

A Contrastive Analysis of Reported Speech in Chinese and American Mainstream Newspaper on Donald Trump's State Visit to China-A Case Study of *China Daily* and *The Washington Post*

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Abstract: Newspaper, a major media of information spreading, has gained increasing concern in recent years and influenced people's cognition and value. Meanwhile, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is considered as an indispensable approach of analyzing news discourse to uncover language, power and hidden ideology. Based on CDA and Appraisal Theory, this paper intends to unveil Chinese and American mainstream newspaper's different stances and ideologies hidden behind their reporting of Donald Trump's state visit to China by analyzing reported speech adopted in *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* from the perspective of quotation sources, reporting modes and reporting verbs. On the basis of both quantitative and qualitative analysis, this paper has yielded the following findings. To begin with, when reporting this great event, both the two newspapers emphasized the use of specific sources, which implied that the two newspapers commonly pursued objectivity and accuracy of reports. In the meantime, these two newspapers both preferred official and authoritative sources, especially *China Daily*, which quoted a large quantity of words of President Xi Jinping and Donald Trump. Comparatively speaking, more implicit news sources were employed by *The Washington Post*, contributing to the readers' failure to judge the credibility of coverage. What's more, generally speaking, both the two newspapers employed more indirect speech than direct speech. Yet there are differences. Despite the use of indirect speech which might not be impartial enough, the source of quotation was clearly stated in *China Daily*, which added authenticity to the reported speech. The truth is that the source of quotation was not clearly stated in *The Washington Post* when the reporters used indirect speech. Therefore, it was more convenient for the reporter to convey personal emotions. In addition, both of the two newspapers employed a majority of neutral verbs because neutral verbs are usually the most common reporting verbs without speakers' prejudice, which can enhance the accuracy and objectivity of reports. In the meantime, much more negative verbs were applied to *The Washington Post* which indicated that its reporters were more inaccurate, irrational and unjust. An attitudinal analysis of the three types of reporting verbs suggested that either positive or negative verbs expressed attitudes. Positive verbs clearly expressed appreciation, while negative verbs involved unpleasant feeling and judgement. Surprisingly, even neutral verbs, particularly the verb "say" can help express the reporter's personal stance. "Say", which is seemingly "unemotional", is actually an approach to weaken attitude or sometimes to "mute" the attitude of speakers all in reporters' intention. In conclusion, we can clearly discover that the reports in *China Daily* are more positive and objective while that in *The Washington Post* are more negative and subjunctive. China expects top-level communication will be beneficial for both parties and cooperation in more areas can be strengthened by Donald Trump's state visit to China. However, the mainstream media in America is not satisfied with Trump's attitude to China. They think the president should have been tougher, which shows their worry about China's surpassing the USA in many aspects.

Keywords: CDA; reported speech; Chinese and American mainstream newspaper; ideology.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

In this internet era, newspaper is still an essential access to understanding current politics. Despite the claim of reporters that their news reporting is impartial without involving any personal prejudice, affected by political standpoint, economic development, personal emotion, readership and other factors, a multitude of news reporters can hardly be absolutely impartial in news reporting.

In the recent decades, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has been applied to analyze news coverage and thus become an efficient device to reveal the authentic purpose beyond coverage. It is considered to be highly efficient in directly comparing different reports of the same event and demonstrating how language is used to covertly interpret the reporters' thoughts [1]. CDA has always been considered as a crucial means of analyzing power, culture and ideology represented in news reporting. The purpose of CDA is "to lay bare the ideological structure of discourse and to explore the political bias that is encoded therein [2].

Analysis of reported speech has been laid considerable emphasis in the process of analyzing coverage in that it can enhance accuracy and impartiality which are indispensable in news reporting. Meanwhile, it can help convey the reporters' political position and ideology. Xin Bin, a prominent researcher in China, has been contributing greatly in analyzing reported speech and published remarkable papers concerning critical analysis of reported speech in news discourse. His studies suggest that reported speech in coverage seems to be impartial, however, reporters, practically, have a tendency to involve their own opinions which influence readers' understanding consciously or unconsciously. His research on reported analysis is enlightenment for us to conduct further study on analysis of reported speech.

Donald Trump's state visit to China not only attracted China and America's significant concern but also other nation's attention. Trump's state visit is a historic moment in promoting mutual economic advancement, enhancing exchanges in various areas and achieving more consensuses. Mainstream newspapers of two nations, nevertheless, differ in their reporting of this state visit due to their disparate stances. Critical analysis of reported speech, hence, can reflect this difference and hidden ideology of the two nations.

Significance of the Study

Donald Trump embarked on a three-day state visit to China on Nov.8, 2017, which was Trump's first visit to China since he assumed the presidency. This state visit was practically regarded as a "golden age" in that it consolidated mutual cooperation and genuine relationship, meanwhile, it promoted communication and cooperation in widespread areas.

