The summary profile of the corpus is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Corpus summary profile

Language	English
Tokens	48,266
Words	42,079
Sentences	1,826
Documents	100

Using Sketch Engine, the lexical distribution consisting of word frequency, keywords, and concordance are empirically processed based on specified category and context. The data were analysed using appraisal theory derived from the interpersonal function of SFL and the analysis was limited to the investigation of the attitude subtypes: affect, judgement, and appreciation, to find out the kinds of feeling delivered in disaster narratives and thus disclosing newspaper ideology. The analysis of attitude was seen from the lexis chosen. The lexical distribution analysed is essentially aimed to reveal how Japanese newspapers narrate disaster events on the textual level. Furthermore, in relation to disaster management in Japan, the collocation of words ‘disaster’ and ‘victim’ were further investigated to find out how newspapers depicted the disaster as an event and how they presented the victim. In the end, the findings of the lexical properties in attitudinal resources were related to disaster management in Japan.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Attitudinal Resources of Japanese Newspaper

Each feature of attitudinal resources, namely affect, judgment, and appreciation, found in this study are discussed in this section. As the fundamental value, it is said that attitude plays important role in conveying solidarity by revealing one party’s attitude toward things and people. It leads to how people respond to the viewpoints and take part in the interaction (Martin & White, 2005). The detailed distribution of the attitudinal resources is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Distribution of the attitudinal resources.

Attitude subtype	Number of tokens	Percentage
Affect	210	21%
Judgement	482	49%
Appreciation	298	30%

The finding shows that all subtypes of attitude were found in the newspaper. Judgment was found as having the highest number with 49% (210) of total findings, followed by appreciation (30%) and affect (21%) respectively. The distribution of the attitudinal implies the attitude of Japanese newspapers on reporting disaster which is highly emphasized on admiring, criticizing, praise, and condemning disaster events. This finding is similar to what was found in Liu and Stevenson (2013) and Zhang (2015) which revealed that in Chinese newspapers reporting disaster events, judgement was found as the highest percentage. In addition, in this study, the newspapers were found to employ more negative attitudes in narrating the disaster events than positive ones although the difference was not significant. It is similar to

the study conducted by [Zhang \(2015\)](#) which found that the China Daily's disaster news is considered as having more negative attitudinal resource when narrating the disaster events. However, the finding is slightly different in [Liu and Stevenson \(2013\)](#) revealing that negative attitudinal resource was indeed found to be used more in SMH newspaper, which is the Australian newspaper. Differently, Chinese newspapers were found to use positive and negative attitudinal resources in a closely equal way. The distribution of the data related to the positive and negative attitudes in the current study is shown in the following table.

Table 4 Distribution of positive and negative attitudinal features.

Attitudinal features	Number of tokens	Percentage
Positive	314	49%
Negative	328	51%

The positive and negative attitudinal features were almost evenly distributed with only a 2% gap between the two. This distribution marks the middle ground of the newspapers' position in their news coverage on the disaster. The notion of disaster discourse itself confirms that negative features are highly possible to appear in the way people narrate the event. However, the current finding shows that disaster events were represented more in negative representation, but not to a significant degree.

4.1.1 Affect resource

'Affect', through which the feeling encoded by the newspaper, is measured and categorized based on the three major sets of typologies, namely un/happiness, in/security, and dis/satisfaction. A summary of the finding on such sets is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of the affect features.

Affect features	Number of tokens	Percentage
Un/happiness	119	57%
In/security	75	35%
Dis/satisfaction	16	8%
Affect	Number of tokens	Percentage
Positive	122	58%
Negative	88	42%

Table 5 presents the overall distribution of affect features of a Japanese newspaper in reporting the events of disaster. The illustration of the event is significantly dominated by the un/happiness feature (57%). In/security feature is moreover found to appear as many as 35% of total occurrences. Meanwhile, dis/satisfaction possesses a small percentage with only 8%. These findings are similar to [Liu and Stevenson \(2013\)](#) which found the percentage of affect was in the same order. However, [Zhang \(2015\)](#) found different order of affect subtypes: un/happiness, dis/satisfaction, and in/security.

