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1 Introduction

Throughout Europe populist parties have been on the rise for the past years. An important member of the European Union is about to leave the union, and, what is more, the one person many people struggle to take seriously has been the president of the United States of America for more than two years: Donald John Trump. Confirming my personal impression is a study by the Pew Research Center which shows that trust in the US president has considerably sunk since Donald J. Trump has been in office (Wike et al. 2018). Whereas in some countries, people trusting the US president only make up 7 percent of the total population, in other countries this number is as high as 78 percent. In other words, Trump has polarized opinions about him as a president. Even though the investigation of the complex reasons behind this polarization lies far beyond the scope of this thesis, the enigma nevertheless served as a vital trigger for the present research.

Out of a strong interest for language, news and journalism, it was hypothesized that the rationale behind this range of trust in the US president could be somehow related to the language journalists use when reporting about Trump. More precisely, the assumption was that the evaluative choices made by the journalists when reporting political news about president Trump have a profound impact on the way readers react to those articles, e.g. when formulating a short response online. Delving into research about the way language is used in the context of news, however, it was found that research combining the linguistic analysis of both news articles and online comments is rather scarce. Prior to this thesis, only one research team (María Aloy Mayo and Maite Taboada) has investigated the combination of these text types. Focussing on the presence of evaluation in political discourse, their main aim was to “reveal how positive and negative Appraisal is presented in *Cosmopolitan*’s series of articles about the 2014 American midterm elections” as well as in the comments responding to these articles (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 40). Using Aloy Mayo and Taboada’s research as an important reference point, this study sets out to investigate whether the way journalists evaluate political decisions in news reports affects the way readers assess these actions online. To address this issue, Martin and White’s (2005) Appraisal framework, which

provides an elaborate structure for the in-depth analysis of evaluation in English, is applied.

The present thesis is structured as follows: Chapter two offers some theoretical insights, while chapter three contains information regarding the text types under analysis. Chapter four provides detailed information about the methodologies for approaching the different research questions. Finally, the results of the study are presented as well as discussed in chapter five, which, in turn, leads to the conclusions expressed in chapter six.

2 Theoretical issues pertinent to the present research

2.1 Systemic functional linguistics

Systemic functional linguistics (henceforth SFL) is an approach to linguistics which goes back to Michael Halliday, an English-born linguist, who built on some of the ideas of his former teacher, John Rupert Firth. Drawing on Firthian perspectives, systemic linguists have made four main theoretical claims about language. First, it is claimed that “language is functional” (Eggins 2004: 3). This means that instead of focusing on the description of the form of language, e.g. on how certain words are pronounced, systemic linguists are interested in what function these words fulfil. They would, for instance, be interested in finding out which messages are conveyed in practice when words are pronounced a certain way instead of another. Therefore, SFL is to be regarded as a functional approach to language. Second, systemic functional linguists claim that the function of language is “to make meanings” (ibid). Thus, in SFL, the function of language is not to, for example, sound pretty. Instead, the reason for making use of language is to produce or convey meaning. The frequently quoted definition of ‘text’ in SFL literature confirms the centrality of meaning in the SFL approach to language:

A text is not something that is like a sentence, only bigger; it is something that differs from a sentence in kind. A text is best regarded as a SEMANTIC unit: a unit not of form but of meaning. [original emphasis] (Halliday & Hasan 1976: 2)

This well-known quote from the creator of SFL and his wife, Ruqaiya Hasan, stresses the cardinal importance of meaning in SFL through defining the basic unit of analysis, the text, as a unit of meaning. For this reason, SFL can also be called a semantic approach to language as meaning (and not, for example, syntax) plays a central role.

Third, SFL researchers state that “these meanings are influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are exchanged” (Eggins 2004: 3). This claim, somewhat reminiscent of the Firthian idea that the function of language needs to be considered in context, stresses the point that meanings are not produced in a vacuum. Hence, in order to make sense of meanings, the social and cultural contexts in which these meanings are produced need to be taken into account given that the very same utterance could, simply put, have a range of different meanings depending on the respective contexts. Fourth, there seems to be a unanimous consensus in the field of SFL research that “the process of using language is a semiotic process, a process of making meanings by choosing” (ibid). The central addition in this fourth claim is the element of choice. According to systemic linguists, language is a “conventionalized coding system, organized as sets of choices” (ibid). By regarding language as a system that provides a number of choices for its users, the analysis of these choices becomes possible as well. This enables linguists to investigate the reasons for choosing one way of making meaning instead of another. It is not in spite of, but because there are a number of choices available that the choice made becomes meaningful.

2.1.1 Metafunctions

In SFL, language is structured to make three kinds of meanings simultaneously. These three kinds of meanings are also known as the language metafunctions: the ideational function, the textual function and the interpersonal function. While the ideational metafunction “provides a theory of human experience” (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 30), the textual metafunction “can be regarded as an enabling or facilitating function, since both the others [...] depend on being able to build up sentences of discourse, organizing the discursive flow, and creating cohesion and continuity as it moves along” (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 30-31). The interpersonal metafunction, on the other hand, “is both interactive and personal” (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 30). “It is

language as action” (ibid). Or, as Matthiessen, Kazuhiro & Marvin (2010: 126) put it, the interpersonal metafunction is “organized as a resource for enacting roles and relations between speaker and addressee as meaning”. Thus, the interpersonal metafunction is concerned with “negotiating social relations”: the relationship between speaker and hearer – or writer and reader – becomes visible in interactions while making use of language (Martin & White 2005: 7). It is also a “proposition, or proposal, whereby we inform or question, give an order or make an offer, and express our appraisal of and attitude towards whoever we are addressing and what we are talking about” (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 30). For the purposes of this thesis, the interpersonal metafunction is the most important one as the focus of this research lies on evaluative meaning – which belongs to the interpersonal metafunction – and is captured by the Appraisal framework (White 2015a: 1).

2.1.2 Appraisal framework

In linguistics, evaluative language has been described under a number of different terms. The ones used most often are: ‘Appraisal’ (Martin & White 2005, Thomson & White 2008), ‘evaluation’ (Bednarek 2010), and ‘stance’ (Liu & Stevenson 2013). Correspondingly, not one but a number of different approaches to evaluation in language have been developed. As a result, the Appraisal framework applied in this thesis is far from being the only linguistic approach to evaluative language. However, it arguably represents the most detailed and well-structured one. For this reason, it also is the most suitable for the purposes of this research as the aim of this thesis is to produce a highly detailed analysis of Appraisal in news reports and responding user comments (see section 4.5). Due to the datasets chosen for analysis, the present study is to be situated not only in the context of evaluative meaning, but also in the wider context of news discourse. To facilitate the comprehension of this connection, Figure 1 shows how – from a broader perspective – the Appraisal framework forms part of the systemic functional linguistic approach to studying news discourse.

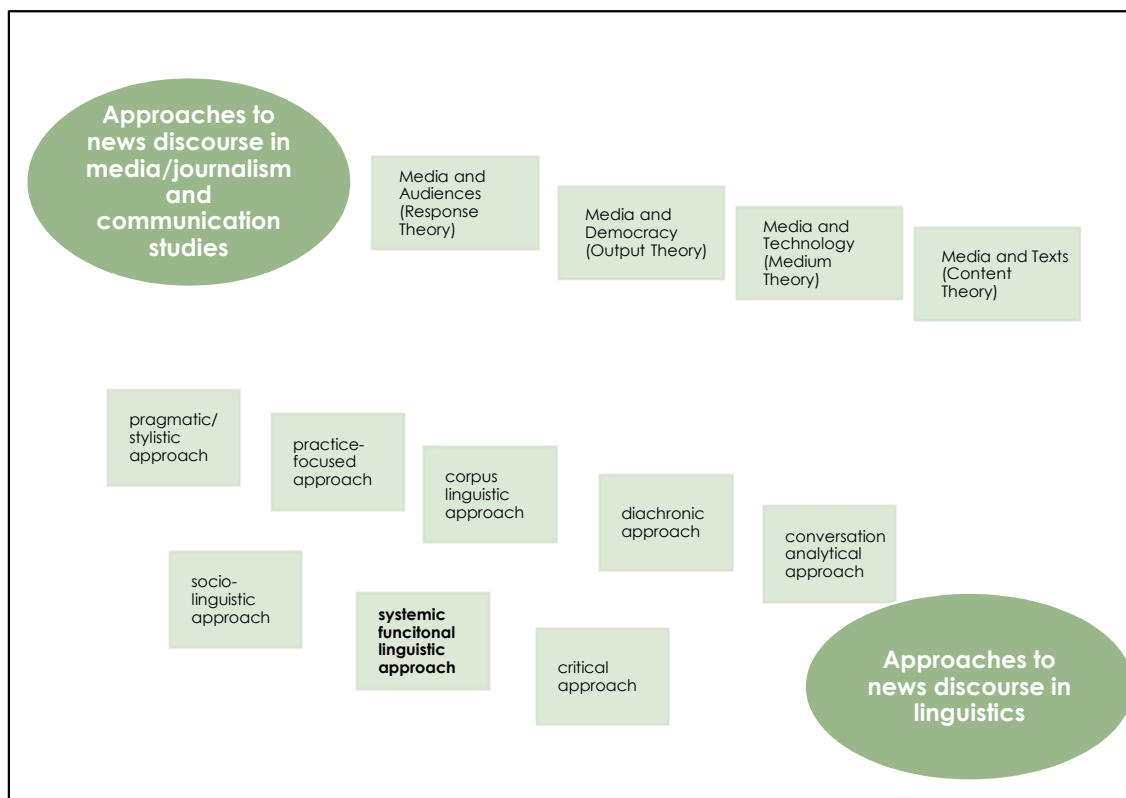


Figure 1: Situating SFL in news discourse (based on Bednarek & Caple 2012: 5-13)

As illustrated in Figure 1, the systemic functional linguistic approach – which the Appraisal framework pertains to – is only one out of many linguistic as well as non-linguistic approaches to the study of news discourse. According to one of the architects of the Appraisal framework, Peter White, it is “a particular approach to exploring, describing and explaining the way language is used to evaluate, to adopt stances, to construct textual personas and to manage interpersonal positionings and relationships” (White 2015b: 1¹). One of the key elements of this explanation is the first part where White indicates that – through a thorough exploration, description and explanation of the different ways of how people are making use of language to appraise – this extensive framework is designed to make the language of evaluation more comprehensible, more graspable.

