

Ideological Meanings in The Guardian's Reporting of Nicolás Maduro's Capture

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Abstract

Media discourse plays an important role in constructing and disseminating ideological meanings, particularly in political reporting, where language is used to represent social actors and political events from specific perspectives. This study investigates the ideological stance underlying news reports on the United States government's and politicians' reactions to the capture of Nicolás Maduro, as reported in The Guardian Online Newspaper. The study employs Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory, focusing on the Attitude subsystem, in conjunction with Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework. The data consist of three news reports published by The Guardian on January 3 and 4, 2026, totaling 1,567 words. The analysis examines how evaluative language is utilized to construct particular representations of social actors and political actions. The findings reveal that The Guardian predominantly employs negative evaluative polarity and frequently expresses attitudes through indirect invocation, in which evaluative meanings are implied and subsequently reinforced through quoted statements. The United States government and politicians are primarily positioned as the appraisers and active social actors, whereas Nicolás Maduro is predominantly represented as the appraised social actor. The study further demonstrates that the news reports construct the capture of Maduro as a protective and legitimate action associated with concerns over security and anti-drug enforcement. Through these evaluative patterns, the newspaper reflects and reproduces particular ideological perspectives regarding the political event. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how media discourse utilizes evaluative language to shape ideological representations in contemporary political reporting.

Keywords: Critical discourse analysis, appraisal theory, attitude, ideology, media discourse, political news reporting

INTRODUCTION

News media play a crucial role in shaping public understanding of political events through the selection, representation, and evaluation of information. As institutions that mediate social reality, news organizations not merely report events, but also construct particular meanings and perspectives that may reflect underlying ideological positions (Fairclough, 1995; Asad et al., 2019b; Wang, 2022). Through linguistic choices, media discourse can influence how audiences perceive political actors, social issues, and international conflicts. Consequently, the study of media language has become an important area of inquiry in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), particularly in understanding how ideology is embedded and reproduced in news reporting.

Previous studies have demonstrated that news discourse frequently reflects institutional and political interests through evaluative language and patterns of representation (Ansori et al., 2024; Kazmi et al., 2024). However, much of the existing research has focused on election campaigns, domestic political conflicts, or governmental policies. At the same time, relatively limited attention has been given to the linguistic construction of international political interventions and the representation of controversial geopolitical events. Furthermore, few studies have integrated Appraisal Theory and Critical Discourse Analysis to examine how ideological meanings are constructed through attitudinal resources in news reports concerning international political crises.

The reported capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro by United States military forces in January 2026 generated extensive international media attention and competing political interpretations. The event raised important questions regarding sovereignty, international law, security, and political legitimacy, making it a significant case for investigating ideological representation in media discourse. As one of the world's most influential news organizations, The Guardian provides a valuable site for examining how evaluative language is employed to construct particular perspectives on political actors and actions. Reports published by The Guardian presented various reactions from the United States government and politicians, offering rich linguistic data for exploring how ideological positions are articulated and legitimized in news discourse.

Therefore, this study investigates the ideological stance underlying The Guardian's news reports on the reactions of the United States government and politicians toward the capture of Nicolás Maduro. By combining Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory, particularly the Attitude subsystem, with Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis framework, this study seeks to reveal how evaluative language contributes to the construction of ideological meanings and the representation of social actors in contemporary political news reporting.

On January 3, 2026, Nicolás Maduro's incident was marked as one of the most dramatic and controversial moments in modern international relations. This sad event attracted significant media attention. The kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro by the United States military, most notably from The Guardian news media, was a large-scale military operation that captured Maduro and his wife, then transported them to the United States to face federal criminal charges, including drug and terrorism charges. In his press conference, the US President described the operation as a "brilliant capture," while the action sparked widespread condemnation from the global community, which condemned the violation of sovereignty and international law. In this case, the United States carried out a military operation of unprecedented scale and boldness: the direct capture of a sitting head of state from his sovereign territory for trial in a US court (Monnappa, 2026). This military operation, dubbed Operation Absolute Resolve, resulted in the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro (Yilek, 2026).

The arrest of Maduro and his wife marked the culmination of a series of political and legal campaigns launched by the administration of President Donald Trump, which has long accused Maduro of supporting international drug cartels. According to the US government and politicians, these activities have contributed to the deaths of thousands of US citizens. Maduro was subsequently indicted on several serious charges, including terrorism, drug trafficking, and arms trafficking. Previously, President Trump had also openly encouraged Maduro to relinquish his power (Hals & Goudsward, 2026). Several groups strongly criticized the actions of the United States, which reportedly launched a military attack on Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. In the operation, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife were reportedly arrested and taken out of the country (Choiruzzad, 2026). The reason for the US attacking Venezuela and arresting President Maduro was to pressure Maduro to relinquish power and leave Venezuela. Under the pretext of fighting drugs, Trump was actually targeting Venezuelan oil (Ninik, 2026).

