Attitude Markers in Sports News: A Corpus-based Study of Native and Non-Native Discourse

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Abstract

Martin and White's (2005) appraisal theory explores the ways through which evaluative use of language expresses the interpersonal meanings in a text. Despite numerous studies using the appraisal framework, there is little research done on the comparison of appraisal resources used by native and non-native English news writers in discourse produced on the same task. A corpus of 1 million each of native and non-native sports news discourse is compiled from (Britain) native and (Pakistani) non-native online English newspapers, to which the appraisal framework is applied in the current study, comparing the ideological positions and evaluative standpoints of native and non-native sports news writers in sports news discourse. A mixed-method design is applied to carry out the sequential explanatory analysis of the data. The findings indicate the substantial variation in the evaluative use of attitudinal resources when used positively and negatively in native and non-native corpora. In general non-native sports, news writers have used significantly higher frequency of positive and negative attitudinal markers as compared to the native news writers. Non-native news writers have used more affect resources while native news writers have used appreciation resources abundantly as compared to affect and judgment resources. Findings offer further variation in the evaluative stance of native and non-native sports news writers that may be used for studying the difference in academic and non-academic writing styles.

Key Words: Attitudinal markers, evaluative language, native, non-native, sports-news

1. Introduction

According to Hunston and Thompson (2000), "evaluation is the expression of the speaker or the writer's attitude or stance towards, viewpoint on, or feelings about the entities or propositions that he or she is talking about" (p. 5). Primarily evaluation is concerned with how, when, what, and why writers and speakers evaluate things, places, and individuals by making lexical and syntactic choices. Evaluation performs three functions: it expresses the writer's opinion that reflects the value system of the writer and his community; it constructs and maintains the relation of the writer and the reader, organizes the discourse, and plays an important role in the construction of ideology and organization of persuasive texts (Hunston & Thompson, 2000).

Studying evaluative language is important for different reasons. It indicates, "an attitude towards something is important in socially significant speech acts such as persuasion and argumentation" (Hunston, 2011, p.23). Evaluative language indexes the acts of stance taking

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and evaluation. It expresses an attitude towards any entity, person, or situation that is subjective and located within a societal value-system (Hunston, 2011). In other words, the evaluative function of language refers to the capacity of a language to express the attitude, opinion, and point of view of any writer or speaker (Drasovean&Tagg, 2015). It specifies polar position and assessment of the people about places, things, doings, and different happenings. As Hunston and Thompson (2000) explicate that the evaluative language expresses the ideologies, stance, beliefs, and opinions of people about any topic.

According to Halliday and Mathiessen (2004), social or interpersonal functions are one of the three functions a text can perform. It deals with the relationship of participants i.e. the appraisal patterns they follow in their talks and conversations. In the discourse/text of sports news, evaluative language is used profusely to give opinions, make assertions, evaluate attitudes and maintain the relationship of a reader and the news writer. Sports is one of the most cherished and easily available sources of entertainment around the world and a large amount of sports news is written daily. This news does not only inform the readers about the recent happenings and up-to-date activities but also manipulates the emotions and behavior of the readers towards the particular game, team, and player. As Edwards (2009), explains the ability of language to maintain the uniqueness of humans because it is a source of connections between humans. Therefore, the newsreaders might believe that the particular sports news writer agrees to his/her point of view about any player or sports event. That might in turn motivates the reader to search for the news written by the same particular news writer in the future as well.

One of the recent frameworks to a manifest evaluation in discourse is concerned with appraisal. It is an approach to identify, describe, explain and explore the use of language to construct and manage stance, personas, interpersonal positions, and relations. The appraisal framework explains "the sending and receiving ends of the evaluation-making process, that is, the evaluator (or the appraiser) and the person or entity being evaluated (or the appraised') are identified" (Aungsuwan, 2016). Previous researches on appraisal focused on attitudinal positioning in many ways: frequency comparison of types of appraisal (Dongmei &Xuehua, 2013; Wahl-Jorgensen, 2012), appraisal types meanings (Ben-Aaron, 2005; Hardy, 2011; Hood, 2004; Tilakaratna & Mahboob 2012) and combination of frequency comparison of types of appraisal and meanings of types of appraisal (Birot, 2008). Additionally, various types of media are included in previous studies: television (Tilakaratna, 2012), online newspaper (Birot, 2008; Wahl-Jorgensen, 2012), and newspaper (Ben-Aaron, 2005).

In the present study, the appraisal framework, specifically the system of *Attitude,* is adopted as a theoretical and analytical framework. It accommodates various types of attitudes; each type is realized into positive and negative categories and explains how positive or negative evaluation/assessment of places, people, state of affairs, and happenings is carried out (White, 2012). Besides, the appraisal framework is associated with the lexical choices representing each subtype of attitude, which fits well with the analysis of sports discourse. It helps with the interpretation of the data generally and in the present study particularly in which positive and negative attitudes are likely to be revealed.

Therefore, the current study by identifying the frequency of positive and negative use of attitudinal markers by native and non-native sports news writers inclined to provide an insight

into the variable use of evaluative language in native and non-native sports news discourse. It also intends to study the role of these attitudinal markers in the construction of the positive and negative persona of the news writer. The study ascertains the quantitative extent of attitudinal markers along with the qualitative interpretation and description. The study on an appraisal by the analysis of sports news with respect to native (Britain) and non-native (Pakistani) settings has not been done so far. So, it withstands an obvious gap to perceive the flow of knowledge in different settings. The present study anticipates to fill this gap.

Furthermore, sports news is the reflection of the perception of their news writers regarding social, cultural, and ideological standpoints. They are considered as a mirror image of the ethnic and societal backgrounds of not only the news writers but their readers as well. This research will assist the newsreaders to identify their own cultural and linguistic habits towards the ways of expressing any event positively or negatively. Likewise, it will contribute to the understanding of the effects of cultural differences during the process of evaluation of people, places, and things. Moreover, it will help the teachers to develop teaching materials especially for designing courses about the use of evaluative language in non-academic activities.