Nevertheless, the Chinese and American mainstream newspapers differed in their reporting of Donald Trump's state visit to China, and this difference, in practice, is a revelation of discrepant hidden ideologies of two nations. Reporters, to a large extent, fail to be absolutely impartial when reporting coverage. Reported speech permeating news reporting not only embodies reporters' subjective personal attitude or judgement and political belief, but also represents a nation's ideology. In this case, critical analysis of reported speech is undoubtedly significant for the reason that it is constructive to understand the ideology of two nations. Additionally, it contributes greatly to enhancing Chinese readers' critical awareness and sensitivity in reading coverage, especially this kind of major political news.

Objectives of the Study

Based upon the theoretical framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Appraisal Theory, this paper intends to unveil Chinese and America mainstream newspaper's different stances and ideologies hidden behind their reporting of Donald Trump's state visit to China by analyzing reported speech adopted in *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* from the perspective of quotation sources, reporting modes and reporting verbs. By comparing and contrasting reported speech in the news reporting in the two newspapers, we can have a deeper understanding of reporters' subjectivity and more significantly, be conscious of how a nation's ideological implication is represented in mainstream newspapers.

Organization of the Thesis

Chapter one introduces background, significance and objective of the study and the organization of the thesis. Chapter two is a literature review of related theories and important concepts, including studies on critical discourse analysis, studies on appraisal theory, studies on quotations in news reports and previous studies of critical analysis of quotations in news reports. Chapter three is an introduction of the research methodology. Chapter four is a contrastive analysis of the quotations in *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* on Trump's state visit to China. Chapter five is a conclusion of this thesis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Studies on Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which emerged from Critical Linguistics (CL), was proposed by Norman Fairclough [3] in *Language and Power*. The term "Critical Linguistics" was initiated in the publication of *Language and Control* written by Roger Fowler, in which language and discourse was analyzed. Critical linguistics advocate to criticize discourse, aiming at increase people's language awareness and improve their language's capability of appreciation and criticism.

CDA, whose methodology is based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), is especially paid considerable attention to discourse distribution, in the meantime, emphasizing the context of discovering and analyzing ideologies which are common but always ignored by people. CDA analysts hold the view that they are not interested in language selection that has transparent prejudice or ideological opinions expressed explicitly, instead they concern value hidden in the language. CDA provides "theories and methods for the empirical study of the relations between discourse and social and cultural developments in different social domains" [4]. It, in practice, is intended to study the opaque relationship among discourse, ideology and power by means of language use and demonstrate value presented in language. Xin Bin, a distinguished scholar in China, has contributed greatly to the studies of CDA and has published almost twenty remarkable papers regarding the analysis of CDA, which has exerted substantial influence on further studies. He elaborately demonstrated the relationship among ideology, power and language in CDA, providing enlightenment for further study.

Studies on Appraisal Theory

Appraisal Theory, developed by J. R. Martin, is based on SFL and it is an effective framework in studying interpersonal meaning. J. R. Martin published the thesis *Beyond Exchange: Appraisal Systems in English* in 2000, attracting people's increasing attention to Appraisal Theory.

Appraisal Theory, whose contributions mainly focuses on vocabulary, has established integrated and self-contained new analytical framework. It focuses on mainly how to evaluate standpoints in terms of applying language, aiming to adjust stance and by extension, ideology. It is divided into three parts: attitude, engagement and graduation. Attitude, the core of the system, can be further subdivided into effect, judgement and appreciation, among which affect is related to human's emotional reactions; judgement can express the reporter's stance to a large extent and appreciation can express the value of things. Engagement can help the language users and receivers to negotiate their position and graduation can adjust evaluation. Although Appraisal Theory is an emerging theory and it has some defects including the definition of evaluation, it has become an increasingly indispensable evaluation tool to analyze reporter's objectivity and subjectivity in terms of significant news discourse.

Studies on Quotations in News Reports

Definition and Classification of Quotations

According to Wikipedia, a quotation is the repetition of one expression as part of another one, particularly when the quoted expression is well-known or explicitly attributed by citation to its original source, and it is indicated by quotation marks. Quotation, an indispensable tool commonly utilized in news

discourse, is intended to illustrate former reporter's utterance and illuminate information being quoted. According to the different quoting forms, quotations usually can be classified into two modes, namely direct speech (DS) and indirect speech (IS).

Reporters usually utilize direct speech to paraphrase speakers' primitive words, contents and forms to enable words to be more expressive in that it guarantees authority of words while indirect speech cannot ensure speakers' primitive words for the reason that it just conveys the content of words. In spite of their same function in enhancing formality or authority of discourse, the former is more impartial accordingly, while the latter interprets reporter's own words regardless of original meanings.

