The journalist's attitude on the editorial "The mothers whose children are held hostage by Hamas"

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Article History	Abstract
	This study explores the use of attitude appraisal in revealing the mothers' emotions and feelings regarding their attitude toward the situation in which their children are held hostage by Hamas. The study employs a qualitative method to describe the language phenomenon expressed by the journalist in describing the mothers' attitudes. The data were obtained from the Guardian online newspaper published in 2023, and the samples were selected purposively. Content analysis was used to examine the data, employing Martin and White's (2005) appraisal framework to classify the data. This study focuses on one type of appraisal, namely attitude, which covers affect, judgment, and appreciation. The findings of this study reveal that the journalist tends to defend Israel and oppose Hamas. It is seen through positive attitudes, which are dominantly produced by the journalist in expressing his arguments. Besides that, the journalist gives his positive evaluation of the situation that occurred in Gaza and Israel explicitly and implicitly. He exploits negative affect to show his concern and unhappiness to see the three children of Israel who were held hostage by Hamas. In addition, the genre of the editorial is media discussion since it discusses issues of Israeli children's kidnapping.

1   Introduction

The Hamas political movement in Palestine emerged during a period of protest triggered by the deaths of several Palestinians in a public transportation incident in which they were hit by an Israeli truck (Ahmadi, 2015). Faced with the Israeli Zionist invasion, the Palestinian people fought back, leading to the formation of an Islamic-based resistance movement known as Hamas. The Islamic Resistance Movement is the name of the group that seeks to replace Israel with an Islamic state. This was inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood movement based in Egypt (Jazuli et al., 2023). He further explains that the Hamas movement is an organization established by the effect of Ikhwanul Muslimin, which existed in Palestine, especially in Gaza, a long time ago. Hamas always fights back to prevent Israel's invasion into the area of Palestine. During the ongoing conflict, many support to Hamas in its struggle to liberate Palestine from Israeli control. However, this condition has kept Palestine from achieving peace. As a consequence of the conflict, numerous Israelis are held hostage by Hamas, and in contrast. There are many casualties because of this war, especially children. Hamas is dedicated to destroying Israel and opposes its right to exist. They claimed that Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people were the reason behind their attack (BBC, 2024).

The conflict between Palestine and Israel captured the attention of various media and countries around the globe. Therefore, in presenting news, especially about Hamas, journalists give their points of view by delivering objective arguments and opinions (Cahyono et al., 2024; Thahara et al., 2024). They obtain their information from other sources to maintain their objectivity and base their information on facts. In this way, journalists are also encouraged to present their language to persuade

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their readers in the hope that the readers can see the other side of the conflict. Besides, journalists also tend to adhere to and follow the 'code of journalism ethics' which requires them to be objective and only deploy facts rather than opinions, fairness, moral neutrality, accuracy, as well as actuality (Santosa et al., 2014; Thahara et al., 2024).

Online media helps people to find out the latest news easily. In the past, newspapers were found in printed form, but as technology develops rapidly, they can be found in digital form because many newspapers can now be accessed through websites easily (Daniarsa & Kartika-Ningsih, 2023). One of the famous international online newspapers is The Guardian. The Guardian newspaper is a British daily newspaper, formerly The Manchester Guardian, established in 1959. When people require knowledge to understand an event and to share that understanding with others, the rise of online media, especially online news sites, becomes valuable (Craig, 2005; Luik, 2009). The American Journalism Review stated that only twenty newspapers worldwide had websites in 1994; however, there were almost 5,000 newspaper websites in less than five years (Craig, 2005). It indicates that online newspapers are rarely popular since it is accessible everywhere and anytime. In so doing, to see how the journalist of the Guardian online newspaper represents his language, appraisal, particularly attitudes, is used to reveal the journalist's perspective in delivering his arguments and opinions towards the mothers' attitudes whose children are held hostage by Hamas.