In the context of the operation to arrest President Nicolás Maduro, which involved elements of the US military and law enforcement, neither of these exceptional grounds was met. The US based its action on drug trafficking charges against Maduro, which it then used as a pretext to exercise its national jurisdiction over a foreign state. Furthermore, President Donald Trump's statement at a press conference after Operation Absolute Resolve that Venezuela had seized "our

oil" raised suspicions that economic motives, specifically control of Venezuela's oil reserves, said to be the largest in the world, were also behind the action (Goldman, 2026). Furthermore, US Attorney General Pam Bondi stated that they would face trial in New York on charges of complicity in narco-terrorism. The new indictment was issued on Saturday (Christou & Hall, 2026).

Currently, one of the most famous news media outlets is The Guardian, which is the most relevant newspaper to examine (Nurjanah, 2021). The Guardian's report shows how narratives constructed by various discursive actors, including US officials, international media, and the global opposition, produced differing meanings of the action. On the one hand, the United States government portrayed the action as a legitimate law-enforcement operation; on the other hand, international critics expressed strong opposition, calling the incident a violation of the principle of non-intervention and an act of aggression that could undermine the international legal order. These strong reactions from various countries and political figures reflect a sharp conflict of values over legitimacy and power in the global arena, as reported by The Guardian.

Asad et al. (2019a) state that Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) are applied to analyze news texts. Wodak and Meyer (2009) add that the CDA is used to explore ideologies by evaluating semiotic data. Asad et al. (2021a) also state that the CDA is applied to investigate ideologies behind news texts. In investigating ideologies in the news text, the authors used CDA and SFL, particularly Appraisal analysis (Asad et al., 2019). Alsanafi and Noor (2019) scrutinize that attitude is the essence and the main subtype of appraisal analysis. In this study, the Appraisal analysis, particularly the attitudinal analysis, will be used to reveal how Trump constructs a value-based attitude toward Maduro and the Venezuelan political situation through lexical choices in The Guardian news report. Through an appraisal approach, The Guardian's reporting presents a complex, attitudinal evaluation of the key social actors involved in Maduro's arrest. The US government is caught between security legitimacy and legal criticism; Maduro is cast as a controversial figure, caught between criminal charges and a symbol of sovereignty, while international and opposition actors are given varying evaluations based on their political roles.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

CDA is a relatively new method of text analysis that emerged in the 1980s in response to linguists' dissatisfaction with methods of evaluating linguistic texts that focused solely on linguistic aspects (Warsono, 2012). CDA was influenced by the work of a group of linguists who were based at the University of East Anglia in the 1970s. In text analysis, ideology has emerged as a key factor in establishing and preserving unequal power relations (Asad et al., 2019). Therefore, by carefully analyzing semiotic evidence and demystifying ideologies and power, the text analysis employing the CDA approach of the data benefited in the study of social phenomena (Wodak & Meyer, 2001).

This analysis emphasizes how social actors are portrayed and evaluated in the news report. From a theoretical perspective, however, the CDA study used systematic semiotic analysis to help understand the text's contextual features. Thus, the study fills the gap in the literature by comparing four selected newspapers, issues, and theoretical and analytical frameworks.

Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday pioneered SFL and presented CDA in SFL for the first time. Firstly, the term SFL was established in 1978. Systemic functional categories were introduced by Wodak (1989), Fairclough (1989), and Fowler (1996) in the early phases of CDA analysis. A review of Halliday's works that both theoretically and analytically explain the relationship between CDA and SFL is presented by eminent linguists like Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 2014), Eggins (2004), van Leeuwen (2005), and Halliday and Greaves (2008).

Fairclough's CDA presents a three-dimensional framework: ideology within the text is illustrated through text analysis (Fairclough, 2003, p. 3). Discourse practice analysis is the term used to describe the processes of text production and interpretation. The fourth social practice analysis focuses on the sociocultural context. However, language can be understood in terms of its social purpose, according to Systemic Functional Linguistics (henceforth referred to as SFL). SFL recognizes that language has three meta-functions: textual, interpersonal, and ideational

(which includes both sensory and logical) to work in certain situational and cultural contexts (Halliday, 1994; Thompson, 2004; Halliday & Hasan, 1985).

