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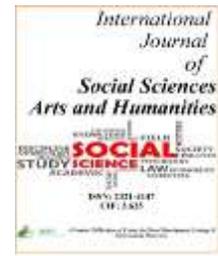
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Attitude Resources in Selected Reportage on Xenophobic Attacks in South-Africa

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ARTICLE INFORMATION	ABSTRACT
<p>Corresponding Author: Abiola S. Kalejaiye</p> <p>Article history: Received: 07-08-2022 Revised: 10-08-2022 Accepted: 15-08-2022 Published: 17-08-2022</p> <p>Key words: Attitude, Reportage, Xenophobic, South, Africa</p>	<p><i>Xenophobic attacks has to do with the attitude of people involved. Attitude resources as something to do with evaluating things, people's character, and also their feelings. Examining the attitude resources concerning the xenophobic attacks give better insights or details about the event or the reasons for the events. Several studies have been done concerning news reportage especially with the use of the Appraisal Theory which shows the Point of View of both the reporter and reportage. Some of these studies includes examination of reportages of events, governments, economies, health sectors, entertainment, and so on. Language has always played a very important role in the society since the beginning of humans. It's usage has started and ended wars. This paper investigated the Attitude Resources in both the Nigerian and South African newspaper reportages on xenophobic attacks which took place in the year 2019. It basically examined the usage/importance of words and how it affected the emotions, judgment and appreciation of the affected masses. The data for analysis were twelve strategically selected utterances from both the Nigerian and South African newspaper reports on the 2019 xenophobic attack which took place in South Africa. The study was hinged on the tool of Appraisal Theory of Martin and White (2005). The findings of this study pointed out basically the importance of the 'attitude resources' which relayed the feelings of both the reporters and the affected masses about the xenophobic attacks. This helped in understanding the roles and opinions of people concerning the xenophobia and also things that can be put in place in order to prevent such events from occurring in the future.</i></p>

Introduction

Language and violence are intricately connected in human history, language/speeches are said to possess the power of avoiding conflicts and also enabling conflicts. Violence and language each occupy the totality of the human field as words have been used throughout the ages of to convince citizens of doing the unthinkable, to intentionally secure political and economic domination, and to gain national and international power (Ricouer, 1998). The term violence has been variously defined. According to Mariam-Webster Dictionary (2018), it is the use of physical force so as to injure, abuse, damage or destroy. Violence can be categorized in a number of ways; some of them are homicide, assault, robbery, rape, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and also xenophobic attacks which is the focus of this study (p. 610).

The purpose of this work is to show the neutrality in the judgment of reports concerning the xenophobic violence. Neutrality is the state or quality of being neutral, indifference in quality, a state neither good nor bad. Neutrality shows tolerance attributable to a lack of involvement. Also the willingness to recognize and respect the beliefs and practices of others (Farlex, 2019). The Nigerian history is dotted with stories of violence, and many share the notion that the Nigerian people are resilient to have continued to remain in one unity despite the violence that has been threatening the existence of the country. Different nature of violence raging from ethno-religious conflicts to indigenes-settlers conflicts. Niger-Delta conflict to Boko Haram

violence, and communal mayhem over land dispute to farmers/cattle rearers conflicts, political violence as well as xenophobic attacks among others, have affected the progress and peaceful co-existence of the country. The same goes for South-Africa, a county which has faced so many conflicts starting from the oppression of the whites during colonial rule and series of xenophobic attacks. The history of violence in South Africa leads to its conflict issues today. A country filled with diverse ethnic groups and backgrounds.

Xenophobia

The word ‘xenophobia’ originated from the Greek words *xénos*, meaning 'the stranger' and 'the guest' and *phóbos*, meaning 'fear'. Thus, xenophobia stands for 'fear of the stranger', but usually the term is taken to mean 'hatred of strangers'. Xenophobia can be understood as "an attitudinal orientation of hostility against non-natives in a given population" (Bolaffi, 2003, p. 12).

