A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTERIAL DEBATE

A Discourse Analysis of the British Prime Ministerial Debate

On the Basis of Appraisal Theory

KE Lan, Terry

Hong Kong Baptist University

Abstract

Analysing ideology through discourse is practiced academically in humanities and other social sciences. It is based upon the hypotheses that through close reading, and systematic analysis, people can figure out the ideologies behind spoken and written texts.

People adopt discourse analysis to associate context with the structure of discourse itself. For instance, social positions (e.g. ethnicity, gender or profession) are linked with structural units or linked with strategies of speech or talk that are embedded in their social, political and cultural contexts. Depending on their various social positions, language users might be categorised into various groups or communities. They are expected to follow a certain set of rules and regulations of their social positions. Based on the Appraisal theory this thesis seeks to discover not only the words people have uttered, but also their implicature which is not easily noted. It also seeks to understand to what extent their words are related to their stance. Firstly, the thesis review what has been achieved on the Appraisal theory. Then the thesis will come to a detailed presentation of the theoretical framework. This leads to the main discussion of this thesis, which is a comprehensive analysis on the basis of the Appraisal theory and have a better understanding of each candidate’s propositions.
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摘要

通過話語分析其講話者的意識形態，是在學術上可行的一種分析形式。這種分析被應用於人文以及社會學科。它建立在一種假設上，即透過細緻的研讀以及系統的分析，人們可能找出潛藏在演講者文字背後的意識形態。

人們利用話語分析，把話語的內容和其結構聯繫起來。例如，處於不同的社會群體（階層、職業、族群乃至性別）的人，其措辭以及行文邏輯都在一定程度上表現出各自的特性。人們往往也會根據講話者的某些說話特性，風格，反過來將他們劃分為不同的群體，處於共同體內的人往往需要遵守一定的講話規則。因此，本文將以評價理論作為理論框架，以 2010 年英國大選電視辯論第一場為藍本，對辯論中的候選人的演講進行分析，試圖比較其講話內容以及風格和其政黨所屬意識形態的吻合程度。
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