Attitude in appraisal theory

The "appraisal" theory is introduced by Martin and White (2005) to evaluate attitudes from both a dialogic and a generic perspective of spoken text. Halliday's (1978) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory is expanded upon by appraisal analysis. As alluded to previously, the main prominent type in appraisal analysis is the Attitude subtype. In a systemic arrangement, attitude is a component of the discourse-semantic level of the appraisal system.

Martin and White's (2005) Attitude entails social interaction that includes exchanging sentiments, viewpoints, and evaluations of people or events; it is functionally closely related to interpersonal meaning. They explain that attitude is the way individuals express and evaluate their experiences and social realities, which in turn influences the dynamics of interpersonal communication.

The three semantic features of the attitude that are used to classify it are Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation (Martin & White, 2005). The expression of emotional states like joy, sorrow, rage, or affection is referred to as Affect. Judgment involves moral or ethical evaluations of someone's behavior and character, encompassing qualities such as honesty, courage, and reliability. Appreciation, on the other hand, concerns aesthetic judgments or values regarding objects, processes, or phenomena, including beauty, harmony, and regularity.

Besides that, in appraisal analysis theory, especially in the Attitude system by Martin and White (2005), the polarity (positive/negative) and inscribed/invoked strategies are used to evaluate how the speaker/writer expresses Attitudes towards the subject under discussion. Therefore, it is possible to uncover a text's underlying ideology through Attitude analysis (White, 2009). In this investigation, the authors will apply the Attitude category and its subsystems to analyze word choices in the data sets.

News media

Known for its reliability and speed, news media serve as a vital source of information (Asad et al., 2019b; Qowim & Degaf, 2024). As emphasized by Hassan (2018), public media platforms, including print and electronic media, serve to inform the public about worldwide events, particularly in political and security areas. The amalgamation of news reports across media platforms can reach a worldwide audience and has the accuracy and potential for news reporting (Lutfiana et al., 2023).

The mass media's ability to influence public views and behavior is well established (Van Dijk, 1995). However, differences in media language can lead to varied views and actions (Degaf et al., 2019). This condition calls for the usage of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine the fundamental messages in news reports. The CDA investigates the relationship between discourse and social components, such as power dynamics, ideologies, and social identities (Fairclough, 2013), applying a qualitative approach to evaluate how lexical utterances slightly invent and justify social inequality (Mullet, 2018).

Furthermore, a news report reflects the speaker's political stance (Sadirova et al., 2023). According to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), news discourse and ideological elements are closely related (Fairclough, 1995). There is also an inextricable link between context and ideological analysis (Bank, 2009). In a social context, this comprehension is greatly enhanced by SFL, particularly assessment frameworks. By using appraisal frameworks, one can comprehend how language is employed in news discourse to convey attitudes, assessments, and ideological affiliations (Martin & White, 2005; Martin & White, 2007). To put it another way, this method enables researchers to investigate how authors or presenters convey their emotions, opinions, and attitudes toward the topics they cover.

Social actor

Van Leeuwen (2008) explains social actors as participants in social behaviors, emphasizing how they are either ignored or represented linguistically and visually. Asad et al. (2021) add that

a social actor is a person or organization that participates in discourse. Fairclough's (1995) framework, which illustrates how ideology influences the description of political discourse in news reports, is used to analyze Maduro's capture. The way a social actor is portrayed in the newspapers will determine his status and how he is evaluated based on the attitudinal analysis.

Consequently, the CDA helps illuminate the relationship between language and ideology, as Fairclough (1995) recognized three stages of the text: the interpretative process, social-cultural practice, and text interpretation. These phases offer a dialectical link between discursive event, context, and ideology (Wodak, 2006). Van Leeuwen's Socio-Semiotics framework (2005) asserts that social actors are powerful, proactive agents. Moreover, Iedema (2003) asserts that socio-semantic analysis is a socially situated sign process. The study claims that the actor (speaker) has "meaning potential." However, the socio-semantic inventory is employed to identify the essential and social relationships (van Leeuwen, 2008). In van Leeuwen's framework, when they become the object of judgment in discourse, social actors are evaluated, such as Nicolas Maduro in The Guardian online news report, which was evaluated as a passive actor. Meanwhile, an activated actor is the actor who evaluates the subject actor; for instance, the US government and politicians serve as activated actors.

Ideology

Ideology plays a significant role in relation to power (both general and specific forms), as it is regarded as a set of views that people trust to define overarching, systematic beliefs. Thompson (1990, p. 4) asserts that ideology, which is linked to the legitimacy of a dominant social class or category, must be learned in several ways. That language is also used to uphold the relationship of dominance. In this regard, ideologies portray aspects of reality that contribute to the establishment and maintenance of power, domination, and exploitative hierarchies (Megah et al., 2025).

