

Attitudinal Lexemes in Diplomatic Discourse: An Appraisal Analysis of President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA Speech

Evi Endarti

Department of Aeronautical Engineering, Faculty of Aeronautical and Industrial Engineering, University of Dirgantara Marsekal Suryadarma, Jakarta, Indonesia

*) Corresponding Author
Email: evi@unsurya.ac.id

DOI: [10.18326/jopr.v8i1.138-159](https://doi.org/10.18326/jopr.v8i1.138-159)

Submission Track:

Received: 20-09-2025

Final Revision: 24-12-2025

Available Online: 01-02-2026

Copyright © 2026 Authors



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Abstract

This study examines how attitudinal lexemes shape Indonesia's diplomatic stance in President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 address to the United Nations General Assembly. Drawing on Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (1994) and Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Framework, the analysis examines evaluative patterns across Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation. A total of 60 attitudinal lexemes were identified: 18 Affect lexemes expressing empathy, collective resolve, and shared humanity; 17 Judgment lexemes articulating moral evaluation and leadership expectations; and 25 Appreciation lexemes assessing international institutions, achievements, and global challenges. While the predominance of positive evaluation aligns with UNGA genre conventions, the findings suggest that such positivity also serves a strategic purpose, legitimizing diplomatic authority, reinforcing moral credibility, and preempting dissent through the normalization of consensus-oriented values. This evaluative pattern contributes to the construction of a moralized international identity that implicitly constrains alternative or oppositional perspectives within global governance discourse. By foregrounding linguistic choices rather than political ideology, the study demonstrates how

evaluative language operates as a subtle mechanism of diplomatic legitimation on the global stage.

Keywords: *Attitudinal Lexemes, Appraisal Framework, Diplomatic Discourse, Evaluative Language, UN General Assembly (UNGA) Speeches*

INTRODUCTION

Language plays a central role in political and diplomatic communication, functioning not only as a medium for conveying information but also as a resource for negotiating identity, expressing evaluation, and positioning speakers within specific socio-political contexts. Political speeches, particularly those delivered in international forums, rely heavily on evaluative language to construct legitimacy, foster alignment, and project national identity on the global stage (Chilton, 2004; Martin & White, 2005; Wodak, 2015).

One influential approach to understanding language in its social context is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), pioneered by Halliday (1994) and further refined by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). SFL conceptualizes language as a meaning-making resource organized around three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. Among these, the interpersonal metafunction is particularly relevant to political discourse, as it concerns the expression of attitudes, the negotiation of social relations, and the enactment of power between speakers and audiences (Halliday, 1994; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Fairclough, 2001; Chilton, 2004).

Building on the interpersonal metafunction, Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2005) offers a more fine-grained framework for analyzing how evaluation operates in discourse. It systematically accounts for the linguistic resources through which speakers adopt stances, align or disalign with audiences, and manage interpersonal positioning. The framework comprises three interrelated

subsystems: Attitude, Engagement, and Graduation. Attitude concerns the expression of feelings, ethical evaluations, and aesthetic assessments, and is realized through Affect (emotional responses), Judgment (moral and social evaluation of behavior), and Appreciation (evaluation of objects, processes, and phenomena). Engagement addresses how speakers position their voices in relation to alternative viewpoints, while Graduation captures the scaling and intensification of evaluative meanings. Among these subsystems, Attitude is particularly salient in diplomatic discourse because it enables speakers to project moral authority, cultivate solidarity, and frame global issues in evaluative terms that encourage consensus (Martin & White, 2005; Xiao, 2016; Anisimova & Zikánová, 2022). Through patterned selections of Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation, political leaders can construct a moralized worldview that foregrounds cooperation and legitimacy while implicitly constraining oppositional interpretations (Martin & White, 2005; Fairclough, 2015; Anisimova & Zikánová, 2022). Appraisal Theory, therefore provides an essential analytical lens for examining how evaluative language actively shapes diplomatic positioning and international identity.

