Pandemic COVID-19 discourse and stance-taking in 'Six Feet Apart' song lyrics

by Sigit 8 Ricahyono

Pandemic COVID-19 discourse and stance-taking in 'Six Feet Apart' song lyrics

Sigit Ricahyono[1*], Lusia Kristiasih Dwi Purnomosasi[1], Clarissa Collado[2], Rhia Khaulafa Rosyada[1]
[1]Universitas PGRI Madiun, Jl. Setiabudi No. 85 Kota Madiun, Indonesia
[2] Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (IPSC), Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur, Philippines

Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur, Philippines

Email: *sigitricahyono@unipma.ac.id; lusiakdp@unipma.ac.id; klareyzza@gmail.com; riakhaulafa123@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to uncover how Luke Combs uses linguistic devices in the lyrics of "Six Feet Apart" to take a stance on the COVID-19 pandemic. A thorough study of the data's content was done within the constraints of the "Appraisal" analytical methodology. The results show that positive values are preferred over negative ones. The data recorded under "effect," which totaled 42 and contributed 84 percent, was higher than the data under "appreciation," which totaled ten (10) and contributed just 20%, and the data under "judgment," which were both zero. All data was obtained from a single monoglot source. The results suggest that Luke Combs' stance is seeing the silver line in the dark clouds of the pandemic COVID-19 during lockdowns and physical distancing.

Keywords: *COVID-19; discourse; stance-taking; appraisal; Six Feet Apart*

Introduction

'Six Feet Apart' was written by Combs, Brent Cobb, and Rob Snyder over Zoom on 14 April 2020, which was sung on weekly livestream performances. It is among best known songs in the United States. It was a top ten smash on the US country charts, firmly establishing Combs as one of Nashville's biggest musicians (https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-57257580). On May 16, 2020, it debuted at No. 58 on the Billboard Hot 100 (Mamo, 2020). A remark on Amazon Music says it is "The Anthem for 2020" (https://www.amazon.com/Six-Feet-Apart-Luke-Combs/dp/B087QSZJG6).   The song follows a string of breakthrough and historic years for Combs, who is up for three ACM Awards: Entertainer of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, and

Album of the Year for his critically acclaimed global No. 1 album, 'What You See Is What You Get' (https://www.sonymusicnashville.com/luke-combs-performs-six-feet-apart-on-abcs-good-morning-america/).

'Six Feet Apart' covers the continuing coronavirus problem and social distancing in everyday life. It encapsulates all that everyone is experiencing, thinking, and dreaming about at the time. It describes ordinary acts of humanity that may have been taken for granted before the pandemic COVID-19, such as visiting with family, hugging a friend, or going to a bar. He fantasizes about the first things he will do once things return to normal and he is free together again since he longs for such typical everyday lives. Instead of being pessimistic, he likes to see the "silver lining in the black clouds," a popular viewpoint shared among Americans. "Every cloud has a silver lining" spells out that people should never give up hope since bad times always lead to brighter days.

The discussion of optimism in the face of adversity, especially pandemic COVID-19 due to lockdowns and physical distancing, has piqued the curiosity of scholars from across disciplines and involves different methodologies and a wide range of research objects. As optimism in the perspective of religions and faiths, for example, Bennett (2011) studied the formation of optimism in Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam, focusing on soteriology and eschatology. He examined how religions create hope through (1) the construction of meaning, (2) their models of divine justice, and (3) conceptions of ultimate destiny from a 'detached' and 'functionalist' perspective. He came to the conclusion that religions indeed foster optimism in ways that are very distinct from those advocated by other organizations.

Jain and Shukla (2018) investigated the impact of religion on optimism. A sample of 60 persons was chosen, which included both males and girls over the age of 20 from schools, colleges, and bank employees in Jaipur, India. They are from both the middle and upper socioeconomic classes. As instruments, a life orientation exam and an attitude toward religion measure were utilized. The data demonstrate that religious beliefs and optimism levels are substantially connected.

Edara et al. (2021) investigated the role of religiosity in the contentment of a sample of 296 teachers in the Philippines, mediated by the effects of resilience, optimism, and well-being. Their significant results suggest that, while facing adversities in life, the teachers in the Philippines might use religiosity and its relevant dimensions as positive coping mechanisms to face the academic challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus derive contentment that is mediated by the positive effects of optimism and well-being.