Based on the three sets of affects, the findings are categorized based on the types of behaviour; either positive or negative. In addition, the affection feature is distributed more positively with 58%. The lexical distributions of each affection feature are elaborated in the data analysis in the next sub-sections.

a. *Un/happiness*

When talking about an event of a disaster, the un/happiness set of meaning is probably the first to appear in mind when dealing with emotions. It describes the mood of feeling happy or sad and might navigate these feelings as the expression of liking or disliking it. For the sake of the research, the researchers only took and analysed words signified by their frequency and importance to the corpus. The disasters reported in the newspapers are natural disasters, nuclear disasters, earthquakes, and tsunami disasters, and Fukushima nuclear. As data were collected and analysed, the researchers revealed three words portraying ‘happiness’ and seven words portraying ‘unhappiness’.

Positively, Japanese newspapers’ attitude in the news coverage of disaster events is illustrated with the word ‘happy’ (10 tokens), ‘love’ (three tokens), and ‘like’ (25 tokens). A disaster is affecting not only the environment but also the living creatures living in it (Schipper & Pelling, 2006). Japanese newspapers, when describing emotion, pay deeper attention to local people’s genuine feelings rather than just presenting any positive aspects. This finding indicates that common people receive more concern in public media. By providing some data samples below, the researchers try to better describe the analysis on ‘affection’ by demonstrating how the affection features are identified in the excerpt below. D refers to Data.

D1 “I’m so happy that the train service has reverted to its state before the disaster,” said a 59-year-old farmer in Tomioka. (The Asahi Shimbun, March 14th, 2020)

In D1, the word ‘happy’, serving as the ‘affect’ resource, is quoted from the speech of a citizen of Fukushima Prefecture of Futaba who was happy as the Ono and Yonomori train station had reverted to the state like the one that existed before the disaster occurred. The nuclear plant explosion caused a lot of destruction, including the train station. The emotion embodied in the word ‘happy’ can be ascribed to that of happiness. Since the word ‘happy’ is quoted from the speech of local citizens affected rather than the writer’s own comment/opinion. Therefore, ‘happy’ can be taken as the non-authorial and positive ‘affect’. Another non-authorial and positive ‘affect’ is seen in D2.

D2 *But those who recognized her from her soccer playing days told her, “I may hate TEPCO, but I love Mareeze”.* (The Asahi Shimbun, People, February 26th, 2020)

In D2, the affect resource ‘love’ is also cited from the public who believed that TEPCO (Tokyo Electronic Power Co) that sponsored the Mareeze women soccer team was responsible for forcing them to leave their hometowns due to the triple meltdown at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. The emotion contained in the word ‘love’ can be considered happiness. Since it is not quoted from the writer’s own comment/opinion, the word ‘love’ is taken as the non-authorial and positive ‘affect’.

Besides positive coverage, the event of a disaster in Japan was also presented negatively. This type of affect feature is noted in the use of words ‘heavy’ (19 tokens), ‘hurt’ (12 tokens), ‘hate’ (1 token), ‘down’ (22 tokens), ‘low’ (8 tokens), and ‘tearful’ (2 tokens). The lexicons describing the event of disasters mainly illustrate the bad emotion felt by the victim of the event and toward the impact on public facilities. It

implicates that when reporting the news on disaster events, the newspapers are concerned with their negative effect not only on animate entities but also on inanimate entities. D3 provides a better description of the analysis on ‘affection’ by demonstrating how the ‘affection’ features are identified in the text.

- D3 *Heavy damage to the harbor area, where nearly all of the 300 shipping berths were destroyed, dealt a severe blow to the city’s economy, sparking a population exodus over the following months and years.* (Japan Today, January 17th, 2020)

The word ‘heavy’ above is used to describe the level of destruction of a harbour in Kobe hit by a 7.2-magnitude quake in January 1995. The emotion contained in the word ‘heavy’ can be considered as unhappiness. Since this is quoted from the writer’s comment/opinion, the word ‘heavy’ is taken as the authorial and negative ‘affect’. In contrast, Japanese newspapers also illustrate the negative emotion felt by the victim of the disaster. On the news covering the fire and explosion of Kyoto Animation Co. studio in Fushimi Ward, Kyoto in 2019, the writer put attention on the negative feeling of the victim. The lexical meaning is in the following data sample:

- D4 *... cries were heard, such as “Help!” and “It hurts! It hurts!” Some escaped by jumping from the building.* (Japan Times, July 19th, 2019)