2. Literature Review

Appraisal theory belongs to systemic functional linguistics (SFL). Halliday conceived the idea of SFL in 1960, later Martin and White (2005) developed this theory. According to White (2005), appraisal theory is a technique to identify, explain and elucidate the different uses of language. With the help of this approach, attitudes, judgments, and emotive reactions can be identified in discourses. It is a set of resources to convey judgments, emotions, and valuation (Martin, 2000). It refers to the study of how language as a system of networks and sets of options construct meaning in a particular context (Halliday, 1978, 2004; Halliday & Hasan, 1989). According to White (2012), the appraisal is a specific approach to explore, describe and explain how language is used to construct textual personas, to adopt a stance, to evaluate, and manage interpersonal relationships and positioning.

The theory posits an attitude system having subsystems including affect, judgment, and appreciation. Affect interprets the emotional aspect i.e. (cheerful, happy, sad) of the speaker's talk and that of the response of the speaker's talk by the listener. Judgement interprets the moral aspect (faithful, loyal, unreliable) of the character of anybody other than the speaker. Appreciation belongs to the aesthetic nature (pleasant, beautiful, boring) of the things, objects, and natural occurrences(Martin & White, 2005). An appraisal framework has been used in academic and non-academic studies to identify the usage of evaluative language by a large number of researchers. Some of these studies are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

In the academic field, many studies encompass the interpersonal form of writing while attending to the term 'evaluation: Metadiscourse (Hyland & Tse, 2004), stance models (Biber & Finegan, 1989), and appraisal (Martin & White, 2005). Recently, various studies have put their emphasis on investigation of attitudes and evaluation in discourse in various aspects: multimodality in Critical Discourse Analysis (Breeze, 2014), evaluation patterns (Hunston & Sinclair, 2003; Caro, 2014), and lexical items expressing evaluation (Thompson & Zhou, 2003). Moreover, theses, book reviews, books, blogs, novels, proposals, RAs, Speeches, and abstracts

are studied by(Babaii, 2011; Coffin, 1997; Dong, 2006; Hadidi & Parvin 2015; Haistyanti, 2015; Page,2003; Pascul&Unger, 2010; Tutin, 2010; Wei-Wherrity&Zang, 2015)by applying appraisal framework. Besides, those studies analyzed several media types: online magazines of news (Caro, 2014) and online newspapers (Breeze, 2014).

With regard to the use of appraisal features and evaluative language in non-academic genres, a large number of studies are done. Some of the relevant studies are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

Pekarova (2011) studied the evaluative language in journalistic discourse by adopting the appraisal framework suggested by Martin and White (2005) and concluded that leading newspapers use evaluative language and apply appraisal features particularly the expressions of effect i.e. evaluation of feelings and emotions of people while reporting any event. By doing so, they can negotiate their opinions, make the readers agreed with them, and convince people and the audience that their thoughts, attitudes, and opinions are better than others. Pekarova (2011) states that the appraisal framework helps in exploring the use of evaluative language by different writers to create authorial voices and literal personas. It aids in the identification of different rhetorical strategies by the writers in the construction of the text. Moreover, Arunsirot (2012) used appraisal theory to study newspaper commentary in Thai newspapers and identified that evaluative language used in editorials and headings of the news forces the readers to build their opinions about whatever they read. Besides, Siddique, Mehmood & Qasim (2019) have identified that some news editorialists use more attitudinal markers to communicate their opinions and stance as compared to others.

Bednarek (2008) propounds that if we apply the appraisal framework from the standpoint of corpus linguistics, we will get to know that the appraisal framework helps in recognizing the opinions of the reader and the writer by giving certain lexical choices suggested by Martin and White (2005). The appraisal model by Martin and White (2005) provides a comprehensive list of lexical resources in the English language to construct interpersonal meanings in texts, specifically in the analysis of sports news as news writing involves linguistic resources of complex nature. Present research confirms the previous works on the meaning of types of appraisal by Coffin & O'Halloran (2010) and on comparison of the frequency of appraisal types by Birot (2008). It focuses on the quantitative distribution and qualitative interpretation of positive and negative attitudes of sports news writers' evaluation of the sports events and sportsmen across native and non-native corpora. For that reason, the current study focuses to answer the following research questions:

1. What is the distribution of subcomponents of attitude i.e. affect, judgment, and appreciation in native and non-native sports news discourse?
2. What is the distribution of positive and negative polarities of subcomponents of attitude in native and non-native sports news discourse?
3. How does the quantitative and qualitative use of appraisal features differ in the language of native and non-native sports news discourse?

3. Research Methodology

In the following paragraphs, the research methodology adopted for the current study is explained stepwise.

3.1. Theoretical Framework

To identify and explain the use of appraisal features in native and non-native sports news discourse, the appraisal system by Martin and White (2005) is used as the theoretical and conceptual framework. An overview of the appraisal system is presented in the following figure:
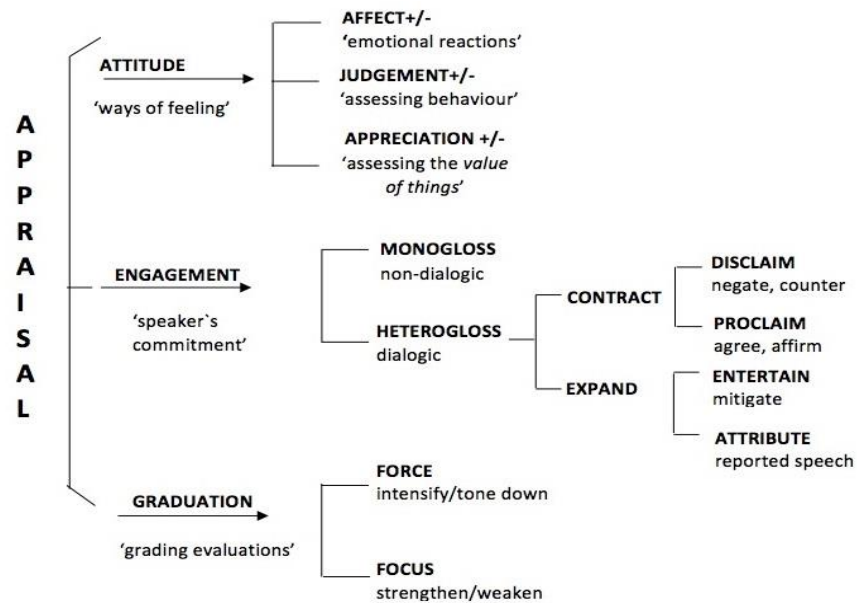