¹ In-text citations ‘White 2015b-f’ refer to documents downloaded from a webpage created by Peter White. Each of these documents can be downloaded as a framed version, a printout version or a word processor version. The word processor versions were the ones chosen in all instances as these versions are the only ones featuring page numbers.

Examining Figure 2 underneath, it can be seen that Appraisal is one of the three discourse semantic resources which make up the interpersonal meaning within SFL (see section 2.1.1). Please note that, in this thesis, when referring to distinctive elements of the Appraisal framework, the first letter of these elements will be capitalized for reasons of clarity: e.g. ‘Judgement’ instead of ‘judgement’.

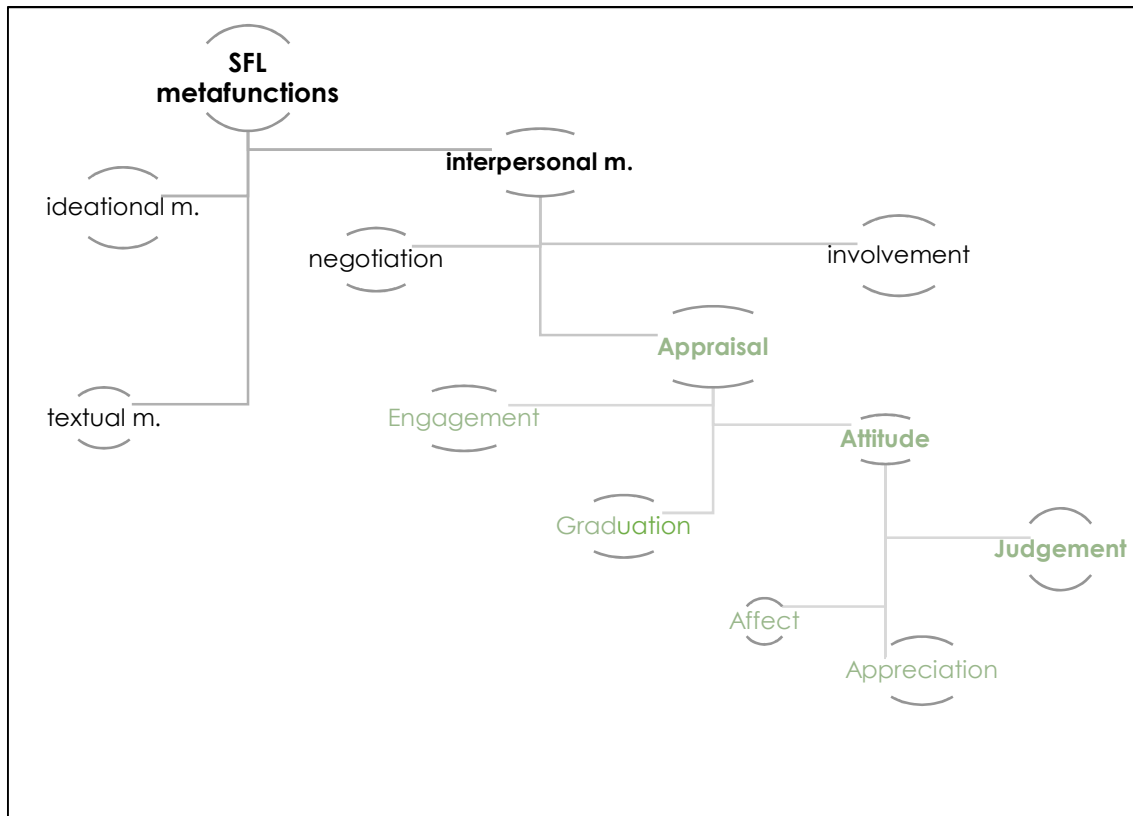


Figure 2: Situating Appraisal in SFL (based on Martin & White 2005: 1-40)

As Figure 2 clearly shows, the Appraisal framework forms part of a much wider ‘SFL framework’. Appraisal – the usage of language to evaluate – fulfils two functions: ‘attitudinal positioning’ as well as ‘dialogistic positioning’ (White 2015b: 2). The first function, attitudinal positioning, refers to instances where language is used to express “either a positive or negative assessment of people, places, things, happenings and state of affairs” (ibid). As a result, the speaker or writer attitudinally positions him- or herself; he or she reveals his or her attitude towards the person, place, thing, happening or state of affair that is being assessed. To understand the significance of the second function, dialogistic positioning, it is important to first acknowledge that even though a text might be written in a monologic way, to some degree it will still contain dialogistic elements which respond to an imagined readers’ reaction (White 2015b: 4). For example, if the

writer of a text includes an extremely detailed description of something that he has observed because he assumes that many of his readers will think that this is something he has made up, then the amount of details in his description can be regarded as one of the dialogistic elements featured in his text. Through the addition of details, the writer reveals what kind of audience he is anticipating; this anticipation from his side influences the writing process of the text which can thus be regarded as an instance of dialogistic positioning. This dialogistic positioning, as well as the previously explained attitudinal positioning, are the two functions of evaluative language, i.e. Appraisal.

Nevertheless, it is important to keep in mind that although the Appraisal framework has clear definitions of its functions, the Appraisal framework is, to a certain degree, always in a state of development as more and more researchers are applying parts of the framework to a wider range of genres and languages. In the beginning, the framework did not include as many dimensions as it does now. A reminder of this fact can be found in White's doctoral thesis where he carefully explains that, at the time of writing, there was an understanding among researchers in Australia that there was a need to "map more precisely the attitudinal values by which texts apply social norms to evaluate human behaviour and the constitution and status of objects and entities" (White 1998: 7). Resulting from this widespread agreement on the need for further expansion of the framework, two new dimensions of interpersonal meaning became part of the Appraisal framework: Judgement and Appreciation. As can be seen in Figure 2, these two dimensions of evaluation are now grouped together in the sub-system of Attitude along with Affect, asserting the framework's continuous state of development.

The three subtypes of Attitude

As already mentioned, when speaking about Attitude, the focus is on utterances which indicate that people, places, things, happenings or states of affairs are being assessed in either a positive or a negative way (White 2015d: 1). Through the realisation of such an utterance, the speaker or writer attitudinally positions him- or herself. Table 1 provides a quick overview of the three subtypes of Attitude present in this study. Each of the example sentences featured in Table 1 is explained in more detail in the paragraphs which follow.

Table 1: The three subtypes of Attitude

Subtype of Attitude	Example sentence
Affect	I hate basketball.
Judgement	My neighbours seem to be incapable of separating waste.
Appreciation	What a beautiful sunset!

The first subtype of Attitude in Table 1 is Affect, which is strongly connected to emotions. The speaker or writer evaluates a person, thing, happening or state of affair through showing his or her emotions (White 2015d: 5). An example sentence would be 'I hate basketball'. In this utterance, basketball is being evaluated on the basis of the emotion of hatred. As hatred is a strongly negative emotion, the evaluation of the sport basketball is to be interpreted as negative as well.

The second and most relevant subtype for this thesis is Judgement, which is closely related to ethics. On the basis of ethics, people tend to judge the behaviour of others, and this is precisely what this subtype is concerned with (White 2015d: 5). An example sentence would be 'my neighbours seem to be incapable of separating waste'. In this utterance, the writer condemns the neighbours' behaviour. The neighbours are not capable of separating waste, which, in western culture, is something many would expect an educated person to do. Of course, there are an unlimited number of reasons for judging someone's behaviour as good or bad. Within the framework, however, the idea is to group different types of judgements together in five distinct categories: Normality, Capacity, Tenacity, Veracity and Propriety. The example sentence 'my neighbours seem to be incapable of separating waste', would be part of the category 'Capacity negative' because the capacity of the neighbours to separate waste is criticized; not praised. If the sentence were 'my neighbours never forget to separate their waste', the sentence could be categorized as 'Capacity positive' as the neighbours seem to be judged as very capable of separating their waste. Sentences like these, i.e. sentences indicating an evaluation of human behaviour, are the most frequently found subtype of Attitude in the data under analysis of this thesis. Accordingly, they will play a vital role in subsequent sections.

The third subtype of Attitude has been termed Appreciation and is closely linked to aesthetics. This subtype is concerned with “assessments of the form, appearance, composition, impact, significance etc of human artefacts, natural objects as well as human individuals (but not of human behaviour) by reference to aesthetics and other systems of social value” (White 2015d: 5). ‘What a beautiful sunset’ would be an example utterance for this subtype. Here, the sunset is being judged on the basis of aesthetics, as its appearance is being praised as beautiful. The aim of this section was to provide some basic information on what the Appraisal framework is concerned with. For a more detailed description, please see Martin and White (2005).