There are some studies on language using appraisal that have been carried out in the context of politics and ideology (Aljuraywi & Alyousef, 2022; Gunawan et al., 2019; Lestari et al., 2023; Risdianto et al., 2024), biography (Cahyono et al., 2024; Çelik, 2019); tourism's information media (Nugroho et al., 2019), genre, and appraisal of the newspaper (Santosa et al., 2014), and teaching application (Cahyono & Setyaningsih, 2019; Fitriati et al., 2018), online media (Bangga, 2020; Topkev, 2016), appraisals in science discourse have been conducted by (J. R. Martin & Veel, 1998), evaluation in academic writing (Hood, 2010). Meanwhile, the application of Appraisal theory is also carried out as an approach in casual conversation evaluation studies by (Eggins & Slade, 1997), in narratives and literary response texts (Macken-Horarik & Isaac, 2014; Rothery & Stenglin, 2005);) and in popular science (Fuller, 1998 in J. R. Martin & Veel, 1998). Particularly, the work of Fuller (1998) is the basis for the latest development of the source (engagement) dimension of Appraisal (J. R. Martin & White, 2005; White PRR, 2003). However, some studies conducted on journalism in news discourse in terms of objectivity or subjectivity of news reporting, such as (Jakaza & Visser, 2016; Sabao & Visser, 2015). Their studies are centered on the journalists' subjectivity or objectivity in representing the news they report. Apart from it, those studies mostly use the appraisal theory developed by (J. R. Martin & White, 2005).

To fill the research gap with the previous ones, in this present study, it focuses on one of the appraisal systems namely attitude covers affect, judgment, and appreciation to reveal the journalist's expression in presenting his arguments toward the news of Hamas's attack to Israel and to explore the journalist's tendency on his argument which is seen through the stages of the news using (J. R. Martin & Rose, 2007) theoretical framework. These stages are seen through the types of genres used by the journalist. It is essential to involve genres in its analysis due to its persuasive strategies, which are used in editorial texts as the background of the editorial (Liu, 2017). In line with the previous reasons, the research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. What types of attitudes are found in the article "The mothers whose children are held hostage by Hamas: 'I heard him crying, begging them not to take him'?
2. How do the attitudes represent the journalist's tendency through the stages in describing the mothers' attitudes whose children are held hostage by Hamas, as seen from the news stages?

In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), genre is often referred to as Australian genre theory or the Sydney School because this theory was first introduced at the University of Sydney and developed

rapidly in Australia. This genre analysis approach is based on the SFL theory first introduced by Halliday from the University of Sydney, which was then developed by his students, especially J.R. Martin with his concept of genre as a social process that has phases and stages that are goal-oriented and realized through registers "a staged, goal-oriented social process realized through register" (J. R. Martin, 1992). It is called "social" because in communication, people use genres to interact with one another; it is called 'goal-oriented' because genres are employed to achieve specific communicative purposes; and it is described as 'gradual' because the realization of these purposes unfolds step by step (J. R. Martin & Rose, 2007; Wiratno & Dzakaria, 2016; Wiratno, 2018). At the metafunctional level, genre operates within the cultural context. Similarly, Santosa (2003) states that genre exists within a cultural context, which encompasses the cultural values upheld by the community.

SFL, developed by Michael Halliday, is a theory of language that emphasizes the role of language as a resource for meaning-making within social contexts (Fontaine, 2013; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This literature review explores the foundational concepts of SFL, its applications across various disciplines, and its contributions to linguistics. SFL is grounded in the idea that language serves multiple functions, which Halliday categorizes into three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual (Halliday, 1978). These metafunctions operate simultaneously in communication:

1. Ideational Metafunction: This metafunction allows individuals to represent experiences of the world, including processes, participants, and circumstances. It focuses on the construction of reality through language (J. R. Martin, 1992).
2. Interpersonal Metafunction: This relates to the enactment of social interactions, enabling speakers to express attitudes, judgments, and engage with others. It encompasses mood, modality, and evaluation (J. R. Martin & White, 2005).
3. Textual Metafunction: This metafunction organizes language into coherent and cohesive texts, ensuring that messages are contextually relevant. It deals with thematic structure and cohesion (Eggins, 2004).