Figure 1: Appraisal system by Martin & White (2005, p. 46)

The Appraisal system is a multidimensional system. These dimensions are attitude, graduation, and engagement that are further divided into types and sub-types. The present study is concerned only with the system of attitude. Attitude deals with the choice of expressions for the evaluation of feelings of people, character of people, and value of places or things. Evaluation can be positive or negative stated directly or indirectly (implied). It refers to such linguistic resources that are used for the positive or negative assessment/evaluation of something/ someone (Foley, 2011, p. 123). According to Martin and White (2005), attitude discusses our emotions and feelings along with reactions. It evaluates the behaviors including emotional reactions, behavioral judgements, and other entities of a writer or a speaker. It has an interpersonal or social function of expressing emotions **(Affect),** it assumes evaluation of people that may base upon certain rules or morals **(Judgement),** and it expresses the preferences about the evaluation of ideas and other things in a text **(Appreciation).** Lexical realization of subtypes of attitude suggested by Martin and White (2005) provides a complete description of use of the attitudinal system in a text that expresses the emotions, judgements and stance of any writer and speaker in certain context. The detail is given in the following section:

3.1.1. Lexical Realization of Attitudinal Resources

Martin and White (2005) provide the lists of attitudinal markers used for the positive and negative evaluation. Positive and negative use express the usage of words in the text. It is presented in the following figures:
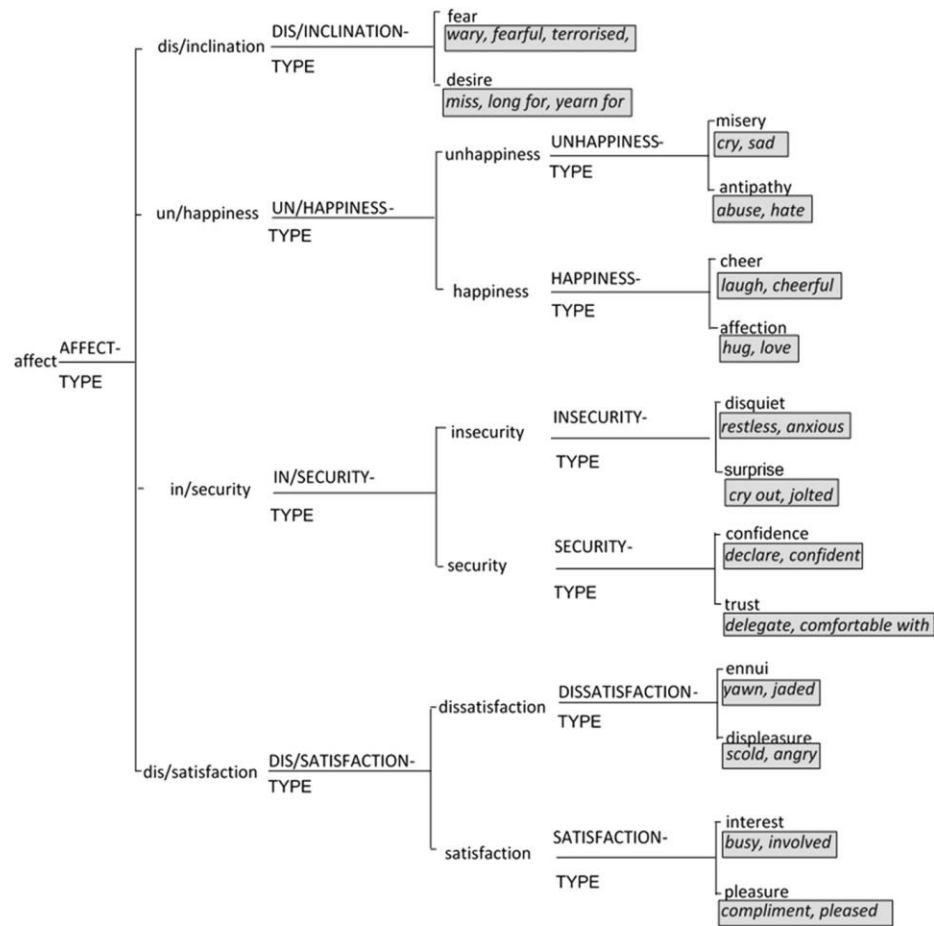