2.2 Journalism & news

2.2.1 A short history of news media: technology as a trigger for change

The way in which U.S. citizens (and the rest of the world) get in contact with the news – i.e. with previously unknown information about recent events (Merriam-Webster 2019) – has changed profoundly in the course of the past two centuries. What seems striking is that each of these ‘media revolutions’, as Gillmor (2004) prefers to call them, has been accompanied by technological change (Gillmor 2004: 2). In other words, until today, technological advances have been the essential precondition for media revolutions. The close relation between technology and the news media became visible for the first time when – as a direct result of the completion of the U.S. postal system – newspapers started to become the first true mass medium during the first half of the 19th century (Bimber 2002, quoted in Gillmor 2004: 2). Thanks to an extensive and reliable postal system, newspapers could be distributed to people’s homes at minimum cost. Hence, the technological advance in distribution practices set the basis for the enormous expansion of newspapers throughout the 19th century: a true revolution (Gillmor 2004: 2).

The next media revolution unfolded when the telegraph was invented in 1844. Intriguingly, one of the first messages transmitted by Samuel B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, was “have you any news?” (Ruley, cited in Bowman & Willis 2003: 15). So, perhaps Morse already had some improvements for the news business in mind when

working on his brilliant invention. In practice, this momentous advance in technology enabled local newspapers to receive, as well as report, news of events that had taken place outside their local reach due to a faster collection and transmission of newsworthy incidents (Gillmor 2004: 2). This might seem a bit ironical to some as “[t]oday we associate electronic media with the decline of mass print forms [...]. But initially it was the [electrical] telegraph that allowed the daily newspaper to establish itself as an effective and reliable source of world, national, and regional information,” as it was this new type of communication technology that made the fast transmission of messages possible (Marc & Thompson 2005: 5).

However, there was one key obstacle the telegraph failed to overcome and which, eventually, led to the development of another news medium: the radiotelegraph (Marc & Thompson 2005: 6). In the days of the original telegraph, it was not possible to send messages across the sea until Marconi, an Italian electrical engineer, invented a ‘wireless telegraph’. This new telegraph did not move “information in a straight line along a metal circuit”, like the original telegraph did, but “transmitted information through airwaves in all directions at once, or radially”, which is the very reason why it is also known as the radiotelegraph (ibid). Although Marconi’s demonstration of his new communication technology had been a success in 1896, it was actually the United Fruit Company about a decade later which “paved the way for radio as a mass-communication system” through heavy investment in the construction of radio transmitters in order to reduce the number of rotten bananas (Marc & Thompson 2005: 6-10). In other words, a second mass medium had been introduced to the market.

Another two decades later, towards the end of the 1920s, three national radio networks had been successfully established in the United States (Cox 2009: 4). As one can see, the influence of the advance in communication technology on the development of the new news medium radio is certainly there, yet it appears somewhat less immediate than in the other examples mentioned before. The profound impact on America’s culture, however, cannot be denied as a 1927 survey “found that more Americans would rather give up indoor plumbing than their radios” (Marc & Thompson 2005: 39). Thus, the radio had become an integral part of everyday life in the U.S. The question that remains is in what way the invention of the radio has affected the news. From the very beginning,

radio channels had featured talk programs. Through these programs, it was suddenly possible for regular people to be on the national radio (Gillmor 2004: 10). This was something completely unthought of in the time of print news only, as readers were solely thought of as consumers of news, not as informants or local experts. As a result, it could be argued that the talk programmes were one of the first examples of citizen journalism as regular citizens started to become part of the news program. Hence, the effects of the advances in technology in the 1920s are still present today (cf. section 2.2.2.1).

2.2.2 Recent developments in the news media: online news

In this section, the focus shall lie on more recent developments in communication technology and the effect they might have on the type of news consumed by the majority of young people today: online news (Gottfried & Shearer 2016: 22). The term 'online news' is a rather broad one. It simply refers to all types of news which are distributed via the seemingly ever-present media revolution of the 20th century: the internet. So, everything found online that could be categorized as one form of news or another, can be referred to as 'online news'. For the purposes of this thesis, the potential differences between newspaper articles published online and newspaper articles published in the more traditional print versions of newspapers seem most relevant and shall, thus, be used as an example.

As Lewis (2003: 96) adequately explains "[e]arly online news design has built on conventions developed in print and broadcast, using continuity in form and content to provide a bridge to new genres". As a result, especially at its early stages, online newspaper articles looked almost precisely like regular newspaper articles in printed newspapers. With time, however, certain features started to change, which was mainly due to the fact that the internet provides both the reader and the writer with a much wider range of possibilities. First of all, the online newspaper has no ever-pressing deadlines to work to. Yet, readers naturally want updates as fast as possible; therefore, a substantial amount of time pressure still remains. As it is now technologically possible to upload stories at literally any time of day, online journalists have started to use that possibility to their advantage. Whereas print newspapers are bound to either a twenty-

four-hour or a weekly distribution cycle, which not only sets the work pace, but also influences the kind of readership (ibid). Online news agencies have the liberty to publish news right when something news-worthy occurs, or, to actually post an updated version of the previously published article. Unsurprisingly, this online dimension has had a profound impact on both the form and the content of online news articles.

Regarding the conventional print news, the inverted pyramid structure has been the predominant news report format in English news reporting since the 19th century (Kleemans, Schaap & Suijkerbuijk 2017: 2109). When applying the inverted pyramid structure to a news report, the most newsworthy information is followed by other important details and contextual information. This structure was particularly important in the days of the telegraph in case transmissions got cut short: the information regarded as most relevant or important by the sender of the telegraph would still get through to the receiver thanks to the application of the inverted pyramid structure (Bowman & Willis 2003: 15). Recent studies, such as the ones summarized by Thomson, White & Kitley (2008: 7), suggest that it is also commonly applied in news reports written in languages other than English such as Japanese, French, Indonesian and Chinese. Furthermore, it has been argued that the perceived objectivity of English-language journalism is in fact a product of the inverted pyramid structure in combination with the impersonal style of writing, which developed around the same time as the inverted pyramid structure in the late 19th century (Mindich 1998; Stensaas 1986, cited in Makki & White 2018: 55).

Additionally, the application of the inverted pyramid structure requires that – in contrast to a narrative story format – the events are not chronologically structured throughout the text. Instead, they are ordered by decreasing importance of information. Given that every print newspaper has a certain word limit, it is not unusual for conventional news reports to ‘save space’ through the reduction of the last section: the background information. This lack of contextual information in news reports has been criticized quite frequently in the past years (Stein 2008). Yet, most of the time the structure of reports – i.e. the organization of textual elements by decreasing importance of information – is not specifically referred to as the root of the problem. Considering the effects the application of the inverted pyramid structure has on news reports, however, it is

suggested that the common news report format could in fact be the underlying cause of the problem.

In online news stories, on the other hand, “content [tends to be] broken down into more finely grained textual and visual elements, each of which must be self-supporting” (Lewis 2003: 69). The fundamental difference here is that suddenly there are parts of a text which Lewis identifies as being self-supporting. This implicates that a reader could read only one element and comprehend it without needing the supplementing elements for it to make sense. Unsurprisingly, these changes in the structure of online news articles compared to print news articles can be related to advances in communication technology. Thanks to both the accessibility and popularity of photographic material as well as video footage, not one interwoven element of text, but a number of self-supporting textual and visual elements constitute online news articles. Additionally – as mentioned before – online journalists have the option of adding new information to their previously published news stories. In practice, this is facilitated when an article comprises several independent textual and visual elements instead of one all-encompassing textual element.

Regarding the contextualization of information, it could be argued that there is somehow less need for it as “news elements are embedded in and linked to a wider content” (Lewis 2003: 69). This linking can easily be achieved through the provision of hyperlinks to other news stories or weblogs about the same event. Notably, these links can also lead to sources of the initial news article. By providing links to other sources, the original news story becomes part of a much bigger picture which, in turn, can add credibility to the story, especially if the text is published on a somewhat less well-known website (Bowman & Willis 2003: 43). Instead of pretending that one article about an event provides the reader with all the information there is, the hyperlinks suggest that there is more to the story than the angle the journalist had decided to take. As a result, readers get the unique chance to read beyond the words of the writer; they get to follow the sources and decide for themselves if these are viable. After scanning the supplementary texts at their disposal, readers can examine the conclusions the writer has drawn from reading these sources and compare them to their own. However, it is yet another question that goes beyond the scope of this thesis, whether readers really

make use of these options in practice. What can be said though, is that the call for contextualization seems to have lost some of its urgency. Simultaneously, readers who used to be perceived as mere consumers of the news product, have become more involved in the process of producing news than ever before.

2.2.2.1 Citizen journalism and the Web 2.0

The increased involvement of readers in the process of news creation is closely related to a rather recent development in the news media which has been referred to as ‘citizen journalism (CJ)’, ‘participatory journalism’ or ‘user-generated content (UGC)’ (Fröhlich, Quiring & Engesser 2012; Lindner 2017; Silva & Panahi 2017). Although all of these terms seem to refer to rather similar developments, it could be argued that the right term simply depends on the type of non-professional participation under analysis. Whereas Goode (2009: 1288-1291) refers to CJ as “a range of web-based practices whereby ‘ordinary’ users engage in journalistic practices” and argues for an inclusion of activities such as commenting or reposting which are often considered “less significant than ‘real’ journalism”, Wall (2015: 798) defines CJ as “news content (text, video, audio, interactives, etc.) produced by non-professionals”. Thus, both definitions of CJ are related to either the production or the distribution of news. ‘Participatory journalism’, similar to CJ, appears to be inseparable from the general context of news. Like CJ, this term tends to be used quite frequently in the context of disasters such as the tsunami near Indonesia in 2004, or attacks such as the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City (cf. Fröhlich, Quiring & Engesser 2012; Allan 2015). The third term, UGC, appears to be a very fitting term for research involving websites such as Facebook or YouTube, as these websites rely on user-generated content which “ultimately determine[s] the site’s value” but which is not necessarily related to the production or distribution of news (Silva & Panahi 2017: 103). Moreover, the term is also used quite frequently by both journalists and researchers when referring to those parts or sections on news websites which feature user-generated content, like for example CNN’s iReport (Manosevitch & Tenenboim 2017).

