

Syria and Turkey Earthquake in English News Discourse :A Critical Appraisal Analysis
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Abstract :

This study rigorously examines English-language news discourse regarding the devastating earthquakes that impacted Turkey and Syria in February 2023. This study uses Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine how media language influences public perceptions, narratives, and ideologies concerning humanitarian emergencies. The study examines the depiction of victims, rescue efforts, and geopolitical situations, elucidating how these portrayals shape social perceptions of the event. It underscores the relationship between language and media ideologies, promoting a sophisticated approach in journalism that faithfully represents the experiences of impacted populations. The study combines Critical Discourse Analysis and Appraisal Theory to show how ideas shape news coverage. It stresses how important it is for news outlets to be responsible during humanitarian crises. The study demonstrates a poor perception of the government and organisational reaction to the February 2023 earthquakes, accompanied by a collective mourning for the loss of lives and property. The analysis also reveals the people's opinions, portraying the governments with negative feelings, social esteem characteristics, and negative appreciation of the responses. The articles highlight delayed responses and management deficiencies, focusing on accountability and attributing blame for inadequate governmental action.

Keywords: (Critical Discourse Analysis, Appraisal Theory, Turkey, Syria, Earthquake, Media Representation, Humanitarian Crisis, Ideology, Public Perception.)

1. Introduction

The catastrophic earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria in February 2023 have been extensively documented as one of the most severe humanitarian catastrophes in recent history. They led to substantial fatalities, displacement, and infrastructural destruction. In the context of such catastrophic events, the role of the media in shaping public perception and conversation is crucial. The news media not only informs the public about the severity and implications of disasters but also plays a significant role in shaping the political and social narratives associated with them (Hoffman, 2018). Responsible reporting during such crises is of utmost importance, as it can influence public understanding and response.

This study examines a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of English-language news reporting on the Turkey-Syria earthquakes. CDA is an analytical framework that aims to reveal how language is shaped by and shapes social power relations, ideologies, and cultural settings (van Dijk, 1993; Fairclough, 1995). By analyzing the language, framing, and narratives included in news stories, this study aims to uncover the ideological foundations that influence public perceptions of events and the impacted communities.

Prior research has emphasised the substantial influence of media framing on public perceptions and policy reactions in crisis scenarios (Happer & Philo, 2013; Zoch & Molotch, 2006). The depiction of victims, the description of rescue operations, and the focus on specific geopolitical aspects might result in varying perceptions of the disaster (Khan, 2020). The English-language media environment offers a distinctive perspective on these events, frequently mirroring overarching Western myths and biases (Cottle, 2006).

This study examines a number of critical questions:

1. **What are the attitudes reflected in the articles selected?**
2. **How are the attitudes realised in the articles selected scaled?**
3. **What are the dialogic positions used in the articles selected?**

4. What are the ideologies reflected in the selected articles?

This research enhances the greater dialogue on media accountability and ethics, especially regarding humanitarian emergencies. It emphasizes the imperative for journalists and media organizations to employ a critical and nuanced methodology in reporting, guaranteeing that their narratives accurately reflect the lived realities of individuals impacted by catastrophes.

2. Critical Discourse Analysis

Discourse Analysis is a contemporary development in linguistic research that examines language usage beyond the sentence level and its contextual relevance within communicative events. It analyses the interaction among language, society, and culture, utilizing approaches from several linguistic disciplines (Manhal, 2010). In other words, the main aim of discourse analysis is to uncover or unravel the social economic and cultural beliefs that are embedded in the natural speech of language (Almuslehi, 2023).

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a specialized methodology within discourse analysis that examines how language in social and political situations reflects and sustains power relations, domination, and inequality (van Dijk, 2001). Janam (2019) notes that the use of the term 'critical' is done to map of language, ideology and power. As noted previously, critical discourse analysis is viewed as one of the branches of critical linguistics that connects discourse events with the socio-political and the cultural (Ali, 2023). Widdowson underscores the need to comprehend how language can influence perceptions of reality. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), stated by Fairclough (1993), examines the interrelations between discourse and overarching social structures, elucidating how power dynamics influence discourse and vice versa.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) originated from the critical linguistics movement in the 1970s, shaped by scholars at the University of East Anglia, notably Fowler and Kress. This

discipline links linguistic patterns with social phenomena, highlighting that language usage mirrors and perpetuates social hierarchies (Fowler et al., 1979; Kress & Hodge, 1979). The evolution of CDA integrates theories from sociology, Marxism, and post-structuralism, especially Foucault's concepts of power and discourse (Fairclough, 2010).