Figure 2: An overview of Affect resources (Martin & White, 2005, p. 50)
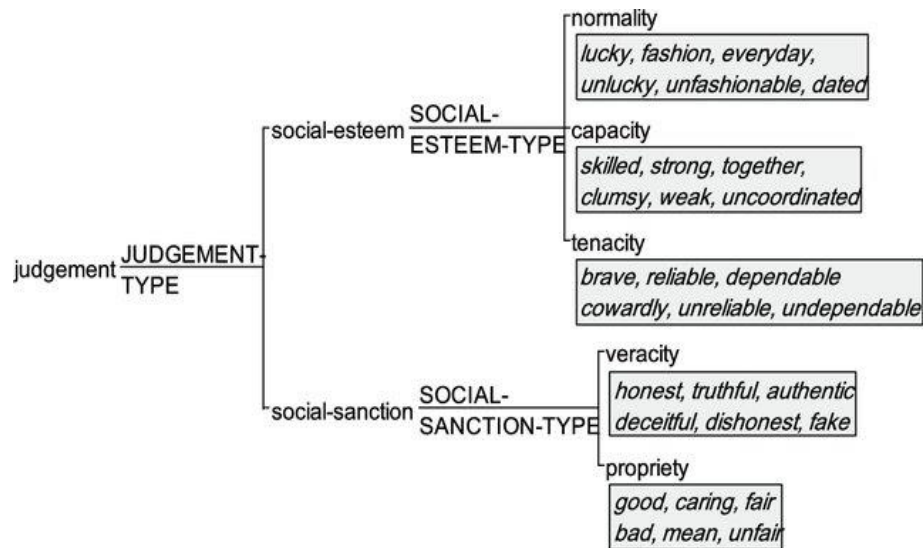
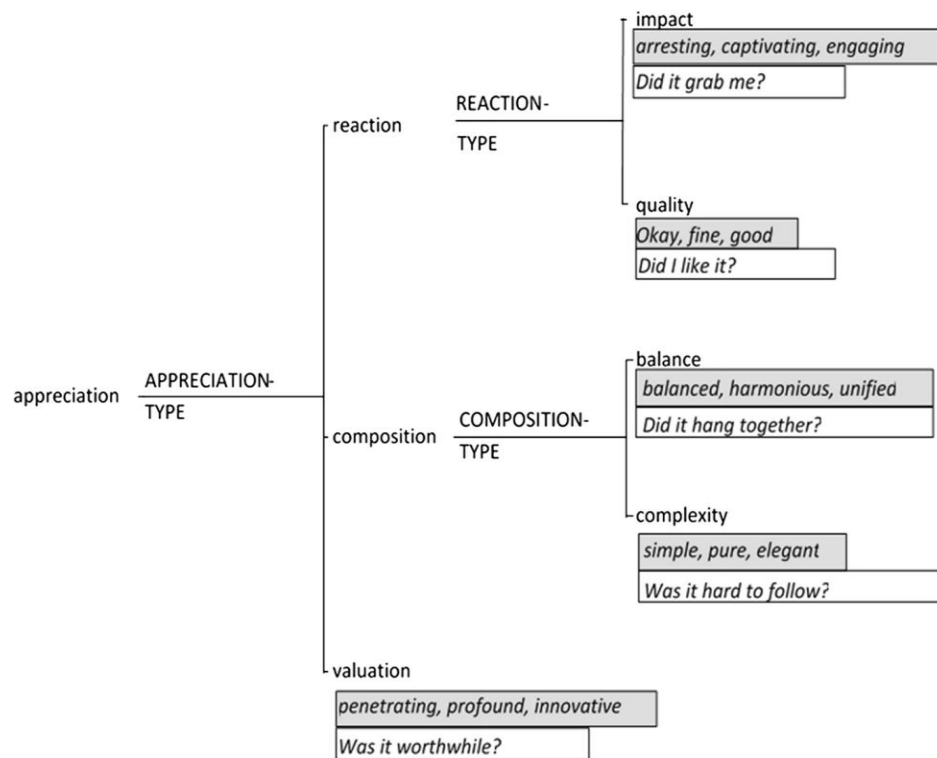Figure 3: An overview of Judgement resources (Martin & White 2005, 53)

Figure 4: An overview of the Appreciation resources (Martin & White 2005, p. 56)

3.2. Corpus compilation

For the present study, a corpus of 1-million words each of native and non-native sports discourse is used. The corpora are compiled by collecting the sports news of three months i.e.

from 1st January to 31st March 2019 from the sports sections of both native and non-native online English newspapers. Native data is taken from Britain English daily newspaper i.e. The Independent, and non-native data is taken from Pakistani English dailies i.e. The News, The Nation, and Dawn. English is spoken as L1 in Britain and as L2 in Pakistan.

3.3. Mixed Methods Technique

In the present study, the mixed methods (MM) technique is used to collect, identify, analyze and interpret the appraisal features in native and non-native sports news corpora. The mixed-methods approach is the "third methodological movement" (Venkish, Brown & Bala, 2013, p.22). It includes both quantitative and qualitative methods. These methods have strengths and weaknesses. By adopting a mixed-methods approach, the current study utilizes their strengths and avoid weaknesses for deeper insight (Creswell, 2012). By following the guidelines of the MM research, the study investigates the extent of use of the attitudinal markers across native and non-native sports news discourse. Quantitative analysis comprehends the frequencies of the occurrence of attitudinal markers and their subcomponents along with their positive and negative realizations in native and non-native sports news corpora. Qualitative analysis interprets the evaluative functions played by the language used in these newspapers. Sequential explanatory design (QUAN-→ QUAL) is used in the present study that addresses the successive use of both quantitative and qualitative methods while collecting and analyzing the data (Creswell & Clark, 2010). Qualitative interpretation is based on quantitative analysis of the categories of attitude.

3.4. Data Analysis Tool

The frequency of use of positive and negative attitudinal markers in native and non-native corpora has been quantified by using Antconc 3.2.1 developed by Anthony (2004). It has many features i.e., concordance plot, word list, and file view, etc. In the present study, Antconc3.2.1 identifies and displays the frequency of the node word (searched word) by using the Wordlist tool and provides the frequency of the words appearing in both native and non-native corpora.

4. Results

The frequencies of the node words (searched words) have been displayed in figures to indicate the distribution of attitudinal markers with their positive and negative polarities across native and non-native corpora. Quantitative analysis of the figures is given in consort with the qualitative interpretation.

4.1 Affect (Positive)

Affect deals with the 'emotional attitude' of the writer or speaker towards the 'content of their message'(Foley, 2011, p.123). In other words, affect refers to the human emotions expressed in discourse. Martin and White (2005) classify affect into positive or negative categories because human feelings can be good or bad, happy or unhappy, positive or negative.

The following figures display the distribution of the positive and negative use of words of subtypes of affect across native and non-native corpora.
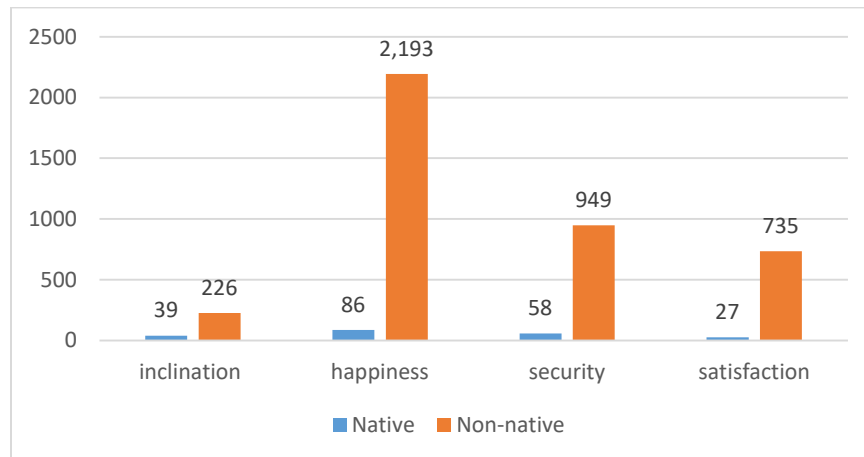

