

## Appraisal Analysis: Thailand in the View of Phnom Penh Post on the Preah Vihear Issue

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to illustrate ways in which Discourse Analysis (DA) looks at the Preah Vihear issue written in the news articles of the main English newspaper of Cambodia, The Phnom Penh Post, from July to October 2008. This period is selected for the study because the situational conflict between Cambodia and Thailand concerning the Preah Vihear Temple affected most citizens and the images of both countries. Further, the conflict also greatly concerned other ASEAN countries, as well as those worldwide. The researcher believes that the news presentation on this issue written by the Phnom Penh Post is one of the key factors which influenced the readers' perception and reaction in both countries. Attitude domain—one of the semantic domains of the Appraisal framework (Martin & White, 2005) is selected to uncover the underlying meaning in the texts of the newspaper to indicate how discourses were constructed and the selected discourse semantic categories work under the themes that are set. The results of the study reveal through the linguistic features which are analyzed and classified into the three discourse patterns under the three themes set that Thailand is evaluated negatively compared with Cambodia which is evaluated positively.

**Keywords:** Discourse Analysis, Newspapers, Preah Vihear, Appraisal, Attitude Domain

## **Introduction**

The political issue between Thailand and Cambodia concerning the possession of the Preah Vihear temple is of interest to groups of people worldwide. This social phenomenon is represented to the public through different media, one of which is newspapers. To a linguist, the representation of the issue through the language use in the Cambodian English newspaper is of great importance in investigating how the language is used in terms of discourse analysis.

This research proposes to study the English newspaper by using the Discourse Analysis (DA) approach and the selected theory concerning the Systemic Functional Grammar, Appraisal Theory, to explore, explain, and describe how the patterns of language concerning the Preah Vihear temple issue are used and constructed from July to October 2008 in the news article part of this newspaper. It is believed by the researcher that the discourse constructed by this newspaper affects the readers' perception.

### **1. Background of the Phnom Penh Post**

The Phnom Penh Post is the oldest daily English newspaper founded and first published in 1992 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Phnom Penh Post is also available in Khmer language. It is assumed that the groups of Cambodian people: elites, academics, businessmen, soldiers/the military, middle class people who can use English in daily life, politicians, and those from foreign countries coming to invest in Cambodia, seem to have trust in an English news paper and follow the news from the Phnom Penh Post. These groups of people are the keys to drive Cambodia in various aspects: economics, trade, education, politics, etc. However, the print media like the Phnom Penh Post is presumably subject to close government supervision. Censorship seems general, especially the news presentation that is concerned about politics and other news which is relevant to the stability of the Cambodian government. Thus, it might be possible that readers who follow the Phnom Penh Post have not had many choices to consume news from various perspectives. However, the researcher decided to select the Phnom Penh Post as the representation of the English newspaper of Cambodia in this research study because it is the main English newspaper that most Cambodians mentioned above choose to peruse.

### **2. Brief Historical Preah Vihear Temple and Conflict between Thailand and Cambodia**

After the judgment of the International Court of Justice (I.C.J) designating the temple of Preah Vihear to be under the sovereignty of Cambodia in 1962 and during the past decade, there have been no activities by either country to question whose sovereignty the temple belongs to. Cambodia's attempts to register the Preah Vihear Temple on the World Heritage List, and the

unclear actions of land possession between the two countries are still sensitive political issues to the present. According to the situation mentioned earlier, the overall view concerning the Preah Vihear Temple of the two countries is given as follows:

The clash between Cambodia and Thailand is over the ownership of a stone Preah Vihear sanctuary. The haven is located on the area on which both nations claim rights. Despite the fact that the World Court had mandated the sanctuary to be in the region of the kingdom of Cambodia in 1962, the current clash of both nations originates from the distinctive translation of each nation on the judgment of the World Court encompassing the sanctuary which covers 4.6 square kilometers. In 2000, the legislatures of both signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a specific end goal to tackle the issue; however, both countries had asserted their right on the range by utilizing distinctive guide, estimation and confirmation. Thailand guaranteed that the Cambodian's guide (1:200,000 scale map) made by the French is inadmissible, and the guide could possibly lead Thailand to lose the domain and range of 4.6 kilometers around the sanctuary. To be more reasonable, 1: 200,000 was utilized when the Franco-Siam division settlement was marked. To a great extent, through World War II and the Cambodian wars, the first fringe was damaged by reasons of military conflict and a cross-outskirt development of occupants, (referred to in [www. Anonymous2011a](#), accessed on 18 December 2011 "The contrast between both maps of 1:50000 and 1: 2mln") Instead, Thailand demonstrated its solid aim to stick to the 1: 50,000 scale map which was made under the Tokyo Treaty in 1941. To be more reasonable, the 1:50,000 scale guide was drawn to demonstrate all the ethnic territories and development area, streams and wildernesses. Present day 1:50000 was upgraded by cutting edge IT equipment, for example, GPS, Satellite Mapping, (referred to in [www. Anonymous2011a](#) accessed on 18 December 2011 "The distinction between both maps of 1:50000 and 1: 2mln").