CDA seeks to reveal concealed ideologies and values in texts, tackling themes such as racism, identity, and democracy (Paltridge, 2012). It functions according to multiple principles:

1. It is problem-centric, concentrating on pertinent social challenges.
2. It adopts a distinctly critical position.
3. It is interdisciplinary, connecting discourse analysis with other domains (van Dijk, 1995).
4. It analyses all dimensions of conversation, encompassing non-verbal communication.
5. It examines the reproduction or contestation of power dynamics through speech (Wodak, 1995).

CDA possesses advantages, like promoting societal critique and uncovering human behaviours; nonetheless, it is criticised for possible ideological bias and ambiguity in its analytical frameworks (Morgan, 2010).

CDA is an essential instrument for comprehending the interplay between language and societal power dynamics, offering insights into how discourse influences and is influenced by social realities.

3. Approaches of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) includes diverse techniques, mostly formulated by prominent scholars such as Teun van Dijk, Ruth Wodak, and Norman Fairclough. Each

provides unique perspectives to examine the interplay between language, society, and power dynamics.

1. **Dialectical-Relational Framework** (Norman Fairclough): Fairclough's methodology synthesises social practices with linguistic analysis in a tripartite framework that includes text, discursive practice, and social practice. He asserts that language mirrors and influences social systems, contending that discourse is a conduit for power dynamics and identity construction (Fairclough, 1992; Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002). His methodology underscores the necessity for multidisciplinary cooperation, integrating concepts from systemic functional linguistics and critical social theories (Chouliaraki & Fairclough, 1999).
2. **Discourse-Historical Approach** (Ruth Wodak): Wodak's framework examines discourse's historical and social circumstances, emphasising the evolution of language and its reflection of socio-political issues (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). Her methodology encompasses a tripartite criticism model: text immanent, socio-diagnostic, and prognosis, designed to uncover tensions and suggest solutions for enhanced communication (Wodak, 1996; Wodak & Meyer, 2001). This approach is grounded on the tenets of the Frankfurt School, emphasising the necessity for transdisciplinary viewpoints in critical discourse analysis (Weiss & Wodak, 2003).
3. **Socio-cognitive Approach** (Teun van Dijk): Van Dijk's socio-cognitive model integrates textual, cognitive, and social elements, highlighting the influence of discourse on social disparities and ideologies (van Dijk, 1998). He uses the "ideological square" to examine how groups are depicted in language, emphasising the interaction between macro- and microstructures of power (van Dijk, 2000). His work promotes an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating perspectives from sociology, psychology, and communication studies to analyse the manifestation of

ideologies in speech and their impact on societal interactions (Bloor & Bloor, 2007).

4. The Power of Ideology

The term "ideology" was first defined by the French philosopher Destutt de Tracy in the late 18th century, originally envisioned as a "science of ideas" (Ostachuk, 2019). Since then, it has attracted interest from other fields, including cognitive psychology, sociology, and discourse analysis, each providing unique yet interconnected definitions of ideology (Wodak, 1989). Although disciplines such as sociology and political science often neglect the linguistic aspects of ideology, discourse-orientated linguistics highlights the significance of language in forming and expressing ideological constructions.

Destutt de Tracy's work established the basis for comprehending ideology as a multifaceted interaction of ideas, attitudes, and values that shape social practices and political conduct (Bloor & Bloor, 2007). Ideology functions as a "map" of social reality, essential for traversing political and social terrains (Freeden, 2003). Van Dijk (1998) characterises ideology as an "interface" connecting social structures and cognition, embodying collective objectives and common representations. As Rashid (2021), ideology can be portrayed as a key concept in promoting and maintaining unequal power relations .

Fairclough (2010) perceives ideology as a conceptual framework that sustains political order and legitimises power relations, whereas Jost (2006) amalgamates multiple definitions, portraying ideology as a collective belief system that structures political conduct. The discussion about ideology is notably difficult, resulting in divides between Marxist and non-Marxist viewpoints (van Dijk, 1998).

Historically, ideology has transitioned from de Tracy's hopeful perspective to a more critical interpretation influenced by Marxist philosophers, notably Gramsci, who defined ideology as "false consciousness" (Daldal, 2014). Althusser further articulated that

ideology permeates all social interactions via repressive and ideological state apparatuses, shaping our conceptions of social connections (Weiss & Wodak, 2003).

5. Appraisal in Language

Martin and White's Appraisal Theory provides a framework for discourse analysis by evaluating a text's emotions, values, and reader engagement (Bock, 2007). White (2001) asserts that the theory examines the linguistic tactics writers and speakers employ to articulate, negotiate, and validate particular ideological perspectives. Martin and White (2005) underscore the subjective engagement of authors and presenters as they relate to their content and audience.