The word ‘hurts’ is used to describe the feeling of the victims as they were burnt alive. The emotion contained in it can be taken as that of unhappiness. Since this sentence is taken from victims’ speech, not from the writer’s own comment/opinion, the word ‘hurt’ is considered as the non-authorial and positive ‘affect’.

b. *In/security*

In/security covers feelings of peace and anxiety in relation to the environment which we felt and people share with us. In Japanese newspapers, it is interesting that more positive words (70) than negative words (5) are used to represent people’s feelings affected by disaster events. The feeling of security is positively elaborated with the words ‘safe’ (21 tokens), ‘strong’ (21 tokens), ‘together’ (6 tokens), ‘confident’ (2 tokens), ‘commit’ (1 token), ‘believe’ (19 tokens). These words implicate people’s optimism after the disaster. In D5, the researchers try to better describe the analysis on security features of ‘affection’ by demonstrating how the features are identified in the text.

- D5 *Fukushima food declared safe, but still concern over reduced testing Prefectural authorities in Fukushima ... “We have to live strong while keeping in mind those who lost their lives after advising us to evacuate immediately,” Mutsuto Ito said.* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 11th, 2020)

In D5, the words ‘safe’ and ‘strong’ are used to illustrate the authority’s assurance on the condition after the disaster of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear explosion. Nuclear radiation is the main concern following the explosion which might affect many people as well as food which are crucial parts. The word ‘safe’ indicates the security of food for public consumption. Meanwhile, the word ‘strong’ is also used by a public authority to assure people affected by disaster to move forward strongly. Both words ‘safe’ and ‘strong’ resonate with the emotion of security. These data samples implicate the sense of crisis of a Japanese public official who initiates to

promote security and motivation after the event of a disaster. The word ‘safe’ is quoted from the writer’s own opinion, and therefore, it is considered as authorial and positive affect. On the contrary, the word ‘strong’ is quoted from government official Mutsuto Ito, and therefore, it is considered as a non-authorial and positive affect.

The event of a disaster is less negatively illustrated. The researchers only found five words describing the event of a disaster: ‘shaking’ (2 tokens), ‘astonished’ (2 tokens), ‘surprised’ (1 token). These words explicate the negative emotion of the people affected by the event of a disaster.

D6 *Families of the victims and others were astonished and saddened.*

The word ‘astonished’ in D6 is used to illustrate shocking feelings felt by people. The meaning embodied in it is considered insecurity. Since it is not quoted from the writer’s own opinion, it is included as authorial and negative affect.

The findings above prove how the media is mainstreaming the disaster management policy in Japan which focuses more on reconstruction and mitigation for the future risks disaster which is elaborated in the disaster risk reduction framework called Sendai framework (Aitsi-Selmi & Murray, 2015). Mainstreaming this framework, all stakeholders, including the public sector, private sector, and community, take part in the effort of reducing vulnerability and increase their capacity. In this case, newspapers as one of the media play the role to report the disaster to boost people’s confidence and security to bounce back after the disaster. Therefore, newspapers do not use many negative affect features in narrating the event to avoid the negative emotional message sent by the readers.

c. Dis/satisfaction

Dis/satisfaction deals with people’s feeling of achievement and frustration in relation to the activities they are engaged in both as participants and spectators (Martin & White, 2005). In Japanese newspapers, the level of satisfaction of people towards disaster is more positively illustrated with 14 words such as ‘busy’ (3 tokens), ‘involved’ (10 tokens), and ‘absorbed’ (1 token). Meanwhile, negative portrayals are only found in two words, for example, ‘caution’ (1 token) and ‘angry’ (1 token). These words are used to describe people’s state of feeling as the event of disaster occurred around them. Most of the words are quoted from the writer’s own comment/opinion, and therefore, they are included as authorial and positive/negative ‘affect’. Below are data samples provided that demonstrate how the dis/satisfaction features are identified in the text.

D7 *Matsukawa had been told of its existence by workers involved in disaster recovery on the former site of the historic Nobiru port, which dates to the Meiji Era (1868-1912), in the Hamaichi district across a river. (The Asahi Shimbun, January 20th, 2020)*

D8 *After the ministry subcommittee considers how to deal with the processed water, the central government will decide on a basic plan after coordinating with other relevant parties, including the local governments involved. (The Asahi Shimbun, August 9th, 2019)*

From the data samples in D7 and D8, it can be seen that there is an engagement toward the participants, community, and government, in activities related to disaster management including the mitigation and also recovery actions. It is in accordance

with the disaster management in Japan which emphasizes the collaboration of stakeholders in enhancing the capacity.