These metafunctions are realized through linguistic systems, including grammar, lexis, and phonology, forming a comprehensive framework for analyzing language in context. While SFL provides a robust theoretical framework, it has faced criticism for its complexity and limited applicability to spontaneous spoken discourse. Critics argue that SFL's focus on written texts and structured genres may overlook the fluidity of everyday communication (Thompson & Thompson, 2014). Systemic Functional Linguistics remains a powerful tool for understanding language in context. Its emphasis on the multifunctional nature of language and the interplay between linguistic structures and social functions has informed various disciplines, from education to critical discourse analysis. As SFL continues to evolve, its applications in multimodality and dynamic discourse analysis will likely expand, further enriching its theoretical and practical contributions.

Interpersonal meaning, a key component of SFL, deals with how language is used to mediate relationships, express attitudes, and negotiate roles between participants in communication (Halliday, 1978; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The appraisal system, a subfield within interpersonal meaning, focuses specifically on how speakers evaluate, align, and negotiate attitudes in discourse (Hood, 2010; J. R. Martin & White, 2005; J. R. Martin & Rose, 2007). This review explores the theoretical foundations of these concepts, their linguistic realizations, and their applications in diverse contexts.

Interpersonal meaning is one of the three metafunctions proposed by Halliday, alongside ideational and textual meanings. It is realized through linguistic resources that reflect the speaker's role, their relationship with the listener, and their attitudes toward the subject matter. Key systems associated with interpersonal meaning include:
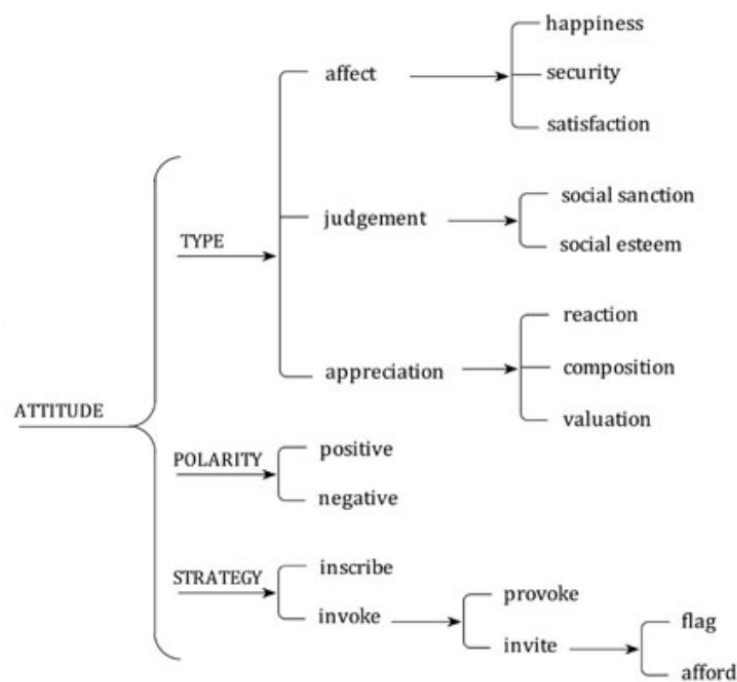
1. Mood: Mood structures (declarative, interrogative, and imperative) play a central role in encoding the interactive function of language. For instance, a declarative sentence typically asserts information, while interrogatives solicit responses (Eggins, 2004).
2. Modality: Modality expresses degrees of certainty, obligation, or desirability, enabling speakers to position themselves in relation to their statements and their audience. For example, modal verbs (*might*, *should*, *must*) add layers of meaning, from possibility to necessity (Eggins, 2004; Fontaine, 2013; Klein & Levinson, 2006).

Interpersonal meaning is thus integral to the enactment of social relationships, allowing speakers to influence and engage with others dynamically, especially using the Appraisal system. The Appraisal System, developed by Martin and White (2005), extends the concept of interpersonal meaning by focusing on evaluative language. It provides a framework for analyzing how speakers express their emotions, make judgments, and align or disalign with their interlocutors. In addition, the appraisal system is divided into three key domains:

1. Attitude deals with evaluating things, people's character, and their feelings.
2. Engagement focuses on the speaker's stance and the extent to which they acknowledge or engage with alternative viewpoints. For example, *it seems* to signal openness to interpretation, while undoubtedly signaling a strong assertion.
3. Graduation concerns the intensity or scalability of meanings, allowing speakers to amplify or diminish their evaluative language. For instance, *extremely good* is more intensified than *good*.