From the author's observation of the news article part of the Phnom Penh Post in 2008, the temperature of political conflict has slightly fluctuated depending on the period. However, in 2008, both countries had the strong tension after Cambodia planned to register Preah Vihear Temple as a World Heritage Site (March 2008). Because of this plan, Thailand made various opposing acts in the latter months: diplomatic talks, a crossing of the Thai border made by the march of the Thai protesters, and finally, the confrontation and the clashes between the Thai and Cambodian troops from July to October 2008. At the same period, both leaders attempted to reconcile the conflict. The news presentation concerning the border conflict between the two countries resulting from the Preah Vihear Temple is mostly found in 2008. Therefore, the study is focused on the duration of July to October 2008 wherein the news presentation concerning Preah Vihear issue was mostly presented.

The commentaries were collected with two goals in mind: 1) to examine how the image of Thailand is viewed through discourse construction in the news article of the Phnom Penh Post from July to October 2008, vis-à-vis the issue of the Preah Vihear Temple between Cambodia

and Thailand, and 2) to investigate how individuals, organizations or places of Thailand are evaluated through the use of linguistic features. In order to study the evaluative meanings expressed in the news article of this newspaper during the period mentioned, the Appraisal theory—the Attitude Domain of Martin and White (2005) is selected to be the main tool for data analysis.

## **Theoretical Background**

### **1. Definition of 'discourse'**

The term 'discourse' was defined by a number of scholars—e.g. Schikffrin (1994), Brown and Yule (1983), Stubbs (1983), amongst others—as a consistent emphasis on "language in use" (Locke 2004:9-10; Jaworski & Coupland 2006:3). However, there are also other scholars who claim that discourse should be considered "*beyond* language in use" (Jaworski & Coupland 2006:3). These scholars include, for instance, Kress and Hodge (1979), Fowler (1981), Kress (1985), Fairclough (1989; 1992a; 1992b), Lee (1992), Van Dijk (1998a); 2001:96), Van Leeuwen (1993a;1993b) , Wodak (1985; 1995; 1997) and Candlin (1997:iix), among others.

The definitions of discourse from the theorists mentioned above reveal the diverse conceptual backgrounds and different periods of origin. However, this study adopts the definition of discourse as language beyond sentences that are relevant to "what and how language communicates when it is used purposefully in particular instances and context"(Cameron 2001:13).

### **2. Definition of 'Discourse Analysis' (DA)**

In this study, discourse analysis is defined as a mechanism to study/analyze discourse. Discourse analysis mainly focuses on linguistic analysis in the normal level of spoken and written language patterns or generative grammar structures in text grammars such as cohesion, anaphora, tenses, etc. However, the functionalists viewed that this type of discourse analysis focuses only on linguistic analysis. While it may be beneficial to linguists, it may be inadequate to the general masses. Thus, the functionalists have tried to extend the analysis of discourse to social aspects by analyzing the function and the role of language use in relation to social phenomena instead of analyzing only the linguistic aspects. Therefore, the discourse analysis in this sense of the study is related to not only the linguistic study, but also linked to the study of the language use written by the Phnom Penh Post. Although Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is not the main focus of this study, CDA (see more in Fairclough, 1992b, Schiffrin, 1994, Fairclough &

Wodak, 1997, and Van Dijk, 1998a and 1998b) will shed light on this study by finding out the deeper meaning implied in the texts presented in the Phnom Penh Post.

### 3. Systemic-Functional Grammar (SFG)

According to Halliday (1994), there are “various functional “models” for explaining how grammar works”. For him, SYSTEMIC Functional-Grammar (SFG) is “a theory of grammar that is oriented towards the discourse semantics”. He clarifies this definition as follows: “if we say we are interpreting the grammar functionally, it means that we are foregrounding its role as a resource for construing meaning”.

The SFG of Halliday (ibid.) recognizes language as “a system of meaning realized mainly through the ideational, interpersonal and textual functions embedded in the grammatical choices made by language users” (Oktar 2001:322-323). According to Oktar (ibid:323), the functional view of language of Halliday’s grammar is that it focuses on “studying the relationship between grammatical structures and their social contexts.” Further, SFG is viewed as the source of “the necessary grounds” for CDA to “uncover and interpret systematically the underlying motivations, intentions and goals of language users along with attitudes, perceptions and prejudices that manipulate them.”

## 4. Appraisal Theory

The Appraisal Framework—Attitude Domain of Martin and White (2005) is considered to be the main tool for analyzing the texts in this study. Martin and White (2005:33) point out that appraisal is concerned with “meaning beyond the clause”, emphasizing “discourse semantics”. Moreover, Martin and White (*ibid.*) state that appraisal is considered to be a useful framework for “exploring, describing and explaining the way language is used to evaluate”. Martin and White (*ibid.*) explains further that “appraisal explores how speakers and writers pass judgments on people generally, other writers/speakers and their statements, material objects, happenings and states of affairs and thereby from alliances with those who share these views and distance themselves from those who do not”.