Ali et al. (2020) investigated the impact of characteristics such as optimism, innovativeness, insecurity, and discomfort on customers' willingness to use online meal delivery ordering services during the covid-19 epidemic. An online poll yielded a total of 439 usable replies utilizing survey methodologies. Partial least squares (PLS) and multigroup analysis (MGA) approaches were used to examine the data. Among the findings was that optimism had a substantial influence and that the benefits of optimism and innovativeness are larger in demographic characteristics such as being young, male, having a high income, and having a high education.

The 'appraisal' framework is based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday et al., 2014) and is made up of language evaluative resources exhibited in conversation that negotiate one's stance through attitudinal and evaluative comments (Martin & White, 2003). In systemic functional linguistics, appraisal theory is a novel development of interpersonal meaning (Halliday, 1994). It is used to negotiate social ties by expressing one's feelings about things and people to listeners or readers (Martin & Rose, 2003). It is a set of linguistic tools for expressing, improving, and valuing feelings. In such nature, 'appraisal' requires investigation on word-choice and word-arrangement in the text under investigation and accordingly it involves Semantic and Morpho-Syntax analyses.

"Appraisal" is separated into three major sub-divisions: 'attitude', source or'engagement,' and amplification or 'graduation.' Attitudes are about making judgments about objects, people, and their emotions. Evaluations can be more or less harsh, that is, more or less amplified, which is known as amplification or 'graduation.' They can be unique to the writer or speaker, or they can be traced back to another source, which is referred to as the source or 'engagement.' As a result, 'engagement' is divided into two types: monogloss and heterogloss. Monogloss occurs when the speaker or author is the source of the assessment. It is called heterogloss if it comes from a separate source. 'Attitude' is further broken into those for expressing feelings or emotions, known as "affect',' those for assessing persons or people, human behavior and character, known as 'judgment,' and those for evaluating things, artifacts, entities, happenings, and states of affairs, known as "appreciation". Each has its own set of subdivisions (Martin & Rose, 2003).

'Appraisal' has become one of the most popular analytical frameworks, attracting the attention of scholars from different fields. It is used by employing several approaches for assessing various forms of texts, including verbal, visual, and multimodal texts. As seen by the literature, such a vast range in research scale results in, at times, contradictory findings.

Ricahyono (2011) for example, investigated Hillary Rodham Clinton's political clip adverstisement "Invisible" through the lens of Critical Multimodal Discourse Analysis. It was shown that "affect" and 'judgment' are the most powerful ways of uniting potential voters. Only one of the eight emotional expressions fits into the category of high intensity. The great majority fall within the medium group. Potential voters are best aligned through 'judgment'. Nine out of 10 'judgment' s are subjective since they are made by HRC herself. 'Judgment' and "affect" are largely employed in both verbal and visual modalities to portray her to potential voters, in succession of the frequency of occurrence, as benevolent, the competent, and lastly the least trustworthy.

Li (2016) analyzed several English song discourses with the goal of identifying language features in the English song discourse that will help readers understand the author's emotion and the importance of the attitude meaning of the appraisal theory in building interpersonal relationships between the author of the song discourse and the readers. The findings reveal that attitude resources such as 'affect' and 'appreciation'   are regularly utilised.

Mayo and Taboada (2017) evaluated the discourse of a new area of the Cosmopolitan website, as well as reader comments, with a focus on evaluative language. The corpus for the study is made up of articles and reader views from CosmoVotes. The findings suggest that CosmoVotes has distinct features, such as a preponderance of high intensification in reader opinions, as well as strong negative evaluations and emotions, but the magazine's essays on political problems are more nuanced and avoid intensification.

Ross and Caldwell (2020) examined a sample of President Donald Trump's tweets, focusing on his use of negativity as a rhetorical political approach. According to the study, in order to carry out a 'going negative' strategy, Trump employs the APPRAISAL system in a number of ways, with the ultimate goal of attacking and undermining the character of his political opponent.