The realization of attitude appraisal classification can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Attitude Appraisal Classification
Source: (J. R. Martin & White, 2005 in Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen, 2010)

The appraisal system enables a nuanced understanding of how language reflects and shapes attitudes and relationships. Interpersonal meaning and the appraisal system offer valuable frameworks for understanding how language mediates social relationships and expresses attitudes. By integrating these concepts, researchers can explore how linguistic choices shape interactions across diverse

contexts. Future studies should address the challenges of complexity and subjectivity, refining the methods for analyzing these crucial aspects of language.

The focus of this study is on attitude appraisal, comprising affect concerns with emotions, such as happiness, anger, or sadness (e.g., *I am delighted*). Judgment relates to moral or ethical evaluations of behavior (e.g., *She is generous*). Appreciation involves aesthetic or evaluative assessments of things or processes (e.g., *The design is elegant*).

Hamas, or *Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyya* (Islamic Resistance Movement), was established in 1987 during the First Palestinian Intifada as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza. Its founding mission combines Palestinian nationalism with Islamist ideology, aiming to resist Israeli occupation and establish an Islamic state in historic Palestine. The 1988 charter emphasized armed struggle, explicitly rejecting Israel's existence. However, in 2017, Hamas released a revised political document that accepted the idea of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders while maintaining its non-recognition of Israel (Dunning, 2020). This dual role as a resistance movement and political entity reflects its evolving strategy to navigate regional geopolitics and changing local realities. Hamas functions through a dual structure, comprising a political wing and the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, its military arm. After winning the 2006 Palestinian elections, Hamas assumed control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 following a violent conflict with the Fatah party. Since then, it has maintained governance in Gaza, providing social services such as healthcare, education, and humanitarian aid, which bolster its grassroots support (Gunning, 2007; Levitt, 2006). However, Hamas's use of violence, including rocket attacks and suicide bombings targeting Israeli civilians, has led several countries, including the United States and the European Union, to designate it as a terrorist organization. Its ongoing confrontations with Israel have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with regional allies like Iran, Qatar, and Turkey providing political and financial support (Milton-Edwards, 2013; Shaban, 2021).

2   Methods

The type of research in this study is qualitative research. In qualitative research, data were analyzed qualitatively and inductively (Santosa, 2017: 64). Qualitatively, to describe the journalist's attitude on the article "the mothers whose children are held hostage by Hamans", this study employs quantitative calculation data to support the explanation and description of the attitude system. Inductively, qualitative researchers analyze the data together with the data collection. Meanwhile, the data source of this study is obtained from an online newspaper, namely The Guardian, which was published in 2023. The source of data was chosen using a criterion-based sampling technique (Lincoln & Guba, 1985; Strauss & Corbin, 2003). From the perspective of SFL, content Analysis was applied to identify the genre and appraisal systems, specifically the attitude system. Meanwhile, the procedure of data analysis follows the qualitative interactive model content analysis, consisting of four stages: domain, taxonomy, componential, and cultural values analysis (Spradely, 1980). Furthermore, to analyze the data, the researcher applies Martin and Rose's framework of Appraisal theory (2007) by classifying the attitude system into affect, judgment, and appreciation.

3   Findings

In this part of the study, the researchers present the results of the findings in relation to the cultural context in Indonesia. In addition, it is also composed of answering the research questions suggested in this study. A detailed explanation is presented below:

3.1   The Schematic Structure of Guardian Editorial

Understanding the genre is essential prior to analyzing a text using the Appraisal theoretical framework. Genre plays a role in determining both the expression of evaluative positions and the structural composition of a text (Daniarsa & Kartika-Ningsih, 2023; Liu, 2018). It also represents the

journalist's point of view when he expresses his argument because he supposes to develop his arguments into mixed micro genres, which illustrate a complex genre structure composed of recount, description, explanation, exposition, and/or discussion (Gunawan et al., 2019; Santosa et al., 2021). Furthermore, genre refers to structured patterns of meaning that are recognized within a particular culture (Martin, J. R. and Rose, 2008). It is not simply about categorizing types of texts, nor should context be viewed as something separate from the meanings conveyed through language. Instead, social life unfolds through recurring patterns of meaning, which are shaped into genres. Every day, labels like conversation, narrative, argument, ceremony, or lesson commonly identify these genres. While genres are often expressed through language, they can also be conveyed through other semiotic forms such as gestures, visuals, music, dance, or spatial arrangement, all of which have been explored through the lens of SFL (Dreyfus et al., 2011). Based on the analysis undertaken on the text, the researchers found the schematic structure of the editorial is Issue^Side^Resolution. Below is the example of the genre structure of a Guardian editorial entitled "The mothers whose children are held hostage by Hamas: 'I heard him crying, begging them not to take him'.

Table 1. The Schematic Structure of Guardian Editorial

Issue	B'atSheva Yahalomi, Hadas Kalderon, and Renana Jacob's children have been missing since the massacre on 7 October. Here, they recount that horrifying day – and their determination to save them.
Side	Side 1 Their lives were ruptured on 7 October, the day of the Hamas massacre. "We're three mothers from the same little village – a communal community that lived a peaceful life and believed in good neighboring. … Side 2 The mothers' mission is simple – they want their children brought home and Palestinian children to be provided with a safe place away from the carnage of Gaza. They say that no child should be a bargaining chip in a war. … The first thing that strikes me about them is their dignity and strength – their ability to hold themselves together. But it doesn't take long to see how broken all three of them are, how close to complete collapse, whether from exhaustion, trauma or despair. There is rarely a moment when one is not in tears. …. Side 3 When the Hamas fighters finally left, she discovered that all five family members at Ofer's home had been kidnapped and were being held hostage. Two weeks later, the day after Carmela's 80th birthday, Kalderon learned that Carmela and Noya had been killed en route to Gaza. …
Resolution	I ask how hopeful they are that their children will be returned. Kalderon blinks at the question. "Sorry?" she says, as if she has misunderstood. But she has understood. "Yes, they are coming home," she says fiercely. "There are no other options. Not maybe. Not hope. They are coming home."

The Guardian starts its editorial by discussing the issue that Jacob's children have been missing since October 7th. Besides that, the journalist does not overtly blame anyone or present political commentary; however, he states facts and describes the situation without assigning blame. In the side stage, he delivers every detail of the situation and events in detail. He tends to deliver factual events and situations experienced by the children during their kidnapping. In addition, he presents a deeply emotional narrative that highlights the human cost of war, particularly through the lens of three Israeli mothers who lost their loved ones during the October 7 Hamas attack. It reinforces the universal principle that civilians, especially children, should never be used as bargaining chips or targeted in conflict. The mothers' mission, which calls for the safe return of their own children and protection for Palestinian children as well, underscores a profound humanitarian stance: that all children, regardless of nationality, deserve safety and peace. Their dignity in the face of grief reveals the

immense psychological trauma that conflict inflicts on families, offering a raw, human view of war's consequences. It also reflects how extremist violence disrupts the peaceful lives of ordinary people who simply wish to coexist. Furthermore, at the final stage, resolution, the journalist reaffirms his position. The journalist positioned himself to show his tendency to support Israel. As Iedema et.al, (1994) state that there are three types of media genres, namely media challenge, media discussion, and media exposition. Thus, the type of editorial genre published by the Guardian falls under media discussion since the journalist discusses opposing standpoints (Daniarsa & Kartika-Ningsih, 2023).

3.2   Attitude System of The Guardian Editorial

In this part, the researcher presents the findings of the Attitude system exploited by the journalist in expressing his arguments towards the opinions he expressed.