Research on evaluative language within SFL and Appraisal Theory has expanded considerably in studies of political and diplomatic discourse. Early work by Xiao (2016) examined evaluative shifts in Chinese–English diplomatic speech translation, demonstrating how appraisal choices influence diplomatic tone and positioning. Lian (2018) analyzed President Xi Jinping’s speech at the BRICS Summit, showing how appraisal resources were used to construct China’s diplomatic voice and emphasize international cooperation. Zhang and Pei (2018) conducted a contrastive analysis of speeches by Xi Jinping and Donald Trump at the World Economic Forum, illustrating how ideological positioning was enacted through coordinated use of Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation. Studies such as Herman et al. (2022) and Darong (2022) further highlight the role of interpersonal

meaning in political speeches, showing how evaluative language contributes to audience alignment, legitimacy, and persuasive force.

More recent scholarship has increasingly focused on spoken political and diplomatic discourse in institutional contexts. Anisimova and Zikánová (2022, 2024), for instance, conducted corpus-based analyses of United Nations Security Council speeches, identifying recurrent attitudinal patterns shaped by the need to balance solidarity with diplomatic neutrality. Alhuthali (2024) examined interpreted political speeches, demonstrating that the distribution of Affect and Judgment varies according to communicative purpose. Li, Dreyfus, and Don (2025) extended appraisal analysis to digital political discourse, showing how evaluative resources are mobilized to express moral judgment and contest authority in online political forums.

While these studies confirm the value of Appraisal Theory for analyzing evaluative meaning in political and diplomatic discourse, existing research has largely focused on written texts or institutional statements, particularly those associated with the United Nations Security Council. Spoken presidential addresses in multilateral forums such as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) remain comparatively underexplored, despite functioning as high-stakes interpersonal performances. Addressing this gap, the present study examines attitudinal lexemes in President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA speech using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics and Martin and White's Appraisal Framework. Although appraisal resources inherently encode values and moral positioning, previous studies often conflate evaluative language with ideological interpretation. This study adopts a linguistic-analytic perspective that foregrounds how evaluative meanings are realized and patterned at the discourse level within a highly conventionalized diplomatic genre. This research takes a linguistic-analytic approach that emphasizes how evaluative meanings are expressed and organized

at the discourse level within a highly formalized diplomatic genre. Additionally, Prabowo's military education and international training are viewed not as ideological determinants but as contextual influences on a communicative style that combines directive clarity with diplomatic formality. By analyzing the distribution and function of Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation, this study illustrates how evaluative language serves as a tool for fostering interpersonal alignment and legitimacy in UN General Assembly (UNGA) discourse. It expands the Appraisal-based analysis of high-stakes diplomatic speech without reducing linguistic inquiry to ideological critique.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach grounded in Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (1994) and Martin and White's Appraisal Framework (2005) to examine how attitudinal meanings are linguistically constructed in diplomatic discourse. Within Appraisal, which comprises Attitude, Engagement, and Graduation, the analysis is explicitly limited to the Attitude system, as it offers the most immediately accessible resources for analyzing overt evaluative meaning in highly institutionalized genres such as UNGA presidential speeches, where evaluation is typically realized explicitly rather than through dialogic negotiation or gradational scaling (Martin & White, 2005; White, 2015). **Attitude** is realized through **Affect**, **Judgment**, and **Appreciation**, which encode emotional responses, moral evaluations of behaviour, and assessments of institutions, processes, or abstract phenomena. These categories enable systematic identification of attitudinal lexemes and their polarity, allowing analysis of how evaluative meanings are patterned to construct interpersonal alignment and diplomatic positioning. The exclusion of Engagement and Graduation is methodological rather than theoretical, as their inclusion would shift the analytical focus toward dialogic positioning and evaluative scaling rather than semantic evaluation.

The data consist of the official English transcript of President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA address, retrieved from the United Nations' website and cross-checked against video recordings for accuracy. A qualitative content-based analysis combining interpretative and descriptive methods was conducted in four stages: (1) repeated reading for thematic and rhetorical familiarization; (2) identification of all words and phrases conveying explicit evaluative meaning as attitudinal lexemes; (3) classification of each lexeme into Affect, Judgement, or Appreciation with positive or negative polarity; and (4) analysis of the distribution and relative dominance of each category to identify emerging linguistic patterns.