Figure 5: Distribution of frequency of the positive use of subtypes of affect in native and non-native corpora

Figure 5 displays the distribution of affect resources in native and non-native corpora when used positively by the sports news writers. It presents the dispersal of frequencies of the positive use of subtypes of effect in two corpora and indicates that the frequency of positive use of affect instances used by the non-native sports news writers is higher than native sports news writers in all sub-types of effect. Figure 5 further demonstrates that the frequency of lexical items expressing *happiness* in both native and non-native corpora is the highest. In the case of the native corpus, the frequency of the words expressing *satisfaction* is lowest in the native corpus whereas, the frequency of use of expressions conveying *inclination* and *security* falls between the highest and lowest frequencies of use of categories. However, in the case of the non-native corpus, the frequency of the words is lowest in the case of lexical items used to express *inclination* whereas, the positive use of the words belonging to the subtypes of *security* and *satisfaction* falls between the highest and lowest frequencies of categories. Overall, the frequency of positive use of subtypes of effect by non-native sports news writers is far more than natives news writers.

Examples

1. Supporters were **jubilant** after a tri-nation series win against Ireland and West Indies on the weekend and handed Bangladesh its first ever multi-team tournament trophy. (**Non-Native, Dawn, March, txt. 2019**).
2. However, the Swiss was **pleased** to be leaving the tournament feeling physically good and happy with his level of play. (**Native, The Independent, Jan, txt. 2019**).

Explanation

In example 1, by using the adjective *jubilant*, the non-native sports news writer expresses the happy feelings of the supporters in the playground about the victory of Bangladesh on winning the tri-nation series. It indicates the positive attitude and *happiness* of

the news writer and the cheerful reaction of the crowd towards their triumph. In example 2, the lexical item *pleased* is also used as an adjective that indicates the *satisfaction* of the native sports news writer about the performance of the player. It demonstrates the positive approach of the news writer towards the deep concern of the player about the game that helped him to execute himself well.
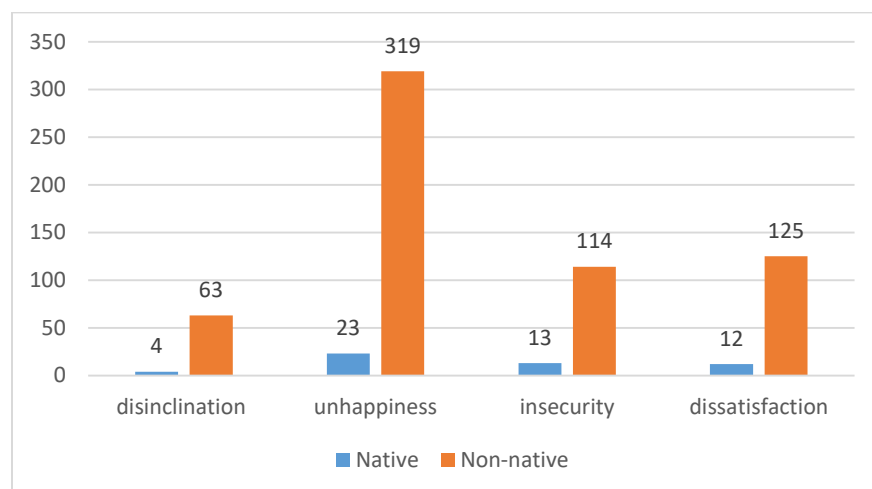
4.2 Affect (Negative)

Figure 6: Distribution of frequency of the negative use of subtypes of affect in native and non-native corpora

Figure 6 demonstrates the distribution of the frequency of negative use of words of subtypes of effect in native and non-native sports news corpora. It depicts that both native and non-native sports news writers have used the words expressing *unhappiness* more frequently than the words of other subtypes. While the least used negative words belong to the subtype of *disinclination* in both corpora. However, the frequency of the words used to express *insecurity* and *dissatisfaction* is between the frequencies of these two categories. Overall, the frequency of negative use of subtypes of effect by non-native sports news writers is far more than native news writers.

Examples

1. Their players looked **dejected** as the final whistle confirmed that they will be playing Championship football alongside Huddersfield next season, making 2 April the earliest date two clubs have been relegated from the Premier League. **(Non-Native, The Nation, Feb, txt. 2019).**
2. Never has a team so shell-shocked, utterly wide-eyed, and **fearful** as today's Manchester United has taken three points from Spurs. **(Native, The Independent, Feb, txt.2019).**

Explanation

In example 1, the lexical item *dejected* is used as an adjective to show the *unhappiness* of the players. By using this evaluative term the non-native sports news writer has tried to convey the discontentment of the players about the blowing of the whistle that has signaled the

closing of the game. The non-native news writer has indirectly identified the negative feelings of the players about the next game they will play. In example 2, the word *fearful* is also used as an adjective and signals towards the awful attitude of the native sports news writer that evaluates the negative and disinclined feelings of the news writer about the way Manchester United has taken the lead over the Spurs.

There is a clear disparity in the use of affect resources between the two corpora. It indicates that the positive use of the effect in native and non-native corpora outweigh the negative use. Both native and non-native sports news writers seem to be happier, secure, and satisfied who are inclined to be hopeful about the performances of their players. They appear to have a positive thought about their players. However, this finding is opposite to what Arunsirot (2012) has found. She identified that commentators used more resources of an effect negative than positive to show their *dissatisfaction, unhappiness,* and *insecurity*. In addition, in the present study, the use of affect markers exceeds the use of judgement and appreciation markers by both native and non-native news writers. This is also in contrast with the findings of Yang (2016) who investigated the use of appraisal resources by Native (American) and non-native (Chinese) writers while writing argumentative essays and concluded that both native and non-native writers used more appreciation markers than effect and judgement.