#### 4.1 Domain of Appraisal

According to Martin and White (2005:34 - 35), Appraisal is one of three major discourse semantic resources construing interpersonal meaning. Appraisal divides evaluative resources into three broad semantic domains: Attitude domain, Engagement domain, and Graduation domain.

#### 4.1.1 Attitude

According to Martin and White (2005:35), attitude is concerned with the writer's "feelings", including "emotional reactions, judgments of behavior and evaluation of things". The writer can choose to either praise or blame "people, places, things, happenings and states of affairs". Similarly, Martin (2000) suggests that each type of attitude (affect, judgment, and appreciation) involves positive or negative feeling. Martin adds that JUDGEMENT and APPRECIATION might be interpreted as institutionalizations of AFFECT which have evolved to socialize individuals into various uncommon sense communities of feelings—JUDGEMENT as AFFECT recontextualized to control behavior (what we should and should not do), APPRECIATION as AFFECT recontextualized to manage taste (what things are worth).

#### 4.1.2 Engagement

Engagement is concerned with "sourcing attitudes and the play of voices around opinions in discourse" (Martin and White 2005:35). There are two subtypes of Engagement:

- 1) "monogloss"—the writer or the text producer asserts only his/her opinion in discourse, and
- 2) "heterogloss"—the writer or the text producer refers to outside sources in order to, for instance, support his own view (Martin & White, 2005; Hunston 1995:134; Caldas-Coulthard, 1997:72).

#### 4.1.3 Graduation

Graduation (Martin & White 2005: 35) is concerned with "grading phenomena whereby feelings are amplified". Graduation is about "turning volume up or down" (Coffin & O'Halloran 2005:148) through the values of "FORCE" or "FOCUS" (Martin & White 2005: 37).

### **5. The types of process relating to the study**

According Halliday (1994), there are six terms, which are the process types: 1) material process, 2) behavioral process, 3) mental process, 4) verbal process, 5) relational process, and 6) existential process. Due to the linkage between SFG and Appraisal framework, some parts of SFG, the principal types of process which are related to the data analysis are presented. In order to thoroughly elaborate the abovementioned process types, the concise definition and the function of each type through the clause level are reviewed as follows.

#### **5.1 Material Process**

Halliday (2004:179) stated that Material Process is the process of a situation happening under the action by the participants; a 'material' clause interprets a change, in some certain events, being affected by some input of energy.

e.g. Thai troops prepare for a new confrontation.

### **5.2 Mental Process**

It is related to our experience based on our own consciousness. It is the process of sensing: a 'mental' process construes process which interprets a change taking place in the participants' consciousness. (ibid:197)

e.g. I hate worms more than snakes.

### **5.3 Relational Process**

The relations process concerns with the interpretation of characterizing and identifying some issues in certain sentences. (ibid:210)

e.g. The three major groups in the province are the North-eastern people, Khmer people, and Laotian people.

The three principal types of process presented above: 'material', 'mental', 'relational' are the principal types which can be considered as the theory of experience in accordance with the grammar. (Halliday, 2004:248). These process types are also important tools to fulfill the analysis more completely and help analyze and interpret the data effectively.

## **Research Methodology**

### **1. Data**

The Phnom Penh Post is purposively selected to investigate the image of Thailand. It is assumed that the use of language in this newspaper could affect the thoughts, attitudes, and ideas of the targeted readers. This influences the formation of the perspectives of the Cambodian people and those who are interested in reading the newspaper, especially the middle class and educated citizens who are the majority of those who steer social and economic functions throughout Cambodia.

## 1.1 Data and Data Collection

The data concerning the Preah Vihear Temple issue and its related situational information appeared from July to October 2008 from the news article part of the Phnom Penh Post newspaper. There are 30 pieces of news concerning the Preah Vihear Temple issues written in the news article part of the Phnom Penh Post from July to October 2008.

## 1.2 Problems during Data Collection Process

After collecting the data, some main obstacles were found: 1) Grouping the data at the first stage is very complicated because of various news contents and the large amount of the news presentation in the same text, and 2) Classifying the data in each text to link with the process types of Halliday (1994 and 2004) is complicated because of the overlapping interpretation of the researcher.

### 1.2.1 Solutions

As the problems mentioned in 1.2 above, the problems were solved by 1) Setting up the themes to cover the same or similar contents after the analysis and interpretation are made, 2) Classifying and analyzing clearly about the process types of SFG (Halliday, 1994 and 2004) that were found in the selected texts, and 3) The amount of news content in the news article part is not the main factor because the analysis is mainly focused on the similarity or the same linguistic features that are chosen to dialogue with the reader under the themes set.

### 1.2.2 Data Preparation for Analysis

The purpose is to present the solutions for classifying and grouping the complicated elements or components of the discourse patterns constructed by the Phnom Penh Post in the news article part and to present the criteria for data analysis to link with the research questions. In this regard, certain word choices representing discourse participants—namely, places, individuals, and organizations, are believed to be manifested in the news article part.