The genre of news reports is not under-researched. Diverse studies especially on political discourse have investigated how media practitioners exploit linguistic resources to position themselves inter-subjectively. Some investigations have been carried out on Bias in political News Reporting: Osisanwo (1991); Ideology and Media Discourse: Van Dijk (1998). Language and Ideology: Osisanwo (2011), Mahmood et al. (2011), Osinsanwo (2012), Oyeleye and Osisanwo (2013a and 2013b). Several studies have also been based on Language and Dispute: Pan (2002), News Headlines and Lead Stories: Chiluba (2005, 2008); ideational values. Nonetheless, studies on inter-subjectivity on xenophobic attack are lean. Therefore, this study investigates the role of engagement resources in selected Nigerian reports on xenophobic attacks in South Africa, 2019 with a view to establishing the reporters’ fairness.

Reports are news presented by reporters for newspapers or radio or television in which the reporters are responsible for reporting the details or information. Newspaper reports are reports based on real life events which are made to create awareness or transfer information from place to place. Its widespread is determined by the number of people it gets to (Ghassabi, 2015). Newspaper reports are diverse inclusive of the following; politics, trade, economy, war, sports, violence. However, this paper focuses on violence reportage.

In human history, news reports especially on violence are rampant. News reports all over the world are generally believed by the public to be objective, since events are reported by reporters based on real life happenings. Nonetheless, news reporters like ‘interviewers frequently introduce additional voices into the discourse in order to superficially maintain their neutrality’ (Clayman 1988 cited in Becker (2011 p12). Reporters do so in order to make the public aware of things happening around them but also exploit language to convince people into believing their opinions and judgments about a particular event. This study focuses on selected Nigerian reportage xenophobic attack in South Africa.

Theoretical framework

Attitude Resources

The theoretical framework is Martin and White’s (2005) Appraisal Theory (AP). The theory describes the types of language use in communicating emotions and opinions and it enables linguists to account for various types of evaluations such as affect, point of views, judgments, ethics, aesthetics, differences between an author’s opinion and the opinions of other authors referenced to and, it helps to determining the strength as well as the basis of evaluations. The theory comprises three sub-categories; Engagement, Attitude and Graduation. Out of these three sub-categories, we shall be focusing on **Attitude** for this particular study.

Attitude resources include affect, appreciation and judgment

Table1. Attitude Resources (adapted from Martin and White 2005)

Domain	Category	Value	Illustration
Attitude	Affect	Feelings and emotional reactions	
	Judgment	Esteem	Normality (fortunate, hopeless) Capacity (powerful, weak) Tenacity (resolute, reckless) Veracity (truthful, dishonest)
		Sanction	Propriety (ethical, immoral) Impact (exciting, tedious)

Appreciation	Reaction	Quality (good, nasty) Balance (unified, discordant) Complexity (simple, simplistic) Profound, shallow
		Composition

Methodology

This aim of this paper was to establish the extent of objectivity in selected Nigerian and South African news reports on the 2019 South Africa xenophobic attacks. The data for analysis were six randomly selected Nigerian and South African news reports on xenophobic attacks in South Africa. The extracts used for this study were twelve strategically selected utterances from three randomly selected Nigerian and three randomly selected South African news reports on the 2019 xenophobic attack in South Africa making a total of six extracts. The study was hinged on the tool of Attitude resources of Martin and White (2005) Appraisal theory.

Appraisal Elements	Sub Elements	Symbols
Attitude	Affect	AF
	Judgment	JG
	Appreciation	AP

Results

A. Nigerian Extracts

Extract A1: Ironically (jg), South Africa escaped apartheid in 1994, only to succumb to hate, in the joyful aftermath, by coveting xenophobia as its forte. Justifiably (jg), South Africa resent influx of aliens.