Classification of Quotation Sources

Bakhtin [5] said that any types of discourse are made up of speech reporting, and each one is the assimilation and transformation of another. Quotation sources refer to the origin of the quotation. In coverage, reporters are supposed to explain words' sources when paraphrasing speakers' opinions or viewpoints.

According to Zhang [6], quotation sources can be classified into three types: specific sources; implicit sources and specious sources. Specific sources refer to reporter offering speaker's name, identity and other specific information in detail. Implicit sources refer to reporter not directly introducing speaker's name but only demonstrating some unspecific words, such as "city administrators say...". Specious sources refer to the situation in which reporters are not clear about news sources or they believe that news sources are not significant or they conceal on purpose, nevertheless, they always utilize vague sentences to introduce sources, such as "It is said that...", "It is reported that...", "Reports say...".

Classification of Reporting Verbs

When quoting others' statements, reporters commonly have a tendency to utilize reporting verbs to express their hidden stances and attitudes. Geis [7] divided reporting verbs into positive and negative verbs, the former of which can demonstrate reporter's justice, patience and so forth, whereas the later illustrates speaker's inaccuracy, cruelty, etc. In news reporting, neutral reporting verbs such as *say* and *write* are also frequently utilized because they are more impartial. Positive verbs include *urge*, *assure*, *note*, *praise*, *add*, *acknowledge*, *explain*, *review*, etc. Negative verbs include *criticize*, *doubt*, *complain*, *blame*, *accuse*, *argue*, etc. Neutral verbs include *say*, *tell*, *write*, etc.

Previous Contrastive Studies of Quotations from *China Daily* and *the Washington Post* Studies Abroad

Bell and Fairclough are eminent leading figures abroad in the field of critical analysis of

quotations in news discourse and contributed greatly to the relationship among language, power and ideology. They both explored the relationship among ideology, language and power in terms of reporters' quotation, finding that reporters have a tendency to control speakers' voices to express their own opinions and stances.

Fairclough, a prolific researcher on news discourse, studied quotations in news report aiming to increase critical awareness of news readers based on SFL. He held the view that reporter is inclined to utilize reported speech to express their own standpoints and their words are thus blurred [4].

According to Austin's Speech Act Theory, Bell called other reporting verbs other than *say*, *tell* and *according to* as news performative, including *announce*, *declare*, *refuse* and *insist* [8]. He entertained the opinion that direct speech is compiled by reporters according to words' general meanings of news sources.

Studies at Home

It is universally acknowledged that Xin Bin is one of the most distinguished and productive Chinese scholars in the field of critical analysis of quotations. Xin suggested that reported speech in coverage seems to be impartial, nevertheless, reporters, in practice, tend to express their own stances and ideologies behind the reports and hence influencing readers' understanding of news [9]. Xin also made a comparative analysis of the reporting verbs in *China Daily* and *New York Times*, concluding that the usage of reporting verbs is different in that the contents and purpose of coverage, the stances of reporters are not the same [10].

Based on CDA, Huang [10] conducted a critical discourse analysis on the reported speech in terms of news coverage and he suggested that critical analysis of reported speech is an essential part of news discourse in that it not only can enhance the objectivity of reports but can convince readers. His paper mainly explored reported speech from the perspective of reporting verbs, quotation sources and reporting modes, yielding a conclusion that reporters are inclined to add their own attitudes or reviews and thus exerts substantial influence on objectivity and authority of reports.

Shan [11] analyzed reported speech in news report about blizzards in *News Times* by adopting CDA. His study suggested that media is not necessarily objective and impartial. On the contrary, they will select relevant contents according to their own opinions.

Previous studies abroad and at home reveal that reported speech has, practically, become a commonplace device when reporting coverage and thus critical analysis of reported speech is increasingly indispensable and necessary to analyze coverage.

Previous Contrastive Studies on Critical Analysis of Quotations from *China Daily* and *the Washington Post*

Great attempts and achievements have been made in the contrastive studies of quotations from *China Daily* and *The Washington Post*. For example, Xin and Hu [12] carried out a study in these two newspapers and argued that *China Daily* is inclined to employ concrete and direct reported speech to enhance the authority and accuracy of coverage while *The Washington Post* has a tendency to utilize a large quantity of quotations to reveal reporters' stances and attitudes towards the coverage, thus revealing different stances and ideologies of two countries.

An [13] analyzed quotation sources selected from *China Daily* and *The Washington Post*, concluding that *China Daily* has a tendency to employ specific sources to express objectivity while *The Washington Post* is inclined to utilize implicit sources to express their own stances.

Zhang and Meng [14] made a contrastive analysis in terms of Chinese vertical map in *China Daily* and *the Washington Post*, yielding a conclusion that *China Daily* tends to utilize positive verbs and direct speeches, while *The Washington Post* are inclined to employ negative and exaggerate verbs.

