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Appraisal, authorial stance and the performance of “objectivity” in news reporting

– some cross cultural perspectives

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A broad distinction in journalistic writing

News Reporting (“objective”)	Commentary (“subjective”)
<p>“Factual” accounts of what happened and or what was said.</p>	<p>Opinionated, argumentative, evaluative texts directed at advancing the writer’s personal viewpoint</p>
<p>“Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the Yasukuni Shrine on Dec 26 where the 14 “Class A” war criminals are enshrined. China and South Korea angrily condemned the move. The international community also expressed concern - particularly the United States - Japan’s major ally. A US State Department spokesman said Washington was “disappointed” with Abe’s actions. A new opinion poll also showed that most Japanese disagreed with their prime minister’s conduct.”</p>	<p>“Hawkish Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe finally showed the cloven hoof. He celebrated the first anniversary of his second premiership by insulting Japan’s neighbors and rest of the world. His visit to the Yasukuni Shrine on Thursday betrayed his decision to defile righteousness, conscience and truth.”</p>

Today's focus: "factual" news reporting

- What is involved linguistically (stylistically) in the supposed "objectivity" or "factuality" of such reports?
 - With specific reference to Appraisal values: what patterns of use of evaluative language can we observe in such "hard news" reporting?
 - Do we observe similar "objective" styles of language in the "hard news" reporting of different cultures (and languages)
- How do such "factual" reports position their readers (viewers) attitudinally and hence ideologically?
 - How do they position the reader to take a positive or negative view of the people involved or the happenings described?
- Demonstrate a methodology for exploring attitudinal positioning in different "hard news" reports of the same incident – specifically reports from the *China Daily* and the *Japan Times* of the Japanese Prime Minister's (Shinzo Abe) to the Yasukuni last year.

Countryside campaigners say government should reconsider 200 miles of overhead pylons in wake of report

By John Vidal

Countryside campaigners fighting hundreds of miles of 50-metre tall electricity pylons said on Tuesday that they have been vindicated by an independent report, which says burying cables is far cheaper than has been claimed by the National Grid.

The report by engineering consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff into the comparative costs of routing transmission lines was commissioned by government planning body the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). It found that underground cabling was 4.5-5.7 times more expensive than traditional overhead pylons. This compares with the claim of being 10-20 times more expensive, which is often made by the National Grid company in planning applications. The National Grid has been the monopoly supplier of UK pylons for 60 years....

[*The Guardian*, February 1, 2012]

Guantanamo families to take fight to US

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Politicians, campaigners and lawyers joined relatives of the prisoners to launch the Guantanamo Human Rights Commission at the House of Commons.

Nine Britons and three British residents are among the 660 men who have been held at the American naval base in Cuba for more than two years without charge or access to lawyers. Another 11 Europeans, several from France, Sweden and Germany, are also detained at Camp Delta.

'We have to speak not only to the courts of law but to the court of public opinion,' Nadine Strossen, the president of the ACLU, said. She said there was growing concern over the Bush administration's actions in the 'war on terror'.

<...>

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[*The Guardian*, January 21, 2004]

"Reporter Voice" , "objective" news reporting

- A subtype of news reporting often associated with the so-called "quality" or "high-brow" news media:
 - *The BBC, The Guardian, The Times, The New York Times*, international wire services, *Le Monde* (?? *China Daily, Xin Hua*)
- Stylistically: "strategic impersonalisation" by which the author largely refrains from the following
 - indicating their own emotional responses,
 - explicitly, on their own behalf, passing judgement on human character and behaviour,
 - speculating about motives, feelings and about causes and effects,
 - calling for action, issuing orders.
- All the above are largely confined to material attributed to quoted sources (i.e. it's quoted sources who are reported as having passed judgement or called for action, not the journalist author)
- Iedema et al. (1994), White (1998), Martin & White (2005) and White & Thomson (2008) – a subset of reporting in British and Australian news journalism: "reporter voice"

- Stensaas (1986): a study of the historical development of the “objectivity ethic” in US news reporting 1865 to 1934
 - ‘objective news reporting’ is that in which it is quoted external sources, and not the journalistic author, who make any ‘claims to significance, statements of prediction, value, advocacy, or inductive generalizations’
 - a progressive increase in the number of news reports which satisfied this criterion; was “normative” by the 1920s

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[*The Guardian*, January 21, 2004]

The headline/lead - the news story as interpretive device

NO FUTURE

How the Big Australian dumped a little Australian

Steelworker Wayne Hunter — the proud "face of the future" on BHP billboards — became the forlorn face of a steel city with no future yesterday. As BHP announced it would shut down steel making in Newcastle and other plants, directly costing 2500 jobs, Mr Hunter represented what Premier Bob Carr called a 'boardroom betrayal of the working class'

(The Daily Telegraph 30/4/97)

BHP sackings a \$1bn bonus

Investors applauded the decision by BHP to close its steel mills in Sydney, Geelong and Newcastle, driving up its share price by 48c yesterday to add to almost \$1 billion to the market value of the Big Australian.