Table 2. Types of Attitude Appraisal

No	Types of Attitudes	Category	Subcategory		Σ	%
1.	Affect	Inclination	Desire		17	8.01
		Disinclination	Desire		1	0.47
		Happiness	Cheer		6	2.83
			Affection		8	3.77
		Unhappiness	Misery		22	10.38
			Antipathy		3	1.42
		Security	Confidence		1	0.47
			Trust		9	4.25
		Insecurity	Disquiet		17	8.02
			Surprise		3	1.42
		Satisfaction	Interest		1	0.47
		Dissatisfaction	Displeasure		3	1.42
2.	Judgment		Normality	+	7	3.30
		Social Esteem		-	1	0,47
			Capacity	+	27	12.73
				-	14	6.60
			Tenacity	+	8	3.77
				-	2	0.94
			Veracity	+	1	0.47
		Social Sanction		-	1	0.47
			Propriety	+	16	7.55
				-	9	4.25
3.	Appreciation		Impact	+	5	2.36
		Reaction		-	4	1.89
			Quality	+	5	2.36
				-	0	0
			Balance	+	2	0.94
		Composition		-	4	1.89
			Complexity	+	4	1.89
				-	4	1.89
		Valuation		+	6	2.83
				-	1	0.47
		TOTAL			**212**	**100**

Table 1 presents a comprehensive breakdown of the types of attitude appraisals identified in the data, categorized into three major domains: Affect**,** Judgment**,** and Appreciation, based on the appraisal framework (Martin & White, 2005). The analysis reveals a total of 212 attitude expressions**,** distributed unevenly across these categories.

Affect, which encapsulates expressions of emotion, accounts for 100 instances (47.17%) of the total data. This includes both positive and negative emotional responses such as inclination, happiness, security, and their opposites. Notably, 'Unhappiness: Misery' emerged as the most frequently expressed affective subcategory with 22 occurrences (10.38%), followed by 'Insecurity: Disquiet' at 17 instances (8.02%). These figures suggest a substantial presence of negative emotional tones in the discourse. On the other hand, 'Inclination: Desire' with 17 entries (8.01%) reflects a positive emotional inclination, indicating the participants' expression of longing or preference. Less frequent subcategories, including Surprise, Antipathy, and Dissatisfaction, each accounted for just 1.42%, signifying their marginal role in the overall emotional landscape of the data.

Judgment, which evaluates individuals based on social norms, comprises 94 entries (44.33%), making it the second most prevalent type of appraisal. Within this category, Social Esteem, particularly the subcategory of 'Capacity (+)', was most dominant, appearing 27 times (12.73%), suggesting a strong focus on evaluating individuals' abilities in a positive light. However, this is balanced by 'Capacity (–)', which was also relatively high at 14 instances (6.60%), indicating critical assessments of competence. Furthermore, 'Propriety (+)', representing moral judgment, appeared 16 times (7.55%), while its negative counterpart 'Propriety (–)' was noted in 9 occurrences (4.25%). These findings indicate that moral and ethical evaluations were also central to the participants' judgmental discourse, alongside evaluations of skill or performance.

Appreciation, which involves the evaluation of objects, processes, and phenomena, was the least represented among the three, accounting for only 18.40% of the data (approximately 39 entries). Subcategories such as 'Impact (+)' and 'Quality (+)' appeared five times each (2.36%), suggesting a relatively low but notable degree of positive evaluative language directed at experiences or products. Interestingly, 'Valuation (+)' and 'Complexity (+)' also received some attention, each appearing six and four times respectively, while the negative forms of appreciation, such as 'Quality (–)' and 'Balance (–)', appeared sparingly or not at all. This implies that, although less dominant, positive appreciation was present and typically framed around the value or richness of experience.

Overall, the data indicate that participants employed a range of evaluative language, with a strong emphasis on emotional (affect) and social judgment, and a lesser but still relevant use of appreciation. The dominance of judgment related to capacity, along with the high incidence of negative affect, may reflect a context in which participants were evaluating performance, effort, or service quality, possibly within a professional or institutional setting. Furthermore, the presence of both positive and negative appraisals across all three domains underscores the balanced yet critical nature of the discourse.

Affect

Affect involves conveying emotional reactions and feelings, focusing on how people emotionally respond to actions, situations, or events, and reflects the emotional stance of the speaker or author (J. R. Martin & White, 2005). Below are examples of effects that exist in the data.