The precious studies abroad and at home have drawn a conclusion, that is, an analysis of reported speeches in news discourse is a complement and expansion to researches of traditional reported speeches. CDA of quotations offers an effective method and a novel perspective to profoundly interpret news reports. For critical reading of English news, CDA of quotations is not only extremely necessary but extraordinarily significant.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Questions

In this case of CDA of the reported speech selected from Chinese and American mainstream newspapers on Donald Trump's state visit to China, this thesis is going to answer the following questions:

- What are the similarities and differences between *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* regarding quotation sources, reporting modes and reporting verbs?
- What kind of attitude is expressed by the reporters by using different types of quotation sources, reporting modes and reporting verbs?
- What different ideologies are held by the two newspapers regarding Donald Trump's state visit to China?

DATA COLLECTION

The data employed in this paper includes all the reports from *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* on Donald Trump's state visit to China during the

period of Nov.8, 2017 to Nov.10, 2017, 28 articles from the former and 16 from the latter. All the samples used for detailed analysis in Chapter four are listed in Appendix I. All the news samples are chosen from official website of these newspapers.

China Daily and *The Washington Post* are both mainstream newspapers in China and USA and earn a large quantity of readership, thus representing separate ideologies of the two countries toward Trump’s state visit to China.

China Daily, established in 1981, is called “voice of China” for the reason that it enjoys a wide circulation of more than 900,000 per issue and is considered as an indispensable window for both world’s increasing understanding to China and China’s increasing understanding to world. It is an authoritative English language newspaper involving various aspects of events, including political, economic, cultural, social and so forth. In the meantime, it is the only Chinese newspaper that enters into international mainstream society.

The Washington Post, founded in 1877, is the largest and oldest newspaper in Washington. Meanwhile, it is adept in reporting political coverage. It revealed the Watergate Affair and compelled Nixon to resign, which enabled it to gain interpersonal reputation. *The Washington Post* has gained eighteen Pulitzer Prize. It provides new thought of local news researching and establishes new model of news reporting, publishing and reading, guaranteeing it to be one of the most influential media in the USA.

The reasons that we chose these two newspapers can be concluded as follows: To begin with, both *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* are

mainstream newspapers in China and in America respectively so that they can represent authoritative opinions of two governments and hold high prestige. What’s more, these two newspapers enjoy a large-scale of circulation and involve major political coverage we are researching, thus a contrastive study of news reporting from the two newspapers can provide us a comprehensive analysis and then we can further understand the ideologies embodied in the two countries.

Procedure

To begin with, all relevant reports in *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* regarding Donald Trump’s state visit to China during the period of Nov.8, 2017 to Nov.10, 2017 were collected.

Then both quantitative and qualitative methods were used to investigate the data. On one hand, quantitative method was utilized for analyzing the data at macro-level in order to get a complete overview of distribution of different types of reporting sources, reporting modes and reporting verbs. On the other hand, qualitative method was used for analyzing the data at micro-level in order to explore how the reporters express their different attitudes and stances implicitly and explicitly by using reported speech.

A Contrastive Analysis of the Quotations in *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* on Trump’s state visit to China

Analysis of Quotation Sources

Distribution of Quotation Sources

Before a detailed analysis of the quotation sources, frequency and distribution of the three types of quotation sources are calculated, as is shown in Table 1.

Table-1: Frequency of Three Types of Quotation Sources

Source Newspaper	Specific Source (Percentage)	Implicit Source (Percentage)	Specious Source (Percentage)	Total
<i>China Daily</i>	189(93.4%)	10(4.9%)	3(1.5%)	202
<i>The Washington Post</i>	196(74.8%)	49(18.7%)	17(6.5%)	262
Total	385(83.0%)	59(12.7%)	20(4.3%)	464

It is clearly demonstrated in the table that more specific sources were used in both newspapers, accounting for 83.0%, much more frequently than implicit sources whose percentage are 12.7%, and specious sources which only account for 4.3%.

Yet there are differences. Compared with *The Washington Post*, *China Daily* employed more specific sources (74.8% for the former and 93.4% for the latter) and fewer implicit sources and specious sources.

From the statistics above, the following messages can be inferred. In the first place, both *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* emphasized the use of

specific sources that present reporters’ specific name and profession, which implied that the newspapers commonly pursued objectivity and accuracy of reports for they understood that credibility is indispensable to news reports and they entertain the opinion that large proportion of specious sources will lead to readers’ suspect to news and newspapers, therefore, they made special efforts to reduce the use of specious sources. In the meantime, these two newspapers both preferred official and authoritative sources, such as government officials, experts and ministers, especially *China Daily*, which quoted a large quantity of President Xi Jinping’s and Donald Trump’s words.