Meanwhile, Fairclough (1995) states that Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) frequently links language to ideology or power. At first glance, this concept is more centered on social interpretation than linguistic proof. Halliday's theory that language is a means of social and ideological activity served as the foundation for CDA, which Fowler introduced to SFL (Martin & White, 2007, p. 314). In this discourse analysis, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), a theory of language that examines language in relation to social context and social semiotics, is employed to analyze texts and discourses (Eggins, 2004).

In line with Megah et al. (2023), political leaders use the media to influence the world's perspective on what they will do. Previous studies have analyzed a similar topic. Previous scholars, such as Warsono (2012), have conducted Critical Discourse Analysis to investigate the ideology behind a text. The results showed that, in the Attitudinal subcategory, this article primarily relied on the affective system to convey a strong attitude. In this case, the text's writer believes that Al-Qaeda, as an Islamic organization, will endanger Christians; therefore, it must be eliminated.

Asad et al. (2021b) applied the Attitudinal stances to investigate online newspapers, i.e., 'Dawn' (alternative newspaper) and 'The News' (mainstream newspaper), in order to find the ideological stance realized in the news text of Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech at the 74th United Nations session. The findings showed that these issues urgently need to be solved to achieve peace and prosperity in the region. Issues such as the conflict between Pakistan and India over Kashmir, climate change, and Islamophobia require the involvement of world leaders and the United Nations.

Then, the research by Megah et al. (2023) used Systemic Functional Linguistics, particularly the appraisal analysis of Martin and White (2005), to analyze Western news media reports on the issue of Hagia Sophia. The result was that the news reports of the three selected Western media most frequently used the Affect category. It meant that the Hagia Sophia belongs to the world's heritage, rather than only belonging to Muslims or Turkish people.

Next, Qowim and Degaf (2024) investigated the football tragedy that occurred in Malang, Indonesia. It was reported in the New York Times using a combination of van Leeuwen's (2008) Critical Discourse Analysis and Martin and White's (2005) appraisal analysis. The findings

revealed that the Indonesian Police were evaluated as being in the wrong due to their firing tear gas at the football fans, leading to many casualties.

Additionally, some previous studies conducted text analysis using appraisal, such as analysis of news media (Asad et al., 2019b), state political speech text (Alvionita, 2018; Megah et al., 2021; Ghafil, 2022; Thahara et al., 2024), and attitude and ideology in news media reports (Megah et al., 2023; Ansori et al., 2024; Risdianto et al., 2024). These prior studies have successfully analyzed some types of text using appraisal analysis. Additionally, prior studies focus on how text is evaluated in various contexts within appraisal theory, particularly attitudinal analysis, which shapes readers' insights into news texts.

There is a need for pertinent inquiries to address the research gaps identified in previous studies. Applying the attitudinal subtypes in appraisal theory, along with Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework, is considered the most appropriate way to analyze texts (Alsanafi et al., 2018). Theoretically, this paper expands the body of knowledge in CDA and SFL. Practically, this study broadens political perspectives and draws international attention. Hence, this paper applies Fairclough's (1995) CDA, along with SFL, particularly Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal analytical theory.

Most importantly, as suggested by Choi et al. (2020), the study employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), applying theoretical frameworks developed by scholars such as Norman Fairclough (1995) and Theo Van Leeuwen (2008). They are used to discover the density of media depictions and their effects on societal insights and activities. The authors compare this gap with previous studies to identify a novelty by combining both theories to uncover the ideological stance behind The Guardian's online news report on the capture of Nicolás Maduro.

Thus, this paper's research questions are: (1) What are the most frequent frequencies of the distribution of the US government and politicians' reactions reported in the Guardian online newspaper toward the capture of Maduro regarding attitudinal analysis? (2) How is the ideological stance inserted in the Guardian's news report toward Maduro's capture issue realized in lexical choices?

METHOD

This study adopts a qualitative research approach, using quantitative methods to identify the most dominant lexical choices in the research object. Many research papers benefit from using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies (Alshanafi et al., 2019). This study's fundamental design is qualitative, with a main focus on human beings, i.e., interpersonal relationships, personal values, meanings, beliefs, thoughts, and feelings. It was a descriptive qualitative study using a case study approach. According to Sugiyono (2019), qualitative descriptive research, which is based on the post-positivist philosophy, is used to study natural object conditions, because the authors collect data in the form of words, sentences, documents, and archives with important meaning rather than numbers or frequencies.