(The Australian 30/4/97)

South African police open fire on anti-Blair protesters

The crack of shotguns was heard in the streets of South Africa's parliamentary capital yesterday as police opened fire on Muslims demonstrating against a visit by Tony Blair.

Bullets wreck Blair Visit

FOUR people were wounded in a gunfight between Muslim extremists and police about 100 yards from Tony Blair in Cape Town yesterday after officers spotted men handing out guns to demonstrators baying for the Prime Minister's blood.

Shinzo Abe stunned the international community on Thursday by making himself the first sitting Japanese prime minister in seven years to visit a shrine that honors 14 World War II Class A war criminals among the country's war dead.

The abrupt move - widely viewed as rewriting public memory on Japan's militaristic past - enraged Japan's victimized neighbors including China and South Korea and disappointed Japan's traditional ally the United States.

Shinzo Abe made a surprise visit to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Thursday, the first anniversary of his second stint as prime minister.

The visit worsens the odds of a summit with leaders of China and South Korea, countries that regard Yasukuni as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism. The visit also coincided with the late Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong's 120 birthday.

Abe arrived at the shrine around 11:30 a.m. to pay his respects to the millions of war dead enshrined there.

Key lines of analysis

- Since "reporter voice" reports are largely free of explicit authorial judgements of human behaviour and character, we are interested in the role of meanings which indirectly activate positive/negative viewpoints
 - via evaluatively "more visible" meanings such as counter-expectation, intensification, metaphor, comparison, negation, etc.
 - via evaluatively "invisible" meanings – "factual" accounts
- The role of key reporting verbs (and related formulations) which:
 - construe the authorial voice as either **standing with** (associated) or **standing away from** (disassociated) quoted sources and propositions attributed to them
 - *to prove, show, demonstrate, reveal* ("factives") versus
 - *to claim* ("alert" quotes)
 - are dialogically unmarked, or neutral
 - *to say, state, report*, etc.
- The role of quoted-source descriptors (the designation of sources) in positioning the reader to favour or disfavour propositions attributed to quoted sources

turning to the Appraisal framework

- A group of linguists working within the Systemic Functional Linguistics paradigm of Michael Halliday (1994)
 - Iedema et al. 1994, Martin 1997, White 1998, 2002, 2003, Macken-Horarik & Martin 2003, Martin 2000 and Martin & White 2005.
- Taxonomies of the key types of evaluative meanings.
 - **Attitude:** meanings for explicitly or implicitly conveying positive and negative assessments
 - **Graduation:** meanings by which the intensity of utterances can be raised or lowered, or the boundaries of semantic categories can be blurred or sharpened
 - **Engagement:** meanings by which the speaker/writer engages dialogistically with prior speakers on the same subject and anticipates potential responses

- **Considering patterns of use of attitudinal meanings (positive/negative assessments) in news reporting texts**
 - patterns in use of different types of attitude:
 - Affect (emotion);
 - Judgement (assessments of human behaviour and character by reference to norms of social acceptability and esteem)
 - Appreciation (assessment of entities, artefacts, happenings and states of affair by reference to systems of social valuation)
 - explicit (inscribed) versus implicit (invoked) attitude
 - authorial versus attributed attitude

Commentary: necessarily "subjective"

[From the *Birmingham Post*]

The behaviour of the Government and the police during the visit of Chinese President Jiang Zemin was nothing short of disgraceful.

To see police brutally manhandling demonstrators was not only shocking but representative of more repressive regimes, such as China.

As for Labour's "ethical foreign policy" the visit exposed that as a sham. The message from Labour is clear: ethics, morals and ideals are not a consideration in foreign policy when exports have to be contemplated

Having behaved so dishonourably, one would have thought the Government would decide to keep its head down, if not to avoid the flak then at least in shame.