Thompson and Hunston (2000, p.5) emphasise appraisal as a crucial field of research, characterising it as articulating the speaker's or writer's perspectives regarding the topics addressed. Language evaluation has three primary purposes:

The purpose of writing is to express the viewpoint of the writer or speaker and represent their ideals and those of their community. The goal is to commence and maintain discourse with the audience. To organize the dialogue, The Appraisal Theory facilitates an examination of the ideologies and representations constructed by news media, particularly concerning wars and their ramifications for global economies. The Appraisal System (AS) examines the lexico-grammatical selections that disclose the economic ideologies evident in Arabic and English news reporting on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. By analysing these evaluations, researchers can understand how news outlets communicate their thoughts and beliefs, influencing audience perspectives.

The appraisal systems have three essential components: the attitude system, engagement system, and graduation system. Each is crucial for articulating emotions, judgements, and evaluations in communication.

i. The Attitude System

The Attitude System emphasises emotional and evaluative expressions, classified into three domains:

- **Affect:** Manifestations of emotions encompassing a spectrum from joy to sorrow (Martin & White, 2005). Responses to events may signify joy or grief (Prastikawati, 2021).
- **Judgement:** Evaluations of conduct by societal standards, including ethics and competence (Martin & White, 2005). A leader's behaviours can be assessed ethically (Prastikawati, 2021).
- **Appreciation** is assessing the aesthetic attributes of objects or situations, including responses and evaluations (Page, 2003). Terms such as "catastrophic" express unfavourable assessments of circumstances (Prastikawati, 2021).

ii. The Engagement system

The Engagement System evaluates the speaker's position about others' viewpoints, utilising Bakhtin's concept of dialogism (1981). It distinguishes between:

- **The monoglossic position** represents a solitary perspective without recognising alternative viewpoints (Ertyas, 2011).
- **Heteroglossic expressions** integrate many perspectives, facilitating expansive discussion (Martin & White, 2005). This position includes:
 - a. **Proclaim** the linguistic tools achieved to support and provide a flow of ideas.
 - b. **Disclaim:** the linguistic tools showing rejection, objection, and negation.
 - c. **Expand:** the linguistic use of citations and mentions of sources for the propositions or possibilities for alternative ideas.

iii. The Graduation System

The Graduation System refers to the adjustment of intensity in attitudes and assessments, which consists of two dimensions:

- **Force:** Modifying intensity with amplifiers (e.g., "absolutely") or hedges (e.g., "somewhat") (Biber et al., 1999).
- **Focus:** The accuracy of a statement's correspondence with classifications, modified by diverse linguistic techniques (Martin & White, 2005).

The appraisal systems offer a framework for comprehending how language expresses attitude, interacts with others, and adjusts the intensity of expression, which is crucial for analysing discourse and social dynamics (Martin & White, 2005; Prastikawati, 2021).

4. CDA and Appraisal System

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) investigates concealed meanings and presuppositions in linguistic interactions, elucidating the manifestation of ideology and power within a conversation (Fairclough, 1995). Van Dijk (2001) characterises Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a methodology that examines the exploitation of social power, the portrayal of domination and inequality, and how these matters are challenged within social and political frameworks.

As defined by Martin (2017), the Appraisal System examines the linguistic instruments employed by speakers to express emotions and values, such as lexicon, phrases, and syntactic structures. It assesses the strength of emotions, negotiable attitudes, and the techniques writers or speakers use to express perspectives and captivate audiences. Appraisal Theory analyses how individuals assess others and circumstances, promoting connections with like-minded perspectives while frequently marginalising opposing viewpoints (White, 2003).

Through the integration of reported speech, modality, and evidentiality, The Appraisal System facilitates critical discourse analysis in achieving consensus on knowledge and beliefs (Hart, 2014). Martin's (2000) research has transitioned from clause analysis to the semantic dimension, highlighting the attitudes and ideologies that influence language usage.

Ideology is fundamental in Critical Discourse Analysis, serving as a framework for ideological examination. Van Dijk (2006c) characterises ideology as the unified position of a group regarding particular matters. Appraisal Theory comprehensively examines the lexico-grammatical mechanisms that represent people's stances in speech, including the perspectives of speakers or authors on many propositions and phenomena (Martin & White, 2005).