Although a typical UNGA speech lasts approximately 20 minutes, the identification of 60 attitudinal lexemes reflects strict exclusion criteria rather than limited evaluative content. Only explicitly realized Attitude resources were included, while implicit evaluation, metaphorical appraisal, dialogic positioning (Engagement), and gradational intensity (Graduation) were deliberately excluded to ensure analytical precision and replicability. Accordingly, the study does not aim to capture the full evaluative complexity of Indonesia's diplomatic discourse, but to provide a controlled linguistic account of how overt attitudinal resources function as a mechanism for legitimacy-building and interpersonal alignment in high-stakes multilateral communication.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Drawing on Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (1994) and the Appraisal Framework (Martin & White, 2005), the analysis identified 60 attitudinal lexemes in President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA address: 18 Affect, 17 Judgement, and 25 Appreciation. The predominance of Appreciation indicates a strategic emphasis on evaluating global conditions and institutions, consistent with the institutionalized and consensus-oriented nature of UNGA discourse. This pattern aligns with Xiao's (2016) findings that diplomatic speeches favor Appreciation to project objectivity and

cooperation. However, Prabowo’s relatively higher use of positive Affect distinguishes the speech from more emotionally restrained diplomatic contexts, functioning to foster solidarity and alignment with the UNGA’s collective ethos. In line with Anisimova and Zikánová (2022), Judgement resources are used to assert moral responsibility, though their moderate frequency reflects diplomatic restraint rather than overt ideological confrontation.

Taken together, these findings indicate that Prabowo’s evaluative profile is consistent with broader diplomatic discourse patterns identified in prior Appraisal-based studies, while also displaying a slightly stronger affective orientation. The strategic predominance of positive evaluation across Affect, Judgement, and Appreciation contributes to the construction of a cooperative and morally grounded international identity, reinforcing legitimacy and alignment within global governance discourse. Thus, the study extends existing literature by demonstrating how attitudinal resources are selectively calibrated in UNGA presidential speeches to balance emotional appeal, moral authority, and institutional legitimacy. The quantitative distribution of each category, including polarity and proportional percentage, is presented in Table 1 as follows.

Table 1. Distribution of Attitudinal Lexemes (Positive vs. Negative) in Prabowo Subianto’s UNGA Speech (2025)

Attitudinal Category	Total	Positive	% Positive	Negative	% Negative	% of Total
Affect	18	14	77,8%	4	22,2%	30,0%
Judgment	17	8	47,1%	9	52,9%	28,3%
Appreciation	25	15	60,0%	10	40,0%	41,7%
Total	60	37	61,7%	23	38,3%	100%

To provide a clearer representation of this distribution, figure 1 below displays the proportion of attitudinal lexemes according to category and polarity.

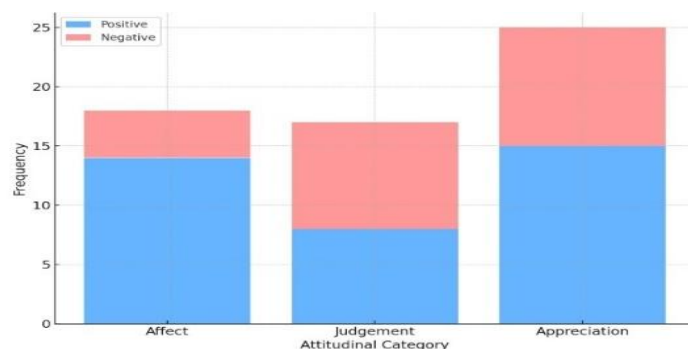


Figure 1. Distribution of Attitudinal Lexemes by Category and Polarity

The overall polarity distribution of the total of 60 attitudinal lexemes shows a clear inclination toward positive polarity (61.7%) as presented in figure 2 below.

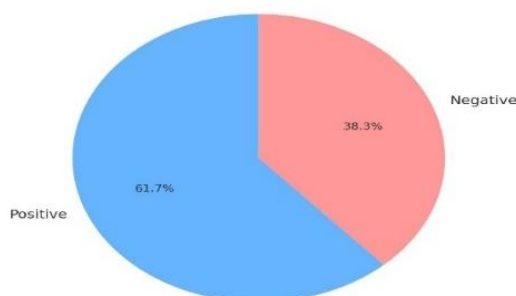


Figure 2. Overall Polarity of Attitudinal Lexemes

The following section discusses how these attitudinal lexemes function as linguistic resources for shaping Indonesia's diplomatic positioning. However, it is important to clarify that the attitudinal lexemes analyzed in this study are not treated as isolated units of meaning. In line with the Appraisal Framework (Martin & White, 2005), attitudinal value is understood as emerging through larger clause-level patterns in which lexical choices interact with grammatical, semantic, and rhetorical structures to construct evaluative stance. In Prabowo's UNGA speech, the attitudinal lexemes whether Affect, Judgment, or Appreciation express meaning not from individual words (e.g., *hope*, *suffering*, *justice*) alone, but from how these items