## 2. Data Analysis

### 2.1 Data Analysis Procedure

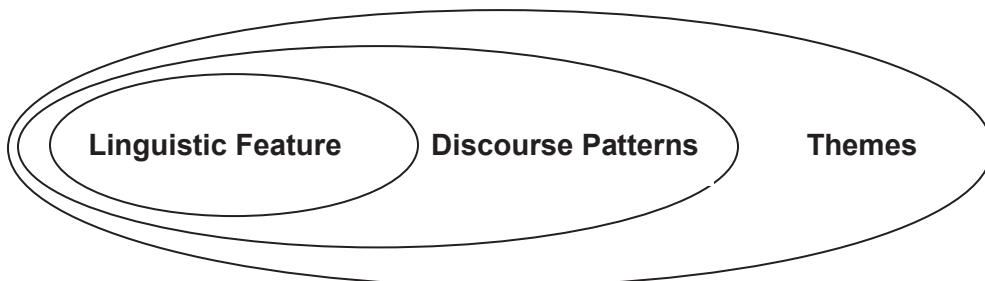
Descriptive analysis is employed in this study. The procedures of data analysis are 1) read, 2) analyze, and 3) categorize the selected data from the selected part by basing on the framework and the criteria that are set.

## 2.2 Criteria for setting up themes to group the data

As mentioned in section 1.2 concerning problems during the data collection process, the researcher sets up themes to group the data systemically. After the holistic analysis on the news contents from the selected part, news articles, during the chosen period, the examination on how to set up the name of each theme for covering the all selected data is done. Halliday (1994) states that one of the metafunctions, interpersonal metafunction, can be linked to setting the themes in the research study. His statement is about “what the clause is doing, as a verbal exchange between speaker-writer and audience”. This statement is similar to the concept of interpersonal by Martin and White (2005): “The interpersonal is concerned with ‘negotiating social relations: how people are interacting, including the feelings they try to share’”. Thus, the critical reading and the interpretation about the news contents and their contexts will be based on the concept of Interpersonal metafunction of Halliday (1994) and the Appraisal framework of Martin and White (2005).

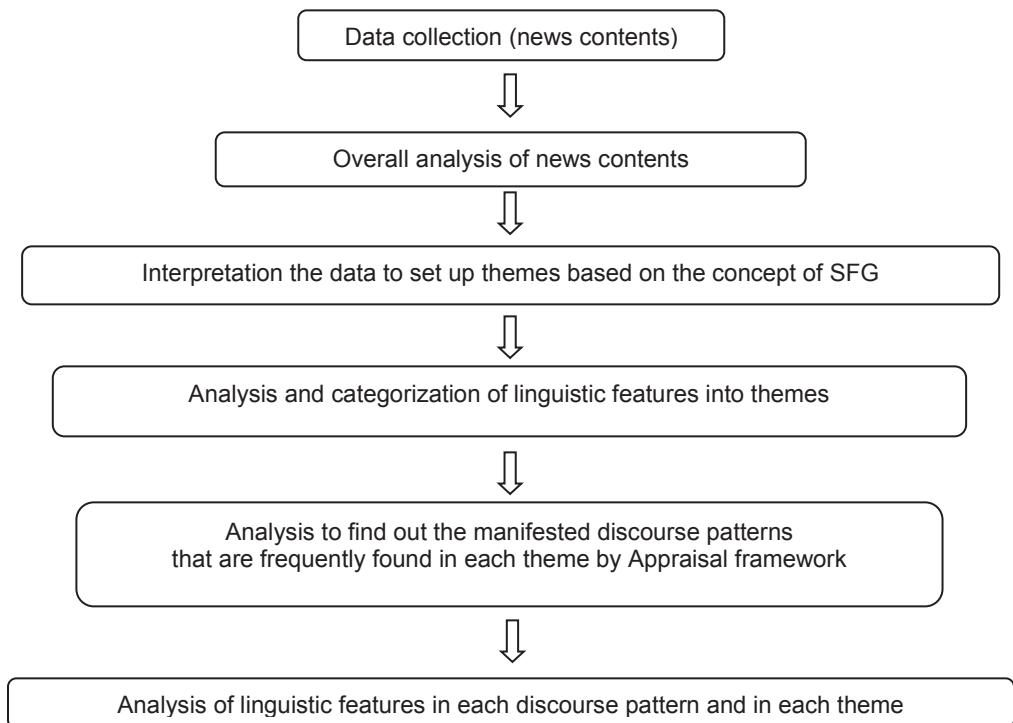
Base on the concept of Halliday (1994) and Martin and White (2005) mentioned above, it is found that the relevant data from the selected part reveal the senses and expressions of 1) Compromise, 2) Insistence, and 3) Accusation. These senses derived from the data analysis and the interpretation after reading the overall news contents.

To illustrate the classification of the data into each theme mentioned above, the overall analysis procedures of this study and the definition of the theme set and its relevant criteria to group the linguistic features in each theme are presented below.