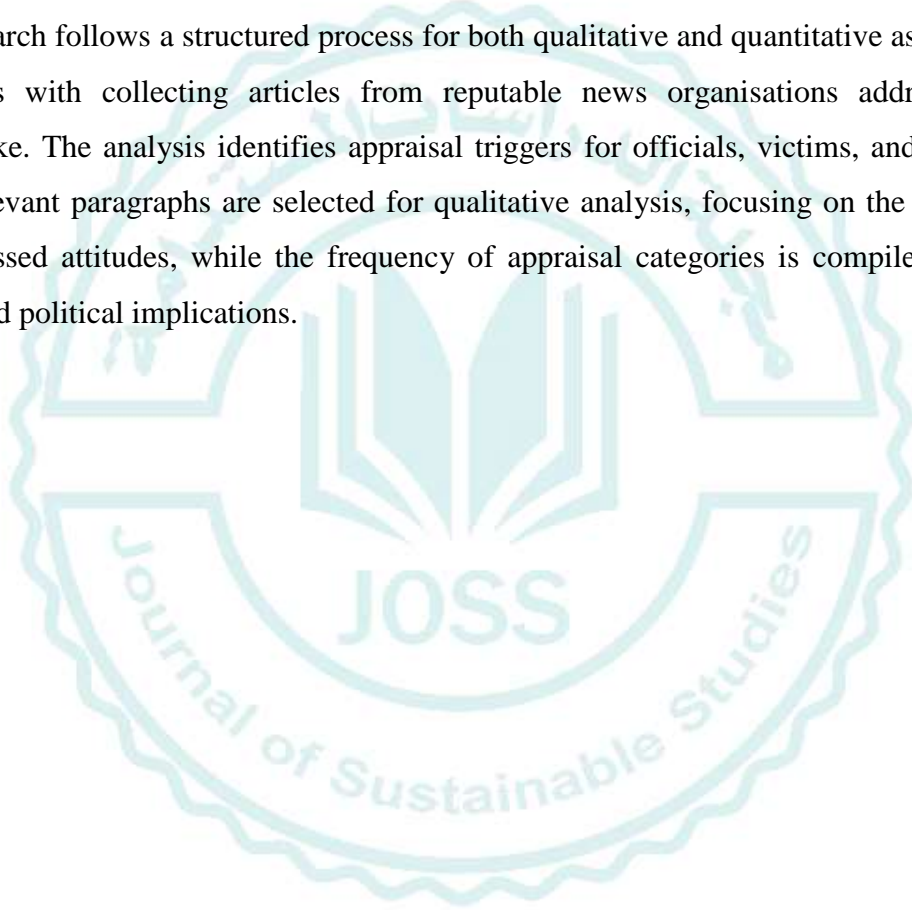
5. Research Methodology

This chapter outlines the methodology for analyzing English news discourse regarding the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. The research employs a critical evaluation approach to investigate how language constructs disaster narratives, influences public perception, and uncovers underlying ideologies. The primary objectives are to analyse discursive strategies in news reports and evaluate their impact on the portrayal of affected populations. The study uses critical discourse analysis (CDA) and appraisal theory to explore the relationships between language, power, and ideology in media narratives. The research design incorporates data selection, analytical frameworks, and methodologies that engage with broader socio-political themes, making it relevant for scholars and practitioners in disaster response and media studies.

The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative methodologies (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2008). Qualitative research focuses on understanding phenomena in their natural contexts and emphasises subjective experiences

(Denzin & Lincoln, 1994; Neuman, 2014). In contrast, quantitative research uses statistical techniques to validate or challenge hypotheses about phenomena (King et al., 1994; Williams, 2007). This research combines quantitative analysis of appraisal systems with qualitative evaluations of news articles to investigate economic ideologies across different discourses, examining how these ideologies relate to conflict through linguistic features.

The research follows a structured process for both qualitative and quantitative assessments. It begins with collecting articles from reputable news organisations addressing the earthquake. The analysis identifies appraisal triggers for officials, victims, and the crisis. Only relevant paragraphs are selected for qualitative analysis, focusing on the graduation of expressed attitudes, while the frequency of appraisal categories is compiled for their social and political implications.