are embedded within propositions and co-texts. Expressions such as “*the innocent are crying for help*” or “*we must never give up hope*” demonstrate how affective meaning is realized through syntactic configuration and interpersonal framing. Similarly, lexemes like “*oppression*” or “*granary of the world*” acquire judgmental or appreciative value only within their rhetorical environments. For this reason, the frequencies presented in the table should not be interpreted as simple word counts, but as indicators of patterned evaluative discourse that reveal how Indonesia’s diplomatic stance is linguistically constructed.

Prabowo’s UNGA address functions as a high-stakes interpersonal performance in which linguistic choices help shape how Indonesia is positioned within the global diplomatic arena. The attitudinal lexemes identified in the speech operate as strategic resources for projecting authority, goodwill, and moral legitimacy before an audience whose evaluations carry international weight. While the speech occurs within a politically charged global context, this study treats such political dynamics only as contextual background. The primary focus remains on how linguistic resources, particularly attitudinal lexemes, construct stance, alignment, and a diplomatic identity within the text. At the same time, the analysis acknowledges that these evaluative choices may serve multiple rhetorical functions, including shaping perceptions of Indonesia’s leadership and reinforcing narratives of credibility and responsibility. Such interpretations, however, are grounded strictly in linguistic evidence. By foregrounding the mechanisms of appraisal rather than political argumentation, the study highlights how interpersonal meanings are patterned, deployed, and strategically mobilized throughout the speech.

The table below illustrates some examples of Attitudinal Lexemes in Prabowo’s UNGA speech divided into category and polarity.

Table 2. Analytical Framework Example

Attitude Category	Definition	Function in Speech	Example from President Prabowo's UNGA 2025 Speech
Affect	Lexemes expressing emotional reactions or states of mind. Indicates how the speaker experiences or empathizes with events and people.	Expressing emotional appeals used to foster solidarity and optimism, or negative emotions highlighting human suffering	<p>"I propose to this assembly a message of hope and optimism." (Positive)</p> <p>"But this is the beautiful dream we must work toward together." (Positive)</p> <p>"We stand together in hope and confidence for a better world." (Positive)</p> <p>"A catastrophic situation in Gaza is unfolding before our eyes." (Negative)</p> <p>"The innocent are crying for help, crying to be saved." (Negative)</p> <p>"Millions are facing danger at this very moment, as we sit here, they are facing trauma, and irreparable damage to their bodies, they are dying of starvation." (Negative)</p>
Judgment	Evaluation of people's behaviour in moral or ethical terms.	Examining moral evaluations and constructing leadership credibility, responsibility, and ethical stance in global affairs.	<p>"We will take our share of the burden." (Positive)</p> <p>"Indonesia is prepared to deploy 20,000 of our sons and daughters to secure peace in Gaza or elsewhere. (Positive)"</p> <p>"We are all hopeful that the leaders of the world will show great statesmanship, great wisdom," (Positive)</p>

			<p>"Human folly, fuelled by fear, racism, hatred, oppression, and apartheid." (Negative)</p> <p>"Every day we witness suffering, genocide, and a blatant disregard for international law and human decency." (Negative)</p>
Appreciation	Evaluation of things, processes, or phenomena in terms of value or significance.	Conveying evaluative language toward institutions, achievements, and global challenges to highlight cooperation and shared values.	<p>"It is indeed a great honour to stand in this august General Assembly Hall." (Positive)</p> <p>"Indonesia stands on the cusp of shared prosperity and greater equality and dignity." (Positive)</p> <p>"We are confident, in a few years' time, Indonesia will be the granary of the world." (Positive)</p> <p>"We live in a time when hatred and violence can seem like the loudest voices". (Negative)</p> <p>"Food, energy, and water insecurity haunt many nations." (Negative)</p> <p>"We also continue to face today's grave dangers, challenges, and uncertainties." (Negative)</p>

Source: Author's analysis of President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA speech

The attitudinal lexemes in Prabowo's 2025 UNGA speech reveal how evaluative meaning is used to construct stance, interpersonal alignment, and diplomatic positioning. The following discussion interprets the linguistic patterns across the three Attitude subsystems: Affect; Judgment, and Appreciation, and highlights how these resources contribute to the rhetorical organization and meaning-making of the speech.