However, it is acknowledged that news reports, to a large extent, fail to be absolutely impartial, thus specious sources are sometimes used in coverage. It is apparently seen in the table that specious sources can be found in two newspapers, hence we can yield a conclusion that subjectivity is represented in coverage and newspapers are manipulation of voices. However, the percentage of specious sources and implicit sources in *China Daily* is lower than in *The Washington Post*, which implies that *China Daily* has a tendency to mention reporters' specific name, rank or profession, contributing to its higher objectivity and credibility of news than *The Washington Post*.

Detailed Sample Analysis

Sample 1

The visit will provide a better opportunity to help the US understand China in a new era as China's economic transformation and upgrading intensifies, said Jake Parker, vice president of China operations at the US-China Business Council.

—*China Daily* Nov.8, 2017

Sample 2

China and the United States should be partners, not rivals, and together they could be good for each other and the whole world, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday.

—*China Daily* Nov.10, 2017

Sample 3

Leaders of the United States and China are able to take advantage of their latest meeting to discuss a broad range of issues and expand cooperation that will benefit both sides and the world, a senior executive of an American financial firm said Wednesday.

—*China Daily* Nov.9, 2017

Sample 4

Christopher K. Johnson, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told reporters in advance of Trump's trip that China's "state visit plus" approach was "designed to play to what they believe is the president's susceptibility."

—*The Washington Post* Nov.9, 2017

Sample 5

Some U.S. experts said it is unlikely Xi will make concessions on issues involving free speech even if Trump does raise them.

—*The Washington Post* Nov.8, 2017

Sample 6

"Do you still believe China is raping the United States, Mr. President?" one American reporter yelled out as Trump and Xi exited the room.

—*The Washington Post* Nov.9, 2017

Sample 7

Both deals could give China a new level of access to U.S. financial markets and a map to its most wealthy investors, industry analysts have said.

—*The Washington Post* Nov.9, 2017

From the above detailed samples, we can see that a majority of specific sources involved are of decent profession and thus possess reliability, such as economist, ambassador, minister and other distinguished celebrities. In sample 2, it is clear that *China Daily* quoted President Xi Jinping's words, laying emphasis on objectivity. In sample 3 and sample 5, 6, 7, sources like "a senior executive of an American financial firm", "Some U.S. experts", "one American reporter" and "industry analysts" are those who are not introduced specific names and ranks and therefore more or less partial. We also discovered that more examples of implicit sources were used in *The Washington Post* than in *China Daily*, which implied that Chinese newspapers tended to provide more detailed and objective information.

Whatever news sources are quoted in newspapers, undoubtedly reporters are likely to express their own stances towards the given issue and thus to exert substantial influence on readers' understanding and cognition. From the samples listed, it is illustrated that America entertains prejudice to China for most of them believe that China will exert unfavorable influence on America.

Analysis of Reporting Modes

Distribution of Reporting Modes

Frequency of each mode of reporting in the two newspapers is clearly illustrated in the following table:

Table-2: Frequency of the Modes of Reporting

Modes Newspapers	DS	IS	Total
<i>China Daily</i>	67 (32.5%)	139(67.6%)	206
<i>The Washington Post</i>	72(25.9%)	206(74.1%)	278
Total (%)	139(28.7%)	345(71.3%)	484

As is illustrated in the table, more IS were utilized in both two newspapers, accounting for 71.3%, while the percentage of DS is only 28.7%. Compared with *The Washington Post*, *China Daily* employed more direct quotes, 25.9% for the former and 32.5% for the latter. Generally speaking, direct speech can, in essence, enable news to be more objective and accurate. By contrast, high frequency of IS may incorporate the reporter's attitudes and perspective, influencing readers' understanding of given issue.

Detailed Sample Analysis

Sample 8

The US and China are the two largest economies and the two most influential nations on earth, Jeff Leader, executive president of Global Innovation Centers of the Global Unlimited Processing, an independent sales agent of financial services said.

"By working together, President Xi and President Trump can help advance efforts that will promote peace and prosperity on a global basis," Jeff Leader said.

"By building upon issues on which there is agreement, the leaders and their nations can build a foundation of trust and cooperation from which they can successfully solve many of the current and future areas of disagreement," Jeff Leader said.

—China Daily Nov.9, 2017

Sample 9

"The two countries will be able to open a new page of bilateral ties and make new contribution to the future of all humankind once they pursue it firmly and persistently," Xi said.

"China and the United States now have developed into a community of deeply intertwined and shared interests," Xi said. "The two are sharing more, with broader interests and bigger and heavier responsibilities in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development."

—China Daily Nov.10, 2017

Sample 10

Trump's comments drew quick criticism Thursday from Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer.