Qiao and Jiang (2021) looked at Twitter tweets using the phrase "global warming" for 16 months. According to the study, the shown happiness level in tweets, including the words "global warming" is consistently lower than the average level on Twitter, owing to an increase in negative terms and a drop in positive ones. According to the Appraisal research, 'appreciation' is utilized the most frequently and 'affect's used the least.

Purnomosasi et al. (2021) investigated "Us" and "them" or othering which frequently results in the world's most dreaded phenomenon, xenophobia. The goal of this study is to reveal the attitudinal techniques utilized for othering in Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart." The analyses were conducted using the "APPRAISAL" theories, particularly the "ATTITUDE" and "PERIODICITY" theories. The results show that "us" is formed with four positive values and only two negative values, but "them" is constructed with one positive value and three negative values. Most attitudinal methods utilized are JUDGMENT, which occurs seven (7) times and accounts for 70%, and 'appreciation,' which appears just three (3) times and accounts for 30%. To attain the concealed aims of persuasion, "we" are told with more positives and fewer negatives and "them" with the reverse.

Despite the fact that a great number of research employ 'appraisal,' coping with hard times during the pandemic COVID-19 as expressed through songs, is an uncommon one. The current study addresses this gap by examining the song lyrics of 'Six Feet Apart' by Luke Combs and aims to uncover how the song-writer took stace on the pandemic COVID-19 by mobilizing selected and arranged linguistic chunks seen through the 'Appraisal' theory.

Research Methods

This study is qualitative in that the data collected are verbal in form. Numeric ones are used as supplementary. The data, which are chunks from the song lyrics of Six Feet Apart by Luke Combs, are comprehensively content-analyzed by making use of the 'appraisal' theory. Seen thus, the data are content-analyzed by considering:

1. Whether a chunk falls into the category of either ''affect'', 'judgment,' or ''appreciation' (attitude),

2. Whether it contains either positive or negative (value),
3. Whether the embedded value, positive or negative, is low, median, or high in degree (graduation),
4. Whether it belongs to either monogloss or heterogloss (source/engagement).

With regard to the value and the degree of a given chunk, high authority online English Dictionaries are consulted i.e. Oxford (https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com), Cambridge (https://dictionary.cambridge.org), and Merriam-Webster (https://www.merriam-webster.com). Once the data collected are mapped into the attitude, value, graduation, and source/engagement, a conclusion drawing regarding the stance taken in the song is readily available.

Findings and Discussion
1. Findings

This study was conducted for one semester, so during the class, I observed the way the lecturer provided direct corrective feedback both on synchronous and asynchronous meetings and the way the learners responded to the feedback. Then, to identify the participants' names more easily, I assigned some codes for them, such as S1 and S2 stand for High achiever students, S3 and S4 stand for Mid achiever students, and S5 and S6 stand for Low achiever students.

After the song lyrics were analyzed, the data collected within the song entitled 'Six Feet Apart" by Luke Combs, identifying what attitude they belong, how they are valued, graded, and including their source, are revealed in table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of the 'attitude' analysis

Attitude	Value						Source	
	Positive			Negative			M	H
	L	M	H	L	M	H		
'Affect'	0	26	2	0	12	2	42	0
'Appreciation'	0	4	0	2	4	0	10	0
Judgment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N	0	30	2	2	16	2	0	0
%	0%	60%	4%	4%	32%	4%	0%	0%
N		32			20		50	0
%		64%			40%		100%	0%

Table 1 reveals that the highest data was recorded under 'affect' with a total of 42 and contributed 84 percent compared to the data recorded under 'appreciation' with ten (10) and constitutes only 20 percent and 0 for 'judgment,' while the source of all the data recorded is 100 percent monoglot. In terms of graduation in the positive value, it is discovered that the medium degree is the highest and dominates, totaling 30 and contributing 60 percent,

followed by the high degree, which is recorded at two (2) and contributes only 4 percent. There is no such thing as a low degree. In the negative value, the median degree is the highest as opposed to the high and low, with the median being 16 and accounting for 32 percent, the low being two (2) and accounting for 4 percent, and 2 or 4 percent data falling into the category of the high degree. Finally, the data obtained via Appraisal analysis indicates that there are a total of 32 occurrences and 64 percent of data that belongs to the positive value, which is much larger than the negative value with a total of 20 and 40 percent. To put it in other words, the song is dominated by good feelings with a median degree of graduation.