**Figure 1:** Main parts of data analysis

To simplify the process of the analysis discussed in prose above, Figure 2 below is presented. The first step is data collection by collecting news contents. Then, the arrow pointing down shows the following stages of the analysis procedure until the final stage.



**Figure 2:** Data analysis procedure

### 1) Compromise Theme

Grouping the linguistic features from a level of single word: noun [e.g. *smile*, *reconciliation*, *friendship*, *happiness*], verb [e.g. *renew*, *resolve*, *negotiate*], adjective [e.g. *amiable*, *friendly*, *amicable*], and adverb [e.g. *jointly*, *peacefully*, *amiably*] to a level of sentence through the discourse patterns found into this Compromise theme by considering: 1) the basis of meaning interpretation, which is also related to its surrounding context in the news content, 2) the stakeholders [individual, organization, and place] that take roles in all situations that reflect the sense of Compromise in the news contents.

### 2) Insistence Theme

Grouping the linguistic features from a level of single word: noun [e.g. *confirmation*, *stance*, *defense*], verb [e.g. *reaffirm*, *declare*, *insist*], adjective [e.g. *adamant*, *imperative*, *demanding*] to a level of sentence through the discourse patterns found into this Insistence theme by considering: 1) the basis of meaning interpretation, which is also related to its

surrounding context in the news content, 2) the stakeholders [individual, organization, and place] that take roles in all situations that reflect the sense of Insistence in the news contents.

### **3) Accusation Theme**

Grouping the linguistic features from a level of single word: noun [*e.g. blame, accusation, condemnation*], verb [*e.g. accuse, criticize, condemn*], adjective [*e.g. condemned, impolite, cruel*] to a level of sentence through the discourse patterns found into this Accusation theme by considering: 1) the basis of meaning interpretation, which is also related to its surrounding context in the news content, 2) the stakeholders [individual, organization, and place] that take roles in all situations that reflect the sense of Accusation in the news contents.

## **Research Outcome**

Based on descriptive analysis, the findings show that there are three certain manifested discourse patterns: 1) Individual + Situation + Place, 2) Place + Situation and 3) Individual + Situation are found in the texts during the selected three months in 2008.

In addition, three themes: 1) Compromise Theme, 2) Insistence Theme, and 3) Accusation Theme are set for grouping the linguistic features by basing on their meaning-taking.

### **1. Compromise Theme**

In terms of Compromise Theme, the first discourse pattern [*individual + situation—mental / material processes + Place(s)*] and the third discourse pattern [*individual(s) + situation—material process*] are mostly found in the selected news part. The name and the status of Cambodian prime minister are mostly used to reflect the positive attitude to the Cambodian prime minister concerning the compromising action with Thailand (*Attitude domain—positive affect [security mode] and positive judgment of sanction—veracity [praise]*). The name and the status of Thai prime minister are also found and are also evaluated as positive (*Attitude domain—positive affect [security mode] and positive judgment of sanction—veracity [praise]*). Interestingly, the name and the status of the Thai prime minister are always placed behind the name and the status of the Cambodian prime minister in the compromise theme.

1.1 Discourse pattern: [*individual + situation (mental + material processes) + Place*]

e.g. PM Hun Sen [*individual of Cambodia—positive*] is now ready to hold talks

*[situation (mental + material processes) made by Cambodia]* in Phnom Penh [*place*] [...].

1.2 Discourse pattern: [individual (s) + situation ( material processes)

e.g. PM Hun Sen [*individual of Cambodia--positive*] and Thai PM

[*status (individual) of Thailand--positive*] agree to meet for talks [*situation (material processes)*]) [...].

According to the Appraisal framework of Martin and White (2005), both Cambodia and Thailand are evaluated as positive [*Appreciation subtype of Attitude domain*] under the Compromise theme. The significances of using linguistic features in this selected news part reflects the positive. There are some interesting results taken from the data analysis under the Compromise theme of the Phnom Penh Post. The text producer mostly chooses to specify the names or the statuses of both prime ministers, including other relevant key persons of both countries, e.g. FMs, senior military leaders, government officials, negotiators [*individuals*] in the news article. In addition, the names or the statuses of the Cambodian persons stated above are prioritized when mentioning the news in the sense of compromise. This significance of prioritizing the names and the statuses of these Cambodian people, including the name of the country—Cambodia [*place*], in the lead line of news contents shows that the text producer might want the reader to be attracted by these positive linguistic features. After reading the texts, the reader might feel that this news is very important to all Cambodia citizens and the Cambodian prime minister as well as the other relevant key persons of Cambodia are heroes alike to make this compromise situation between the two countries better. Meanwhile the Thai prime minister is viewed as the follower of the situation although he is also evaluated as positive. Moreover, choosing the active verbs [material process type] + noun phrases that reflects the compromise actions e.g. ‘to open to talks’, ‘to approve talks’, ‘to hold talks’, ‘to end to hostilities’, ‘to agree...’, ‘to seek ceasefire’, ‘to meet for talks’, ‘to discuss...’, ‘to scale back troops’, ‘to resolve the tension’, ‘to negotiate...’, ‘to renew the negotiation’, ‘to reconcile...’, ‘to decrease troop numbers’, etc. prioritized by the main individuals (Cambodian prime minister, FM Hor Nam Hong, Koy Kuong undersecretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cambodian senior military leaders, and Cambodian negotiators) is one of the positive writing techniques of this newspaper. Interestingly, these word choices are used for the positive image of the leaders of Cambodia rather than those from Thailand.