"The president may not blame China, but I do, and so do millions of Americans who voted for him and others who have lost their jobs at the hands of China's rapacious trade policies," he said in a statement. "After campaigning like a lion against China's trade practices, the president is governing like a lamb. Rather than treating China with kid gloves, the president should be much tougher with China — as he promised he would be on the campaign trail."

—*The Washington Post* Nov 9,2017

In sample 8 and 9 *China Daily* quoted the leaders' words directly, which added authority to the coverage. As *China Daily* reported, President Xi and Trump can advance efforts to promote peace and prosperity, and meanwhile to establish mutual trust and cooperation.

However, direct speech can also help convey the reporter's subjunctive stance. Sample 10 is selected from *The Washington Post*, Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer expressed his discontentment to Trump for he didn't blame China and he should have been tougher with China. By doing this, the reporter demonstrated his personal prejudice to China.

Sample 11

The presidents agreed that cooperation is the "only correct choice" for China and the United States, and a better future would only be achieved through win-win cooperation, according to Xi.

The two sides agreed to increase exchanges at various levels, give a full play to the four high-level dialogue mechanisms -- the diplomatic and security dialogue, the comprehensive economic dialogue, the law enforcement and cybersecurity dialogue, and the social and people-to-people dialogue, Xi said.

—China Daily Nov.9, 2017

Sample 12

She added that the biggest fear of the human rights community isn't that Trump will be silent about China's Internet controls and human rights record, but that he might say things that could be construed by the Chinese government and state-controlled media as supportive of Xi's approach.

—*The Washington Post* Nov 08,2017

Sample 13

U.S. companies, including technology firms such as Google, Facebook and Twitter, have complained for years about China's Internet censorship, and some have made concessions to do business in the world's most populous country. Some U.S. experts said it is unlikely Xi will make concessions on issues involving free speech even if Trump does raise them.

—*The Washington Post* Nov 08, 2017

Sample 14

The question is what happens if the friendly rhetoric changes — if Trump, for whatever reason, stops being so positive about Xi. With the mood in the United States turning increasingly skeptical about China and the benefits of the bilateral relationship, that has to be a real possibility, experts said.

—*The Washington Post* Nov 09, 2017

Although both *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* employed more IS than DS, there are differences. Sample 11 is an example of IS selected from *China Daily*. Despite the use of IS which might not be impartial enough, the source of quotation was clearly stated, which added authenticity to the reported speech. According to *China Daily*, a better future between China and the United States would only be achieved through win-win cooperation. What's more, two sides agreed to increase exchanges and expand cooperation at various levels. China also expressed its expectation that Sino-US relationship can be promoted.

On the contrary, in sample 12, 13, 14 chosen from *The Washington Post* which also employed IS, the source of quotation was not clearly stated. Therefore, it was more convenient for the reporter to convey

personal emotions. In sample 12, the reporter expressed her concern that Xi Jinping's approach might be supported by Trump. In sample 13, US companies complained about China's Internet censorship and US experts regarded Xi Jinping would never make concessions on issues, meanwhile, in sample 14, one expert expressed his thought that Trump should not be positive about Xi Jinping. All these samples from *The Washington Post* show how the reporters expressed their discontentment and suspect to China by using IS.

Analysis of Reporting Verbs

Distribution of Reporting Verbs

The following table presents the frequency of the three types of reporting verbs that are collected and classified.

Table-3: Frequency of Three Types of Reporting Verbs

Verbs Newspapers	Positive Verbs	Negative Verbs	Neutral Verbs	Total
<i>China Daily</i>	55 (26.7%)	4 (1.9%)	147 (71.4%)	206
<i>The Washington Post</i>	64 (24.4%)	53 (20.2%)	145 (55.4%)	262
Total (%)	119 (25.4%)	57 (12.2%)	292 (62.4%)	468

As is obviously illustrated in the table, both the two newspapers had a tendency to utilize a large quantity of neutral reporting verbs, 71.4% for *China Daily* and 55.4% for *The Washington Post*. The most conspicuous difference between the two newspapers is that the percentage of negative verbs is much higher with *The Washington Post* than *China Daily*, 20.2% for the former and only 1.9% for the latter. It is natural that both of the two newspapers employed a majority of neutral verbs because neutral verbs such as "say", are sometimes the most common reporting verbs without speakers' prejudice, which can enhance the accuracy and objectivity of reports. In the meantime, much more negative verbs were applied by *The Washington Post* which indicated that its reporters were more inaccurate, irrational and unjust.

Attitudinal Analysis of the Reporting Verbs

Sample 15

Trump's visit is the first of its kind since he took office in January. His meeting with President Xi Jinping is also expected to further boost bilateral exchanges between the world's two leading economies since both leaders already established "warm personal relationship" at Trump's Mar-a-lago resort this April, said Li Yong, director at the China-US-EU Study Center of the China Association of International Trade.