a. 'Affect'

Table 2. 'Affect' Analysis

'AFFECT'	Value Positive			Negative			Source	
	L	M	H	L	M	H	M	H
I feel most *alive*			V					
ain't had much else going on					V			
I *miss* my mom					V			
I *miss* my dad					V			
I *miss* the road					V			
I *miss* my band					V			
Giving *hugs*		V						
shaking hands		V						
how long this thing goes					V			
there'll be crowds		V						
there'll be shows		V						
there will be *light* after dark		V						
when we aren't six feet apart		V						
First thing that I'm gonna do Is *slide on* in some corner booth		V						
take the whole damn family out		V						
buy my buddies all a round		V						
Pay some extra on the tab		V						
Catch a movie		V						
catch a cab		V						
Watch a ballgame from the stands.		V						

As seen in Table 2, 'affect' is dominated by the positive value, which totals 28, as opposed to the negative value, which contains only 12 data. Regarding graduation, the median degree predominates in the positive value, with 26 occurrences, and 2 data belong to the high one, while the low is not

detected. The negative figure just includes the median degree, which is reported as 12.

b. ALIVE

In table 2 of affect analysis, the data 'alive' from the word chunk "that I feel most ***alive***' is under a high degree of positive value. The source is monogloss. The keyword 'alive' is described by dictionary meaning as "full of emotion, excitement, activity, etc." (https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/alive?q=Alive), "be *very lively* and to enjoy everything that they do."(https://www.collinsdictionar y.com/dictionary/english/alive) and "active and energetic or exciting (https://dicti onary.Cambridge.org/dictionary/English/alive). The phrase 'I feel' from the word chunk and 'emotion' from the dictionary meaning makes it on 'affect the analysis. Such keyword from the three dictionaries as 'excitement' and 'enjoy' contains positive values. Those of 'very lively,' 'full of emotion,' and the adjective 'most' in the data are the indicators that the data contains a high degree of positive values, while it is monogloss because it is directly written by the writer of the song 'Luke Combs' for example the pronoun I within the line belongs to a first-person point of view that indicates that this data came from the writer of the song and there is no indicator such as "according to, said, reportedly etc. within the data to become heteroglossia.

SAD

In table 2 of 'affect' analysis the data 'sad' within the word chunk "And the whole world seems so ***sad***" is under the high degree of negative value, and the source is monogloss. The keyword 'sad' is described by dictionary meaning as **"**very bad or regretted"(https:// dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sad) "'affect'ed with or expressive of grief or unhappiness"(https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sad) and "not satisfactory or pleasant" (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sad).Such keywords from three dictionaries as 'unhappiness' and 'grief' makes it belong to 'affect' analysis and the word 'bad' 'unhappiness', 'grief', not satisfactory' contains negative values. Those of 'very bad' from the dictionary meaning and the adverb 'so' within the data is an indicator that the data contains high degree of negative values, while it is monogloss because they are directly written by the writer of the song 'Luke Combs', for example within the data "And the whole world seems so ***sad*** " the verb 'seems' point out that the writer is creating an imagery within his own mind that indicates it came from the writer and there is no indicator such as "according to, said, reportedly etc. within the data to become heterogloss.

MISS

In table 2 of 'affect' analysis the data 'miss' from the word chunk "I ***miss*** my mom", "I ***miss*** my dad", "I ***miss*** the road" and "I ***miss*** my band" is under the median degree of negative value and the source are all monogloss. The keyword 'miss' is described by dictionary meaning as to

"feel sad that a person or thing is not present" (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/ dictionary /english/miss), "to *feel* or notice the *absence* of" (https://www.merriam-webster.com/ dictionary/miss) and "to feel sad because you can no longer see somebody or do something that you like"(https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/miss_1 ?q= MISS).Such keywordfrom three dictionaries as 'feel sad' makes it belong to 'affect'analysis. While 'feel sad' 'absence' and 'no longer' contains negative values. There were no indicator of high or low graduation within the chunk of words and dictionary meaning so the data contains median degree of negative value, whereas it is monogloss because they are directly written by the writer of the song, for example within the data "That I feel most *alive*", "I *miss* my mom","I *miss* my dad', I *miss* the road" and "I *miss* my band" the pronoun 'I' and 'MY' are both in first person point of view that indicates that these data came from the writer of the song and there is no indicator such as "according to, said, reportedly etc. within the data. to become heterogloss.