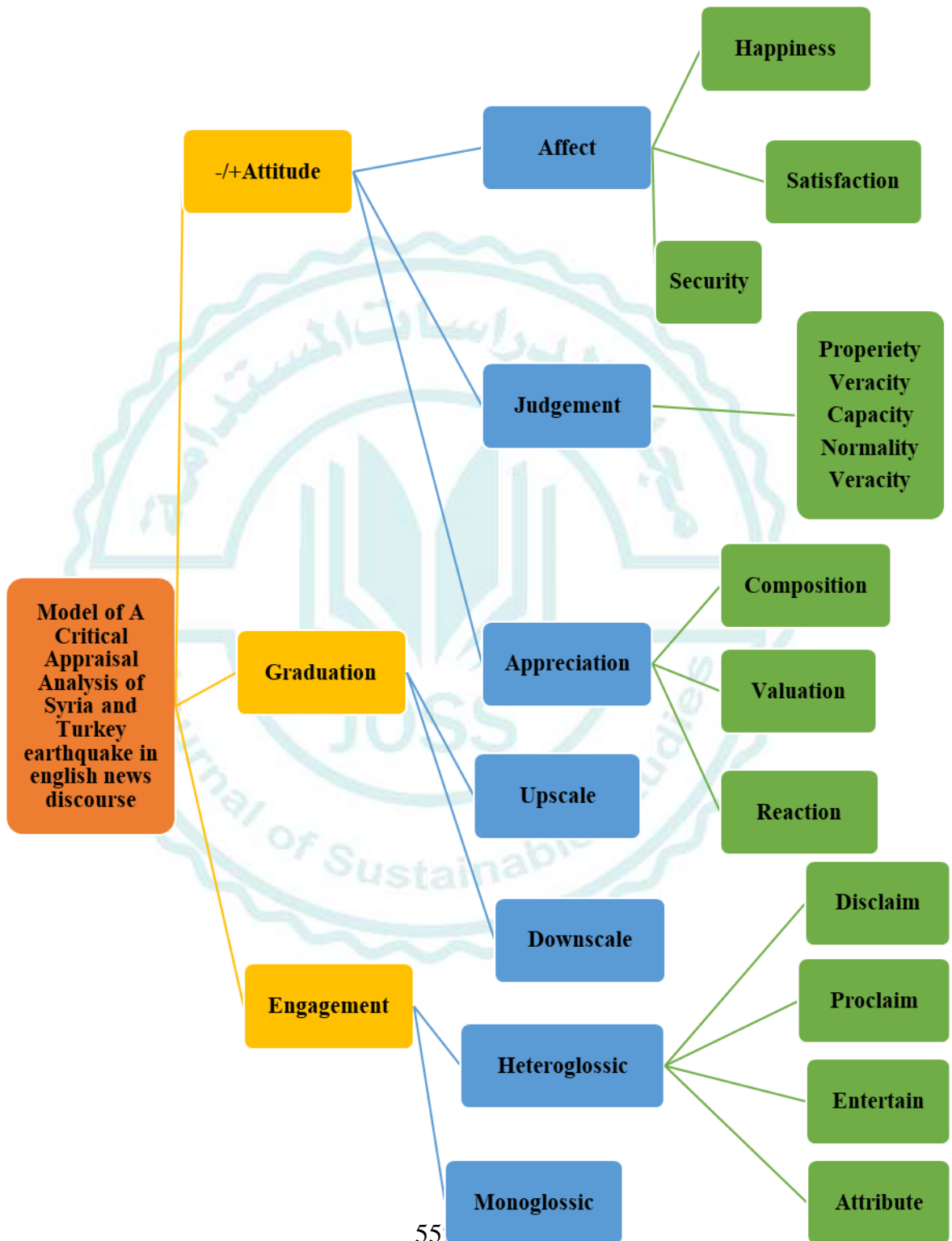


Figure 1. The Model of Analysis

6. Data Analysis

A. Reuters

Article: “Loyalty to Erdogan”

“By Can Sezer and Jonathan Spicer, March 8, 2023”

“Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan could have relied on strong voter backing from Cigdemtepe and other villages and towns across southeast Turkey in the past, but a huge earthquake and a slow rescue response has made once loyal support more uncertain.

There are signs his AK Party (AKP) is increasingly aware that it cannot take past votes for granted, as officials talk of accelerating rebuilding plans before elections in May, which may prove the toughest of Erdogan's more than two decades in power.

But Reuters interviews with nearly 30 residents in the past week in Kahramanmaras, Adiyaman and Gaziantep - provinces where white tents dot the landscape of buckling or collapsed buildings - suggest political loyalties, even among once diehard Erdogan backers, are shifting.

"My mind is completely changed," said a student in rural Kahramanmaras, who like others was reluctant to give their name. "We breathe AKP here but this earthquake changed everything for us. These people don't know what they are doing."

The deadliest disaster in Turkey's modern history devastated cities and towns and killed tens of thousands of people a month ago, mostly in a conservative stronghold that has heavily backed Erdogan and the AKP for two decades.

While only a tiny sample of the 14 million people affected by the earthquakes in southeastern Turkey, the opinions of those interviewed shed light on how these mostly rural and working class voters could affect presidential and parliamentary polls...

Some were irked by what they saw as insensitive statements by political leaders including Erdogan, who asked for forgiveness last week for a response to the earthquake that could have been faster, while some others ridiculed the government's plan to rebuild the region in just a year.

But people also struggled to imagine voting for opposition parties and their newly-named candidate, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

The AKP has ruled Turkey with little serious electoral challenge since 2002, and party insiders told Reuters they are aware of the anger among their voter base in the southeast but confident a combination of swift rebuilding and a confused opposition will deliver victory.

One party official said they would "re-direct" residents' focus to efforts to rebuild and stress no one but Erdogan could do this quickly. Another said they would showcase reconstruction in an area where 227,000 buildings collapsed or face demolition.

Pollsters have mostly avoided surveying those in the disaster zone, while national surveys found the AKP has maintained its support. They point to a tight election contest despite a cost-of-living crisis that had gripped Turks long before the magnitude 7.8 quake and aftershocks brought more criticism, opens new tab of the government.