In conclusion, the individuals (leaders of the two countries), the two countries, Cambodia and Thailand, including the organizations of both countries (armies) are evaluated as positive through the chosen linguistic features constructed by the Phnom Penh Post. Another interesting point taken from data analysis on linguistic features and discourse patterns that the text producer produced in the Phnom Penh Post under this theme is the image that Thailand seems like an insincere country. The discourse construction of the Phnom Penh Post in this

matter reveals that the Cambodian leaders have more attempts to compromise with Thailand while Thailand is acting as an insincere negotiator.

## 2. Insistence Theme

For the Insistence Theme, the first discourse pattern *[individual(s) + situation—mental / material processes + Place(s)]* and the second discourse pattern *[Place + Situation]* are mostly found in the selected news part, especially in the lead line and the body of the news article part. The statuses of the Thai prime minister and the Thai troops are mostly used to reflect a negative attitude (*Attitude domain—negative affect [dissatisfaction mode]* and *negative judgment of sanction—veracity [condemn]*; meanwhile the names and the statuses of Cambodian prime minister and other relevant Cambodian people: PM Hun Sen, Cambodian FM, Cambodian troops, reveal the positive attitude through the linguistic features (*Attitude domain—positive affect [security mode]* and *positive judgment of sanction—veracity [praise]*). Further, the name of the country—Thailand *[place]*, is also mentioned.

### 2.1 Discourse pattern: *[individual + situation ( material process) + Place]*

e.g. “If Thai troops *[individuals of Thailand--negative]* keep moving into *[situation (material process) made by Thailand--negative]* Cambodian territory *[place of Cambodia]*, it will absolutely cause complete armed conflict *[insistence: situation (material process) made by Cambodia--positive]*,” PM Hun Sen *[individual of Cambodia--positive]* said. “To defend Cambodian sovereignty and territory, we *[individuals (troops) of Cambodia--positive]* will take all necessary measures *[situation (material process) made by Cambodia--positive]*.

### 2.2 Discourse pattern: *[place + situation ( material processes)*

e.g. “Cambodia *[place]* warns of war after border talks *[Insistence: situation (material process) made by Cambodia--positive]*. Thailand *[place]* is given an ultimatum to remove its troops from the Kingdom’s territory or risk sparking a full-scale armed conflict” *[Insistence made by Cambodia: situation (material process)—negative to Thailand]*, PM says.

Under this Insistence theme, the names or the statuses of the key persons of both countries, Cambodian and Thai prime ministers, Cambodian and Thai foreign ministers, including troops *[individuals]* are chosen by the Phnom Penh Post to dialogue with the reader. Moreover, mentioning the names, the statuses, and the names of the country, Cambodia and Thailand, with the capital letters in the news article (lead) is mostly found. This significance of capitalizing the names and the statuses of both prime ministers, including the names of the two countries in the lead line of news contents shows that the writer might want the reader to be attracted by these linguistic features. After reading the lead line of the news article, the reader might feel that both prime ministers are the key persons to be able to direct the conflict situation for better or worse.

Moreover, choosing the active verbs [verbal process type] that reflects the insistent actions e.g. 'to insist', 'to confirm', 'to claim', 'to reinforce', 'to declare', 'to warn', 'to refuse', etc., with the main individuals (the Thai – Cambodian prime ministers) is one of the writing techniques of the writer.

In terms of the individuals of the Cambodian side, the linguistic features in all patterns found under the Insistence theme (*Engagement domain*—heterogloss subtype) reveal that the PM of Cambodia as well as the other relevant key persons of Cambodia (individuals) are judged positively [*judgment of sanction subtype [praise]* of *Attitude domain*]. The names and the statuses [*individuals*] of the prime minister of Cambodia and those relevant key persons are used in the discourse patterns to convince the reader that Cambodia has been threatened and has been attacked by Thailand, and Cambodia will do the best to protect Cambodian territory, e.g. Cambodian army officials [*individuals*] have insisted [*mental + verbal*] that Thai troops [*individuals*] fired first [*situation—material*] after they [*individuals*] strayed [*material*] into Cambodian territory [*place*]. In contrast, Thailand - the Thai prime minister, the general of Thai army, Foreign Ministry of Thailand, and the Thai troops - is judged negatively [*judgment of sanction subtype [condemn]* of *Attitude domain*]. The linguistic features made by the Phnom Penh Post are revealed in their insistent actions on their standing point that comes along with threat and invasion [*verbal + material*] to protect the Thai territory, e.g. A Thai government [*organization*] said there is no proof Thai soldiers have killed innocent Cambodian civilians [*verbal + relational processes*] along the disputed border area [*place*]. This example reveals the negative attitude of the writer [*Attitude domain--negative affect subtype and judgment of sanction subtype [condemn]*] through the linguistic features: ' *Thai soldiers have killed innocent Cambodian civilians*'. Thus, it is said that the PM of Thailand, Thai troops, and other relevant key persons of Thailand are unavoidably to be viewed negatively by the Cambodian reader.