Excerpt 1
They are not just any mothers – all three had children <u>kidnapped</u> from their kibbutz a month ago and <u>taken hostage</u> in Gaza.

The underlined words and phrases are negative affects which are addressed to the children of Israel who were kidnapped by Hamas. This affect belongs to disquiet since it shows the children's anxiety and discomfort during their hostage.

Excerpt 2
They show me photographs and videos of the kids – at birthday parties, on holiday, <u>dancing</u>, <u>joking</u>, and <u>grinning</u>.

The words that are underlined are segmented into the effect of happiness: cheer, affect, and cheer, respectively. The journalist exploits these words to express the children's happiness before they were kidnapped.

Judgment

Judgment reflects the way speakers or writers assess human behaviour, determining whether it is viewed positively or negatively, such as being commendable or deserving criticism, competent or lacking ability, truthful or deceitful (J. R. Martin & White, 2005).

Excerpt 3
The first thing that strikes me about them is their dignity and strength – their ability to hold themselves together.

It can be seen in the excerpt above that the underlined words are positive judgments that are categorized into propriety and capacity simultaneously. The journalist tends to use positive judgment to give his positive evaluation of the children's expression when they visited their friend's birthday party and had fun with their friends during the party.

Appreciation

Appreciation focuses on assessing objects, events, activities, and texts-that is, it evaluates things and occurrences rather than individuals (J. R. Martin & White, 2005).

Excerpt 5
She describes the scene as they drove through fields of fire, smoke and corpses, past hundreds of Hamas fighters, towards Gaza.

The example provided in Excerpt 5 above illustrates that the journalist tends to employ certain words to express his negative appreciation towards the situation experienced by Yahalomi, one of the casualties of the Palestine-Israel war. The underlined words belong to a negative appreciation of the composition: balance. She describes a terrifying situation where she has to drive through fields of fire, smoke, and corpses.

Excerpt 6
"I hope from this horror good will grow.

The word 'good' is grouped into positive appreciation, reaction, and quality. The journalist exploits this word to address the situation of the war.

4 Discussion

The final section of this article presents a discussion of the research findings within the framework of Indonesian cultural contexts. Attitude is related to the role of the writer or speaker's values in evaluating human behaviour and objects, and it involves emotional responses to participants and processes. Meanwhile, according to (J. R. Martin & Rose, 2007), Attitude is related to the assessment of someone, both positive and negative feelings towards something. In addition, Attitude is also related to feelings, including emotional reactions, behavioural assessments, and evaluations of something (J. R. Martin & White, 2005).

Based on the findings of this study, the genre of the Guardian Editorial is media discussion. In presenting the news, the journalist tend to discuss the issue implicitly. He employs many sources to give some facts and be objective in presenting the news. The findings of this study are in line with Daniarsa and Kartika-Ningsih (2023), who state that media discussion is used to present a rational view, which suggests that the journalist's viewpoints in representing the viewpoints of current journalists deliver the conflict between Hamas and Israel objectively. Besides that, the journalist also positioned his tendency towards Israel since he only presents facts based on reliable sources. Through

the *Issue–Side–Resolution* structure, *The Guardian* situates humanitarian suffering as a shared moral concern. However, this study extends their framework by showing that emotional intensification (unhappiness, misery, disquiet) functions as a rhetorical strategy — not only to inform but also to *mobilize empathy*. Contrastingly, Jakaza and Visser (2016) reveal that in African newspapers, media discussions often emphasize *resistance and criticism* rather than empathy, showing that genre realization is culture-dependent. This contrast highlights that Western media genres like *The Guardian*'s editorial privilege human-interest framing over confrontational political critique.