4.1.2 Judgement resource

Judgement covers the region of meaning construing people's attitude and the way they behave and how they measure up. In disaster events, news coverage inevitably involves parties such as victims, rescue squad, government officials, and other parties involved. Therefore, it is hardly possible for the journalists to not make a judgement on those who are involved, either directly or indirectly. The judgement toward the people involved in disaster news reports is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Summary of judgement features.

Feature	Number of tokens	Percentage
Social esteem	432	90%
Social sanction	50	10%
Social Esteem		
Normality luck	179	41%
Capacity	242	57%
Tenacity	11	2%
Social sanction		
Veracity	5	10%
Propriety	45	90%
Judgement	Number of tokens	Percentage
Positive	98	74%
Negative	34	26%

In Table 6, it is shown that social esteem is dominantly found with 90%. The 'social esteem' feature is almost evenly distributed into 'normality luck' and 'capacity' with 41% and 57% and the rest 2% is included as 'tenacity' feature. Meanwhile, 'social sanction' is dominated by 'propriety' with 90% and the other 10% is veracity. This finding is similar to the two previous studies (Liu & Stevenson, 2013; Zhang, 2015) which revealed that social esteem was found in a higher percentage than social sanction.

Furthermore, it is also found that positive judgment is mostly employed in the newspapers (74%), while there was 26% of negative judgement. The words with a high frequency indicating judgement resources are 'new' (56 tokens) and 'local' (84 tokens) in the normality luck subtype, 'high' (110 tokens), 'able' (27 tokens), 'crippled' (25 token), and 'unable' (12 tokens) in the capacity subtype (12 tokens), and 'severe' (11 tokens) in the propriety subtype. In order to describe the judgement analysis better, several data samples are provided below that demonstrate how the judgement resources are identified in the text.

D9 *Evacuation orders were partially lifted for some areas designated as "difficult-to-return" zones in Futaba and Okuma, towns whose jurisdiction covers the crippled nuclear complex, as well as nearby Tomioka ...* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 11th, 2020)

D10 *The court acknowledged that those who didn't evacuate were also unable to move around freely, given that they lived in fear and anxiety over the prospect of being exposed to radiation.* (The Asahi Shimbun, February 20th, 2020)

In D9 and D10, the word used to judge the condition of the nuclear plant after the explosion. The meaning embodied invokes readers' negative evaluation of the condition of the nuclear complex (how wrecked it is and how bad and evil the explosion is). Therefore, it can be regarded as negative and invoke judgment. Moreover, the word 'unable' also invokes readers' judgment (can move freely). Therefore, it can be considered as negative and invoke judgment. Another negative judgment is embodied in the word 'severe' which refers to the condition of the city's economy due to the disaster. These words are quoted from the writer's own comment and opinion. Therefore, it is included as authorial and judgment resources.

Other than negative judgment, Japanese newspapers also invoke readers' positive judgement. In order to better describe the judgement analysis, several data samples are provided below that demonstrate how the judgement resources are identified in the text.

D11 *A medical check revealed no injuries and he was able to return home that same morning ... Previous cases of natural disaster in Japan also saw the good of individuals willing to help out ...* (Japan Today, July 11th, 2018)

In D11, the words 'able', and 'good' implicate the condition of people and place after the event of a disaster. These words invoke the newspapers' and readers' judgments. The word 'able' refers to the condition of victims who are previously injured (they are now recovered). Meanwhile, the word 'good' indicates people's intention to work with the government in mitigating the disaster (willing to cooperate for the sake of goodness). These words are quoted from the writer's own comment and opinion. Therefore, it is included as authorial and judgment resources. In addition, this lexical strategy is deployed to avoid the message of helpless people affected by disaster delivered to the readers.

4.1.3 Appreciation resource

The last sub-type, Appreciation, looks at the value of things, covering natural phenomena and semiosis. The statistical summary of appreciation resources is listed in Table 7.

Table 7. Summary of appreciation feature.