Commentary – instances of attitude

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extract 1.

(from *The Sun*)

RIFLES RAISED BY GUARDSMEN TO STOP RIOT OVER HATED PRESIDENT

Queen's China crisis as coach is charged

Bayonet fixed and rifle raised, a soldier comes to the rescue of his Queen yesterday. The trooper went into action when human rights protesters charged at her carriage as she travelled towards Buckingham Palace with the Chinese president.

extract 2.

(from *The Daily Telegraph*)

Anti-China protests brushed aside

The first Chinese state visit in British history began yesterday with a lone, Tiananmen Square-style attempt to disrupt the royal procession in the Mall and muted protests elsewhere.

As the Queen and President Jiang Zemin travelled to Buckingham Palace, a 34 year-old man jumped over the barriers and attempted to unfurl the Tibetan flag in front of their coach

Types of attitude

Affect – emotional reaction

The president **terrifies** me; The speech **bored** me; I am **distressed** by the Party's decision to change its policy on uranium.

It was, then, with **fury**, that I returned home on Saturday to find my own country rumbling with the mumbles of the peaceniks.

Judgement: assessments of the human behaviour by reference to its social acceptability/unacceptability – for example by reference to systems of ethics, legality, etiquette and other social norms

He is a highly **skilled** and **inspiring** speaker who goes about his work with great **courage**

To see police **brutally manhandling** demonstrators was not only shocking but representative of more **repressive** regimes, such as China.

Appreciation – assigning a social value to objects, artefacts, texts, states of affairs, i.e. by reference to aesthetics and other systems of social valuation)

(aesthetics)

The new president's speech was **elegant** and **well-woven**, sounding a panoply of themes without seeming **scattered**;

The brook bubbled away **pleasantly** in the background

A **glorious** sunset presented itself to our eyes

(social valuations)

That part of the mountain is extremely **dangerous**;

It was a **bargain**

Explicit (inscribed) versus implicit (invoked attitude)

•A. (explicit - inscribed)

So incompetent and disorganised is the Examinations Board that two weeks ago it bungled and sent history and English papers to a maths tutor who was obviously not equipped or competent to mark them. Disturbingly, the board had still failed to retrieve the unmarked papers yesterday despite repeated efforts by the tutor to notify them of their mistake.

•B. (implicit – invoked/tokens)

Two weeks ago, Elaine Davies, a mathematics tutor in Wollongong, received two batches of history papers and a further batch of English papers from the Examinations Board, even though she has never worked as a marker. By yesterday morning, after repeated calls to the board, she still had the 149 unmarked scripts.

Invoked Attitude – evoking versus provoking

(**evoking**: triggering positive/negative responses by means of a focus on purely informational content)

George W. Bush delivered his inaugural speech as the United States President who collected 537,000 fewer votes than his opponent.

The secret service agent stepped into the line of fire and took a bullet for the President.

The members of this religious group referred to themselves as angels and filled their mansions with computers and cheap plastic furniture.

(**provoking**: triggering positive/negative responses by means of formulations which are in other ways evaluative)

Telstra has withdrawn sponsorship of a suicide prevention phone service - just days after announcing a \$2.34 billion half-yearly profit.

He only visits his mother once a year, even though she is more than 90 years old.

Mega-rich reap child benefit

Thirty-one millionaire families in Australia receive the government payment designed to give extra help to single-income families. ([Link to text](#))

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Queen's China crisis as coach is charged

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Instances of "inscribed" (explicit) Attitude**extract 1.**

(from *The Sun*)

**RIFLES RAISED BY GUARDSMEN TO STOP RIOT
[Judgement] OVER HATED [Observed Affect] PRESIDENT**

Queen's China **crisis** [Appreciation] as coach is charged

Bayonet fixed and rifle raised, a soldier **comes to the rescue** [Judgement] of his Queen yesterday. The trooper when human rights protesters charged at her carriage as she travelled towards Buckingham Palace with the Chinese president

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The first Chinese state visit in British history began yesterday with a lone, Tiananmen Square-style attempt to disrupt the royal procession in the Mall and muted protests elsewhere.

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Attitudinal Stability 1**Brushing Aside**

However, in the long run, the child whose needs are met makes fewer demands than the child whose needs are suppressed or punished. Parents, even well-meaning, loving parents, often ignore or brush aside their child's needs because the parents are busy. [Bank of English – brbooks/UK corpus]

The only reason she hadn't connected them before was that Richard and Jeremy were poles apart as people. Compared to his son, Jeremy was nothing, just a small-time ex-pat, easy to brush aside and forget about completely.