1. Affect: Constructing Empathy, Collective Resolve, and Shared Humanity

Affect constitutes the second most frequent subsystem (30.0%), with a predominance of positive emotional expressions (77.8%). The range of affective lexemes allows the speaker to move between acknowledging global distress and projecting optimism and solidarity.

Positive affective lexemes such as *hope*, *confidence*, *optimism*, and *solidarity* help establish a tone of shared purpose and forward-looking resolve. Expressions like “we must never give up *hope*” and “we stand together in *hope and confidence*” construct emotional alignment by inviting the audience into a collective stance toward global challenges. The phrase “We are here first and foremost as *fellow human beings*” further foregrounds shared humanity as a basis for interpersonal solidarity, while positioning Indonesia within a universal moral community. Recurrent formulations such as “we must strive to achieve *our hopes and dreams*” and “*the beautiful dream* we must work toward together” amplify this inclusive orientation, embedding optimism, determination, and encouragement into the speech’s interpersonal structure. Likewise, the reference to delivering “*a message of hope and optimism*” counterbalances depictions of crisis by presenting Indonesia not only as a witness to suffering but also as a participant in global renewal. Collectively, these positive affect choices promote affiliation, mitigate conflictual tone, and frame cooperation as both necessary and attainable.

Conversely, negative affect lexemes such as *suffering*, *grief*, and *catastrophic situation* foreground the emotional gravity of global crises. Expressions like “*crying for help*” and “*dying of starvation*” heighten the affective intensity of the discourse, directing attention to the human consequences of conflict. In phrases like “*millions are facing danger... they are facing trauma and irreparable damage to their bodies; they are dying of starvation,*” the emotional impact emerges not from accusation but from highlighting vulnerability and suffering. These negative affective choices

primarily aim to construct moral urgency and humanitarian concern, reinforcing the speech's interpersonal appeal without targeting specific actors.

The interplay between positive and negative affective meanings creates a rhetorical progression that moves from concern to encouragement. This pattern supports a diplomatic style grounded in empathy, emotional awareness, and collective resilience. In this context, Affect operates as a strategic interpersonal resource: it humanizes the issues under discussion, establishes emotional common ground with the audience, and promotes a sense of shared responsibility without shifting into confrontational rhetoric.

2. Judgment: Moral Evaluation and Leadership Responsibility

Judgment lexemes account for 28.3% of the data and show a slightly balanced distribution between positive and negative polarity. This subsystem plays an important role in expressing evaluations of behaviour, principles, and responsibility within the speech.

Negative judgment lexemes such as *racism*, *hatred*, *oppression*, and *blatant disregard for international law* evaluate behaviors and conditions in ethical terms, positioning them as incompatible with global norms of cooperation and humanitarian conduct. Rather than attributing blame to specific actors, these evaluations describe broader patterns of conduct that hinder collective progress, thus maintaining the non-confrontational tone characteristic of diplomatic discourse. The line "*human folly, fueled by fear, racism, hatred, oppression, and apartheid*" layers multiple judgmental meanings to critique destructive human tendencies and underline the moral consequences of such actions. The expression "*we were treated less than dogs in our own homeland*" invokes Indonesia's colonial history as a reminder of past dehumanization and moral injustice. In the speech, this reference functions not as a political accusation but as a contextual resource

that situates Indonesia's ethical stance within a longer historical experience. By drawing on this collective memory, the discourse frames Indonesia's evaluative position as informed by lived history rather than by confrontation. Similarly, the phrase "*the strong do what they can, the weak suffer what they must*" conveys a critique of structural imbalance within the international system. Although it does not identify specific parties, it highlights the ethical implications of an unequal global order. Through this indirect yet pointed evaluation, the speech signals a preference for norms grounded in fairness and restraint, while still adhering to diplomatic conventions that avoid explicit attribution.