Feature	Number of tokens	Percentage
Reaction: impact	151	51%
Reaction: quality	23	8%
Composition: balance	12	4%
Composition: complexity	13	4%
Valuation	99	33%
Appreciation	Number of tokens	Percentage
Positive	94	31%
Negative	204	69%

Table 7 presents the overall distribution of appreciation features found in newspapers in reporting the disaster events. The finding shows that the highest feature employment is reaction (impact and quality) (59%), followed by valuation (33%) and composition (8%), respectively. The lexical distribution of each appreciation feature

is explained in the following analysis. In comparison to [Liu and Stevenson \(2013\)](#), this study has similar findings on appreciation resource which has a higher percentage on reaction and composition than valuation, while differently, valuation was found in higher percentage in [Zhang \(2015\)](#).

a. Reaction

[Martin and White \(2005\)](#) mention that in Appreciation, we turn our evaluation of things, including the ones we make and performances we give, and also natural phenomena. In reaction, it is interesting that the impact is found dominantly. In relation to the disaster topic, the negative impact reaction is found in a huge number (137 tokens), while the positive one is just found in a small number (14 tokens). The lexical features appearing in high frequency are ‘contaminated’ (64 tokens), ‘injured’ (15 tokens), ‘fatal’ (12 tokens), and ‘damaged’ (12 tokens). ‘Contaminated’ becomes the highest frequency since a number of articles narrate Fukushima nuclear disaster and depict the impact of it as in ‘contaminated water’, and ‘contaminated waste’ as the past event is being recalled. Below are the examples of concordance of ‘contaminated’.

D12 *Contaminated waste bags still at risk of loss in Fukushima A temporary site where bags filled with contaminated waste from the Fukushima nuclear accident were swept away during Typhoon No. 19 in Tamura, Fukushima Prefecture, in October 2019.* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 18th, 2020)

D13 *Japan to resume effort to tackle contaminated water problem at Fukushima TOKYO Japan is resuming efforts to disperse a build-up of contaminated water at Tokyo Electric Power’s wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant that is stalling progress on cleaning up the site, the government said on Thursday.* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 18th, 2020).

For reaction quality, the positive one is found more frequent (19 tokens) than the negative one (four tokens). The positive reaction quality features are ‘good’ (10 tokens), ‘beautiful’ (four tokens), ‘fine’ (two tokens), ‘welcome’ (two tokens), and ‘lovely’ (one token). Meanwhile, the negative feature found is only ‘bad’ (four tokens). The most frequent positive reaction quality good lemma and its variations are found to narrate not the disaster event, but to narrate what comes after the disaster itself such as the possible solution to tackle the future risk.

D14 *Previous cases of natural disaster in Japan also saw the good intentions of individuals willing to help out resulting in chaos due to traffic congestion, lack of accommodation and toilet facilities for volunteers.* (Japan Today, July 11th, 2019)

Based on the findings above, the news writer reports that the people are willing to help in case of disaster. It proves that the Japanese are actively involved in the actions of disaster management. Even though this lemma is not directly quoted from the news source, it has been confirmed by the source, and therefore it is considered as non-authorial. In addition, ‘good’ lemma also collocates with ‘way’, ‘practice’, ‘evidence’, ‘place’, ‘option’, ‘promise’, and ‘intention’.

b. Composition

Based on the finding, composition, both balance and complexity, is placed in the last order of appreciation features. The number of occurrences is also low which is 25

uses, or 8%. For the composition balance, only one lemma is found, which is ‘considered’ (12 tokens). This lemma gives the balance of the topic discussed in the text. The following are the examples of ‘considered’ lemma found in the context.

D15 *That figure is considered overly optimistic, despite representing less than 30 percent of Futaba’s pre-disaster population.* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 11th, 2020).

D16 *Some items from the building that are considered worthy of preservation will be removed to another exhibition facility now under construction.* (The Asahi Shimbun, July 30th, 2019)

The use of ‘considered’ here is conveyed as the writer’s evaluation of the subject. Therefore, it is categorized as authorial. In the first case, the writer evaluates the confidence of the condition in which the evacuees will return to live in the town by 2027 after the nuclear disaster which happened in 2011. In the second case, the writer reports the well-intentioned construction that can be kept in the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the site after the nuclear disaster.

Meanwhile, for composition complexity, two lemmas are found, namely ‘clear’ (9 tokens) as a positive word and ‘unclear’ (4 tokens) as a negative word. Authorial evaluation toward certain topics is found when the writer evaluates the roadmap for lifting evacuation presented in a meeting with a local official done by the Japanese reconstruction minister.