DAMN

Lastly, the data from table 2 of 'affect'affect analysi is under the high degree of positive value and the source is monogloss. The keyword 'damn' is described by the dictionary meaning as "Damn, damn it, and dammit are used by some people to express anger or impatience.**"**(https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/damn), "to swear at" (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/damn) and "an expression of anger" (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/dam n?q= DAMN) . The keyword 'anger' or being angry from the three dictionary meaning makes it belongs to affect analysis. Such keyword from the dictionary as 'swear' contains positive value because it supports the meaning behind the context of the sentence as it is saying that the writer is 'swearing' or 'promising' that he will treat his family for them to bond after the pandemic while, damn also described by dictionary meaning as 'to condemn vigorously and often irascibly' (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/damn). The keyword"vigorously" and swearing is an indicator that the data contains high degree of positive value, while it is monogloss because they are directly written by the writer of the song 'Luke Combs' also there is no indicator such as "according to, said, reportedly etc. within the data to become heterogloss, for example within the data "And take the whole *damn* family out" the verb 'damn' indicates that the writer is promising/ swearing to treat his own family out that indicates it came from the writer, so it is monogloss.

c. 'Appreciation'

Table 3. 'Appreciation' Analysis

'Appreciation'	Value						Source	
	Positive			Negative			M	H
	L	M	H	L	M	H		
the dogwoods start to *bloom*		V						
the crickets hum their tune		V						
the news has all been *bad*					V			
It's a *mystery*					V			

Table 3 demonstrates that 'appreciation' has four data points and is evenly divided between positive and negative values. As of graduation, both positive and negative numbers are the same in that each contains two data points, and the data points solely pertain to the median degree. The low and high degrees are absent.

BLOOM

Bloom is defined as "a state or period of beauty, freshness, and vitality," as well as "a state or time of great development or achievement" (https://www.merriam-webster.com). It is defined as "typically one on a plant that people like for its blooms," "a healthy fresh appearance" (https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com). The Merriam Webster Dictionary's keywords for positive value include "beauty," "freshness," "vigor," "growth," and "achievement," whereas the Oxford Learners Dictionary's keywords are "admire," "healthy," and "fresh." The word "high" preceding "growth or achievement" indicates that the value has a high grade.

HUM

It is related to "to be busy and full of activity, excitement, sounds, or voices," according to the Cambridge Dictionary (https://dictionary.cambridge.org). Merriam Webster defines it as "to be full of activity" (https://www.merriam-webster.com). A positive value is included in the keywords "activity," "excitement," and "active" found in the two dictionaries. The term "full of" preceding "activity, excitement, sounds, or voices" denotes a high degree.

MYSTERY

"Mystery" is defined as "the hidden or specialized rituals or ritual particular to an occupation or a group of people," as well as "profound, unexplained, or mysterious characteristic or character" (https://www.merriam-webster.com). It is defined as "something difficult to comprehend or explain," "a person or object that is weird and intriguing because you don't know much about them or it" (https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com). Both dictionaries have a median degree of positive value for the terms "secret" and "secretive" and "difficult".

2. Discussion

The current study aims to unmask how linguistic chunks in terms of the 'Appraisal' theory are employed by "Six Feet Apart" song composer Luke Combs to take a stand on the pandemic COVID-19. The results demonstrate that positive values are preferred over negative ones. The highest data was discovered under 'affect' with a total of 42 and contributed 84 percent compared to the data recorded under 'appreciation' with ten (10) and contributes only 20 percent and 0 for 'judgment,' while the source of all the data recorded is 100 percent monogloss. The findings imply that Luke Combs' perspective is one of optimism in the middle of the upheaval caused by the pandemic COVID-19 during lockdowns and physical distancing. To put it another way, he sees the silver lining in the black clouds.

The current study's finding that positive value outnumbers negative one, reflects Su's (2016) work in that Mr. Xi's speech contains more positive resources. This could be because the speech is a diplomatic one which requires building a harmonious relationship with his audience and diplomatic collegues.