The authors collected news articles regarding the arrest of Nicolás Maduro by the US military from The Guardian on January 3 and 4, 2026. Online media has marked one of the most dramatic and controversial moments in the history of modern international relations with article titles such as "It sends a horrible signal: US politicians react to capture of Nicolás Maduro" (Helmore, 2026), "US has captured Venezuela's President Maduro and wife, says Trump" (Phillips et al., 2026), and "Why has the US captured Venezuela's president and what happens next?" (Christou & Hall, 2026)

The authors manually obtained news reports and copied them into the MS Word application. Next, the authors analyzed the text's "Appraisal" and "Attitude". In the second stage, the authors utilized the "Excel" spreadsheet software program. To assess the attitude, the authors extracted the percentages in the final stage. In the data analysis, the authors used Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework to analyze the text, focusing on linguistic description. In this stage, the authors conducted attitudinal analysis based on the attitudinal theory of Martin and White (2005). In this approach, the three main categories of Attitude are Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation. The authors used this theory to develop in-depth interpretations and provide clarity and understanding for each text (Alshanafi et al., 2019a). Then, the authors conducted a

discursive practice to interpret the text based on the end product. Lastly, the authors conducted the final stage, sociocultural practice, by analyzing how the text is linked to the social background of the text producer.

ANALYSIS

As mentioned in the previous section, this study aims to investigate the ideological stance behind the US government's news report text and politicians' reactions published in The Guardian online newspaper, using attitudinal analysis and CDA based on three selected news titles. The paper analyzes the ideological stance of the US president and politician toward the main actor in the news report, Nicolas Maduro. It was carried out by analyzing the lexical choices in The Guardian online newspaper. The authors analyzed the use of appraisal systems that employ three forms of attitude, namely Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation, on the US government and politicians' reactions to the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (Martin & White, 2005). The authors also used Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework to analyze the data. CDA consists of text analysis, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice across framework levels. This study will determine ideological stance based on how the US President and politicians react to Maduro's capture, as reflected in their lexical choices in The Guardian online newspaper. As previously stated, there are three levels of analysis involved in applying Fairclough's CDA to analyze Trump's lexical choices in the news report text: analysis of the text, analysis of the social practice, and analysis of the discourse practice. The next section describes text analysis techniques, discourse practice, and social practice.

Text analysis

In this level, the authors conducted a text analysis of the description in the news report. The authors examined the news report text about Maduro's arrest using appraisal systems. It shows the attitude subtypes. The following table displays the distribution of Trump's attitudinal choices.

Table 1. The Distribution of Attitudinal Resources

Sub-types	Quantity	Percentages
Affect	3	4.9%
Judgment	36	59.1%
Appreciation	22	36.0%
Total	61	100%

Table 1 demonstrates that the judgment subcategory significantly outperformed the other two attitudinal categories in evaluating President Donald Trump and US politicians' views on the capture of Maduro by US military troops, as reported in The Guardian online newspaper. The Judgment subtype occurred 36 times (59.1%), and then the Appreciation subcategory occurred 22 times (36.0%). The least occurring subtype is Affect, with 3 occurrences (4.9%).

It is verifiable evidence that The Guardian uses the Judgment subcategory most frequently, evaluating the capture of Maduro as the object of social action. The findings have revealed the ideological inclinations of the US government and politicians on Maduro's apprehension. The Judgment means that the author's normative assessment in this study is the US government's and politicians' attitude toward Maduro, based on social and moral or ethical evaluations of behavior and character. In this study, Maduro is evaluated as the object in The Guardian. The realm of Judgment is divided into two subsystems: moral Judgment and personal Judgment (Martin & White, 2005). Then, in the context of attitudinal appraisal, polarity is the positive or negative value attributed to feelings (Affect), behavioral judgments, or assessments of objects (Appreciation). It serves as a fundamental tool for voicing thoughts, establishing positions, and forming interpersonal relationships by indicating whether an attitude is positive or negative. The findings of the attitude polarity analysis are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of Polarity in the Attitudinal Resources

Sub-types	Quantity	Percentages
Positive	24	39.4%
Negative	27	60.6%
Total	61	100%

Table 2 demonstrates how the US government (Trump) and politicians react to the news report of Maduro's capture in terms of the polarity in the attitudinal resources; the negative polarity greatly outweighs the positive polarity. In the Guardian news report, negative polarity occurred 27 times (60.63%) compared to positive polarity, which occurred 24 times (39.4%). It demonstrates a notable difference between positive and negative polarity and shows inclination in the news report. The negative portion has more positive polarity than the positive, which means that the US. The government and politicians have negative evaluations of Maduro.