Coming back to the fact that technology has been identified as a major trigger for change in the past, one cannot help but notice the causal connection between the increased

accessibility of 'Web 2.0' activities such as photo sharing or blogging, and the continuing participatory zeitgeist. Since the Web 2.0 conference in San Francisco in 2004, 'Web 2.0', has been the increasingly popular term for what the American technology journalist Gillmor (2004) calls the 'Read-Write Web'. Although Web 2.0 does not refer to a particular update or a specific technological invention, it is known for having "introduced a new dimension to the internet" (Blank & Reisdorf 2012: 537). In Gillmor's terms, this new dimension would be the addition of the 'Write' part in the 'Read-Write Web'. Whereas before, during the Web 1.0-era, it was already possible to read documents, it became not only possible but also convenient for internet users to write – and therefore participate – on the internet themselves. As a result, the Web 2.0 is also referred to as 'Participatory Web' or 'Social Web', as it is this new dimension of participation which facilitated the creation of "new forms of user engagement, communication and information gathering" such as photo sharing, blogging or commenting online (Blank & Reisdorf 2012: 539).

2.2.2.2 From the 'mass-media era' to the 'networked era'

The shift from Web 1.0 to Web 2.0 goes hand in hand with the shift from the 'mass-media era' to the 'networked era' (Russell 2013). The defining characteristic of the former is the predominance of mass media such as the printing press, radio and television. The widespread availability of these media, in turn, was what led to the familiarization with 'one-to-many communication' (Russell 2013: 37). As the label already suggests, 'one-to-many communication' emphasizes the fact that the process of communication usually involves one journalist communicating to many news consumers. Please note that people who read or listen to the news are referred to as 'news consumers' on purpose. Consumers – people who buy goods or use services – are, by definition, excluded from the process of creation as their sole responsibility is to make use of the service of receiving news.² Today, however, the role of the news consumer

² In fact, the way consumers of news were expected to absorb new information during the 'mass-media era' is somewhat reminiscent of an old-fashioned belief about teaching and writing often referred to as Nuremberg Funnel or 'Nürnberger Trichter'. The idea behind the Nuremberg Funnel was that students can easily comprehend everything the teacher tells them: information gets funnelled in (Vogt 1966). The major difference to how teaching is viewed today is that, back then, the student was expected to be entirely passive as it was believed that learning does not involve an active thought process. Today,

has changed. With the advent of Web 2.0 technologies, 'many-to-many media' have established themselves, and enable so-called news consumers to become actively involved in the creation of news. It is now possible to quickly respond to whatever information a journalist has decided to share with the world. What is more, it is now technically feasible to add information to an already existing article, or to simply produce an entirely new piece of journalistic work oneself and distribute it online. In retrospect, it becomes clear that previously mentioned advances in technology (i.e. the accessibility of Web 2.0 activities such as blogging) have led to the commencement, as well as the continuation, of what has been termed the 'networked era'.

2.2.2.3 News on Facebook

These days getting in contact with the news via social media has become the norm rather than the exception. This common perception has recently been confirmed by the Pew Research Center (Matsa & Shearer 2018; Gottfried & Shearer 2016) by showing the continuous growth in the usage of Facebook for news in the United States: 68 percent of platform users were using Facebook for news in 2018, compared to 62 percent in 2016 and 47 percent in 2014. These studies also indicate that the announced changes on the online platform are not yet reflected in the results. At the beginning of 2018, Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg announced immediate changes in prioritization: the plan was to show users fewer "news articles shared by media companies" and instead "highlight posts that friends have interacted with" (Isaac 2018). Intriguingly, Zuckerberg's intention of reducing news content on Facebook seems to entirely disregard the fact that platform users might also share news articles posted by media companies or comment on posts related to news. To sum up, news articles on Facebook are more present than ever and will probably continue to be, regardless of Facebook's new guidelines concerning media company posts.

however, things have changed dramatically. Not only is successful teaching supposed to involve active mental processes, the role of the news consumer has changed as well.

2.2.2.4 News values on social media

Throughout the past decades, a number of varying definitions of ‘news values’ have emerged. In an attempt to unify some of these explanations, Bednarek and Caple (2012: 40) note that what “different definitions have in common, [...] is that news values are said to determine what makes something newsworthy – worthy of being news”. Figure 3 illustrates a list of the most influential news values as suggested by Bednarek and Caple. The values are ordered according to importance.

Negativity	Negative aspects of an event
Timeliness	The relevance of the event in terms of time
Proximity	The geographical and/or cultural nearness of the event
Prominence	The high status of the individuals (e.g. celebrities, politicians), organizations or nations involved in the event, including quoted sources
Consonance	The extent to which aspects of a story fit in with stereotypes that people may hold about the events and people portrayed in it
Impact	The effects or consequences of an event
Novelty	The unexpected aspects of an event
Superlativeness	The maximized or intensified aspects of an event
Personalization	The personal or human interest aspects of an event

Figure 3: News values according to importance (Bednarek & Caple 2012: 41)

As shown in Figure 3, the news value negativity is said to be the most essential indicator of news worthiness, followed by the relevance of an event in terms of time and geographical or cultural nearness, prominence, consonance, impact, novelty, superlativeness and personalization. However, when it comes to news on social media, these original print news values are supplemented by new values such as virality and shareability (Welbers & Opgenhaffen 2018: 3-5). As Klinger (2013: 722) points out, “social network sites are built on the logic of virality”. ‘Virality’ – “the process which gives any information item the maximum exposure [...]” – or ‘to go viral’, are terms which have become so present in 21st century life that they have become part of our everyday language (Nahon et al. 2011, quoted in Klinger 2013). In an online environment, journalists are expected to consider the news values virality and

shareability – additional to all nine news values illustrated in Figure 3 – when searching for stories worthy of becoming news.

Interestingly, studies analysing the factors influencing the news values virality and shareability have produced somewhat contradictory findings. Berger and Milkman (2012: 192) affirm that when it comes to sharing content online, “positive content is more viral than negative content”. These findings could be interpreted as a contradiction to the suggested fundamentality of negative content for the newsworthiness of events, given that newsworthiness would also be expected to result in considerable popularity – hence increased shareability – of the news story. In contrast, there are other, more news focussed studies which suggest the opposite. Welbers and Opgenhaffen (2018: 4) for instance state that “negative sentiment is detrimental to the virality of non-news tweets, but it does enhance the virality of news tweets”. In other words, Welbers and Opgenhaffen (2018) make a clear distinction between non-news tweets and news tweets and find that when it comes to news tweets, negativity really does lead to an increase in virality. Therefore, it can be concluded that Welbers and Opgenhaffen’s study partly contradicts Berger and Milkman’s findings about the factors influencing virality.

3 Texts under analysis: hard news reports and user comments

The following sections provide a concise overview of the two different text types comprising the data under analysis in this thesis: hard news reports and user comments. Section 3.1 attempts to give an insight into the history of the term ‘hard news report’ before moving on to elaborate on some of the research projects focusing on the aforementioned text type. Section 3.2, on the other hand, goes into a bit more detail by expanding on the latest CMC research on civility, deliberation and anonymity in online comments, as these are related areas of research considered highly relevant for the purposes of this thesis.

3.1 Hard news reports

Hard news are the opposite of soft news. Whereas hard news are associated with fast-paced news stories about the latest events, often dealing with topics like politics, war, economics and crime, soft news are known for offering extensive background knowledge about a supposed ‘hard-news-event’ as well as focusing on entirely different subject matters such as entertainment and lifestyle stories (Deahl: 2018). Thus, at a first glance, the subject matter seems to be the most important determinant when it comes to deciding whether a story is to be regarded as hard news or soft news. However, the essential difference between hard and soft news is not the topic of the article: it is its style – or, as Martin and White (2005) would call it – its ‘journalistic voice’. According to Martin and White (2005: 164) “there are three evaluative keys operating within news and current affairs journalism in the English language”: ‘reporter voice’, ‘correspondent voice’ and ‘commentator voice’. Most likely, all of these journalistic voices are to be encountered in broadsheets such as The New York Times, The Sydney Morning Herald or The Guardian.

Figure 4 below provides an idea of what is meant by the afore-mentioned evaluative keys which, importantly, establish a connection to the analytical framework of this thesis: Appraisal.