"It is not wise to hold elections in May. People hurt, we still hurt," said Mahmut, an insurance worker in the town of Besni, where after the quake he said he could hear his cousins under the rubble for two days before their voices stopped.

Erdogan's request for forgiveness had been poorly received, he said, adding he normally votes for the MHP.

Mehmet, 52, a construction subcontractor living with his wife and child in a tent in Adiyaman, said "everyone" votes for Erdogan as president, and he would too, but he would punish the AKP party by voting for the MHP.

Mehmet Ali Kulat, chairman of MAK polling company, said based on previous earthquakes survivors tend to blame the government at first, then later back whomever rebuilds homes.

There are only about 55 buildings in Igdeli, where villagers erected their own tents and intend to rebuild themselves.

"The government of the past 20 years is not working for the people," said 70-year-old farmer Mehmet. "I don't believe the opposition is up to the task either. But we need fundamental change."q

The Attitude Analysis

The attitude represented in the article is primarily negative, appraising the government's position in the earthquake as in the table:

Table (4.1)

The Attitude and Scaling Triggers in Article 1

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
<i>Happiness</i>	-	-
<i>Security</i>	-	9

<i>Satisfaction</i>	-	12
<i>Social sanction</i>	-	3
<i>Social esteem</i>	2	4
<i>Reaction</i>	-	11
<i>Composition</i>	-	-
<i>Value</i>	-	-
<i>Graduation Scaling</i>		
<i>Upscale Graduation</i>	35	
<i>Downscale Graduation</i>	1	

Table (4.1) shows that the attitude underlies the article is totally negative.

Concerning affect, or the emotional appraisal, the article represents the dissatisfaction of the international world and Turkish citizens towards the slow, weak, and irresponsible response of the government during the earthquake aftermath with 12 times frequent use of dissatisfaction expression like in “Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan could have relied on strong voter backing from Cigdemtepe and other villages and towns across southeast Turkey in the past, but a huge earthquake and a slow rescue response has made once loyal support more uncertain.” The public feels anger towards Erdogan's slow response when considering a huge disaster like the one. They expressed that the election support for Erdogan is now uncertain, considering his weak attitude.

Insecurity is realised by the public fear, unstable living and being shattered with their family as in “My mind is completely changed,” said a student in rural Kahramanmaras, who, like others, was reluctant to give their name. "We breathe AKP here, but this earthquake changed everything for us.” In these sentences, the public expresses their stress

and fear of the government's position and that they are shifted between supporting or standing against Erdogan in the next election.

Negative judgment is devoted to criticising the Turkish government's response to the crisis. One instant represents this criticism: *“Some were irked by what they saw as insensitive statements by political leaders including Erdogan, who asked for forgiveness last week for a response to the earthquake that could have been faster, while some others ridiculed the government's plan to rebuild the region in just a year.”* Reuters reports how the public is annoyed by Erdogan's slow response, which he, Erdogan, has admitted by asking for forgiveness.

However, there are two occasions where the judgement is positive denoting the citizen and the rural support to the AKP (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi/ Justice and Development Party).

In terms of appreciation, a negative reaction is the only dominant category. The negative reaction comes to react at the disaster, the situation negatively, and the aid presented by the government. An example of negative reaction is: *“The deadliest disaster in Turkey's modern history devastated cities and towns and killed tens of thousands of people a month ago.”*

The scaling of the attitude is oriented to intensify or upscale the negative attitude towards the Government response and the extreme disaster. Upscaling the attitude is realised by using numbers for massive quantities of victims and losses (14 million, thousands of people), adverbs of intensification (is increasingly, ultimately, changed everything), and strong adjectives (huge, The deadliest).

The Engagement Analysis

The dialogic position adopted in Article 1 is mainly expanded as Table (4.2) shows:

Table (4.2)

The Engagement Triggers in Article 1

Dialogic position	Frequency
Monoglossic	10
Disclaim	7
Proclaim	1
Expand	13

As shown in Table (4.2), the primary dialogic position is the expand position, where the editor assigns the speech reported or propositions to an external voice, like the people interviewed. An instance of expand dialogic position is "My mind is completely changed," said a student in rural Kahramanmaras, who like others was reluctant to give their name. "We breathe AKP here, but this earthquake changed everything for us. These people don't know what they are doing." In these sentences, Reuters cited the public comments on the situation following the earthquake, where they had their view of their government. Reuters cites the words explaining the public confidence lost after the slow response and that they are confused and have minds changed concerning the election. Most Turkish people, especially the rural public, supported the AKP for decades. However, the crisis has altered public opinion because the government portrays itself as irresponsible and unsupportive.