4.3 Judgement (Positive)

The judgement deals with how speakers or writers evaluate human behaviors (Foley, 2011 p. 125). In other words, judgement is concerned with the character and behavior of people. According to Martin and White (2005), the judgement of people's behavior and character can be positive and negative. The following figures and their interpretation construe the use of positive and negative judgement markers in native and non-native corpora.
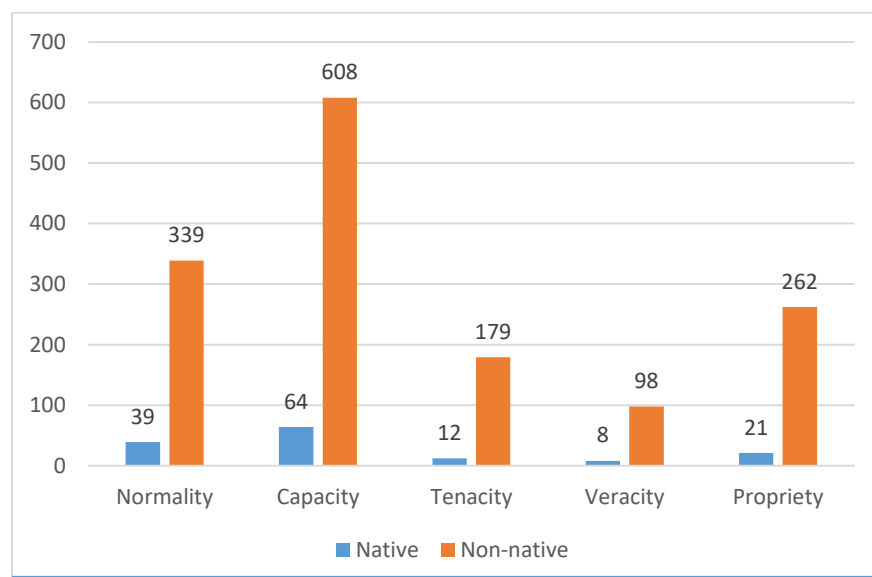

Figure 7: Distribution of frequency of the positive use of subtypes of judgement in native and non-native corpora

Figure 7 displays the distribution of the frequency of positive use of words of subtypes of judgement in native and non-native sports news corpora. It depicts that both native and non-native sports news writers have used the words expressing *capacity* more frequently than the words of other subtypes. While the least used positive words belong to the subtype of *veracity* in native and non-native corpora.Whereas, words expressing *normality, tenacity,* and *propriety* fall in between these two subtypes. Krizan (2016) in his study on Language of Appraisal in British Advertisement also found that frequency of positive use of capacity markers prevail over the frequency of words of other categories.

Interestingly, the frequency of positive use of judgement markers of all categories is in the same sequence in both corpora. However, the positive use of the words belonging to the subtypes of judgement is far more in the non-native corpus as compared to the native corpus. It indicates that non-native sports news writers are more judgmental as compared to native sports news writers. They praise the behavior and performances of their players more often. Overall, the frequency of positive use of the words of subtypes of *judgement* in the non-native corpus is far more than in the native corpus.

Examples

1. Australia have received a boost with injured fast bowling spearheads Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc resuming bowling this week and on track to be **fit** for their World Cup defence.**(Non-Native, The News, March, txt.2019)**.

2. Perhaps it's better to think of it as perhaps English football most **powerful** redistributive force in a game becoming ever more efficient at funnelling money ruthlessly towards the top. **(Native, The Independent, Feb,txt. 2019)**.

Explanation

In examples 1 and 2, the words *fit* and *powerful* are used as adjectives to indicate the *capacity* of the players to play good games. The native and non-native sports news writers have given their positive judgements about the ability and behavior of teams by using positive evaluative terms. As Painter (2003)elucidates that judgement is concerned with the assessment of the behavior of people.

4.4 Judgement (Negative)

Figure 8 demonstrates the distribution of the frequency of negative use of words of subtypes of judgement in native and non-native sports news corpora. It depicts that both native and non-native sports news writers have used the negative words expressing *propriety* more frequently than the words of other subtypes. While the least used negative words belong to the subtype of *veracity* in native and *tenacity* in non-native corpora.

However, the frequency of the words belonging to the other subtypes is in between the frequencies of the words of these categories. The negative use of the words belonging to the subtypes of judgement is far more in the non-native corpus as compared to a native corpus which indicates that non-native news writers criticize and condemn the players and their bad performances more than native news writers do. Overall, the frequency of negative use of the words of subtypes of judgement in the non-native corpus is far more than native corpus.
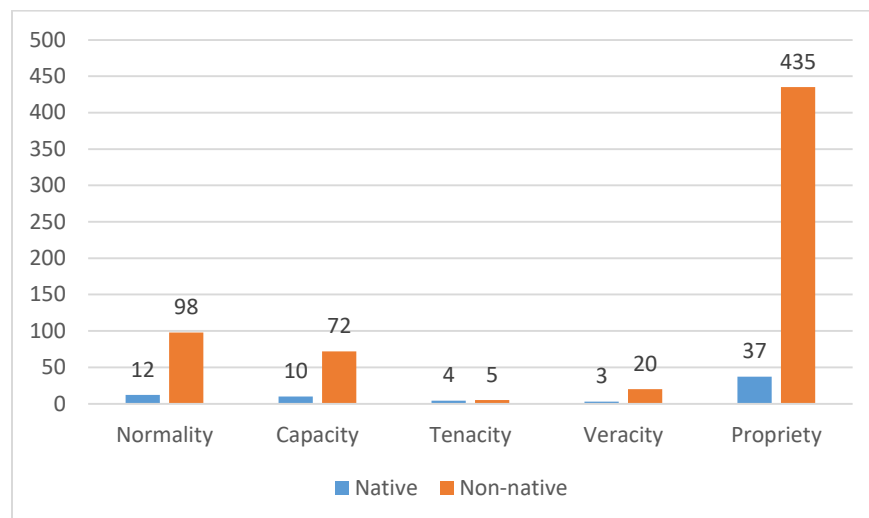
Figure 8: Distribution of the negative use of subtypes of judgement in native and non-native corpora

Nevertheless, in the current study, both native and non-native sports news writers have given their positive judgements about the sports events, players' performances, and their attitudes more often than negativejudgements. This finding is in contrast with Arunsirot (2012) who found that Thai commentators have used negative judgement markers more than positive while writing commentaries. On the other hand, the study about the use of attitude markers with reference to native and non-native settings has not been done so far.