D17 *At a meeting with local officials in Fukushima in February, reconstruction minister Kazunori Tanaka stopped short of presenting a clear roadmap for lifting the evacuation orders for the zones.* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 11th, 2020)

For the negative one, ‘unclear’, the lemma is used as an authorial evaluation of several events. The illustration of the use of negative composition complexity is shown below.

D18 *Many things remain unclear regarding the cause of the accident,” she said.* (Japan Times, August 12, 2019).

D19 *Since there were no witnesses at the time of the fall, it is unclear how far he swam, but he was probably attracted by the bright light beaming from Hashima (literally “End Island”) and headed in that direction ...* (Japan Today, September 1, 2019)

D20 *Following that, the man moved from prefecture to prefecture, and how much communication he had with his family during that time is unclear, as is whether or not he was actually in Tohoku at the time of the earthquake.* (Japan Today, September 14, 2019)

D21 *No mention of the stone can be found in local records, and why it was spotted 1 kilometer from the floodgate is unclear since the possibility of it being carried by the tsunami is low.* (The Asahi Shimbun, January 20, 2020)

c. Valuation

The use of valuation is mainly to explain our evaluation in terms of the value of things (Martin & White, 2005); how innovative, authentic, and timely things are. In this study, valuation is the second most frequently used sub-type of appreciation. The distribution of positive (40 tokens) and negative valuation (59 tokens) is nearly balanced with the insignificant gap between the two.

The positive valuation employs the lemmas such as ‘rebuild’ (20), ‘real’ (6), ‘deep’ (3 tokens), ‘valuable’ (2 tokens), ‘appropriate’ (2 tokens), ‘effective’ (2 tokens), ‘deep’ (2 tokens), ‘landmark’ (1 token), and ‘original’ (1 token). The most frequent one ‘rebuild’ is found in several different articles discussing different topics of disaster and somehow all of them discuss pre-disaster action. It is in accordance with one of the disaster management targets in Japan in which they have to bounce back fast after the disaster with the slogan ‘Build Back Better’ which is attached to Sendai Framework Disaster Risk Reduction (Maly, 2018). Some examples of concordance of build found in the newspaper are presented below.

1		doc#13 Prefecture. </s><s> In its basic policy of charting a new road map for rebuilding from fiscal 2021, the government decided to maintain the Reconstruct
2		doc#13 1 of March 2021, 32 trillion yen (\$305 billion) will have been spent on rebuilding programs over 10 years. </s><s> However, the injection of public fun
3		doc#16 he station platform, where Izawa explained what his town is doing to rebuild . </s><s> Abe told Izawa, "I hope many people will use the Joban Lin
4		doc#26 her to complete their projects before a milestone event in this town's rebuilding efforts from the nuclear accident. </s><s> March 14 will mark the full
5		doc#26 </s><s> The train line will stop at JR Futaba Station, which has been rebuilt into a modern facility. </s><s> New shops and houses are planned in
6		doc#26 l by Tokyo Electric Power Co. Nine years later, many evacuees have rebuilt their lives--but not in their hometowns. </s><s> Kazuharu Fukuda, a
7		doc#26 uests, the central government in August 2014 announced a vision to rebuild the municipalities. </s><s> Two years later, it set a policy of lifting ev
8		doc#26 ocal leaders. </s><s> The mayors said they cannot even think about rebuilding plans if many tracts of land remain heavily irradiated. </s><s> "Unde
9		doc#40 he resumption of service on the Joban Line will give a major boost to rebuilding of our town," said Futaba Mayor Shiro Izawa. </s><s> Partial service
10		doc#56 struction Olympics"--an opportunity to laud Japan's massive effort to rebuild the country's northeastern region, ravaged by the earthquake and ts

Figure 2. Concordance of “build” lemma.

The negative valuation is also found in several lemmas such as ‘suffer’ (20 tokens), ‘current’ (18 tokens), ‘recent’ (14 tokens), ‘common’ (3 tokens), ‘shallow’ (2 tokens), ‘conventional’ (1 token), and ‘every day’ (1 token). Of all 100 articles, ‘suffer’ is found only in 15 different articles. All of them refer to evacuees as the predicator. However, considering the number of articles and corpus size, this finding is considered not significant. The evaluation of emotion experienced by the emoter (evacuees) is considered in a very low number. Moreover, the use of ‘suffer’ here is authorial valuation. In the timely aspect, ‘current’ and ‘recent’ are found to construe the new disaster events as the effect of the past events. The examples of ‘current’ and ‘recent’ occurrences are presented in D22 and D23.