Earlier, Todd must have been alarmed at the way his defence parted, allowing Fabian defreitas to brush aside a half-hearted challenge from Robbie Elliott and put West Brom ahead.

Attitudinal stability 2

fun-loving

The papers have been full of reviews about this film and most so far have been enthusiastic. Some critics loved the cinematography and the beauty of China's landscape. Others liked the character portrayals associating it with Jane Austen and Shakespeare. Others still were **fun-loving** enough to admit that they really enjoyed the fight sequences, with much comparison to the Matrix.

instance 1.

There is nothing in life that prepares you for this. Melanie was such a **fun-loving** person - kind, hardworking. She always had a smile on her face.

instance 2.

Demi were always away working, but he called from all over the world and spent hours talking to Michele. She's a **fun-loving** girl but hard-working and ambitious.

Attitudinal Stability 3

Following the death of his wife, Corinne, in 1992, Sir Michael, 53, **single-handedly** raised four teenage girls.

Dick is the genius guy who almost **single-handedly** inspired a new generation of young, creative, hotshot barmen to treat their territory more like a kitchen than a place where you just mix up the same old formulas over and over again.

I think she did a wonderful job with her life, and I think my father's a hero and I think my mother is a hero. Any woman who can raise five children and put them through college **single-handedly** is a hero.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2003

Fitzgerald **Single Handedly** Risks O'Hare, Illinois' Future

....

"By using his obstructionist tactics, Senator Peter Fitzgerald has **single-handedly** destroyed one of the largest job creation opportunities of his senate career, and has jeopardized the entire region's economic well-being in the process," argued Hull. (from http://www.blairhull.com/releases/release_2003_0314.html, accessed 16/07/03)

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[*The Guardian*, January 21, 2004]

- **'take their fight to'**
- A search of the Collins Wordbanks 500 million-word corpus.
- Returns 12 hits.
- Eleven of these involved metaphorical 'fights', all of which were positive
 - 'The five sisters of murdered Belfast man Robert McCartney were thrust into the spotlight when they decided to take their fight for justice to the US.'
- One instance negative – a 'non metaphorical' fight
 - 'Whoever wins, the more disturbing development is that some Iraqi jihadis, hoping to take their fight beyond Iraq's borders, are threatening to launch a terrorist campaign in the U. S.'

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“lone Tiananmen style protest”

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Invoked (implicit) Attitude**extract 2.**

(from *The Daily Telegraph*)

Anti-China protests **brushed aside** [invoked Judgement, of either the authorities or the protestor, depending on reading position]

The first Chinese state visit in British history began yesterday with **a lone, Tiananmen Square-style attempt** [invoked Judgement, depending on reader making the intertextual reference] to **disrupt** [positive or negative depending on reading position] the royal procession in the Mall and muted protests elsewhere.

As the Queen and President Jiang Zemin travelled to Buckingham Palace, a 34 year-old-man jumped over the barriers and **attempted** [potentially invoked Judgement, potentially negative of the protestor for failing in his efforts – dependent on reading position] to unfurl the Tibetan flag in front of their coach

Countryside campaigners say government should reconsider 200 miles of overhead pylons in wake of report