Examples

1. The organizer of the last international junior event also feels **odd** about this situation. Amir Khan while talking to The News said the squash authorities are solely focusing on seniors. (**Non-Native, The News, March, txt. 2019**).
2. The potters did have two **weak** penalty appeals waved aside by referee David Webb but struggled for ideas and to find a way through shrews defence.(**Native, The Independent, Feb, txt.2019**).

Explanation

In example 1, the word *odd* is used as an adverb to express the *abnormality* of the situation. The non-native sports news writer, to express the negative judgement about the awkward behaviour of the authorities while selecting the players uses the evaluative item *odd*. In example 2, the native sports news writer uses the lexical item *weak* as an adjective about the feeble penalty appeals made by the potters during the game. He has shown his negative judgement about the attitude of the players towards the game.

4.5 Appreciation (Positive)

According to Martin and White (2005), appreciation deals with the linguistic resources used to construct positive and negative appreciation of people, places, and things by the writer or speaker. The use of positive and negative appreciation markers in native and non-native corpora is presented in the following figures together with their interpretation.
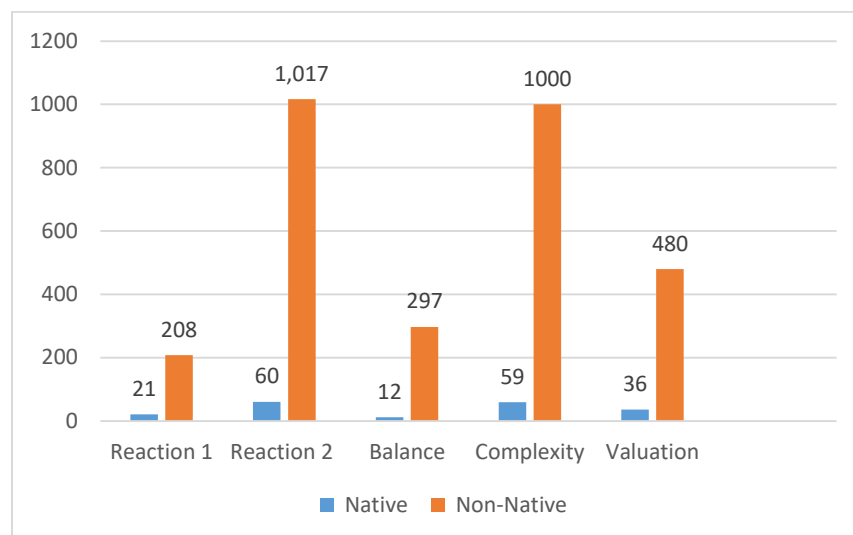

Figure 9: Distribution of frequency of the positive use of subtypes of appreciation in native and non-native corpora

Figure 9 indicates the difference in the distribution of frequencies of the positive use of words of subtypes of *appreciation* in native and non-native sports news corpora. It shows that the frequency of the positive use of expressions used to express the *quality (Reaction 2)* is highest in both corpora. Whereas, the frequency of the words used to express the positive use of words of subtype *balance* is lowest in the native corpus and words of subtype of *reaction 1* in the non-native corpus. The frequency of the positive use of words of the rest of the subtypes is in between the highest and lowest frequencies. Overall, the use of the words showing positive appreciation is greater in the non-native corpus as compared to the native corpus.

Examples

1. Awais was hitting the bowlers at will while Umar was in sublime form with the willow as both played **lovely** strokes to all corners of the park. (**Non-Native, Dawn, Feb, txt.2019**).
2. Premier League leaders Liverpool will look to keep their **remarkable** run of home form when they face Leicester City at Anfield on Wednesday. (**Native, The Independent, Jan, txt. 2019**).

Explanation

In example 1, the adjectival use of the word *lovely* indicates the positive appreciation of the *quality* of the game played by the batsman. The non-native sports news writer has carried out the positive evaluation of the beautiful knocks of the players in the playground and has shown his positive appreciation. According to Painter (2003, p.23), positive appreciation is

"pleasantness of sensation" as identified in example 1. In example 2, the native sports news writer has used the lexical item *remarkable* as an adjective to appreciate the excellent performance of the players. It indicates that the outstanding performance of the players has influenced the news writer positively.

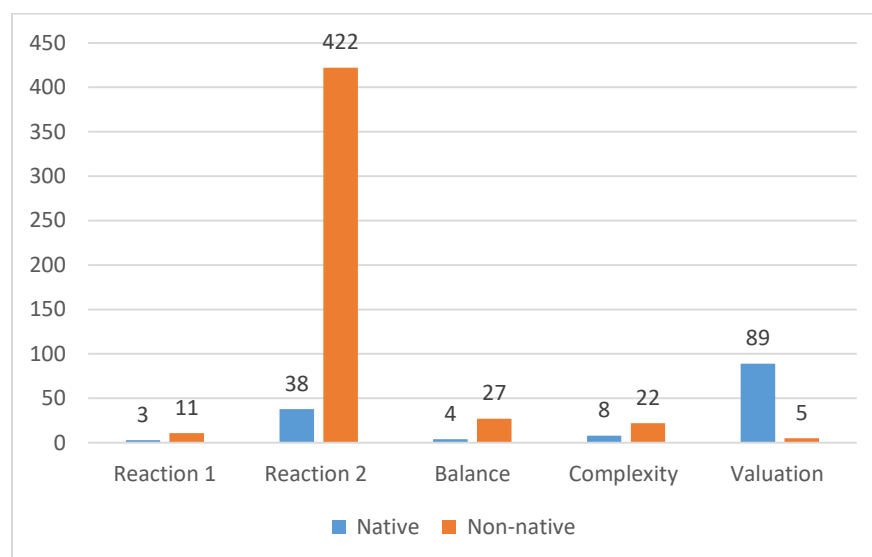## 4.6 **Appreciation (Negative)**

Figure 10: Distribution of frequency of the negative use of subtypes of appreciation in native and non-native corpora

Figure 10 indicates the difference in the distribution of frequencies of the negative use of words of subtypes of appreciation in native and non-native sports news corpora. It shows that the frequencies of the negative use of expressions used to express the *valuation* and *reaction 2* are highest in native and sports news corpus sequentially. Whereas, the frequency of the words used to express the negative use of words of subtype *reaction1* is lowest in native and frequency of words of subtype of *valuation* in the non-native corpus. The frequency of the negative use of words of the rest of the subtypes is in between the highest and lowest used words. Overall, the use of the words showing negative appreciation is more in the non-native corpus as compared to the native corpus.