D22 *Under the current circumstances, I am afraid that most former residents will not come back, even if evacuation orders are lifted,” one of the mayors said.* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 11th, 2020)

D23 *The recent heatwave has resulted in the deaths of more than 65 people and sent over 20,000 to hospitals as of July 23, according to a Kyodo News tally and local authorities.* (Japan Today, July 24th, 2019)

4.2 ‘Disaster’ and ‘Victim’ Lemma in Relation to Disaster Management in Japan

In addition to the subtypes of attitude found in the newspaper, ‘disaster’ and ‘victim’ lemma are also searched for. Of all the articles, both lemmas are surely found in the report of a disaster event. The distribution summary of the occurrence is shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Distribution of ‘disaster’ and ‘victim’ lemma.

Lemma	Number of tokens	Percentage
Disaster	161	75%
Victim	55	25%

Table 8 shows that of two lemmas, ‘disaster’ occurs more frequently than ‘victim’ and the difference is significant, 75% for ‘disaster’ and 25% for ‘victim’. The high occurrence of ‘disaster’ lemma is normal in 100 newspaper articles considering that the chosen topic is on disasters. Furthermore, ‘disaster’ collocates to various lemmas and modifiers. For instance, it occurs with the following top three lemmas: ‘nuclear’, ‘natural’, and ‘tsunami’. Figure 3 presents the example of concordance of the aforementioned modifiers of ‘disaster’.

1	doc#16	st town of Futaba, a once bustling community until the 2011 nuclear disaster hit and forced all the residents to evacuate. </s><s> His visit came fo
2	doc#19	the new safety standards that were set in 2013 following the nuclear disaster in Fukushima Prefecture. </s><s> But the NRA also implemented a "l
3	doc#24	ping of piles of contaminated waste collected after the 2011 nuclear disaster . </s><s> It said March 17 there was a risk of bulk plastic bags stored
4	doc#33	l </s><s> It has since returned to levels recorded before the nuclear disaster . </s><s> Fukushima beef prices plummeted by about 30 percent fror
5	doc#39	n after an earthquake and tsunami in 2011, the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986. </s><s> In 2016, the Japanese government
6	doc#51	o a new cemetery in this town deserted after the Fukushima nuclear disaster to pay respects to their ancestors during the Obon holidays </s><s>
7	doc#52	but most of the area remains the same as the time when the nuclear disaster happened in 2011. </s><s> (Shigetaka Kodama) Thirty-two deaths in
8	doc#58	e since the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster . </s><s> The recent survey was the 10th. </s><s> Landline phone ni

Figure 3. Concordance of ‘disaster’ lemma.

‘Nuclear disaster’ is the most frequent collocation of disaster in the disaster news report taken from the selected newspaper. However, when we look at the examples above, we understand that the nuclear disaster itself does not happen in the current year, 2019-2020. The news report mentions the past events when they are evaluating the system supporting their disaster management capacity as the current effort in mitigating future accidents at nuclear plants.

Meanwhile, ‘natural disaster’ collocation occurs less frequently than ‘nuclear disaster’. The occurrence hits 11 times only. This frequency is not significant considering the corpus size compiled. The collocation is just mentioned to the examples of the typical disaster in Japan. The natural disaster is not the main event discussed in the report.

D24 ... *Signboards have been set up containing pictures prior to and just after the natural disaster and the testimonies of residents who lost their homes ...* (The Asahi Shimbun, August 1, 2019)

Similarly, the collocation of ‘tsunami disaster’ also occurs in a small number, 10 occurrences. The news reporters mention the tsunami to recall the past event in 2011 which impacts the current state or condition. It impacts future disaster risks and also people’s emotional state after the tsunami occurred in 2011.

D25 ... *The organization has conducted surveys on radiation levels in the prefecture since immediately after the triple meltdown at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, set off by the earthquake and tsunami disaster on March 11, 2011.* (The Asahi Shimbun, March 11, 2020).