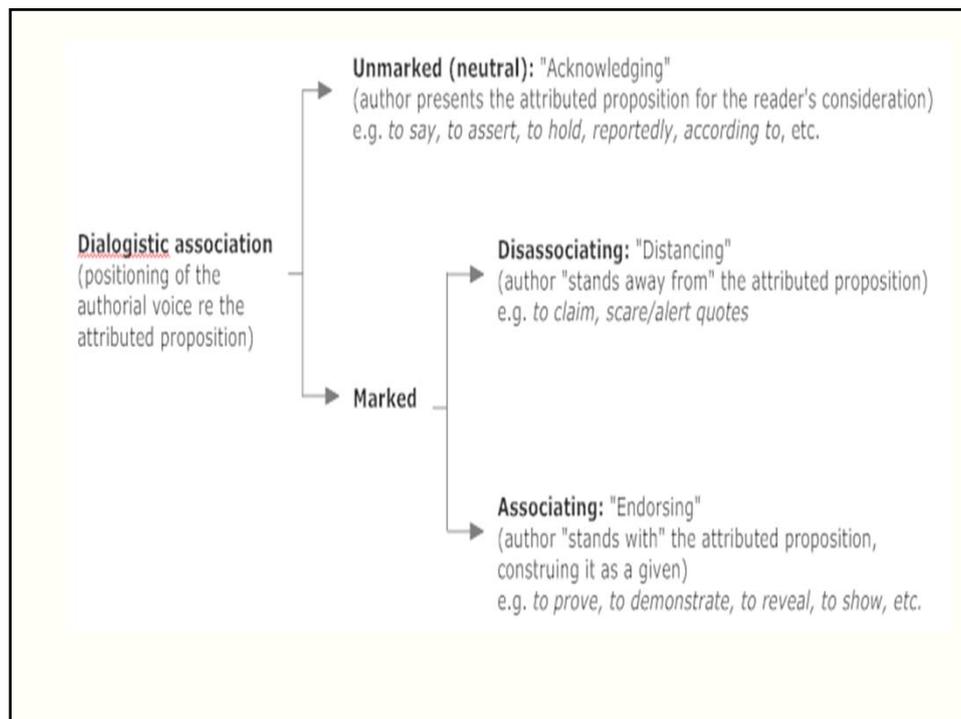
By John Vidal

Countryside campaigners fighting hundreds of miles of 50-metre tall electricity pylons said on Tuesday that they have been vindicated by an independent report, which says burying cables is far cheaper than has been claimed by the National Grid.

The report by engineering consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff into the comparative costs of routing transmission lines was commissioned by government planning body the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). It found that underground cabling was 4.5-5.7 times more expensive than traditional overhead pylons. This compares with the claim of being 10-20 times more expensive, which is often made by the National Grid company in planning applications. The National Grid has been the monopoly supplier of UK pylons for 60 years....

[*The Guardian*, February 1, 2012]

- Attitudinal positioning and material attributed to external (quoted) sources - on what bases can the author be interpreted as implicated in viewpoints attributed to these quoted sources?
- Considering
 - the choice of reporting verb and related devices
 - One speaker said that the government had not kept its promises.
 - One speaker claimed that the government had not kept its promises
 - One speaker demonstrated that the government had not kept its promises.
 - As study has revealed that the government has not kept its promises.
 - The Prime Minister admitted that his government had not kept its promises.
 - source identifiers acting to “invoke” positive or negative attitudes towards the reliability, plausibility of the attributed propositions
 - A former government minister, recently sacked by the Prime Minister, says the government has not kept its promises
 - Burmese opposition and Nobel peace prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, says the government has not kept its promises.



Authorial association with the attributed material

A study in 1997 **showed** that most adolescent American girls ... assess their own self-worth entirely in terms of how good they look. (Collins Wordbanks, brnews sub-corpus)

Mr Duelfer 's report **demonstrated** that Saddam was doing his best to get around the sanctions. (Collins Wordbanks, oznews sub-corpus)

Authorial disassociation from the attributed material

Don't forget that 8mb of RAM in your PC is a practical minimum – 2mb is recommended and the 4mb Microsoft **claims** is usable is just ridiculous.

(Bank of English, New Scientist sub-corpus)

The malicious *Daily Mail* also **claims** Beatrice, 14 ... and sister Eugenie, 12, were upset at another row between her mum and 'hapless' Andrew.

(*The Mirror* September 6, 2002)

In his foreign policy speeches, George Bush often mentions the importance of human rights. He **correctly claims** that Operation Desert Storm ended Iraq's abuse of Kuwaiti human rights.

(Bank of English – US public radio sub-corpus)

Apartheid city: Former CRE boss condemns both sides of the divide

The damning verdict on a community torn apart by segregation - and warnings that were spurned

ALL sides of the racial divide must take the blame for turning Bradford into a terrifying hotbed of fear and ignorance, an inquiry has found.

Days after rioting left 200 police officers injured and caused £25million damage, a team led by race equality campaigner Lord Herman Ouseley delivered a verdict that damned almost every section of its society.

The rot runs deep, with Asians, whites, schools, the police and the local authority all told to take responsibility for the crisis.