Positive judgmental lexemes in the speech highlight the values that Prabowo aims to normalize as the moral foundation of global governance. References to *human solidarity, equality, and freedom for all* serve as principled stances that position Indonesia as an advocate for ethical cooperation. Phrases like "*take our share of the burden*" and "*continue to serve where peace needs guardians*" convey moral expectations of responsibility, collective duty, and reliability that implicitly enhance Indonesia's credibility as a committed participant in peacebuilding. The commitment to send "20,000 sons and daughters to *secure peace*" further demonstrates Indonesia's willingness to take action based on its ethical obligations rather than simply expressing them. This positive judgment is not only descriptive but performative: it frames Indonesia's contribution as evidence of moral courage and global responsibility. Judgment lexemes also shape expectations for international leadership. Phrases like "*great wisdom, restraint, and humility*" extend moral evaluations beyond individual leaders, implicitly critiquing current international behaviors while prescribing the virtues that leaders should embody. Similarly, the statement, "*Our children are watching... learning leadership not from textbooks, but from our choices,*" along with the hope that "leaders of the world will rise to *the role demanded by history,*" establishes a shared moral standard against which all leaders, including those from Indonesia, must be evaluated.

Overall, the use of Judgment lexemes allows the speaker to convey moral clarity while still maintaining diplomatic neutrality. By evaluating principles, responsibilities, and modes of conduct instead of targeting specific individuals or groups, the speech presents a strong ethical position that remains non-confrontational. This approach enables Indonesia to express normative expectations for global leadership without engaging in direct political conflict.

3. Appreciation: Evaluating Global Institutions, Achievements, and Challenges

Appreciation is the most frequent subsystem, comprising 41.7% of evaluations related to processes, institutions, initiatives, and global conditions. It plays a fundamental role in the descriptive and rhetorical structure of the speech.

Positive appreciation lexemes are used to evaluate both international institutions and Indonesia's developmental achievements, reinforcing a narrative of mutual legitimacy and progress. Phrases like "*august General Assembly Hall*" and "*great institution*" attribute symbolic value to the UN, acknowledging its authority and moral standing. Statements like "We remain committed to internationalism, multilateralism, and to every effort that strengthens *this great institution*," alongside references to a "*great mission to achieve peace*" and "*unprecedented global prosperity and dignity*," position Indonesia as aligned with the UN's normative goals and as an active supporter of collective global governance. Appreciation lexemes are also directed toward the UN's historical role in Indonesia's trajectory. The statement, "In our struggle for independence, in our fight to overcome hunger, disease, and poverty, the United Nations stood with Indonesia and gave us *vital assistance*," portrays the UN as a morally supportive entity, emphasizing a sense of gratitude and a shared mission. Moreover, positive appreciation extends to Indonesia's domestic accomplishments. Phrases such as "we are now *self-sufficient* in rice" and "we aim to be *the granary of the world*," along with "*highest rice production and grain reserves*" and "*resilient food supply chains*," construct a

narrative of national capability, stability, and preparedness. These evaluations strengthen Indonesia's credibility as a country prepared to contribute effectively to global solutions, thereby enhancing its diplomatic positioning.

In contrast, Prabowo highlights global vulnerabilities using negative appreciation lexemes, such as *"food, energy, and water insecurity," "grave dangers," "the threat of rising sea levels," "environmental ruin,"* and *"existential threats from climate change and conflict."* These evaluations go beyond merely outlining problems; they emphasize the severity, scale, and immediacy of global challenges, which underscores the need for coordinated international action. Importantly, this critical tone is not intended to foster despair but to create a sense of shared responsibility and moral urgency. The impact of negative appraisals is strategically balanced by the introduction of constructive, forward-looking initiatives, including *"climate-smart agriculture," "renewable-based development,"* and *"high-quality green jobs."* These positive appreciation lexemes highlight Indonesia's proactive investments in sustainable growth, shifting the discourse from vulnerability to capability.

The speech combines negative assessments of global risks with positive evaluations of Indonesia's solutions, creating a rhetorical journey from crisis to action. This approach reinforces a tone of pragmatic optimism and establishes Indonesia as a country that acknowledges the seriousness of global threats while also committing to practical and cooperative responses. By using this dual evaluative strategy, appreciation becomes a crucial mechanism for shaping Indonesia's diplomatic identity as both vigilant and solution-oriented.