The monoglossic dialogic position represents assertions by Reuters. Reuters appraises situations and related matters using its voice to establish the agency's position in commenting on and appraising conditions. Many examples show information sourced from Reuter, like "*There are only about 55 buildings in Igdeli, where villagers erected their own tents and intend to rebuild themselves.*" Reuter here asserts the villagers' difficult condition based on their own visions and information collected.

The Ideological Analysis

Article 1 by Reuters reveals some of the Turks' ideologies and beliefs after the earthquake. One belief is that Erdogan and the Syrian governments are responsible for the slow response and the accumulative losses caused by such a slow response. Another ideology the victims had is that Erdogan's voters are decreasing in number, and elections are not guaranteed.

B. The BBC News

Article 4: Syria Earthquake: Why did the UN aid take so long to arrive?

7 March 2023, By Rosie Garthwaite

"The UN's delay in delivering life-saving aid to Syrian victims of last month's devastating earthquake was unnecessary, legal experts have told the BBC.

They said the UN did not need to wait for permission to enter from the Syrian government or the Security Council and could have applied a broader interpretation of international law.

It took a week before the UN got approval from Syria's president to open extra border crossings to allow access to the opposition-held north-west.

The UN itself has said it is crucial to try and rescue quake victims within 72 hours. It disputes the BBC's findings that it could have acted differently.

"What matters in terms of responding to an earthquake is time and the immediacy of the response. And the UN just stood there completely paralysed," international human rights lawyer, Sarah Kayyali, told the BBC.

More than 4,500 people were killed and more than 8,700 injured in north-west Syria by the earthquake, the UN says. His opinion is that cross-border aid is legally permitted.

The BBC has spoken to more than a dozen experts in total, including eminent lawyers, professors, retired judges of the International Court of Justice and former UN legal officials. All said that deaths could have been prevented, if the UN had used a different interpretation of international law to allow it to respond in north-west Syria.

But the UN made no formal request for emergency medical teams to enter north-west Syria, and was not able to tell us about any formal request for search and rescue teams to deploy there. International humanitarian specialists working on the response have told the BBC that without that call from the UN there was no clear way for emergency teams to deploy.

The UN's Stéphane Dujarric says the lack of emergency teams is down to national government decision-making. "There are security concerns. There are all sorts of political concerns" which may have influenced this, he says.

Marco Sassoli, special advisor to the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, said that the Geneva Conventions - the basis of international humanitarian law - provides a framework for the UN to deliver aid without the need for Syria's permission.

"The Geneva Conventions, to which Syria is a party, has a provision stating that an impartial humanitarian body... may offer its services" to all sides of a conflict, he told the BBC.

Victims of the earthquake have complained about the UN's response.

Omar Hajji lost his wife and five children to the disaster.

Omar Hajji had to scabble in the rubble to look for his loved ones

"UN aid wasn't sufficient," Omar says, who spent days digging through rubble looking for friends and family with his bare hands. "The most significant aid we received was from locals... If the UN aid had arrived earlier things would've been very different."

One week after the quake, Martin Griffiths, the UN's head of emergency relief, visited the Bab al-Hawa border crossing. The UN has "so far failed the people of north-west Syria", he wrote on Twitter. "They rightly feel abandoned. Looking for international help that hasn't arrived."

The Analysis

The Attitude Analysis

The article takes a critical stance towards the UN, portraying its actions as "unnecessary", "paralyzed", and failing to help the earthquake victims in Syria adequately. The table below shows the repetitions of the negative attitudes triggers in the article:

Table (4.7)

The Attitude and Scaling Triggers in Article 4

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Happiness	-	3
Security	-	-
Satisfaction	-	8
Social sanction	-	5
Social esteem	-	3
<i>Reaction</i>	-	1
<i>Composition</i>	-	-
<i>Value</i>	1	1
<i>Graduation Scaling</i>		
<i>Upscale Graduation</i>	12	
<i>Downscale Graduation</i>	-	

The negative attitude of unhappiness is conveyed by "Victims of the earthquake have complained about the UN's response, saying the aid wasn't sufficient and that they felt abandoned." And also by, "Omar Hajji, a man whose family members were killed in the earthquake, said the UN aid wasn't sufficient and that he felt abandoned." These statements express the sadness and distress experienced by earthquake victims due to the UN's perceived inadequate response.

Statements conveying dissatisfaction include "It disputes the BBC's findings that it could have acted differently" and "The UN says sanctions and access issues tied its hands, but legal experts argue this is not true." These statements convey dissatisfaction with the UN's justifications and the BBC's counterarguments against the UN's position.