The present study's finding is also consistent with those of Badklang and Srinon (2018) who discovered that the instructor and students expressed more positive rather than negative attitudes. However, their finding that all three types of attitudes, 'judgment', 'appreciation', and 'affect', are displayed is not in line with the current study's finding in which 'judgment' is absent.

The present study's findings, however, contradict the findings of Hadidi and Mohammadbagheri-Parvin (2015) who discovered that the sequence of occurrence is 'appreciation', Judgment, and 'affect' while in this study there is no 'judgment' and 'affect' predominates. Disagreement is also spotted in Cavasso and Taboada (2021) who find in their annotation studies which suggest that comments are largely negative, and that they prefer two subtypes of 'Judgment' and 'appreciation' over the third, 'affect'. Furthermore, the current study's findings contradict those of (Bartley, 2020), who discovered a surprisingly unfavorable attitude about the Irish LGBT population in the group studied. This is especially noticeable in the prevalence of evaluative and emotional language linked with negative assessment and feeling.

This study also contradicts those of Purnomosasi, Garudatama, and (Ricahyono, 2011). When they looked at "us" and "them" or othering in Chinua Achebe's "things Fall Apart," their findings revealed that "us" is produced with more positive qualities than negative ones. "Them," on the other hand, is made up of only one positive and three negative numbers. The bulk of attitudinal strategies are 'judgment' and 'appreciation.' This may be explained that such finding is normal, in that, studies of othering commonly end in 'us' dominated by positive values while 'them' is featured with more negative ones.

Ricahyono (2017) work, which examined the type, structure, and load of values of the words or concepts used for the intent of internationalization as stated in the strategic vision available on the English websites of

Indonesia's top twenty universities in 2017, does not support the findings of this study. His finding is that words with a high degree of positive value predominate. This is known because branding always necessitates carefully chosen phrases to match potential stakeholders and overseas students with a good image of the individual university.

Ricahyono (2011) research terminated in the finding that 'affect' and 'judgment' are the most important attitudinal strtaetgies in aligning potential voters. 'Judgment' and 'affect' are largely employed in both verbal and visual modalities to portray Hillary Rodham Clinton to potential voters as benevolent, the most competent, and lastly the least trustworthy. As a result, this is in contradiction to the current study. This distinction may be attributed to the fact that the discourse under consideration falls within the category of negative campaign, which is defined as the purposeful circulation of bad information about the opponent or the worsening of his/her public image.

As of optimism in fighting pandemic COVID-19, there is a claim that it reflects a viewpoint widely held by Americans. Such viewpoint of optimism is, in fact, shared by humanity regardless of ethnicity, religions or nationality rather than a specific ones as supported by Bennett (2011) who concluded that religions do indeed generate optimism in ways that differ significantly from those espoused by other groups; Jain and Shukla (2018) finding out religious views and optimism levels are significantly related; Edara et al. (2021) who demonstrated that, when faced with adversity, Filipinos employed religiosity and its pertinent characteristics as positive coping methods to overcome the scholastic problems brought on by the COVID-19 epidemic; and Islam's (Ali et al., 2020) confirming that that optimism has a significant impact and that the benefits of optimism and innovativeness are greater in demographic traits such as being young, male, having a high income, and having a high education.

Conclusion

The current study seeks to understand how "Six Feet Apart" songwriter Luke Combs use linguistic pieces from "Appraisal" theory to take a stand against the pandemic COVID-19. Positive values are preferred over negative ones, according to the research. The greatest data was discovered under 'affect' with a total of 42 and contributes 84 percent compared to the data recorded under 'appreciation' with 10 and contributes only 20% and 0 for 'judgment,' while the source of all data recorded is 100% monogloss. The findings indicate that Luke Combs' view is positive in the midst of the upheaval caused by the pandemic COVID-19, which has resulted in lockdowns and physical distancing.

The study is subject to drawbacks. This study, for example, employs only one song lyrics as a data source, preventing any generalization. Furthermore, the 'appraisal' analytical approach adopted is not the most comprehensive. As a result, future research may continue to use 'appraisal' theory while including other data sources, which might be verbal or multimodal. Another approach is to combine 'appraisal' theory with the two other metafunctions in Systemic

Functional Linguistics, namely the 'textual' and 'ideational/experiential' metafunctions. More light can be shed as a result.