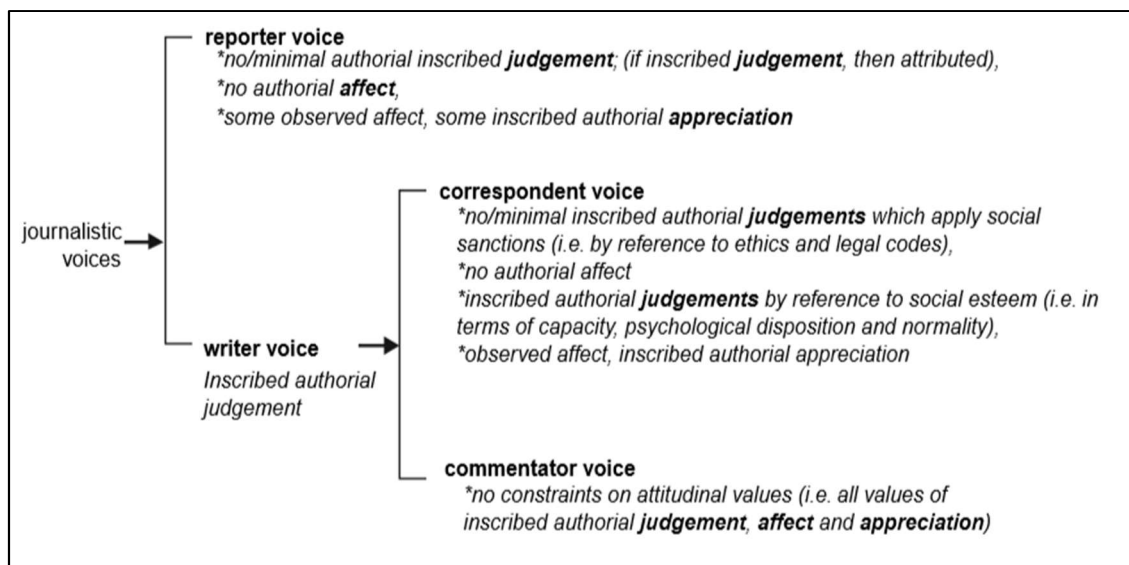


Figure 4: Journalistic voices (Thomson, White & Kitley 2008: 222)

As Martin and White (2005: 173) put it, “there are three distinct configurations/re-configurations of the language’s global potential for evaluative meaning making – three

sub-potentials” within journalistic discourse, which have been termed ‘reporter voice’, ‘correspondent voice’ and ‘commentator voice’. The distinct criteria for these three sub-potentials are illustrated in Figure 4 above.

When it comes to hard news reports, the type of news reports under analysis in this thesis, the writer is expected to make use of the first of these afore-mentioned evaluative keys: reporter voice. The main difference between reporter voice and the other two evaluative arrangements available in journalistic discourse is the way Judgement – one of the three subtypes of Attitude in the Appraisal framework (see section 2) – is chosen to be expressed. Reporter voice does not include authorial inscribed Judgement. This means that in a text written in reporter voice, it would be very unlikely to find expressions of Judgement voiced explicitly which are not attributed to an external source, for example through a direct quote. Similarly, there will be no explicit expression of Affect by the author, but it is indeed possible that the author includes an observation of Affect. Contrary to the exclusion of explicit authorial Judgement and Affect, some inscribed authorial Appreciation can be part of a news report written in reporter voice.

Regarding the application of these concepts into linguistic studies, by far the most extensive research project with a focus on reporter voice was an Australian initiative named The News Project. Eleven researchers set out to “investigate the ideologies behind ‘reporter’ voice in news articles in varieties of English, Thai, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, French, Swedish, Vietnamese and Greek” (Thomson 2016: 7). In the following paragraphs, some of the publications resulting from this project – either directly as part of The News Project, or indirectly as some of the ideas have been taken up in other projects – will be elaborated on a bit further in order to exemplify which kind of studies have been triggered by the establishment of the three journalistic voices in both SFL vocabulary and research.

Looking at the nature of reporter voice in a Vietnamese hard news story, Van and Thomson (2008: 61) found that the article “does not display the configurations of ‘reporter voice’” observed to “operate in a substantial portion of hard news reporting in the English broadsheet media” by Martin and White (2005). However, as the authors only analysed one news article, it is impossible to make general claims about the

Vietnamese style of reporting. Additionally, the article chosen was a report on a political topic. As Van and Thomson (2008: 61) noted themselves, in the “English-language broadsheet media, news reporting on political events is typically not conducted in reporter voice but in a style where explicit authorial judgements occur with some regularity”, i.e. correspondent voice. Consequently, it would indeed be possible that an evaluative key equal to reporter voice exists in Vietnamese even though Van and Thomson (2008) have not been able to confirm this hypothesis.

Similarly, Thomson, Fukui and White (2008) aimed to analyse evaluative keys in Japanese news articles. Contrary to the authors looking at the Vietnamese news story, though, they found that the reporter voice as outlined by Martin and White for the English language equally applies to the two Japanese news stories under analysis (Thomson, Fukui & White 2008: 65). Again, their findings are far from being representative as only a very limited number of news articles were analysed. Nonetheless, it shall be stressed that the first findings by Thomson, Fukui and White (2008) confirmed the application of reporter voice in Japanese news articles under analysis.

Inspired by the previously mentioned initiative to discover whether reporter voice exists in languages other than English, Pounds (2010) set out to explore to what extent reporter voice can be identified in Italian news reporting. For this reason, she analysed twenty-eight articles from the most established English and Italian broadsheets published between 2006 and 2009 (Pounds 2010: 113). Interestingly, she found that none of the articles include any authorial Affect; thus, conform to the reporter voice defined by Martin and White in this regard. Focussing on Judgement, she reported that two instances in the Italian articles were categorized as “borderline”, whereas no authorial Judgement got detected in the English articles (Pounds 2010: 116). Further, she stated that one of the “most noticeable differences lies in the frequency of *projected affect* (author’s reporting of others’ feelings)” [original emphasis] as observed Affect was something quite frequent in Martin and White’s corpus as well as in the English articles under analysis in Pounds’ study. However, it was even more present in the Italian articles analysed (ibid). As a result, it can be concluded that Pounds’ investigation indeed revealed great similarities and some differences between the evaluative key reporter

voice as identified by Martin and White, and the reporting style used in Italian broadsheets.

The most recent study in this quite specific field of research is a study by Makki and White (2018) investigating journalistic voices in Iranian news reports. Analysing over 500 news articles published in two of Iran's leading Farsi/Persian-language newspapers, they discovered that Iranian Farsi/Persian-language news reports are "distinctive". Distinctive, "in the sense that neither has hitherto been observed in the news reporting of other languages": both the generic structure as well as the stylistic properties of these texts fundamentally differ from English-language news reports (Makki & White 2018: 55). Whereas English-language news reports are known to operate with the so-called inverted pyramid structure (for more information see section 2.2.2), the majority of news reports under analysis in Makki and White's study do not. Regarding their stylistic properties, the Iranian texts were found to be "highly constrained attitudinally, with even fewer instances of authorial assessment or interpretation than is typically the case" (ibid). Remarkably, the authors of the study also managed to propose a rationale for the marked differences in both style and structure: it is argued that "this way of reporting political news reflects the subordination of news media organisations to the political establishment" (ibid). Thus, Makki and White suggest that the way news – political news in particular – are reported in Iran stands in stark contrast to the way political news are reported in Western countries, not because Iranian journalists have been trying to create their unique style of news reporting, but rather, because first and foremost, political journalism mirrors socio-political power relations. To put it differently, the varying degree of freedom afforded to the Iranian news media³ is regarded as the underlying cause which, ultimately, resulted in these exceptional linguistic findings.

3.2 User comments

The usually rather short messages underneath a post on Facebook, a video on YouTube or a product for sale on Amazon, etc., are what is being referred to as 'online comments'

³ For more information on the socio-political landscape of Iran and its effects on the Iranian news media see Shahidi (2007); Semati (2008) or Khiabany (2010).

or ‘user comments’ in this thesis. Comments are a popular form of Computer-mediated communications (CMC) and have become a standard form of Web 2.0 communication: over 2 billion Facebook users are actively communicating via the network; on Twitter, an average of 6,000 tweets are tweeted every second (Internet Live Stats 2018).

3.2.1 CMC research on user comments: civility, deliberation & anonymity

Over the past few years, a substantial number of studies have aimed to investigate the complex relationships between civility, deliberation and anonymity in online comments. Yet, it shall be noted that until today, there has been no universally agreed upon definition of one of the most central terms in this area of research: (in)civility. Anderson et al. (2014: 375) base their definition on the frequently quoted work of Papacharissi (2004) when defining incivility as “a manner of offensive discussion that impedes the democratic ideal of deliberation” for the purposes of their study. Thus, for Anderson et al. (2014), the defining characteristic of incivility in online comments is the hinderance of thoughtful discussions which, in turn, are often viewed as an incredibly important cornerstone of genuine democracies (Papacharissi 2004; Molina & Jennings 2018). Ksiazek, Peer and Zivic (2015: 853), on the other hand, opt for a much simpler explanation as a response to myriad lengthy and complicated definitions, when stating that civil comments are comments “absent of hostility”. Hence, comments that are not “intentionally designed to attack someone or something and, in doing so, incite anger or exasperation through the use of name-calling, character assassination, offensive language, profanity, and/or insulting language” (Ksiazek, Peer & Zivic 2015: 854). In summary, it can be stated that both definitions exemplified in this paragraph, albeit not universally accepted, are negative definitions and therefore depend on the absence of distinctive features: uncivil comments are characterized through the absence of deliberation; civil comments are defined through the absence of hostility.

3.2.1.1 Civility as a precondition for deliberation

In light of the most recent research by Molina and Jennings (2018), civility in online comments has been identified as a crucial precondition for high-quality online discussions. It has been found that Facebook users are more likely to participate in

discussions on the online platform when encountering civil comments as opposed to uncivil ones (Molina & Jennings 2018: 55). These results implicate that civility facilitates conversation; without conversation, there can be no deliberation, i.e. no constructive conversation. Hence, as civil comments kindle conversation, they also foster deliberation which, in turn, is essential for successful democracies in the 21st century. Therefore, Molina and Jennings' findings emphasize the fundamental importance of civility in online comments for deliberative conversations.