D26 ... *But he lost his nerve after he saw the devastation wrought by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster.* ... (The Asahi Shimbun, March 17, 2020).

From the above discussions, it can be said that the ‘disaster’ lemma in the Japanese newspapers is used as the strategy to integrate disaster management in Japan. Instead of highlighting the current disaster, the newspaper is found mostly mentioning the past events to transfer the lessons. Disaster management in Japan highlights the lesson learned to mitigate the future risks so their vulnerability will get lower, and their capacity will get higher. As there is a Japanese saying “Disaster happens if people forget the previous one”, the media is used as one of the means to transfer or disseminate lessons from past disasters ([International Recovery Platform \(IRP\), 2010](#)).

For the ‘victim’ lemma, as shown in Table 8, the occurrence is lower compared to ‘disaster’ (55 tokens). This small number of ‘victim’ lemma is found collocating with the modifier (three tokens), ‘victim’ as subject (15 tokens), and ‘victim’ as the object (13 tokens), and others as prepositional phrases. The modifier is found only collocating in ‘crash victim’ (two tokens), ‘disaster victim’ (five tokens), and ‘JAL crash victim’ (one token). This shows that in the fact that newspapers report the disaster event, ‘victim’ is not highlighted as the centre of news reporting disaster events. However, in its collocation, ‘victim’ is found functioning as subject and object. As a subject, ‘victim’ is used slightly higher as an object. The verbs collocated with ‘victim’ as a subject are also found as positive verbs such as ‘claim’, ‘mark’, ‘resort’, ‘remember’, ‘end’, ‘take’, and ‘have’; even though some negative ones are also found but in low frequency such as ‘die’ and ‘perish’. Similarly, functioning as an object, ‘victim’ is also found collocating with positive verbs such as ‘commemorate’, ‘honor’, ‘support’, ‘help’, and ‘return’; even though the negative one ‘injure’ is also found but just in very low frequency.

The low frequency of ‘victim’ in newspapers reporting disaster events is related to the key principle of disaster management in Japan. Integrating Sendai Framework, Japan focuses on four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks. One of which is to enhance disaster preparedness for effective response, and to ‘Build Back Better’ in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction ([Maly, 2018](#)). Therefore, ‘victimization’ is not found in the newspapers. Instead of narrating victim as the helpless objects of disasters who suffer from the unfortunate events, newspapers report them as ones who have control and are also objectified positively which are shown in the collocation found in the data. This aims at mainstreaming victims’ participation in the ‘Build Back Better’ policy which does not allow them to be the helpless ones. Therefore, instead of reporting the suffering and sorrowful victims, the newspapers report them in positive collocation in the lexical features.

5. CONCLUSION

Adopting the appraisal theory and focusing on the attitude features, this study investigates the attitude of the Japanese newspaper in narrating disaster events. Two conclusions are drawn based on the findings and discussions. Firstly, this study reveals that all features in the attitudinal source are found in the newspapers. Judgement is found as the most frequent source, followed by appreciation, and affect. Therefore, it can be concluded that when reporting disaster events, Japanese newspapers tend to emphasize the attitude toward disaster and to construe the evaluation toward the events or phenomena (disaster) rather than revealing the feelings or emotions experienced by the emoter (affect). In addition, even though the negative features are slightly higher

than the positive ones, based on the findings and discussion on the lexical features, the negative ones are used to refer to phenomena rather than the victims. Even with the low frequency of occurrence, when narrating the victim, newspaper writers choose to use the positive words as its collocation. The second conclusion is that these strategies of lexical features used in narrating or reporting disaster are in accordance with disaster management policy in Japan. As Japan has the ideology to focus on how to 'Build Back Better' after disasters, newspapers as one of the media have a harmonious ideology on how to narrate disaster events. Instead of narrating the helpless, sorrowful, and suffering victims and condition, Japanese newspapers deploy the lexical strategies to build the optimism to focus more on the efforts of rehabilitating and mitigating.

This research significantly demonstrated the workability and explanatory significance of the appraisal theory, which surely contribute to the progression of the theory. Essentially, this work also registers insights on how disaster news is narrated and framed. The work carried out in this article is made as an attempt to investigate the appraisal nature of disaster news reports in Japan from a systemic functional perspective. However, some things need to be improved. Future researchers shall consider the collection of bigger corpus data of disaster news covering various kinds of disaster events.

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