Analysis of Extract A1:

Appraisal Type: Judgment

Sub-Type: satisfaction

Discussion: The words; ‘Ironically’ and ‘justifiably’ show the reporter’s attitude. Precisely, the words signify the reporter’s approval or satisfaction about the resentment South Africa’s show towards strangers in their country.

Import: The reporter shows emotional reaction in the above statement which include a judgment by the reporter concerning the reasons behind the violent activities.

Excerpt A2: Nigerian authorities, on their part, also pussyfooted. When aggrieved South Africans, sending their sinking fate, took laws into their hands and the killings began, neither South Africa nor Nigeria acted robustly and sufficiently to mitigate the conflict. There were missed opportunities and some hard lessons learned. The first is that South African authorities have failed (jg) to educate their youths. True, you cannot rid one oppressive yoke only to accept to be subjugated by another.

Analysis of Excerpt A2:

Appraisal Type: Judgment

Sub-Type: Esteem (capacity)

Discussion: The reporter shows his concern by judging the south African government as being weak in carrying out their responsibility in stopping the violent activities.

Import: In this extract, the reporter’s language is employed in judging the South African government: “The first is that South African authorities have failed to educate ...” the word “failed” here shows the reporter feels the South African government has let-down its citizen.

Extract A3: First, Nigeria must not consider the xenophobic crisis strictly a South African problem. Ahead of the summit meeting of the two Heads of States in October, Nigeria should engage South Africa robustly, to ensure positive outcomes. Nigeria must forestall any form of recrimination or reprisal, targeted at South African businesses in Nigeria. Moreover, a standoff will be defeatist (jg).

Analysis of Excerpt A3:

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Dissatisfaction

Discussion: The above statement shows a sense of dissatisfaction and desire by the reporter. The reporter is totally dissatisfied about the outcome of the violent activities in the country.

Import: The reporter gives consequence if the government does not follow his ideas: “Nigeria stands to lose more, considering the existing imbalance in bilateral investments”. The statement above shows that the reporter is not satisfied about the matter.

Excerpt A4: When apartheid ended on April 27, 1994, the Truth and Reconciliations Commission which entailed white villains meeting face to face with their black victims to seek for forgiveness (**ap**), was held up as a unique model for building peace in countries emerging from conflicts.

Analysis of Extract A4

Appraisal Type: Appreciation

Sub-Type:

Discussion: The reporter is noticed appreciating the effort by the government in creating the Truth and Reconciliations Commission in solving the violent activities. The reporter seems excited by this idea.

Import: The extract above clearly shows the reporter appreciating the steps taken by the government in the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Council so as to solve problems emerging between African countries.

Extract A5: Clearly, most black South Africans who were expecting their leaders to toe a path similar to the policy introduced by Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who stripped the white minorities of the land that they seized from the hapless blacks in the heydays of apartheid, are disappointed as their hopes for a restoration seemed to have been dashed (**ap**).

Analysis of Extract A5

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Unhappy

Discussion: The reporter is unhappy about the ignorance of the African state leaders concerning the plans or events which could help solve the violent activities.

Import: The reporter showed his emotional reaction towards the situation on ground. The reporter was unhappy due to the fact that there was no solution to the violent activities by the government just yet.

Extract A6: Even without toeing the Zimbabwean path of black empowerment through restoration of seized land by the whites to blacks, the South African economy is now in dire straits and the evidential statistics are grim (**af**).

Analysis of Extract A6

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Insecurity

Discussion: The reporter shows a sense of insecurity in the above statement. He fears for the outcome of the xenophobic attacks.

Import: The reporter feels South Africa is in a state of no recovery and fears that the event might not be easily solved.

B. South African Extracts

Extract B1: Nigerian Vice-President Yemi Osinbanjo, who is heading his country's delegation, said: "We are currently in consultation with the South African government on the urgent need to put in place measures to end these acts of violence against our people (**af**)."