4. Interpreting Indonesia's Diplomatic Positioning through Attitudinal Lexemes

President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA address demonstrates how attitudinal lexemes function not merely as evaluative vocabulary but as interpersonal resources for constructing a diplomatic stance. Within the Appraisal system, Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation operate in coordination to produce a coherent evaluative profile that positions Indonesia as a capable, responsible, and morally attuned actor in global affairs. The patterned distribution of positive and negative polarity reflects a deliberate linguistic strategy rather than incidental expression. Negative lexemes such as *grief*, *suffering*, *genocide*, *racism*, *oppression*, and *environmental ruin* foreground global crises and ethical failures, inviting empathy and activating shared moral responsibility. These evaluations align Indonesia with universal humanitarian values and create a discursive space for ethical engagement. This space is subsequently resolved through positive lexemes such as *hope*, *confidence*, *responsibility*, and *solidarity*, which redirect the discourse from problem recognition toward collective action and future-oriented solutions. In this way, negative evaluation establishes moral urgency, while positive evaluation restores diplomatic optimism and cooperative intent.

The predominance of positive polarity (61.7%) underscores the speech's orientation toward reassurance, partnership, and forward-looking commitment. Expressions such as "*equality and dignity*," "*human solidarity*," and "*freedom for all*" position Indonesia within a shared normative framework of ethical multilateralism. Meanwhile, the selective use of negative terms, such as *injustice* and *oppression*, acknowledges moral crises without adopting the confrontational tone typically avoided in diplomatic forums. This calibrated interplay illustrates how evaluation sustains moral clarity while preserving diplomatic restraint. This evaluative pattern aligns with Xiao's (2016) finding that diplomatic speeches privilege positive evaluative resources, particularly Appreciation, to maintain consensus-oriented

framing. However, while Xiao observes affective restraint as typical of diplomatic discourse, Prabowo's address displays a relatively stronger deployment of positive Affect, which humanizes diplomatic positioning and reinforces emotional alignment with the UNGA's collective ethos without escalating ideological tension.

From an Appraisal perspective, the predominance of positive Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation performs interpersonal and ideological functions to align audiences and legitimize particular value positions, which is in line with Martin and White's (2005) perspective that evaluative language functions as a resource for alignment and legitimation. In this speech, positive Judgment lexemes construct Indonesia and its leadership as ethically responsible and norm-abiding, legitimizing diplomatic authority through moral credibility rather than overt power assertion. This strategy is consistent with Anisimova and Zikánová's (2022) observation that political leaders in international contexts often mobilize positive ethical evaluation to naturalize leadership and responsibility while minimizing ideological confrontation.

Prabowo Subianto's background as a former military general also surfaces linguistically through the evaluative configuration of the speech. Duty-oriented Judgment lexemes (e.g., *responsibility*, *integrity*, *restraint*) combine with moderated Affect (e.g., *determination*, *solidarity*) and pragmatic Appreciation (e.g., *capability*, *commitment*) to produce a tone of firm yet controlled authority. Rather than projecting command-driven assertiveness, the speech recontextualizes military discipline as statesmanlike responsibility appropriate for multilateral diplomacy. Condemnatory terms are counterbalanced by appeals to cooperation, constructing a hybrid stance in which resilience is reframed through collective responsibility.

Although the speech operates within a broader political context, this study treats such context as interpretive background rather than analytical focus. The emphasis remains on the linguistic mechanisms through which evaluative

meanings construct stance and alignment. The patterned use of positive Judgment and Appreciation projects moral authority and cooperative intent, illustrating how diplomatic identity is enacted through language rather than explicit political argument.

In sum, attitudinal lexemes play a central role in shaping Indonesia's diplomatic positioning in President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA speech. Affect cultivates empathy and shared humanity, Judgment frames moral responsibility and leadership credibility, and Appreciation evaluates institutions and collective achievements. Collectively, these resources construct a diplomatic identity that is principled, cooperative, and future-oriented, underscoring the centrality of evaluative language in legitimacy-building within multilateral discourse.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the linguistic construction of attitudinal meaning in President Prabowo Subianto's 2025 UNGA address using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics and Martin and White's Appraisal Framework. The findings show that Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation function as core interpersonal resources shaping evaluative stance and projecting Indonesia's diplomatic identity. The predominance of positive evaluation foregrounds cooperation, responsibility, and ethical commitment, while selective negative evaluations frame global challenges and legitimize calls for collective action.

Although diplomatic discourse is embedded in broader ideological and institutional contexts, this study treats these as background conditions rather than objects of analysis. Within this scope, the Appraisal Framework proves effective in systematically revealing how evaluative meanings negotiate alignment, authority, and solidarity in a highly constrained international forum. The identification of 60 attitudinal lexemes reflects a deliberate focus on explicit Attitude resources, with

implicit evaluation and other Appraisal systems intentionally excluded to ensure analytical precision and replicability.

