

## Abstract

Based on Appraisal Theory, which examines languages from the perspective of the system of Attitude, Engagement and Graduation, the thesis examines the distribution of appraisal resources in Trump's tweets containing word of "China" or "Chinese" from 2011 to 2017. This thesis is also concerned with how Trump tweets on China to pass his value judgement, evaluate a situation, a thing, or a person through the lexicogrammatical resources available in language.

**Attitude system**, as the core and basic part of Appraisal Theory, deals with feelings, including emotional reactions, judgement of behavior and evaluation of things. It can be correspondingly divided into three sub-subsystems called Affect, Judgement and Appreciation. **Engagement system** refers to the way of evaluators participate in the discourse, and it can be divided into monogloss and heterogloss. Monoglossic utterances are those which make no reference to other voice and viewpoints, whereas heteroglossic utterances invoke or allow for dialogic alternatives. And the latter can be further divided into dialogic contraction and dialogic expansion, both of which represent the polar points in a dialogic meaning continuum. Contraction resources are the resources which act to challenge, fend off or restrict the scope of positions and voices, and expansion resources are the resources which more or less entertain alternative positions and voices. **Graduation system** has to do with adjusting the degree of an evaluation or adjusting the strength of boundaries between boundaries, constructing core and peripheral types of things. It is concerned with the values of scaling in terms of force and focus.

We extract 484 tweets containing keyword "China" or "Chinese" from *TrumpTwitterArchive* website, and carry out manual coding of each tweet under the Appraisal theory. Then we go on data analysis and observe that the negative affect resources on China account for the biggest share. Negative attitude resources are always intensified through the use of force resource. In terms of the Engagement system, Trump's monoglossic statements take up a great part, which have the effect of presenting his assertions that rarely recognize or refer to alternative positions. Within the heterogloss, the contraction resources in our twitter discourse are more frequent than the expansion resources. Within the contraction resource, the disclaim resources outnumber the proclaim resources, which results in a contracted dialogic space and few outer voices in Trump's twitter discourse. In terms of the Graduation system, the

force resources are far more in quantity than the focus resources. Based on the data, our research also attempts to show through examples how Trump tweet China subjectively with the maintenance of specific ideological goals in his mind.

On the whole, the present study is considered an attempt to combine Appraisal Theory with Trump's twitter discourse. It sheds some light on how Trump perceives China, how diplomacy goes and eventually on twitter discourse as a new field of study.

**Key words:** Appraisal Theory; Appraisal resource; Trump; Twitter discourse

## 摘要

本文以评价理论为基本框架，从其三个子系统即态度，介入和级差资源，分析特朗普推特中含有“中国”或“中国人”推文及其评价资源的分布情况。本文也关注特朗普在针对中国的推特中如何运用语言来传递其个人价值判断，以及如何评价人，事，物。

评价理论中的**态度系统**是最主要的部分，主要关注说话者的感受，包括情绪反应，行为判断以及事物鉴赏等，分别对应态度系统中的三个子系统，即情感，判断和鉴赏。**介入系统**反映的是说话者参与话语的方式，主要分为表达说话者个人声音的自言和以多种方式把其他声音投射到语篇中的借言。其中借言又分为话语收缩和话语拓展两个子系统。话语收缩意味着话语的介入挑战或限制了其他声音和立场。话语扩展意味着话语的介入或多或少地引发了对话中的其他声音和立场。**级差系统**则体现说话者评价的强弱变化，或是讲话者对某个人或某个事物所做的“加剧性”描述或“模糊性”描述。级差包含语势和聚焦两个变量。

我们首先通过*TrumpTwitterArchive*网站抽取含有“中国”或“中国人”的481条推文，并对其中的评价资源进行标注。接着，根据标注的结果得出相应的数据后，我们发现消极情感资源在特朗普推特语篇中占据了很大一部分，并且消极态度资源中常常借助语势资源强化力度。而在介入系统中，特朗普使用的自言资源占主要部分，使得特朗普呈现的陈述更加主观武断，不包容其他可能的声音。借言中的话语收缩资源多于话语拓展资源。在收缩资源中，否定资源多于肯定资源。这使得特朗普的推特语篇中话语空间收缩，其他的观点即使出现了，也受到限制。在级差资源中，语势资源多于聚焦资源。本研究还结合具体语料分析了特朗普在推文中是如何展现其对中国的主观意识形态。

综上所述，本研究是评价理论结合特朗普推特语篇分析的一次尝试，并且也为特朗普对中国的言论及政策研究提供了一个新的视角。

**关键词：**评价理论；评价资源；特朗普；推特语篇