Analysis of Extract D1

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Satisfaction

Discussion: The reporter feels satisfied concerning the plans of the government.

Import: The reporter shows satisfaction in the above statement concerning the plan of the government.

Extract B2: Wesgro, the official tourism, trade and investment promotion agency for Cape Town and the Western Cape, said: "Western Cape is a global exporter, with exports from the Cape to the rest of Africa amounting to over \$3.2bn" (**fg**).

Analysis of Extract B2

Appraisal Type: Judgment

Sub-Type: Sanction

Discussion: The reporter in the above extract is noticed giving his own personal opinion of others concerning the contribution of the South African economy to the rest of African countries.

Import: The reporter gives the honest truth about the import of South Africa.

Extract B3: TWENTY-FIVE years into our democratic dispensation and South Africa has failed, miserably, to deal with violence in our society – specifically that which targets women and girls (**af**).

Analysis of Extract B3

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Sad

Discussion: He feels very sad that the South African government has failed woefully in avoiding the violent acts.

Import: In above statement, the reporter feels sad and concerned about the violence in the society and the fact that the South African government is unable to solve it.

Extract B4: The decision came after mobs descended on business hubs and townships in various parts of South Africa, looting dozens of shops and torching trucks driven by foreigners in an outburst of anti-migrant anger (**af**).

Analysis of Extract B4

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Anger

Discussion: It gives the personal account of the reporter concerning the events which occurred due to the outburst of anti-migrant anger.

Import: The reporter is noticed to be very angry concerning the outcomes of the violence.

Extract B5: “We have registered our strong protest to the government of South Africa.” Nigeria’s Foreign Minister Geoffery Onyeama said in a statement after the talks (af). “We are hoping to see the possibility of sending some security agents... to work closely with the South African police force,” he said.

Analysis of Extract B5

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Satisfaction

Discussion: The reporter also seemed satisfied about the matter.

Import: The reporter seems satisfied about the government’s approach.

Extract B6: Nigeria and South Africa are the two largest economies in the continent but relations have strained between them in recent years, prompting the summoning of their top envoys (af).

Analysis of Extract B6

Appraisal Type: Affect

Sub-Type: Satisfaction

Discussion: The reporter is satisfied about the approaches made by the states.

Import: In the above statement, the reporter is satisfied by the states’ approach.

Summary and Discussion of findings

An attitude is a positive, negative, or mixed evaluation of an object expressed at some level of intensity. It is an expression of a favorable or unfavorable evaluation of a person, place, thing, or event. The analysis of the xenophobic news reports was undertaken with a view to establishing a number of important functions such as guiding choices and actions and giving people a sense of identity and belonging; either the reporter or the reported. Attitudes consists of an affect component (feelings), behavioral component (effects) and cognitive component (belief). The analysis showed majorly the attitude of the reporters towards the xenophobic attacks. The reporters of both affected countries; Nigeria and South Africa, focused more on their feelings rather than the feelings of the public.

The use of **Attitude resources** in the Nigerian reports by the reporters was absolute because it made use of all the sections involved in the Attitude Resources. The reporters showed basically their interests in the xenophobic attacks and also the intervention of the government. South African reporters used majorly the ‘affect’ resource to show their feelings. The major difference between the Nigerian and the South African reports is basically as a result of the outbreak affecting one country more than the other. The Nigerian reports were focused more on the ‘affect’, followed by the ‘judgment’ and little on the ‘appreciation’ aspect. The South African reports were majorly affective in approach.

Conclusion

Having analyzed the three (3) Nigerian reports and three (3) South African xenophobic attack news reports selected for this study making a total of six (6) reports selected, it can be concluded that the data were essential to news reports especially news reports relating to conflicts. Both reports emphasized the importance of the ‘attitude resources’ in relation to the feelings and appraisal of people towards the xenophobic attacks. The study revealed the intention of the reporters’ choice of words to relay their feelings about the xenophobic attacks.

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