

## **The View Point behind Appraisal in Discourse Study**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Appraisal is one of discourse study or analysis component. The point of appraisal is about personal expression to a phenomena or object. One aspect which give much influence to appraisal is context. Context has significant rule for a participant to apply his or her appraisal. Context is about psychological view point to the situation and facts faced by a participant. Every participant could give different interpretation context to a similar phenomenon or object. The components of appraisal consist three things which are attitudes, amplification, and source. The attitude is about personal feeling of a participant. Amplification is about how strong of a participant's feeling to an object. Source is about the starting point of our personal expression. The rule and use of appraisal could make our verbal and non verbal communication become very communicative, effective, and efficient if it is applied appropriately.

**Key Words: View Point, Appraisal, Discourse**

### **BACKGROUND**

Appraisal is one of the materials in the discourse study. It is as important as the other component of discourse study. As the material, it also needs serious study, development, application, and implementation. The material of appraisal should actually studies with other discourse study material simultaneously. It could be combined together with others, but they must be gained differently.

The application of appraisal as the material of discourse analysis is very unique in our daily life. As far as I study discourse, appraisal is the most used by human being. The application concerns to social interaction most. It helps us to interact to one very conveniently. The application of appraisal is also unique because it could represent the culture and

social condition of a society, or at least the interaction among persons. Appraisal is also unique because it could represent the context of situation that is happening. It could be one of indicators to view the interaction process and progress. Appraisal seems to be very wide study in our daily life because of its uniqueness.

Appraisal could be described as the representation of human being passion and desire. By applying appraisal, a participant could express her or his passion in very various ways. It could be applied as the manipulation to show and express our passion. We can deliver our passion explicitly or implicitly by exploring appraisal system. Meanwhile, it is often practiced, but it is also not realized. People who do not understand what appraisal do not understand it in

systematic order. The effect is that the expression of feeling, tough, passion, and desire will not be very effective.

## DISCUSSIONS

Context has close relationship with appraisal application. A certain and definite context could help a participant to express and deliver his or her feeling and passion very well. The position of context is crucial in building personal relationship and expression. Hymes (1968:105) explains "The use of a linguistic form identifies a range of meanings. A context can support a range of meanings, When a form is used in a context, it eliminates the meanings possible to that context than those the form can signal: the context eliminates from consideration the meaning possible to the form other than those the context can support". Good management of context could help a writer or speaker to place their position in a convenient occasion. A speaker or writer could avoid unbeneficial position when interaction with other by applying appropriate combination of context and appraisal.

Context also influences the effectiveness of our appraisal statement. The strength level of our statement could be interpreted into different meaning because of different context applied. Firth (1957:183) states "the basis of hierarchy of techniques for the statement of meanings .... a sort of hierarchy of techniques by means of which the meaning of linguistic events may be, as it were, dispersed into a spectrum of specialized statement". Context could be a valuable object if it is managed very well. It could be beneficial to help a writer of discourse constructor to build comprehensive meaning. The strategy could be managed in a hierarchy or range of order. The hierarchy or management

level should be settle with the condition faced by the writer or speaker.

The context influence and management is actually dynamic process and product. Context can change according to the situation faced by a writer or speaker. Mey (1993:38) describes "context is a dynamic, not a static concept: it is to be understood as the surroundings, in the widest sense, that enable the participants in the communication process to interact, and that make the linguistic expression of their interaction intelligible". Context is a personal sense about the condition surrounding the participant. It is changeable. It could also be concluded that context is a personal conclusion to personal situation faced. It could be right and wrong interpretation. It is why I place the discussion of strategy and hierarchy of interpreting context in the previous paragraph. A writer or speaker must be careful to describe the context faced. It could be beneficial or vice versa. The wrong interpretation of context could damage the meaningfulness and value of information in a discourse.

This discussion is special to relate between contexts with appraisal because appraisal is personal view point. It is also related with a personal experiences, life background, intelligence, etc. It is about psychological and intellectual combination. Sperber and Wilson (1995:15-16) describes "A context is a psychological construct, a subset of the hearer's assumptions about the world. It is these assumptions, of course, rather than the actual state of the world, that affect the interpretation of an utterance. A context in this sense is not limited to information about the expectations about future scientific hypotheses or religious beliefs, anecdotal memories, general cultural

assumptions, beliefs about the mental state of the speaker, may all play a role in interpretation”.

Talking about appraisal, it is about personal attitude as the key points. Martin and Rose (2003:22) explain “Appraisal is a system of interpersonal meanings. We use the resource of Appraisal for negotiating our social relationships, by telling our listeners or readers how we feel about things and people (in a word, what our attitudes are)”. The position of appraisal is a media to express our feeling and attitude to our interlocutor or readers or our text. It could make our feeling and thought delivered systematically.

The good management of appraisal could make us a communicative person in both verbal and written communication. In verbal communication, it could be good strategy for us. It also happens in a written communication. Even, I could state written communication is more difficult than verbal communication. In written communication, the interaction is indirect. A writer cannot confirm the unclear material directly to the readers, and vice versa. The position of appraisal can be a good strategy for a writer to make readers to follow their opinions, ideas, argumentation, etc.

The first material of appraisal is attitudes. Martin and Rose (2003:25) synthesize that kinds of attitudes consist of affect (people’s feeling), judgment (people’s character), and appreciation (the value of things). Attitude is about personal action, expression, and thought. It is just human being whose all of them. Attitude is about how we express our passion, hope, plan, opinion, argumentation, etc. It could be changed according to the context faced by a participant. It is also about personal judgment made by a participant to context and facts faced.

The second component of appraisal is “amplifying attitudes”. Martin and Rose (2003:37) explain “One distinctive feature of attitudes is that they are gradable. This means that we can say how strongly we feel about someone or something”. Amplifying attitude is expression about the level of our feeling to an object. Different participant can give different strength level of feeling to a phenomenon. One example when a child could get the first rank in the class, his or her parent must be participant who is the strongest feeling of happiness than other persons. Other persons may just give congratulation utterance. Amplifying attitude can be also the indicator of relationship. The high level of a relationship must be expressed by high tension of amplifying attitudes. In our daily life, we can feel about how high the level of a participant’s respect with us by identifying the use of amplifying attitudes. A participant who feels close with us must apply high amplifying attitudes, e.g. by giving intensive and deep attention.

The third or the last component of appraisal is source. Martin and Rose (2003:44) explain “The final region of appraisal we need to consider has to do with the source of attitude: who are the evaluations coming from?” Martin and Rose (2003) also give schema that the source of appraisal could come from 3 things which are projecting source, modality, and concession. The source of appraisal is very important as the key to enter the use and analysis of appraisal. As a researcher or observer, we could analyze the source of appraisal expression coming from. As writer or speaker, we can decide where or what is start point to express our appraisal.

## CONCLUSIONS

The rule and position of appraisal is very important in discourse study and daily live practice. Appraisal cannot be avoided. The use of appraisal can be carried out directly or indirectly. The application of appraisal also needs strategy to make it effective and efficient.

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