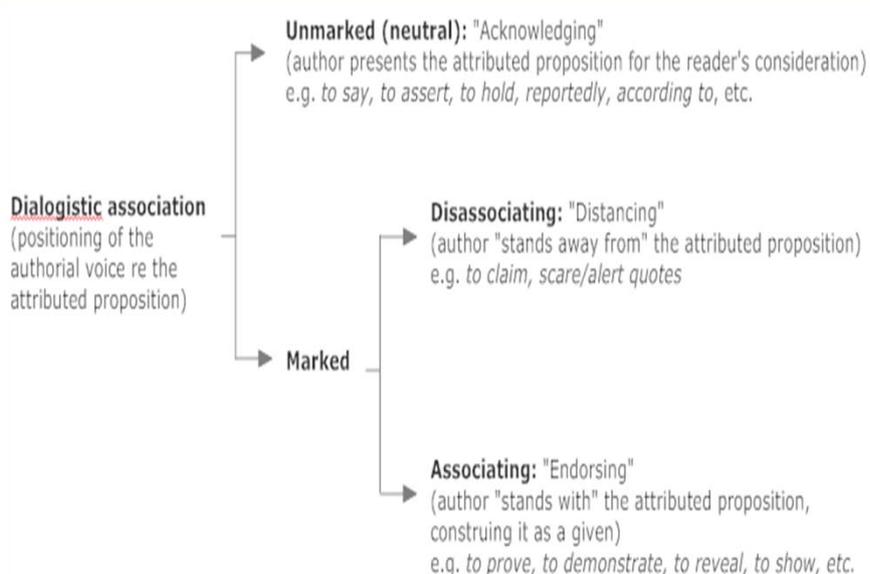
The report depicted Bradford as a city in which 'weak' political leaders 'kowtow' to community leaders to keep the peace in a 'doing deals' culture.

Schools are places of 'virtual apartheid' where racial conflict, harassment and 'Islamaphobia' thrive.

Racism is fuelled by inadequate education about different cultures and 'parental prejudices'.

Communities have little, if anything, to do with people outside their own race or religion, **it is claimed**.

(*Daily Mail*, September 1, 2001)



Source descriptors as attitudinal invocations

- Calsamiglia and López Ferrero (2003): taxonomy of source descriptor types based on van Leeuwen's social actor types
 - for example attending to whether the source is individualised ('Phillipe Sands QC, professor of law at University College, London')
or
'genericized' ('human rights lawyers')
- An account of descriptor types by reference to their potential to act as attitudinal invocations.

Source descriptors 'evoking' attitudinal assessments

- Nelson Mandela said..
- The Dalai Lama said...
- The Red Cross / or Médecins Sans Frontière have reported that...
- according to Phillipe Sands QC, professor of law at University College, London
- Chomsky holds that.... / Halliday holds that....

- Source descriptors 'provoking' attitudinal assessments of attributed material
 - **Leading agricultural scientists hold that** recent farm production trends increasingly indicate US has been living off past tech breakthroughs. (*New York Times Abstracts*, 31 May 1976)
 - **...many scientists hold that** the Hubble telescope has provided some of most valuable space images to date (*New York Times Abstracts*, 24 August, 2004)
 - **only a few scientists believe** the Earth will self-stabilize. (*USA Today* 18 April 1990)
- (Hood 2004, Calsamiglia and López Ferrero 2006)

- **Many scientists hold that** climate change is unstoppable; **others say** it is possible to minimize the impact. (*El País* English edition, 2 February 2011)

Key lines of analysis

- Patterns in the use of
 - evaluatively more visible tokens of attitude (**provocations**) and
 - evaluatively less visible tokens of attitude (**evocations**)
- Patterns in the use of reporting verbs (and related formulations) which construe dialogic by which :
 - the author **stands with** (associated) or **stands away from** (disassociated) the quoted proposition or
 - is dialogically neutral
- Patterns in the use of quoted-source descriptors (the designation of sources) which, as attitudinal invocations, implicitly position the reader to favour or disfavour propositions attributed to quoted sources

Countryside campaigners **say** government should reconsider 200 miles of overhead pylons in wake of report

By John Vidal

Countryside campaigners fighting hundreds of miles of 50-metre tall electricity pylons **said** on Tuesday that they have been vindicated by an *independent* report, which **says** burying cables is far cheaper than has been **claimed** by the National Grid.