By delimiting the analysis to explicit Attitude, the study does not claim to capture the full evaluative complexity of diplomatic discourse, but offers a controlled account of how overt evaluation functions as a mechanism for legitimacy-building and interpersonal alignment in multilateral settings. These findings underscore the value of linguistic analysis in illuminating how nations strategically construct credibility and moral positioning on the global stage. Future research incorporating Engagement, Graduation, or comparative datasets may extend these insights within broader analytical scopes.

REFERENCES

- Alhuthali, M. (2024). Appraisal theory and interpreting political speech. *European Scientific Journal*, 20(10), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2024.v20n10p1>
- Anisimova, M., & Zikánová, Š. (2022). Attitude in diplomatic speeches: A pilot study. In *Proceedings of the 19th Joint ACL–ISO Workshop on Interoperable Semantic Annotation* (pp. 137–146). CEUR Workshop Proceedings. <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3226/paper17.pdf>
- Anisimova, M., & Zikánová, Š. (2024). Attitudes in diplomatic speeches: Introducing the CoDipA UNSC 1.0. In *Proceedings of the 20th Joint ACL–ISO Workshop on Interoperable Semantic Annotation* (pp. 17–26). Association for Computational Linguistics. <https://aclanthology.org/2024.isa-1.3>
- Chilton, P. (2004). *Analysing political discourse: Theory and practice*. Routledge.
- Darong, H.C. (2022). Interpersonal Function of American Political Speech (Systemic Functional Linguistics Approach). *IJOLTL (Indonesian Journal of Language Teaching and Linguistics)*, 7(1), 58–71. <https://doi.org/10.30957/ijoltl.v7i1.626>
- Fairclough, N. (2015). *Language and power* (3rd ed.). London, UK: Routledge.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1994). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Arnold.

- Halliday, M.A.K., & Matthiessen, C.M.I.M. (2014). Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Herman, H., Saputra, N., Ngongo, M., & Fatmawati, E. (2022). Delivering A Good Speech by Identifying the Interpersonal Meaning Found in Joe Biden's Victory Speech: A Case on Systemic Functional Linguistics. *Journal of Intercultural Communication*, 22(3), 65-73. <https://doi.org/10.36923/jicc.v22i3.77>
- Lian, Y. (2018). Analysis of Xi's diplomatic speeches from the perspective of Appraisal Theory. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 9(4), 759–764. <https://doi.org/10.17507/jltr.0904.12>
- Li, L., Dreyfus, S., & Don, A. (2025). An appraisal analysis of judgement values on a Chinese political web forum. *Text & Talk*, 45(5), 633–655. <https://doi.org/10.1515/text-2023-0177>.
- Martin, J.R., & White, P.R.R. (2005). *The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Prabowo Subianto. (2025, September 23). Statement at the General Debate of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly [Speech transcript]. United Nations. <https://gadebate.un.org/en/80/indonesia>.
- Prabowo Subianto. (2025, September 23). Statement at the General Debate of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly [Video]. United Nations Web TV. <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1s/k1sdt1al24>.
- White, P. R. R. (2015). Appraisal theory. In K. Tracy, C. Ilie, & T. Sandel (Eds.), *The International Encyclopedia of Language and Social Interaction* (pp. 1–7). Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118611463.wbielsi041>
- Wodak, R. (2015). *The politics of fear: What right-wing populist discourses mean*. SAGE.
- Xiao, Z. (2016). The discourse analysis and translation method of diplomatic speeches in Chinese and English from the perspective of the appraisal system. In *Proceedings of the 2016 2nd International Conference on Humanities and Social Science Research (MEICI 2016)* (pp. 108–111). Atlantis Press. <https://doi.org/10.2991/meici-16.2016.23>

Zhang, S., & Pei, Z. (2018). Analysis of political language based on Appraisal Theory: The mutual construction of language and power—Taking Xi Jinping and Donald Trump's speeches at World Economic Forum as examples. In *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research* (Vol. 248, Proceedings of the International Conference on Social Science and Education Reform [ICSSER 2018]). Atlantis Press. <https://doi.org/10.2991/icsser-18.2019.70>