References

Ali, S., Khalid, N., Javed, H. M. U., & Islam, D. M. Z. (2020). Consumer adoption of online food delivery ordering (OFDO) services in Pakistan: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity, 7*(1), 10. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3390/joitmc7010010

Badklang, C., & Srinon, U. (2018). Analysis of attitudinal resources in an EFL university classroom talk in the deep south of Thailand: An appraisal perspective. *The New English Teacher, 12*(2), 106-106. http://www.assumptionjournal.au.edu/index.php/newEnglishTeacher/article/download/3239/2134

Bartley, L. V. (2020). 'Please make your verdict speak the truth': Insights from an Appraisal analysis of the closing arguments from a rape trial. *Text & Talk, 40*(4), 421-442. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1515/text-2020-2065

Bennett, O. (2011). The manufacture of hope: Religion, eschatology and the culture of optimism. *International journal of cultural policy, 17*(2), 115-130. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2010.543462

Cavasso, L., & Taboada, M. (2021). A corpus analysis of online news comments using the Appraisal framework. *Journal of Corpora and Discourse Studies, 4*, 1-38.

Edara, I. R., del Castillo, F., Ching, G. S., & del Castillo, C. D. (2021). Religiosity and contentment among teachers in the Philippines during covid-19 pandemic: Mediating effects of resilience, optimism, and well-being. *Religions, 12*(10), 879. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12100879

Hadidi, Y., & Mohammadbagheri-Parvin, L. (2015). Systemic functional linguistics as interpersonal semantics: Appraisal and attitude in the stylistic analysis of an English novel. *International journal of linguistics, 7*(1), 129.

Halliday, M. A. K., Matthiessen, C. M., Halliday, M., & Matthiessen, C. (2014). *An introduction to functional grammar*. Routledge.

Jain, J., & Shukla, S. (2018). The effect of religiosity on the optimism level. *Indian Journal of Health & Wellbeing, 9*(1).

Li, X. (2016). An attitudinal analysis of English song discourse from the perspective of appraisal theory. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research, 7*(3), 559.

Mamo, H. (2020). *Here Are the Lyrics to Luke Combs' 'Six Feet Apart.' Billboard.* Billboard. https://www.billboard.com/music/lyrics/luke-combs-six-feet-apart-lyrics-9379139/

Martin, J. R., & Rose, D. (2003). *Working with discourse: Meaning beyond the clause.* Bloomsbury Publishing.

Martin, J. R., & White, P. R. (2003). *The language of evaluation* (Vol. 2). Springer.

Mayo, M. A., & Taboada, M. (2017). Evaluation in political discourse addressed to women: Appraisal analysis of Cosmopolitan's online coverage of the 2014 US midterm elections. *Discourse, context & media, 18*, 40-48. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcm.2017.06.003

Purnomosasi, L. K. D., Garudatama, V., & Ricahyono, S. (2021). us" and "them" in things fall apart by chinua achebe: A critical functional approach of othering. *Social Sciences, Humanities and Education Journal (SHE Journal), 2*(1), 47-56. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25273/she.v2i1.8610

Qiao, F., & Jiang, K. (2021). Attitudes Towards Global Warming on Twitter: A Hedonometer-Appraisal Analysis. *Journal of Global Information Management (JGIM), 30*(7), 1-20.

Ricahyono, S. (2011). *Hillary Rodham Clinton's Political Advertisement 'Invisibles': An Ideological Multimodal Discourse Analysis.* . https://www.academia.edu/34657211/Hillary_Rodham_Clintons_Political_Advertisement_Invisibles_An_Ideological_Multimodal_Discourse_Analysis

Ricahyono, S. (2017). Strategic Vision On Internalization In Indonesian Top Twenty Higher Education Institutions 2017: A Discourse Analysis. Prosiding Seminar Nasional Hasil Penelitian LPPM Universitas PGRI Madiun,

Ross, A. S., & Caldwell, D. (2020). 'Going negative': An appraisal analysis of the rhetoric of Donald Trump on Twitter. *Language & communication, 70*, 13-27.

Pandemic COVID-19 discourse and stance-taking in 'Six Feet Apart' song lyrics