Table 3. Distribution of Strategy in the Attitudinal Resources

Sub-types	Quantity	Percentages
Inscribed	35	57.3%
Invoked	26	42.7%
Total	61	100%

Table 3 above shows that the inscribed strategy has a higher frequency than the invoked strategy, with a large gap in the news report about Maduro's capture in The Guardian. The inscribed strategy has more occurrences, with 35 occurrences (57.3%), which exceeds the invoked strategy by a large margin, with only 26 occurrences (42.7%). It shows a significant difference between the inscribed and invoked strategies in terms of the number of strategy (inscribed and invoked) occurrences in the news report. There is a greater distribution in the occurrence of direct statements by the US government and politicians' reactions to the capture of Maduro. It is evident in the lexical choices across the three news reports in The Guardian online newspaper, evaluating Maduro's capture.

Table 4. Distribution of Affect in the Attitudinal Resources

Sub-types	Quantity	Percentages
Un/Happiness	0	0%
Dis/Satisfaction	0	0%
Insecure/Secure	3	100%
Dis/Inclination	0	0%
Total	3	100%

Table 4 shows that only one subcategory outperformed the rest: insecure, with 3 occurrences (100%). It is shown that the US government and politicians have a joyful reaction toward the capture of Maduro, as they believe that his capture will save US citizens from drugs. Then, Maduro is deemed the object that is guilty and the actor behind the drug distribution. The Happiness subcategory clearly expresses hope and optimism. It is classified as Affect, Insecure (positive polarity and inscribes strategy).

Extract 1: "The US attorney general, Pam Bondi, said the couple would face criminal charges and trial in the US based on a 2020 New York indictment."
(+Insec: ins).

As can be seen in Extract 1, the sentence, "The US attorney general, Pam Bondi, said the couple would face criminal charges and trial in the US based on a 2020 New York indictment," is considered an insecure subtype of Affect with positive polarity and an inscribing strategy. According to the Appraisal Theory of Martin and White (2005), the Affect must represent a feeling or emotion, while the inscribed affect strategy means that the emotion is explicitly expressed

through an emotional lexicon. Meanwhile, positive polarity means that the expressed emotion is positive. In Extract 1, taken from *The Guardian*, the sentence “the couple would face criminal charges and trial” shows how emotion can influence the tribunal's charge in US law. Therefore, the sentence above is indicated as the effect. Next, Table 5 shows the distribution of judgments across attitudinal resources.

Table 5. Distribution of Affect in the Attitudinal Resources

Sub-types	Quantity	Percentages
Tenacity (social esteem)	11	20.3%
Normality (social esteem)	0	0%
Capacity (social esteem)	2	3.7%
Propriety (social sanction)	36	66.7%
Variety (social sanction)	5	9.3%
Total	54	100%

Table 5 shows that the Propriety subcategory outnumbered the other four subtypes with 36 occurrences (66.7%). Tenacity came in second with 11 occurrences (20.3%), and Variety came in third with 5 occurrences (9.3%). Capacity came in last with 2 occurrences (3.7%). The application of propriety, as used to assess Maduro in the news report, shows the ethical behavior of Trump and US politicians toward Maduro's capture.

According to Martin and White (2005), propriety is a subset of Judgment within appraisal theory, an evaluation of morality, ethics, or the suitability of human action based on societal norms. The goal of propriety is to characterize an individual's morality (Noor, 2015). Propriety is the evaluation of whether a behavior or action is deemed immoral, unsuitable, and in violation of society standards, or whether it is deemed moral, ethical, appropriate, and in compliance with norms. An evaluation of Maduro's capture, as reported in *The Guardian*, can be found in the following extract.

Extract 2: Ocasio-Cortez suggested that illegal drug trafficking was not the real motive for the attack. “It’s not about drugs. If it was, Trump wouldn’t have pardoned one of the largest narco traffickers in the world last month,” she wrote on X. “It’s about oil and regime change.”

Extract 2 above is considered a propriety subtype in appraisal theory (Martin & White, 2005), since the sentence embodies Judgment: propriety with negative polarity is expressed in an invoked manner, because the moral impropriety of Trump's actions is implied through the reference to the granting of a pardon to a major drug dealer. In *The Guardian* online newspaper, its news coverage of drug trafficking is categorized as “judgment: propriety” because the activity is socially and ideologically understood as a violation of moral and legal norms. Therefore, references to drug trafficking are not neutral. Rather, they prompt ethical evaluations of the perpetrators, even though these judgments are often invoked in news discourse. Next, Table 6 below shows the distribution of Appreciation in the attitudinal resources.