The report by *engineering consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff* into the comparative costs of routing transmission lines was commissioned by government planning body the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). It **found** that underground cabling was 4.5-5.7 times more expensive than traditional overhead pylons. This compares with the **claim** of being 10-20 times more expensive, which is often made by the National Grid company in planning applications. The National Grid has been *the monopoly supplier* of UK pylons for 60 years....
[*The Guardian*, February 1, 2012]

- Propositions of the countryside campaigners are:
 - ‘sayings’: ‘Countryside campaigners fighting hundreds of miles of 50-metre tall electricity pylons **said** on Tuesday that they have been vindicated by an independent report...’
- Proposition of their “allies” are:
 - ‘findings’: ‘The report by engineering consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff] **found** that underground cabling was 4.5-5.7 times more expensive than traditional overhead pylons.’
- Propositions of the opposed party are:
 - ‘claims’: ‘the **claim** of being 10-20 times more expensive, which is often made by the National Grid’);
‘... are cheaper than has been **claimed** by the National Grid’

- Source descriptors associated with the ‘environmentalist’ position are provoking invocations of positive attitude towards the relevant proposition
 - an **independent** report, which says burying cables is far cheaper than has been claimed by the National Grid.
- Source descriptors associated with the opposing position evoke negative attitude towards the relevant proposition
 - This compares with the claim of being 10-20 times more expensive, which is often made by the National Grid company in planning applications. The National Grid has been the **monopoly supplier** of UK pylons for 60 years

Abe visits Yasukuni, angering Beijing and Seoul

[Japan Times - <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/12/26/national/abes-surprise-visit-to-yasukuni-sparks-criticism/#.U01LU4V1OHQ>]

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a surprise visit to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Thursday, the first anniversary of his second stint as prime minister.

The visit worsens the odds of a summit with leaders of China and South Korea, countries that regard Yasukuni as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism. The visit also coincided with the late Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong's 120 birthday.

Abe arrived at the shrine around 11:30 a.m. to pay his respects to the millions of war dead enshrined there. Class-A war criminals, most notably wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo, are also among those enshrined.

Inside the main building he bowed in a Shinto ceremony and made a donation out of his own pocket.

Abe is the first prime minister to visit Yasukuni since Junichiro Koizumi in 2006.

Facing reporters at the shrine, Abe repeatedly stressed that he was not there "to pay homage to war criminals," as many have claimed, but rather to pray for peace.

"Some people criticize a visit to Yasukuni as something to pay homage to war criminals, an idea based on misunderstanding," Abe said.

"I paid a visit to show (to the war dead) my determination to create an age where no one will ever suffer from tragedies of wars," he added.

Yasukuni enshrines millions of Japanese soldiers who died for the state in modern wars. During the 1930s and '40s, it served as a spiritual pillar for members of the military and their families. But it also enshrines 12 convicted Class-A war criminals and another two suspects who died in prison before their rulings were handed down at the postwar International Military Tribunal for the Far East, or Tokyo Tribunal.

Abe visits Yasukuni, angering Beijing and Seoul

[Japan Times - <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/12/26/national/abes-surprise-visit-to-yasukuni-sparks-criticism/#.U01LU4V1OHQ>]

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a **surprise** visit to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Thursday, the first anniversary of his second stint as prime minister.

The visit **worsens the odds** of a summit with leaders of China and South Korea, **countries that regard Yasukuni as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism**. The visit also coincided with the late Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong's 120 birthday.

Abe arrived at the shrine around 11:30 a.m. to pay his respects to the millions of war dead enshrined there. **[positive]** Class-A war criminals, most notably wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo, are also among those enshrined. **[negative]**

Inside the main building he bowed in a Shinto ceremony and made a donation out of his own pocket.

Abe is the first prime minister to visit Yasukuni since Junichiro Koizumi in 2006.

Facing reporters at the shrine, **Abe repeatedly stressed** that *he was not there "to pay homage to war criminals," as many have claimed, but rather to pray for peace.*

"Some people criticize a visit to Yasukuni as something to pay homage to war criminals, an idea based on misunderstanding," Abe said.

"I paid a visit to show (to the war dead) my determination to create an age where no one will ever suffer from tragedies of wars," he added.

Yasukuni enshrines millions of Japanese soldiers **who died** for the state in modern wars. During the 1930s and '40s, it served as a **spiritual pillar** for members of the military and their families. But it also **enshrines 12 convicted Class-A war criminals** and another two suspects who died in prison before their rulings were handed down at the postwar International Military Tribunal for the Far East, or Tokyo Tribunal.