In terms of the Place(s), Thailand is evaluated as negative (Appreciation subtype of Attitude domain—Reaction [quality submode]). The linguistic features of the text producer that imply disagreement on Thailand's act is revealed through the discourse pattern: [Place(s)] + [mental and verbal process types: active verbs], such as "Thailand [*place*] insisted [*mental + verbal process*] on calling [*the temple*] Phra Viharn [*place*] in the documents under discussion [*mental + verbal processes*], and we [*individuals*] did not agree with this decision, [*mental process*]" Var Kimhong, a Cambodian negotiator said. In contrast, Cambodia is evaluated as positive (Appreciation subtype of Attitude domain—Reaction [quality submode]). Mentioning the name of the country—Cambodia (*Engagement domain*—heterogloss subtype) is also found in the news presentation on the events that impact the positive feeling of Cambodian people after receiving the news that Cambodia is ready to protect the territory as best as it can do. The linguistic features that are chosen to lead the Cambodian reader to feel positively to Cambodia such as 'CAMBODIA [*place*] is ready to take the ongoing border dispute with Thailand to the

*global stage and will do so when authorities “lose patience” with the current stalemate [situation—mental + material processes], Prime Minister Hun Sen said Wednesday’.*

In conclusion, the individuals of Cambodia and their country, Cambodia, are evaluated as positive. In contrast, the individuals of Thailand and Thailand are evaluated as negative. The organizations of the two countries in this theme are not found. Another interesting point taken from data analysis under this theme is the image of Thailand is viewed that Thailand has been intruding on the territory of Cambodia without any permission and Cambodia needs to insist on protecting that territory.

### **3. Accusation Theme**

In terms of the Accusation Theme, the second discourse pattern [*individual(s) + situation—mental / material processes*] and the second discourse pattern [*place + situation—material process*] are mostly used through the Accusation theme, especially in the body of the news article part. The name of the country, Thailand, as well as the Thai troops, are mostly used to reflect the negative attitude to the Thai prime minister, the Thai troops, (*Attitude domain—negative affect [dissatisfaction mode] and negative judgment of sanction—veracity [condemn]*), and Thailand. (*Attitude domain—negative affect [dissatisfaction mode] and Appreciation—Reaction [quality submode]*). However, the name and the status of the Cambodian prime minister are also found in the same parts of the body of news contents but the linguistic features written about the PM of Cambodia are evaluated as positive (*Attitude domain—positive affect [satisfaction mode] and positive judgment of sanction—veracity [praise]*) because of his suitable action as the Cambodian government leader for criticizing the Thai prime minister about his adamant action for the bilateral talks between Thailand and Cambodia. Moreover, the Thai troops are also criticized by this Cambodian prime minister because of their actions in the disputed area. The Engagement domain, especially the heteroglossic subtype, mostly plays a role through the negative quotes made by the prime minister of Cambodia in the lead line and the body of the news contents.

#### **3.1 Discourse pattern: [*individual + situation ( material process) + Place*]**

e.g. PM Hun Sen [*individual of Cambodia--positive*] has accused [*accusation: situation—mental + verbal process*] Thai PM Abhisit Vejjajiva of war crimes [*individual of Thailand--negative*], saying Cambodia [*place*] has to prepare a “long-term” strategy in its “struggle” [*situation—mental + material processes*] with Thailand [*place*].

### 3.2 Discourse pattern: [place + situation (material process)]

e.g. “Thailand [*place--negative*] is making this war [*accusation: situation (material process)*], not Cambodia [*place*]”, PM Hun Sen said.

In terms of the individuals of Thailand, Thai prime minister is found in the news presentation under this accusation theme. Most linguistic features imply the negative attitude about the litigant of Cambodia: the leader of Thailand (*negative affect—dissatisfaction mode and negative judgment of sanction—veracity [condemn]*). The references to the statements of the PM of Cambodia as well as the other relevant statements made by the key persons of Cambodia (*Engagement domain—heterogloss subtype*) reflect that the prime minister of Thailand and the Thai troops are judged negatively (*negative affect—dissatisfaction mode and negative judgment of sanction subtype [veracity--condemn] of Attitude domain*) because of their actions [verbal + material processes] to protect the Thai territory by their verbal defense. The selected word choices (verb and noun phrases) that reveal the negative attitude to Thailand in these sample texts are such as: ‘*Thai spy*’, ‘*to fire first*’, ‘*to beat villagers*’, ‘*to kill innocent Cambodian civilians*’, ‘*to use cluster bombs*’, etc.