Partly contradicting Molina and Jennings (2018), previous findings by Rowe (2015b) indicate that deliberative quality does not only depend on the level of civility. Comparing the quality of user comments on the Washington Post website to user comments on the respective Facebook page, it was found that those posted on the website were of superior quality of deliberation (Rowe 2015b: 539). This means that comments posted on the Washington Post website were

significantly more likely to (a) be relevant to the topic being addressed in the article or discussed in the thread to which the comment belongs, (b) be more ideologically balanced, (c) offer alternatives to the policies being reported on or solutions to the problems being discussed, (d) reference, or include, additional and/or external sources of information and/or data, (e) pose questions to other commenters in an effort to withdraw additional information or gain greater clarity, and (f) refer to, or address, other comments and/or participants. (Rowe 2015b: 552)

Despite the fact that the quality of deliberation – as described in the indented quotation above – was found to be higher in comments posted on the website, the number of comments was actually higher on the Washington Post Facebook page (Rowe 2015b: 553). Thus, Facebook users are more prone to voicing their thoughts online than website users. Moreover, these findings indicate that the quality of deliberation not solely depends on the level of civility, but also on the virtual place where these online conversations occur as the deliberative quality of online comments on Facebook was relatively low.

Nonetheless, the utility of Facebook comments for high-quality online discussions remains debatable. Even though Facebook discussions spark more civil conversation than websites (Rowe 2015a) and attract a greater number of participants which, in turn, lead to an incredibly high amount of comments compared to news websites (Ben-David & Soffer 2018: 12), it is impossible to claim that Facebook is the better platform for

thoughtful discussion. As Rowe's findings reveal, the opinions expressed on Facebook are often in line with the newspaper's official stance and, as a consequence, much more homogeneous than those voiced on the Washington Post website where sharing of different points of views lead to "a more balanced distribution of ideological positions" (Rowe 2015b: 552-553). Thus, the platform used does not only affect the level of civility, it also influences the quality of discussions which is the very reason why the usefulness of Facebook for deliberative conversations remains questionable at best.

3.2.1.2 Other factors affecting civility

"[W]hen anonymity was removed, civility prevailed" is the essence of the main conclusion from the most cited study on the effect of anonymity on civility in online discussions (Santana 2014b: 28). Through an analysis of online forums from 137 large and mid-sized US newspapers, Santana (2014b: 28) found that the removal of anonymous commenting options led to a significant decrease in uncivil comments on the platforms. However, he also stresses that this does not signify that incivility was removed altogether (ibid). Another study comparing anonymous comments on the Washington Post website to non-anonymous comments on the Facebook page of the Washington Post, confirms Santana's findings: discussions on the website were found to be "significantly more likely to be uncivil than discussion[s] of the same content on the Washington Post Facebook page" (Rowe 2015a: 121). As a consequence, anonymity in online discussions is to be regarded as an impediment to civility.

Apart from anonymity, a few other factors influencing civility have been identified. Seely (2018: 56) finds that "frequency and dimension of incivility differ based on the type of news environment": when comparing anonymous comments on political blogs to anonymous comments on mainstream news outlets, blog comments feature more incivility than user comments on news outlets. Hence, the 'political blog news environment' is more prone to uncivil comments than the 'mainstream news outlet news environment'. Given the fact that newspaper websites (which would fall into the category of mainstream news outlets) have become somewhat infamous for impolite user comments, Seely's findings sound truly intriguing as they succeed in adding another dimension to the rationale behind incivility in online comments.

A study by Stroud et al. (2015: 197) confirms that active engagement with commenters – through for example the participation of journalists in online discussions – can lead to an improvement in both civility and quality of deliberation. This means that the possibility to positively influence the quality of user comments via producer participation truly exists. Nevertheless, given the amount of time needed for successful participation, it has to be noted that in practice there would really be no need for a cost effectiveness analysis in order to assess the feasibility of this option. In other words, Stroud et al.'s revelations about the positive effects audience engagement can have on the quality of online comments confirm that it is theoretically possible to improve the quality of deliberation in user comments. In practice, however, the approaches suggested in their study seem highly unrealistic as they are most likely to require additional, expensive workforce. For this reason, the chances of changing the way news organizations deal with user comments are practically non-existent.

Focusing on the readers' emotional experience, Ziegele et al. (2017: 12-14) discovered that "negative affective involvement (NAI) stimulated participants' desire to reply to 'detrimental' comments that contained the discussion factors incivility or topic drift". In other words, when readers experience negative emotions as a result of reading news articles and their online comments, they are more likely to reply in an uncivil manner. These findings on the possible causes behind incivility relate to yet another study by Santana (2014a: 151), which reveals that some news stories are more likely to appear on news websites without the option to comment than others: the news topics "crime, religion, immigration, disaster, celebrity and social issues" have been found to be the ones most likely to attract a high number of uncivil comments. Thus, based on Ziegele et al.'s (2017) findings, it could be argued that the afore-mentioned news topics frequently trigger NAI and therefore prompt a comparatively high amount of uncivil reader comments which, in turn, lead to newspaper websites disallowing comment sections below such news articles.

In summary, it can be said that less prominent factors affecting civility include the type of news environment (e.g. blog vs. news website), active audience engagement (e.g. through journalists participating in online discussions), negative affective involvement

(e.g. when reading other user comments), as well as the topic of news articles posted online.

3.2.2 News websites vs. Facebook pages

In recent years, numerous news organizations including CNN, Reuters and Al Jazeera, have started shifting their commenting sections from news websites to Facebook (Finley 2015, Reuters 2014, Fletcher 2017). Although each organization phrases their explanation differently, basically, their reasons can be summarized in one word: incivility. News producers are complaining about impolite, low quality comments (Santana 2011: 76). Journalists are missing those vibrant conversations which were imagined to enrich – instead of complicate – their working lives. As a consequence, readers are increasingly encouraged to make use of social media such as Facebook to get in touch with news organizations as news websites cease to offer commenting options.

However, not everyone seems to agree with this underlying assumption that comments on news websites can easily be exchanged for comments on Facebook. An in-depth study of the perceptions of commenters' imagined audiences by Kim, Lewis and Watson (2018: 9) concluded that Facebook is not to be regarded as an "equivalent substitute for commenting on news organizations' websites". A major reason for this interpretation of their findings was the fact that the imagined primary audiences vary substantially: whereas for news commenters on news websites, other news commenters – as well as journalists – are recognized as their audience, news commenters on Facebook view family and friends as their primary audience (Kim, Lewis and Watson (2018: 8). Naturally, different imagined audiences will result in different writing styles as one hardly finds oneself forwarding the same message just texted to a friend, to a journalist from one of the most renowned news organizations worldwide. Hence, the consequences of the still ongoing shift from news websites to social media might be more complex than previously expected.

Previous studies confirm this personal assumption about writing styles on Facebook by showing that comments on Facebook pages tend to be more personalized than those

posted on news websites (Hille & Bakker 2014: 569). Additionally, it has been found that opinions expressed on Facebook are “largely homogeneous” compared to those voiced on news websites (Rowe 2015b: 553). Both of these findings can be interpreted as a reflection of differences in characteristics of imagined audience. As Facebook is predominantly used to communicate with friends, many platform users would expect at least some of their friends to encounter the comments they post below news articles on Facebook, which in turn encourages more personal messages as people who personally know the commenter are imagined reading the comment. Furthermore, it probably reduces the likelihood of expressing non-supportive ideological positions as the commenter might not be ready to non-anonymously voice alternative views in front of a personally known – possibly judgemental – audience. Consequently, comments on news websites’ Facebook pages show a clear tendency towards personalization.

3.2.3 Potential impacts

During the past decade, the potential impact user comments can have has been investigated in numerous scientific studies. So far, many studies have confirmed the enormous and ever-increasing importance of user comments by exemplifying how user comments on different online platforms influence respective readers (see e.g. Ballantine, Lin & Veer 2015; Hsueh, Yogeeswaran & Malinen 2015; Walther et al. 2010). Other studies, in turn, have set out to rectify some of the erroneous assumptions about user generated comments and their impact (Anderson et al. 2014; Lee, Kim & Cho 2017; Brüggemann and Engesser 2018).

In an experimental study, Anderson et al. (2014) explored the potential impact incivility in blog comments can have on the formation of risk perceptions of a supposedly unfamiliar topic. The researchers analysed user comments added to a neutral article about nanotechnology. What they found was that uncivil user comments led to “an increase in polarization of risk perception about nanotechnology” (Anderson et al. 2014: 383). Thus, user comments by (fictional) lay people had a greater influence on readers’ opinion formation than the neutral, albeit professional, article itself.

Similarly, a study using an experiment to examine the effects of user-generated comments added to news articles found that these comments indeed affect the way readers are processing the news: participants who read regionalism-invoking comments additionally to a crime news report would later estimate crime rates of the featured region higher than those who read comments with no relation to regionalism (Lee, Kim & Cho 2017: 75). Thus, the change in participants' reality perception, i.e. the estimation of crime rates in the region featured in the crime report, was not caused by the news report itself. Instead, it was the content of the user comments below the article which affected individuals' processing of information.

In the preceding section, an attempt was made to explain the largely homogenous comments encountered on Facebook (see section 3.2.2). In fact, this line of thought has recently been confirmed by Walter, Brüggemann and Engesser (2018: 204) who have shown that "user comment sections serve as echo chambers", meaning that instead of voicing thoughts which differ to the ones already expressed in previous comments or news articles, the majority of "users adapt to the dominant opinion within the respective media outlet". These remarkable findings by Walter, Brüggemann and Engesser suggest that Web 2.0 features do not necessarily foster democratic deliberation. Instead, people tend to refrain from voicing dissenting opinions which, in turn, leads to the reinforcement of already existing opinions in comment sections.