Table 6. Distribution of Affect in the Attitudinal Resources

Sub-types	Quantity	Percentages
Reactions	6	27.3%
Composition	0	0
Valuation	16	72.7%
Total	22	100%

As seen in Table 6, the Valuation subcategory has the most occurrences in *The Guardian's* online news report, with 16 occurrences (72.7%) compared to the other two effect subtypes. Then, the Reaction subcategory had 6 occurrences (27.3%). This subtype of Attitude aids in forming a position (Appreciation) by promoting the assessment of things or phenomena. An object is assessed via Appreciation (Martin & White, 2005). Thus, the Appreciation subtype,

especially valuation, is the most frequently used among all subtypes. It shows that President Trump and US politicians reacted directly and positively to the world in supporting and cooperating with his way of capturing Maduro for drug-related reasons. President Trump and US politicians' Reactions applied the Appreciation subcategory, which is most frequently used in The Guardian's news report on Maduro's capture. Valuation is a subcategory of Appreciation that assesses the value, social relevance, or worth of items, goods, procedures, or texts. A more detailed description is shown in the following extract below:

Extract 3: "It was a brilliant operation, actually," the US president told the New York Times after witnesses in Venezuela reported a series of explosions.

In the sentence, "It was a brilliant operation, actually," the US president told the New York Times after witnesses in Venezuela reported a series of explosions, there was the use of Appreciation of the valuation subtype with a positive polarity and an inscribed strategy. Valuation of Appreciation is used to assess the social value, importance, and significance of an object, policy, or event, both positively and negatively. It can be realized, inscribed, or invoked (Martin & White, 2005). Therefore, the expression "a brilliant operation" shows Appreciation: a reaction (quality) with a positive polarity that is expressed inscribedly. It is because the assessment is directed at the direct quality of an event, not at its social value or ideological significance.

Discourse practice analysis

Discourse practice analysis results indicate the US government's and politicians' reactions to Maduro's capture, as reported in The Guardian online newspaper. The discourse practice analysis is applied to the news report in The Guardian online newspaper regarding Maduro's capture. The analysis of the social practice aims to identify the sociocultural and ideological contexts, as outlined in the written text. Since the news text writer at The Guardian online newspaper lives in England, the social practices of the English people were analyzed. Analyzing the social practice of the text writer means examining the culture of the society in which s/he lives (Warsono, 2012).

The discourse practice analysis shows that the text, published in The Guardian online newspaper, is open access. The recipients are mostly people who can access the internet and search and browse via <https://www.theguardian.com/international>. The question that arises is why the text was published worldwide, meaning that the consumers are mostly people around the world. The newspaper writer of the news story is attempting to persuade readers to share the US administration's sentiments toward Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, based on the piece's content.

It makes sense that the author of the news material wants the readers to support the US military's efforts to apprehend Maduro as the culpable individual behind the drug trade that is supplied to the United States. This might be the reason why the news article about Maduro's capture was released. In addition to influencing the readers to take a particular stance toward the news story about Maduro's capture, there are hints that the author intends to utilize the news content as a propaganda tool. Propaganda, which includes shaping global opinion, controlling the flow of information, and influencing behavioral patterns, is meant to further the news writer's goals. It appears that the news writer's primary goal is to spread the belief among readers throughout the world that Nicolás Maduro is guilty and should be taken into custody, because he poses a threat to the peace of the United States. Since there is only a one-way flow of information in this debate, the news writer also has complete control over it. Therefore, it may be concluded that the news text may be classified as both a tool of propaganda and persuasion.

Sociocultural Practice

The social practice analysis aims to investigate the ideological stance within the sociocultural framework in which the speech text was produced. The speaker, President Prabowo, is an Indonesian president who represents the Indonesian people. He speaks about

global society and the government's message to world leaders, alongside The Guardian's news report on Maduro's capture.

The outcomes of the investigation into British culture indicate that, politically, British society and the USA have a close relationship. Most Yankees, or US citizens, were originally British people. So, psychologically and emotionally, they have strong bonds. In several articles and opinion pieces, The Guardian has criticized the US operation against Venezuela and questioned the legitimacy and consequences of the intervention. For example, its extensive coverage has been called the action part of a long history of US intervention in Latin America and raised concerns about "imperialism" and potential violations of international law.

Several critical parties and observers have accused The Guardian of certain framings or insufficiently highlighting counter-narratives to the US government on several international issues, including Venezuela. For example, accusations of "propaganda" have arisen when the media is perceived to overemphasize certain aspects of the Venezuelan crisis and not give enough space to viewpoints that genuinely challenge the US narrative.

Since The Guardian online newspaper is British, a group of people in power is usually highly influential in determining what is good and proper and what is not in the news report. Then, the living conditions of the British people must reflect their ideology, indicating that they share feelings toward the US government and its politicians. The news writer's way of thinking, behavior, and reaction towards a particular issue, to the enemy of the US, will also reflect his/her way of thinking, behavior, and reaction to the issue of the capture of the Venezuelan president, Maduro.