Attitudinal alignments (Japan Times 1)

- **Negative disposition towards the shrine and Abe's visit**
 - Via attitudinal invocation
 - ?? a surprise visit to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine
 - The visit worsens the odds of a summit with leaders of China and South Korea
 - Class-A war criminals, most notably wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo, are also among those enshrined
 - But it also enshrines 12 convicted Class-A war criminals
 - Via neutrally attributed assertions
 - **China and South Korea, countries that regard Yasukuni as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism.**
 - Via distanced (disassociated) attributions
 - *"[he was there] to pay homage to war criminals," as many have claimed*

Attitudinal alignments (Japan Times 2)

- **Positive disposition towards Abe's visit or negative disposition towards those who condemn it**
 - Via attitudinal invocation
 - Abe arrived at the shrine around 11:30 a.m. to pay his respects to the millions of war dead enshrined there
 - [he] made a donation out of his own pocket.
 - Yasukuni enshrines millions of Japanese soldiers who died for the state in modern wars.
 - it served as a spiritual pillar for members of the military and their families
 - Via neutrally attributed assertions
 - **Abe repeatedly stressed that** *he was ... there ... to pray for peace*
 - *[the criticism of the visit is] an idea based on misunderstanding," Abe said*
 - *"I paid a visit to show (to the war dead) my determination to create an age where no one will ever suffer from tragedies of wars," he added.*

Serious consequences warned after Abe pays war tribute

[http://africa.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-12/27/content_17199556.htm]

Shinzo Abe stunned the international community on Thursday by making himself the first sitting Japanese prime minister in seven years to visit a shrine that honors 14 World War II Class A war criminals.

The abrupt move — widely viewed as rewriting public memory on Japan's militaristic past — enraged Japan's victimized neighbors including China and South Korea and disappointed Japan's traditional ally the United States.

Observers said the hard-core nationalist Abe is ruining the stability of Northeast Asia and that he seems to believe it is worthwhile to sacrifice honesty about history in order to revitalize Japan's assertive style of expansion before World War II.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi summoned Japanese Ambassador to China Masato Kitera to lodge a strong protest on Thursday. Beijing vowed zero tolerance for Abe's touching the bottom of the bilateral relationship, and for betraying the commitment of his government and his predecessors, he said.

Japan must bear "full responsibility for the serious political consequences" of the visit, he said, adding Abe's action has pushed Japan in an "extremely dangerous" direction.

The shrine used to serve as a spiritual tool and symbol of Japanese militaristic aggression, and Abe's pilgrimage is "a flagrant provocation against international justice", Wang said.

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*The shrine used to serve as a spiritual tool and symbol of Japanese **militaristic aggression**, and Abe's pilgrimage is "a **flagrant provocation against international justice**", Wang said.*

Attitudinal alignments (China Daily)

- **Negative disposition towards the shrine and Abe's visit**
 - Via inscribed attitude
 - [he visited] a shrine **that honors 14 World War II Class A war criminals.**
 - Japan's **victimized** neighbors
 - Via attitudinal invocation
 - Shinzo Abe stunned the international community [by visiting the shrine]
 - [the visit] enraged Japan's victimized neighbors including China and South Korea
 - [the visit] and disappointed Japan's traditional ally the United States.
 - Via neutrally attributed assertions of inscribed judgement
 - **Observers said the *hard-core nationalist* Abe is *ruining* the stability of Northeast Asia and that he seems to believe it is worthwhile *to sacrifice honesty* about history**
 - **Abe's touching the bottom of the bilateral relationship, and *for betraying* the commitment of his government and his predecessors, [Foreign Minister Wang Yi] said.**
 - **The shrine used to serve as a spiritual tool and symbol of Japanese *militaristic aggression*, and Abe's pilgrimage is "*a flagrant provocation against international justice*", Wang said**

Attitudinal alignments (Japan Times 2)

- **Negative disposition towards the shrine and Abe's visit**
 - Via attitudinal invocation
 - ?? a surprise visit to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine
 - The visit worsens the odds of a summit with leaders of China and South Korea
 - Class-A war criminals, most notably wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo, are also among those enshrined
 - But it also enshrines 12 convicted Class-A war criminals
 - Via neutrally attributed assertions
 - **China and South Korea, countries that regard Yasukuni as a symbol of Japan's wartime *militarism*.**
 - Via distanced (disassociated) attributions
 - **"[he was there] to pay homage to war criminals," as many have claimed**

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