Regarding positive impacts of online comments, supporters of participatory journalism quite frequently refer to the strengthening of loyalty towards the brand as one of the most crucial advantages of user comments for news organizations (Reich 2011: 104). However, this popular assumption has now been contradicted: according to Lischka and Messerli (2016: 597), commenting does not have a "positive attitudinal relationship-building capacity for online news outlets". These findings are quite interesting as they suggest that quite a lot of knowledge about Web 2.0 features is actually based on mere assumptions. This applies to the enhancement of loyalty to the brand as well as to the decision to shift comment sections from news websites to social media platforms. In both instances, the assumptions made by news organizations turned out to be flawed.

3.3 Previous research on news articles and online comments

Research combining the linguistic analysis of both news articles and online comments is extremely scarce. Prior to this thesis, only one research team, namely María Aloy Mayo and Maite Taboada, has investigated the combination of these text types. Focussing on the presence of Attitudes in political discourse, their main aim was to “reveal how positive and negative Appraisal is presented in Cosmopolitan’s series of articles about the 2014 American midterm elections” as well as in the comments responding to these articles (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 40). To achieve this aim, the following three research questions were attempted to answer: “(1) How is the position of women in politics evaluated in Cosmopolitan? (2) How do readers react to this editorial position? (3) Are there linguistic differences between readers’ opinions and editorial content?” (ibid).

In the first part of Mayo and Taboada’s analysis, some features of the Appraisal framework were applied in order to find answers to their research questions. In total, 80 articles as well as 990 comments published on CosmoVotes – a then-new section on the Cosmopolitan website – were analysed. As columns two and three in Figure 5 illustrate, the researchers found 8 instances of Affect (3.19 percent), 110 instances of Judgement (43.82 percent), and 133 instances of Appreciation (52.99 percent) in the articles under analysis. In contrast, the comments featured 73 instances of Affect (15.37 percent), 316 instances of Judgement (66.53 percent) as well as 86 instances of Appreciation (18.11 percent) (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 46).

Appraisal results.				
	Articles		Comments	
	n	%	n	%
<i>Attitude</i>				
Affect	8	3.19%	73	15.37%
Judgement	110	43.82%	316	66.53%
Appreciation	133	52.99%	86	18.11%
<i>Graduation</i>				
Force	154	82.80%	165	88.71%
Focus	32	17.20%	21	11.29%
<i>Force</i>				
Intensification	123	79.87%	138	83.64%
Quantification	31	20.13%	27	16.36%
<i>Polarity</i>				
Positive	87	34.66%	56	11.79%
Negative	164	65.34%	420	88.21%
<i>Intensification</i>				
Up-scale	118	95.93%	135	99.27%
Down-scale	5	4.07%	3	0.73%

Figure 5: Appraisal results from Aloy Mayo & Taboada (2017: 46)

Hence, Figure 5 clearly shows that the most frequent Attitude type in articles was Appreciation, closely followed by Judgement. In comments, on the other hand,

Judgement was identified as the most important Attitude type by far. This signifies that the writers of these comments, i.e. the readers of CosmoVotes, tend to judge each other – as well as the content featured in the respective articles – in a very negative way.

In short, Aloy Mayo and Taboada (2017: 47) concluded that both the editors of the Cosmopolitan and the readers of CosmoVotes have a negative point of view of “the current situation for women in the US as voters and political leaders” as negative Attitudes prevailed throughout the texts. Taking a closer look at their results presented in Figure 5, however, one finds that the presence of negative Attitudes is much higher in comments than in articles (66% in articles compared to 88% in comments). This could also be related to the fact that – different to the thesis at hand which follows Jullian’s (2011) approach on the importance of external sources which advocates the inclusion of attributed material – “only segments that seem to emanate from the writer, excluding quotes, material from advertisements, or material reported from other sources” such as poll results, were included in their analysis (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 46).

Additionally, Aloy Mayo and Taboada (2017: 47) found that in both articles and comments, “negative expressions appear with a higher degree of up-scale intensification”. Thus, not only have both editors and readers of CosmoVotes been found to assess people, places, things, happenings and state of affairs predominantly negatively, they have also been found to do this with a higher degree of up-scale intensification. In other words, especially in the comments, intensifiers such as ‘very’ in ‘be very afraid people’, accompanied adjectives and thereby intensified the negative assessment more often than was the case in positive assessments.

Interestingly, Aloy Mayo and Taboada (2017: 46) also note that these intensified negative Attitudes in online comments go hand in hand with a commonly observed trend of negativity in online comments which both the news media and the public “are increasingly concerned about”. As mentioned in section 3.2.2, more and more newspapers – including the CosmoVotes section on Cosmopolitan investigated by Aloy Mayo and Taboada – have decided to abolish commenting options on their websites due to the enormous workload associated with the moderation of these comments. Thus, the results from this study confirm a trend of negativity in online comments, given that comments were found to not only “contain more subjectivity than the articles

themselves”, but also “more Judgement and more intensified negative Appraisal, almost all of it in the form of up-scale intensification” (ibid).

The second part of Mayo and Taboada’s analysis focussed on transitivity processes. Here, only processes with a clear evaluative polarity, i.e. clearly identified as either positive or negative, were included in their analysis (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 46). As Figure 6 shows, the most frequent processes in articles were material processes followed by mental, relational and verbal ones⁴.

	Articles			Comments		
	n	% positive	% negative	n	% positive	% negative
Material	1443	28%	5%	3309	13%	37%
Mental	299	12%	3%	1027	6%	11%
Mental-cognitive	35	–	–	249	–	–
Mental-perceptive	18	8%	2%	119	2%	3%
Mental-affect	7	4%	1%	206	4%	8%
Verbal	249	–	–	427	–	–
Relational	485	–	–	1128	–	–
Behavioral	72	44%	56%	244	19%	95%
Existential	41	–	–	93	–	–

Figure 6: Transitivity results from Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 47

In terms of polarity, the results illustrated in Figure 6 indicate that material processes – which were “mostly related to actions to be undertaken by either readers or politicians: *go, vote, make, run*” [original emphasis] – were mainly positive, whereas behavioural process were more often found to be negative (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 46). In comments, on the other hand, material processes again present the most frequent type of process, however, here they are predominantly categorized as negative “conveying meanings such as *destroy or pay*” [original emphasis] (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 47). Taking a closer look at the second to last row in Figure 6, one can see that Aloy Mayo and Taboada’s analysis of process types revealed yet another interesting difference between articles and comments: “[b]ehavioural processes, which are typically used to

⁴ “What are the different types of process, as construed by the transitivity system in the grammar? The picture we derive from English is something like this [...]. There is a basic difference [...] between inner and outer experience: between what we experience as going on ‘out there’, in the world around us, and what we experience as going on inside ourselves, in the world of consciousness [...]” (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 213-214). The grammatical categories of the outer experience are referred to as material processes, the ones of the inner experience, are referred to as mental processes. In addition, there are relational processes (where we relate one fragment of experience to another), behavioural processes (which represent the outer manifestations of inner workings, e.g. people laughing), verbal processes (symbolic relationships enacted in the form of language) and existential processes (by which phenomena are simply recognized to exist) (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 215). For a detailed explanation of processes see Halliday and Matthiessen 2014.

convey Judgement in the CosmoVotes corpus, are disproportionately negative in comments, but more evenly split between positive and negative in articles” (ibid).

In regard to this thesis, Aloy Mayo and Taboada’s research – especially the first part focusing on Appraisal – serves as an important reference point due to the scarcity of research in this innovative domain. According to Aloy Mayo and Taboada (2017: 40), the results of their study “allow us to explore the evaluative nature of political discourse, and how that evaluation is present in the new online genre of readers’ comments”. Different to their study however, the present research project does not differentiate between intensification and force when it comes to expressions of Attitude, i.e. it only includes the analysis of Attitude but not of Graduation (cf. Figure 2 in section 2.1.2). Instead, the emphasis lies on a detailed analysis of one specific type of Attitude: Judgement. Additionally, it shall be noted that the target audience of Cosmopolitan (“young women aged 18–34 years, not necessarily specialized in fashion or beauty products, but regular (or potential) consumers of such products”) and thus the readers responding to the articles under analysis in Aloy Mayo and Taboada’s study, is much more restricted than the target audiences of Al Jazeera and CNN that produced the online comments under investigation in this thesis (Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017: 41). For those reasons, comparisons between this study and Aloy Mayo and Taboada’s study can only be drawn with great caution.

4 Study design and dataset

Intriguingly, there still seem to be numerous people adamant that entirely objective, i.e. neutral, news articles truly exist. For this reason, this study set out to find out more about the way language is used to evaluate, particularly in the context of news. Conveniently, the Appraisal framework developed by Martin and White (2005) proved extremely useful for this purpose (see section 2.1.2 for more detail). To investigate how Appraisal unfolds in practice, actual news reports written in the English language will be analysed in this study. As Figure 7 shows, the evaluative choices made in two different news reports about the same event were chosen as my set of data (see first line of boxes). These different sets of data were then compared to each other in order to

identify the possibly distinctive ways of evaluating the very same event. A special focus lies on how these assessments become notable in the language produced.