Examples

1. Sri Lanka were also fretting over the fitness of KusalMendis, who had received a **nasty** blow while fielding in the tour game. **(Non-Native, Dawn, Feb, txt. 2019).**
2. With the title gone, England's Calcutta Cup could have been liable to become a **dull** affair as the two sides lost interest in the championship. **(Native, The Independent. March, txt. 2019).**

Explanation

In example 1, the non-native sports news writer has used the word *nasty* as an adjective to demonstrate the negative appreciation of the horrible kick received by the Sri Lankan

cricketer during the tour game. By using this evaluative item the news writer has evaluated the poor condition of the player and conveyed the negative appreciation of the unpleasant state of the player. In example 2, the lexical item *dull* is also used as an adjective to indicate the negative behaviour of the two teams who are playing championship because of the loss of opportunity of winning the title. The native sports news writer has used this evaluative item *dull* to indicate his deleterious approach of two teams towards the upcoming game and has evaluated it negatively.

5   Discussion and Conclusion

The current study has attempted to analyse the frequency of the use of evaluative language by native and non-native sports news writers. The study particularly focused on the positive and negative use of attitudinal markers in sports news discourse in native and non-native settings. For this purpose, a native and a non-native sports news corpus each consisting of 1 million words was compiled. Quantitative analysis elucidated the substantial variations in the linguistic choices of native and non-native news writers while analysing the sports events. It is in accordance with Siddique, Mehmood & Qasim (2019), who identified the variable use of attitudinal markers by news editorialists to convey their opinions and stance.

Overall, non-native sports news writers have used more attitudinal markers both positive and negative as compared to native sports news writers which are quite unexpected because previous academic (Yang,2016) and non-academic (Aungsuwan ,2016) studies showed mixed results about the use of appraisal features by the native and non-native writers.

The study has also discovered the differences in the use of attitudinal markers by the nativeand non-native sports news writers within their respectivecorpora as well. It is revealed that native sports news writers have used more appreciation markers than affect and judgement markers within native corpora which suggests that native sports news writers tend to appreciate their sports events and players more often than evaluating their emotional behaviours and giving judgements about their moral characters and performances. This finding is similar to the studies by Jalilifar&Hemmati (2013), Liu (2013), Liu & Thompson (2009), Xinghua& Thompson (2009), and Lee (2006). Though all these studies are academic in nature.

However, appreciation seems to be the foremost used device for evaluating academic and non-academic writings by native and non-native writers in above mentioned studies. It confirms, "the resultant rhetorical effect of the predominance of appreciation values is to make the text sound more appreciative than emotional and judgmental" (Hood, 2004, p. 127). Therefore, appreciation markers are important linguistic devices for native sports news writers to be more appreciative as compared to being judgmental and emotional. There also existvariances in the use of attitudinal markers by the non-native news writers within non-native corpora. The non-native sports news writers have used more affect markers as compared to judgement and appreciation markers. It indicates that they are more evaluative with regard to emotions and behaviors than being judgmental or appreciative. Although this finding is opposite to Pekarova (2011) who recognised that, newspapers have employed less affect markers as compared to judgement and appreciation markers.

The current study suggests that Pakistani non-native sports news writers accentuate their propositions and ideas more effectively than Britain native sports news writers. Additionally, they also seem to be more concerned with evaluating the behaviours and emotions of their players than judging and appreciating them. It may also be because of the cultural factors, for example, native news writers may aim to keep a good writer-reader association by eluding the excessive attitudinal evaluation (Xiaoyu's, 2017) of sports events and sportsmen. Another reason may be the Pakistani news writers by the excessive use of attitudinal markers may try to give an impression of being skilled like native writers in using the English language asAib& Zahra (2018) opine that Pakistani English book reviewers are equally capable of using attitudinal markers as English book reviewers.

Other possible reasons for the variations in the use of attitudinal markers along with their positive and negative polarities might be the ways in which native and non-native news writers are trained to write news. As Fowler (1991) orates, "There are always different ways of saying the same thing, and they are not random, accidental alternatives. Differences in expression carry ideological distinctions (and thus differences in representation)" (p, 4). Such differences also exhibit the bent of authors' mind, their ideological positions, emotive and directive values and evaluative stance. The findings supported the earlier research in the field e.g. Bednarek (2006) concludes, "Evaluations in newspapers can be used to express emotive values in order to attract a certain implied readership" (p. 203).

Also, the use of attitudinal markers control and regulate the positive and negative emotional scheme of the news readers.Non-native sports news writers and readers seem to be more emotional and serious about the sports competitions and performances of their players. They tend to be moreevaluative about the behaviours of their players, give more judgements and inclined to be more appreciative as compared to native sports news writers.

This study also offers some pedagogical implications for the teachers who teach English as foreign or second language. It implicates that cultural differences and backgrounds tend to affect the student when using appraisal features in their writings. However, as this finding is based on smaller corpus, it cannot be generalized to the broader level. Nonetheless, it helps the teachers to identify the existing differences among the students who can use appraisal features successfully already. Besides, evaluative language in sports news can serve as a reference to develop teaching materials especially for designing courses about the use of evaluative language in non-academic activities. Moreover, it can also be used for teaching the use of attitudinal markers in the positive and negative evaluation of people, places, and events.

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