For the Cambodia side, the linguistic features in all patterns found under the Accusation theme reveal that the PM of Cambodia and the Cambodian troops [*individuals*] are judged positively [*Judgment of sanction subtype [praise] of Attitude domain*]. As found, the name and the status [*individuals*] of the Cambodian prime minister is mentioned more than the Thai prime minister under this accusation theme (*Engagement domain—heterogloss subtype*) to reflect that Cambodia is ready to counter whatever actions made by the Thai side. Thus, it is said that PM Abhisit and the Thai troops are unavoidably to be viewed negatively by the Cambodian reader.

In terms of the Place(s), Thailand is evaluated as negative (Appreciation subtype of Attitude domain—Reaction [quality submode]) because the linguistic features constructed by the writer reflect the sense of attacking Cambodia made by Thailand, e.g. “Thailand [*place*] is making this war [*material process*], not Cambodia [*place*], and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva [*individual*] must take responsibility for these war crimes [*mental + material processes*],” said PM Hun Sen. In contrast, Cambodia is evaluated as positive (Appreciation subtype of Attitude domain—Reaction [quality submode]). Mentioning the name of the country, Cambodia (*Engagement domain—heterogloss subtype*) to reflect that Cambodia is ready to protect the territory is also found in the news presentation of the events. These selected linguistic features impact the positive feeling of Cambodian people, such as ‘*Cambodia [*place*]* has to prepare a “long-term” strategy in its “struggle” [*mental + material processes*] with Thailand [*place*]’. Using these kinds of previously mentioned linguistic features (*Engagement domain—heterogloss subtype*) to reflect the attempt of both countries concerning their standing firm might lead the reader who is supporting Cambodia to feel more negatively toward the leader of Thailand and his country.

In conclusion, the individuals of Cambodia and their country, Cambodia, are evaluated as positive. In contrast, the individuals of Thailand and Thailand are evaluated as negative. The organizations of the two countries in this theme are not found. Another interesting point taken from data analysis under this theme is that Thailand is presented as the bigger country that has always been bullying the smaller country like Cambodia. The negative image of Thailand is manifest.

## **Discussion and Contribution**

Before the discussion, it is noted by the researcher that this study, on the academic view, focuses solely on the new body of knowledge. The study has no intention to cause any negative effects to the newspaper in question.

The results of data analysis of the Phnom Penh Post above reveal the discourse patterns are constructed by the text producer of this newspaper. The linguistic features under the themes that are set reveal the positive and negative attitude made by the text producer. In this regard, the image of Thailand during the selected period seems negative in the view of the Phnom Penh Post. The discourse patterns and linguistic features chosen by the text producer in the news article incline to convince the reader that Thailand has been bullying Cambodia. Moreover, most quotes are frequently found in the body of the news contents. These quotes might be one of the general writing patterns of the news body. However, this writing technique is also interesting because it is linked to the heterogloss subtype of the engagement domain of the Appraisal. It is assumed that the quotes might be able to interest the reader easily.

This discourse analysis based on the main framework—Appraisal framework—Attitude domain, mixed with the concepts of Halliday's SFG (1978; 1994 and 2004), the surface concepts of CDA. The criteria of the theme are set help the researcher uncover the underlying meaning in the discourses constructed by the Phnom Penh Post effectively. It is hoped that the discourse patterns under all themes set and the ways of analyzing data will be generalized as one part of the standard discourse patterns of news writing. Moreover, it is also expected that the study will be beneficial to those who would like to extend this field of research study more completely.

In the opinion of the researcher, the results of this study would be useful for studying English language use, especially in critical reading, the analysis of linguistic features, and reading for interpretation through analyzing functional grammatical structure. The research results will be applicable and relevant for various areas, including those focusing on the area of newspaper studies. This is because this field is very important for presenting the news and information to the public. Thus, the contribution to this field of newspaper studies will help whoever is working in the field of mass communication to be aware of using word choices or

linguistic features for expressing his/her ideas to the public. On the other hand, although the writers or those in this field of mass communication are aware of using linguistic features in their writing, they might not consider the aftereffect caused by what they wrote for readers. Therefore, it might have both positive and negative effects on readers after they read those texts. Thus, media (printed matters) should have social responsibility in the provided information, views and ideology. It is also interesting for studies in media literacy to pay attention to this matter. This is relevant to White's (2005) discussion on "Judgments" found in different text types. He noted that judgments on certain issues naturalized in any given messages might result in either positive or negative (if not both) perceptions and reactions of the news consumers in certain ways. Further, this study investigates the social perception via working on the linguistic features or discourses constructed by the text producer of the Phnom Penh Post. Moreover, those who have been studying or working in the field of Social sciences, Humanities, International relations, etc. would also benefit. The result of this study would be one of the sociolinguistic models for opening new perspectives, including for understanding and awareness of social dimensions for them. Content analysis and descriptive statistics should be introduced in further studies in order to perceive more interesting issues in prospective news contents.

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