This history shows that the news writer supports the US government and politicians' reaction to Maduro's capture. This is most evident in the text analysis within the propriety subcategory, which shows emotional and moral support for the US government and politicians as well. This is why news reports tend to support the US government in conducting the military action, as seen in The Guardian online newspaper's coverage of Maduro's capture.

In addition to persuading people worldwide to adopt a specific position on the military action that led to the capture of the Venezuelan president, there are indications that The Guardian plans to use the news text as a vehicle for an ideological stance. This ideology involves controlling the flow of information through internet news sources and influencing public opinion. The main objective was to convince the rest of the world that the US operation was the best approach to safeguarding US citizens from drug use. Examining Trump's sociocultural background reveals that politically, the US president hates the Venezuelan leaders, since they do not obey what the US government wants. Trump's ideology is reflected in his action to capture and bring Maduro to US soil, which the global society can accept. Trump's manner of thinking, behavior, and reaction is shown in the news report on Maduro's capture in The Guardian online newspaper.

From a religious perspective, Trump stands for Americans; since there has historically been animosity between Anglo-Saxons and Hispanics, it follows that the majority of US people are Anglo-Saxon, while the Latin American people are Hispanic. Trump's action in the news report on Maduro's capture in The Guardian was given within the intellectual, cultural, and social circumstances of the global society. The news reflects Trump's perspective on the matter because context has a significant impact.

The basic philosophy is that this capture is carried out to achieve world peace, especially to resolve the ongoing conflict between the US government and the Venezuelan government, particularly its president. In this instance, Trump and Maduro are being evaluated primarily through appreciation systems within the sociocultural and ideological context of Indonesian society.

Socio-culturally, the majority of US citizens are Anglo-Saxons. Historically, the United States of America and Latin America have jeopardized a long-standing relationship. Naturally, as Anglo-Saxon ethnicity becomes a source of respect, Anglo-Saxons appreciate one another. Additionally, as Americans, we automatically support Trump as our president. Besides, ideologically, President Trump wants to show the world that no one can stand without America; he demonstrates his power by easily defeating the incumbent president. In addition, Trump's

sociocultural background as an Anglo-Saxon is used to show the world that the Anglo-Saxons are the greatest people.

Hence, the analytical findings of the US President Donald Trump classified him as part of the strong aggressor, since he ordered the US Special Forces to capture President Maduro easily with minimal victims and damage to facilities. Trump is the most politically dominant president in the world, as he can arrange global politics according to his desires by using military forces. Besides that, Trump wants to show that the US is the world's most powerful country.

CONCLUSION

This study investigated the ideological stance underlying The Guardian's reporting on the reactions of the United States government and politicians toward the reported capture of Nicolás Maduro by applying Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory in conjunction with Fairclough's (1995) Critical Discourse Analysis framework. Rather than merely reporting evaluative expressions, the study examined how linguistic choices contribute to the construction of ideological meanings and the representation of social actors in political news discourse.

The findings reveal that judgment resources were the most prominent attitudinal category employed in the news reports, indicating that the representation of political actors was constructed primarily through evaluations of behavior, legitimacy, and moral conduct, rather than through emotional responses or aesthetic assessments. Furthermore, the prevalence of negative evaluative positioning suggests that evaluative language played a significant role in framing the political event and its actors. These findings demonstrate how news discourse may shape readers' interpretations of political actions through strategic evaluative positioning and selective representation.

From a Critical Discourse Analysis perspective, evaluative language functions as an important mechanism through which ideological meanings are negotiated and legitimized in media discourse. The integration of Appraisal Theory and CDA provides a deeper understanding of how linguistic evaluation contributes to the construction of political legitimacy, authority, and social positioning in news reporting. The study, therefore, contributes to media discourse research by illustrating how attitudinal resources can reveal underlying ideological orientations embedded within political news texts.

However, due to several limitations, the findings should be interpreted with caution. First, the study was based on a relatively small corpus comprising only three news articles totaling 1,567 words. Second, the analysis focused exclusively on a single media institution, limiting the generalizability of the findings across broader media contexts. Third, appraisal analysis inevitably involves a degree of interpretive judgment, which may influence the categorization of evaluative meanings. Finally, the study did not include comparative data from other international news organizations that may represent the same event differently.

Future research may address these limitations by examining larger corpora of political news discourse, incorporating comparative analyses across media outlets with different ideological orientations, and exploring evaluative positioning in a wider range of geopolitical contexts. Future studies may also integrate multimodal discourse analysis to investigate how visual images, headlines, and digital media features interact with linguistic evaluation in constructing ideological meanings. Such investigations would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of ideology, representation, and evaluative language in contemporary media discourse.

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