At the discourse semantic level, attitude is used to explore the journalist's tendency and emotion towards their arguments. In a broad sense, rather than overtly stating its position, the Guardian tends to imply it through nuanced expression, which tends to expose that the Israeli people are the victims because Hamas has kidnapped three Israeli children. It is seen through the number of positive attitude appraisals dominantly produced by the journalist in expressing his arguments. The journalist seems to be cornering Hamas as the bad side since they have held hostage three Israeli children. The predominance of positive attitude appraisals over negative ones also suggests that the text positions its subject in a favourable light, reinforcing a positive evaluative stance. This tendency reflects the journalist's alignment with the values or actions represented and may function to influence readers' alignment accordingly. In contrast, Israel is the one that attacks Gaza brutally. Overnight, Israel launched lethal strikes on Gaza, targeting displaced individuals in two camps and a school, while also mandating the evacuation of one of the few remaining operational hospitals in the heavily blockaded northern region of the enclave (Al Jazeera and News Agencies, 2014). The reason Hamas kidnapped the children is that they want to protect their country from an Israeli attack. Furthermore, this study also supports the findings of (Jazuli et al., 2023), who states that Hamas was formed as a response to the Zionist Israeli invasion. The Palestinian people resisted the occupation, leading to the establishment of an Islamic-based resistance movement, Hamas, which was inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood based in Egypt. In addition, this study is also in line with (Cahyono et al., 2024) that the journalist constructs his arguments through his feeling (affect), things (appreciation), and people's evaluation (judgment). In addition, in terms of attitude appraisal, the quantitative data showing that affect and judgment dominate while appreciation is less frequent indicates that *The Guardian* editorial prioritizes emotional and moral evaluation over aesthetic appreciation. This pattern aligns with Lestari et al. (2023), who found that environmental news in *The Jakarta Post* relied heavily on affect and judgment to invoke moral responsibility among readers. However, (Gunawan et al., 2019) discovered a different tendency in political mobilization discourses, where appreciation and graduation were used to emphasize events and actions rather than human emotions. The Guardian's focus on human suffering, therefore, reinforces its humanitarian character while subtly shaping readers' emotional identification with the victims of the conflict.

Furthermore, the interpersonal metafunction within the SFL framework (Halliday, 1978; J. R. Martin & White, 2005) illustrates how the journalist constructs solidarity and emotional alignment with readers. By highlighting mothers' grief and resilience, the editorial invites readers to share an empathetic stance, creating a moral consensus around the sanctity of civilian life. This persuasive strategy is consistent with (Liu, 2017), who asserts that editorials employ appraisal systems to establish reader affiliation and reinforce shared values. However, (Topkev, 2016) notes that the British media's representation of Islam often relies on negative appraisal patterns, framing Muslim actors—such as Hamas—as threats. Thus, *The Guardian*'s sympathetic tone toward Israeli victims can also be understood within a broader Western media discourse that humanises one side while implicitly dehumanising the other.

In an Indonesian cultural context, these findings resonate with Cahyono et al. (2024) and Risdianto et al. (2024), who highlight that media ideology is inseparable from cultural values and national identity. While Western journalism often foregrounds individual suffering and liberal

humanitarianism, Indonesian media tend to emphasize collective struggle and solidarity with oppressed groups such as Palestinians. This contrast shows that the appraisal system operates not only as a linguistic tool but also as a reflection of cultural ethics and socio-political orientation. The implications of these findings are significant for media literacy, as supported by Iedema et al. (1994), who argue that understanding appraisal and genre structures helps readers critically assess ideological bias in news discourse.

5   Conclusion

To sum up, the journalist of the Guardian editorial expresses his argument through media discussion. The schematic structure of the editorial is issue^side^resolution. The journalist presents the issues of the war between Hamas and Israel. In the level of discourse semantics, the journalist dominantly tends to use a positive attitude. He exploits judgment to give his positive evaluation of the war between Israel and Palestine. He uses positive evaluation to confirm that the guardian editorial tends to support the mothers whose children were kidnapped by Hamas. The journalist shows his emotion through his unhappiness because he wants to present that Hamas has made the children suffer and scared. Meanwhile, the types of media genres used are media discussion (Iedema et al., 1994). The Guardian obviously tends to implicitly support and defend Israel and blame Hamas for kidnapping the Israeli children. It can be seen through attitudinal tendencies that are created using positive evaluation. It is suggested that further researchers conduct similar studies, but focus on other types of Appraisal, including engagement and graduation.

Disclosure Statement

The author claims there is no conflict of interest.

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