Statements conveying negative social sanction condemn the UN's morality and humanity in responding to victims. Some examples include, "**The UN just stood there completely paralysed.**" And "**The UN did nothing, and just looked the other way.**"

These statements harshly criticise the UN's inaction and failure to fulfill its responsibilities, conveying strong negative social sanction. Negative social esteem is conveyed: "**What matters in responding to an earthquake is time and the immediacy of the response. And the UN just stood there completely paralysed.**" Also, "**Legal experts say the UN could have and should have acted more quickly under international law to provide life-saving aid.**"

These statements undermine the UN's competence and professionalism, conveying negative social esteem towards the organisation's capabilities and decision-making.

The article utilises a range of linguistic choices to express sadness, dissatisfaction, negative social sanction, and negative social esteem towards the UN's failures in responding to the earthquake crisis in Syria.

The BBC article utilises several linguistic tools to intensify its negative attitude towards the UN's response to the earthquake in Syria by using strong negative verbs, adjectives and adverbials like

"completely paralysed", "completely failed", and "did nothing" to amplify the criticism and convey a sense of total inaction by the UN. Phrases like "devastating", "life-saving", and "horrific" heighten the emotional impact and severity of the situation. Repetition emphasizes the negative attitude. Repeated phrases like "the UN could have" and "the UN should have" underscore the BBC's belief that the organisation failed to fulfil its responsibilities.

The Engagement Analysis

The BBC article employs several linguistic tools to engage and influence the readers, as counted in the table:

Table (4.8)

The Engagement Triggers in Article 4

Dialogic position	Frequency
Monoglossic	1
Disclaim	5
Proclaim	-
Expand	10

The BBC employs more expansion tools, which give alternative propositions by hedging language or attributing the propositions to external voices to have credible sense. Disclaim is used five times to contrast ideas, while monoglossic voice is almost absent.

Quotes from victims like "UN aid wasn't sufficient" and feeling "abandoned" appeal to the reader's empathy. Citing "eminent lawyers, professors, retired judges, " international laws like the Geneva Conventions "and "former UN legal officials" lends credibility to the critique of the UN's response.

The article contrasts the UN's claims with the experts' counter-arguments, creating a sense of tension and inviting the reader to evaluate the UN's position critically. The article makes strategic use of

disclaim tools (negation and contrasting) and hedging tools, and these linguistic choices are significant in shaping the overall narrative and persuasiveness of the piece. The article uses negation to directly counter the UN's own claims, such as stating "It disputes the BBC's findings that it could have acted differently." Contrasting perspectives are presented, contrasting the UN's position with that of the legal experts, creating tension and inviting the reader to question the UN's stance. This disclaim technique challenges the UN's official narrative and portrays the BBC's findings as more credible.

In terms of expansion, the article uses phrases like "could have", "may have", and "if" when speculating about the UN's motivations and the potential outcomes of a quicker response. Words like "unnecessary", "likely", and "may" introduce some uncertainty and qualify the assertions made. Using hedging language maintains an appropriate level of caution and nuance, rather than making overly definitive claims. These linguistic choices enhance the article's persuasiveness and credibility, inviting readers to critically examine the UN's actions and the experts' alternative interpretations.

The Ideological Analysis

Based on the information provided in the article, the underlying ideology is that the UN's delay in delivering aid was likely influenced by "security concerns" and "political concerns" rather than strictly legal or humanitarian considerations. The article suggests the UN could have interpreted international law, specifically the Geneva Conventions, in a broader way to justify delivering aid without waiting for the Syrian government's permission. The underlying ideology prioritises rapid, principled humanitarian action over political considerations.

According to the legal experts and victims' perspectives presented, the article seems to critique the UN's decision-making framework, which prioritised political sensitivities and formal approval processes over the imperative for timely, life-saving humanitarian assistance.

7. Conclusions

The study reaches the following conclusions:

Negative Attitude, the analysed articles primarily demonstrate a negative disposition regarding the governmental and organisational response to the earthquake. Although derived from multiple news outlets, there is a uniform adverse assessment, characterized by feelings of grief at the substantial loss of life and property. Judgemental language condemns the tardy response and governmental inadequacies in successfully managing the problem.

Amplification of Negativity, the adverse mood is exacerbated by the use of intensifiers, quantifiers, and potent vocabulary that accurately reflect the severity of the situation. The lack of moderated perspectives is evident, as the focus on negativity seeks to enhance its influence and capture public attention.

Dialogic Positions, the primary dialogic stance is the broadened viewpoint, which underscores the objectivity and integrity of news agencies. The disavow position is noteworthy, indicating a negotiation approach designed to sway readers while conveying information. Monoglossic idioms that convey a negative attitude are utilised less often, corresponding with the increased accountability evident in the broader stance.

Dominant ideology and multiple ideologies are present in the debate, although the predominant one attributes the insufficient governmental reaction to the earthquake as the primary responsibility. Both news agencies and the public condemn governmental acts that exacerbate loss and destruction.

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