—China Daily Nov.08, 2017

Sample 16

The visit will provide a better opportunity to help the US understand China in a new era as China's economic transformation and upgrading intensifies,

said Jake Parker, vice president of China operations at the US-China Business Council.

He said he hoped both sides could step up their efforts in building a stable, fair business environment while avoiding misunderstandings and managing differences during the two top heads' frequent communication.

—China Daily Nov.08, 2017

Sample 17

"President Xi and the Chinese leadership will think that they have done an awful lot to give President Trump face: They've done a 'state visit plus,' they've rolled the red carpet out with all the pomp and ceremony," said Paul Haenle, director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center in Beijing.

"But President Trump may go home to a domestic political environment where people are disappointed he hasn't achieved more progress on trade and economics and North Korea," he said.

—The Washington Post Nov.09,2017

In sample 15, it can be found that analysts and Li Yong held the opinion that people wish China and United States to resolve trade disputes and meanwhile to boost cooperation and consolidate bilateral relationship through Trump's state visit to China. The verb "said" in *China Daily* embodied objectivity of Chinese newspaper without any prejudice for the reason that friendly relationship between two major countries is supposed to be set up through significant state visit of one country's leader.

In sample 16, Jake Parker held the view that Trump's visit is an excellent opportunity to help The USA to better understand China's tremendous transformation and, in the meantime, he hoped both parties can make special efforts to eliminate misunderstanding and differences to promote communication. Eagerness and firmness should be carried in his tone; nevertheless, he just used the verb "said", which appears to be impartial without involving personal emotions and attitudes.

As for sample 17, Paul Haenle thought president Xi and the Chinese leadership are hypercritical for they treated Trump with genuine hospitality and they thought their relationship is solid while he didn't think so, meanwhile he entertained the view that Americans are disappointed in that Trump, in practice, hasn't achieved more progress on trade and economics and North Korea through this state visit. Actually, the reporter wanted to express strong negative feelings, but he just utilized the mere verb "said" to express his attitude, which appears so perfunctory.

Further analysis of the neutral reporting verbs indicated that in *China Daily*, the verb "said" or "says" in passage seemed to be more impartial and objective while the verb "said" or "says" in *The Washington Post* appeared to involve speaker's unreal emotion, which could exert substantial influence on readers.

Sample 18

Disagreements on trade issues between the two sides have existed for a long time, but Huo believed this kind of top-level communication will be one of the most effective ways to manage disagreements as long as they uphold the principle of wide consultation and mutual benefit.

—China Daily Nov.08, 2017

Sample 19

The US president "has shown that he understands that negotiations are not only about the particular issue being discussed, they will impact future negotiations and actions for years to come, and across numerous policy areas," Leader noted.

Hopefully the two leaders will take the opportunity, in their private meetings, to focus upon areas of agreement and shared interest, he added.

—China Daily Nov.09, 2017

Sample 20

U.S. companies, including technology firms such as Google, Facebook and Twitter, have complained for years about China's Internet censorship, and some have made concessions to do business in the world's most populous country.

—The Washington Post Nov.08,2017

Sample 21

But then China's regime got a good look at Trump. Trump took to fawning and kowtowing. The Post reports:

The United States, Medeiros argued, is the anchor power in Asia because of the rules, institutions and values it represents. "Trump fundamentally calls that into question when he's praising the Chinese political system — and not getting much in exchange."

—The Washington Post Nov.10,2017

In sample 18, a positive reporting verb "believed" with "appreciation" in it indicated that despite mutual disagreements, reporter was confident that top-level communication between China and America will definitely resolve disagreements on the basis of mutual respect and benefits. In this sense, the reporter delivered his or her voice that China-US ties should be strengthened.

In sample 19, a positive reporting verb "noted" and "added" with "appreciation" in it, was not only used to indicate that China-US negotiation can exert influence on numerous eras, but also expressed that two leaders were expected to concentrate on shared interests and agreements. In this sense, reporter, therefore, indirectly delivered his or her voice.

In sample 20, the negative reporting verb "complained" demonstrated that US companies were discontented with China's Internet censorship. Obvious affective leaning in the verb "complained" interpreted reporter's negative judgement. Obviously, he held prejudice towards China's Internet censorship. Such voice expressed reporter's obvious negative feeling in order to intervene in readers' interpretation of reports concerning China.

In sample 21, a negative reporting verb "argued" with both "affect" and "judgment" in it, indicated reporter's judgement that China benefits from America while America does not get much in exchange. Such unreasonable voice will thus influence readers' thought toward China. The negative reporting verb in *The Washington Post* involved speaker's subjective viewpoint, which embodied that America didn't consider Trump's state visit to China is a win-win cooperation. It demonstrated America's bias towards China, which clouded readers' understanding of the given issues.

Reasons for the Differences Regarding Related Quotations

As is illustrated from the above analysis, more specious sources, IS and negative reporting verbs were utilized in *The Washington Post*. The reasons for these differences can be concluded as follows: In the first place, China is a socialist country while America is a capitalist power, which contributes to America's

media's describing China as a country that tends to control the public's freedom of expressing reports directly. Secondly, recent years have witnessed China's increasing advancement and China has become the world's second largest economy, which has triggered America's concern that China will surpass the USA in the following years, hence they convey the China threat theory and hold bias and criticism towards China in coverage.

China has always been advocating win-win cooperation between two countries and expecting the relationship between China and the USA can be further promoted, therefore, in terms of Trump's state visit to China, China held positive attitude to welcome Trump and wished this visit could benefit both countries. As a result, China's reports were inclined to be more objective and accurate. This difference of coverage, in practice, demonstrates disparate ideologies of two countries.

CONCLUSION

Major Findings

On the basis of both quantitative and qualitative analysis of quotation sources, reporting modes and reporting verbs in the reported speeches collected from the news reports in *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* on Donald Trump's state visit to China, this paper has yielded the following findings.

To begin with, when reporting this great event, both *China Daily* and *The Washington Post* emphasized the use of specific sources that presented reporters' specific name and profession, which implied that the two newspapers commonly pursued objectivity and accuracy of reports for they understood that credibility is indispensable to news reports. In the meantime, these two newspapers both preferred official and authoritative sources, such as government officials, experts and ministers, especially *China Daily*, which quotes a large quantity of President Xi Jinping's and Donald Trump's words.

Comparatively speaking, *China Daily* provided more specific and exact sources when quoting speakers' words, thus enabling reports to be more objective and accurate. On the contrary, more implicit news sources were employed by *The Washington Post*, contributing to the readers' failure to judge the credibility of coverage.

What's more, generally speaking, both the two newspapers employed more indirect speech than direct speech. Yet there are differences. Despite the use of IS which might not be impartial enough, the source of quotation was clearly stated in *China Daily*, which added authenticity to the reported speech. The truth is that the source of quotation was not clearly stated in *The Washington Post* when the reporters used indirect

speech. Therefore, it was more convenient for the reporter to convey personal emotions.

In addition, both of the two newspapers employed a majority of neutral verbs because neutral verbs such as "say", are sometimes the most common reporting verbs without speakers' prejudice, which can enhance the accuracy and objectivity of reports. In the meanwhile, much more negative verbs were applied to *The Washington Post* which indicated that its reporters were more inaccurate, irrational and unjust.

An attitudinal analysis of the three types of reporting verbs suggested that either positive or negative, verbs express attitudes. Positive verbs clearly expressed appreciation, while negative verbs involved unpleasant feeling and judgement. Surprisingly, even neutral verbs, particularly the verb "say" can help express the reporter's personal stance. "Say", which is seemingly "unemotional", is actually an approach to weaken attitudes or sometimes to "mute" the attitudes of speakers all in reporters' intentions.

In conclusion, we can clearly discover that the reports in *China Daily* are more positive and objective while that in *The Washington Post* are more negative and subjunctive. China expects top-level communication will be beneficial for both parties and cooperation in more areas can be strengthened by Trump's state visit to China. However, the mainstream media in America is not satisfied with Trump's attitude to China. They think the president should have been tougher, which shows their worry about China surpassing the USA in many aspects.

Implications of the Study

The present study indicates that coverage fails to be absolutely objective and neutral. On the contrary, it is practically entitled with attitudes and views of news reporters. The implication of this study lies in the hope that it can help Chinese readers realize the ideology hidden behind the report in American mainstream newspaper on Trump's state visit in China, and other important political events. Furthermore, this study can help the English learners in China foster awareness of critical reading when they read newspapers.

Limitations and Suggestions for Future Study

Roger Fowler pointed out that newspaper discourse is so complex that concentration on one aspect inevitably leads to neglecting others [15]. The present study, therefore, is not sufficient and it involves following limitations.

First of all, the scope of data in this thesis is far from precise and satisfactory due to limited research time. Moreover, statistical work could have been more elaborate so as to enable data to be more comprehensive, convincing and exhaustive. What's more, samples selected from *China Daily* and *The*

Washington Post is not sufficient, thus more samples should be analyzed and analysis should be more detailed to convince readers.

The following suggestions are feasible for further researchers. To begin with, it is hoped that more samples from other American and Chinese mainstream newspapers should be selected in order that the contrastive study can be more comprehensive and reliable. In addition, new perspectives for critical analysis of reported speech should be explored. Finally, more scientific and efficient methods should be applied to data analysis.

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