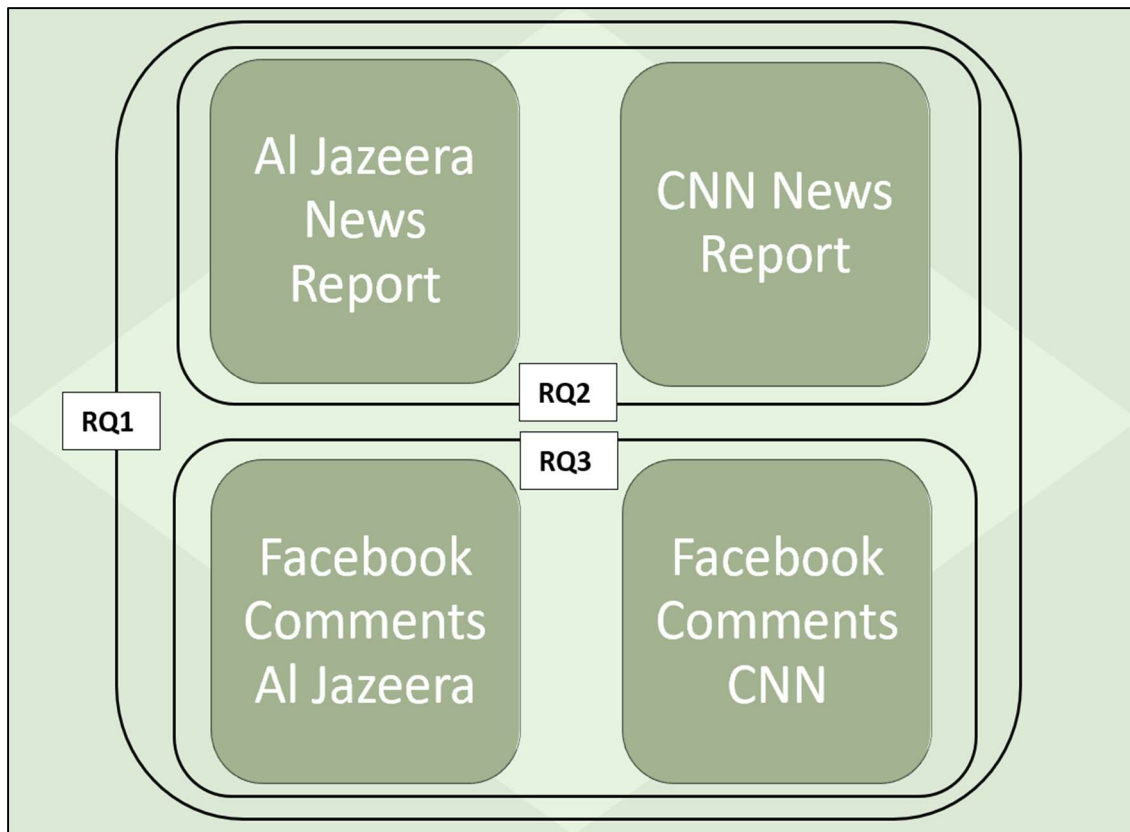


Figure 7: Mind map for research questions

Nevertheless, by solely looking at the production of news in the form of news articles but not at the reception of news, i.e. the reaction to these reports in form of online comments, a vital part would be missing. Therefore – inspired by Aloy Mayo and Taboada’s (2017) research – news articles and responding user comments were studied in combination (see second line of boxes in Figure 7). The aim is to find out whether evaluative choices made in the news articles have an impact on evaluative choices made in responding comments. It would be possible that, for example, explicit negative Judgement of one specific person in the article results in repeated explicit negative Judgement of the same person in the comments. Similarly, it would also be possible that the way language is used to evaluate in the news articles does not affect the way people appraise in comments at all. To find out whether one of these assumptions turns out to be true, a number of research questions have been developed.

4.1 Overview of research questions

Drawing on the extensive research mentioned in previous sections, the object of this present study is to investigate evaluative choices in both news articles and online comments. The following research questions shall be addressed:

1. What are the evaluative choices in the datasets under analysis?
 - a. What is the most common Attitude type?
 - b. Does Judgement in news reports differ from Judgement in Facebook comments? If yes, in which ways?
 - c. Does Judgement in the Al Jazeera news report differ from Judgement in the CNN news report? If yes, in which ways?
 - d. Does Judgement in the Facebook comments responding to the Al Jazeera news report differ from Judgement in the Facebook comments responding to the CNN news report? If yes, in which ways?
2. Are the news reports written in 'reporter voice'?
3. Is there a trend towards negativity in the Facebook comments responding to the news reports?

4.2 Methodology for addressing research question 1

To approach the first research question, all four sub-questions to research question one need to be answered. For this reason, Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal framework is applied to all datasets (see section 4.5). The linguistic framework is broadly subdivided into Attitude, Engagement and Graduation. To better cater for the purposes of this thesis, the first subdivision Attitude is analysed in great detail including all of its three subtypes: Affect, Judgement and Appreciation (see section 2.1.2 for more information). Here, the primary focus of investigation lies on the subtype Judgement as Judgement turned out to be by far the most common subtype of Attitude present in the data under analysis. The following list shall provide a quick overview of the steps taken to address the first research question:

- Selection of data (see section 4.5 for more details)

- Organization of data in Microsoft Word documents
- Phase 1: tagging of all instances of Attitude
- Phase 2: subdivision of all instances of Attitude
- Phase 3: subcategorization of all instances of Affect
- Phase 4: subcategorization of all instances of Judgement
- Phase 5: subcategorization of all instances of Appreciation
- Organization of results in Microsoft Excel sheets
- Interpretation of results

Subsequently, all five phases of analysis shall be explained in more detail. Phase 4 will be elaborated on most expansively as this part of the analysis includes the thorough investigation of all instances of Judgement which, in turn, led to the most significant findings of this thesis.

Phase 1

The aim of the first phase of analysis was to identify all instances of Attitude. Therefore, any utterance which could be “interpreted as indicating that some person, thing, situation, action, event or state of affairs is to be viewed either positively or negatively” or which could be “interpreted as inviting the reader to supply their own negative or positive assessments” got classified as attitudinal and therefore received a tag without further identification of e.g. the reason for the positive or negative assessment expressed (White 2015d: 1).

Phase 2

The second level of analysis focussed on the subdivision of all previously marked passages into instances of Affect, Judgement or Appreciation. Thus, the intent was to determine on which basis the evaluation had been made: emotion, ethics or aesthetics. The following excerpt from the Appraisal website (White 2015d: 5) was used to facilitate the categorization.

Affect (emotion): evaluation by means of the writer/speaker indicating how they are emotionally disposed to the person, thing, happening or state of affairs. For example, ‘I love jazz’; ‘This new proposal by the government terrifies me’.

Judgement (ethics): normative assessments of human behaviour typically making reference to rules or conventions of behaviour. For example, ‘He corruptly agreed to accept money from those bidding for the contract’; ‘Our new classmate seems rather eccentric’.

Appreciation (aesthetics): assessments of the form, appearance, composition, impact, significance etc of human artefacts, natural objects as well as human individuals (but not of human behaviour) by reference to aesthetics and other systems of social value. [original emphasis]

Once an utterance had been identified as an instance of Affect, Judgement or Appreciation, the respective utterance was copied and pasted into one of the three grids used for the more comprehensive analyses three, four or five.

Phase 3

Prior to further categorization, it is essential to know that “the indication of attitudinal position is often conveyed not by single words but by phrases or by the interaction of multiple elements of the utterance” (White 2015d: 2). Hence, when searching for instances of attitudinal positioning, the focus lies on utterances; not on individual words. The text in the second column to the left in Figure 8 below exemplifies this. Although solely one word is marked in bold, the entire comment is needed in order to reveal the attitudinal significance of this text. Reading either the text before ‘hilarious’ or just ‘hilarious’ dramatically changes the message of this comment. Only through the prior reading of the text does ‘hilarious’ become an indicator of the use of sarcasm. As a consequence, the type of Affect can be identified as ‘unhappiness – misery’. Without the revelation of the sarcastic use of the term, this categorization would have been impossible. Thus, in order to discover indications of attitudinal positioning, one must consider more than some individual words: the co-text of these words is indispensable.

No.	Comment	Emoter	Target/Trigger	Authorial vs. non-Authorial	Type of Affect
3	Says the country who runs Guantanamo, was in favor of water boarding, goes to war based on faked evidence (remember Iraq, the second time?) and so on. Hilarious .	Reader	US government	Authorial	Unhappiness: misery hilarious = extremely funny sarcastic use, so not happiness but unhappiness

Figure 8: Example of subcategorization of an instance of Affect (phase 3)

Additionally, column 3 in Figure 8 indicates that the reader (i.e. the author of the comment illustrated in column 2) has been identified as the 'emoter' (i.e. the person experiencing the emotion) in this example. Column 4, on the other hand, points towards the US government as the trigger of the misery experienced by the reader. Please note that the author of the comment is referring to actions of the US government when expressing his or her feelings. The subsequent column (column 5) classifies the comment as 'authorial'. This signifies that the emotion is experienced by the author of the comment. If the passage featuring Affect would have been classified as 'non-authorial', then the respective emotion would have been experienced by someone other than the author of the comment, e.g. when the author of the comment observes somebody else experiencing emotions.

Phase 4

The thorough analysis of Judgement, i.e. phase 4, is presumably the most important analysis for the objectives of this thesis as Judgement is the predominant subtype of Attitude encountered in the data under analysis. As one can see in Figure 11, phase 4 involves the subcategorization of all instances of Judgement regarding the mode of Judgement, the reason for Judgement and the people involved. The identification of the first of these, the mode of Judgement, is based on Figure 9 displaying the different ways in which Judgement can be activated.

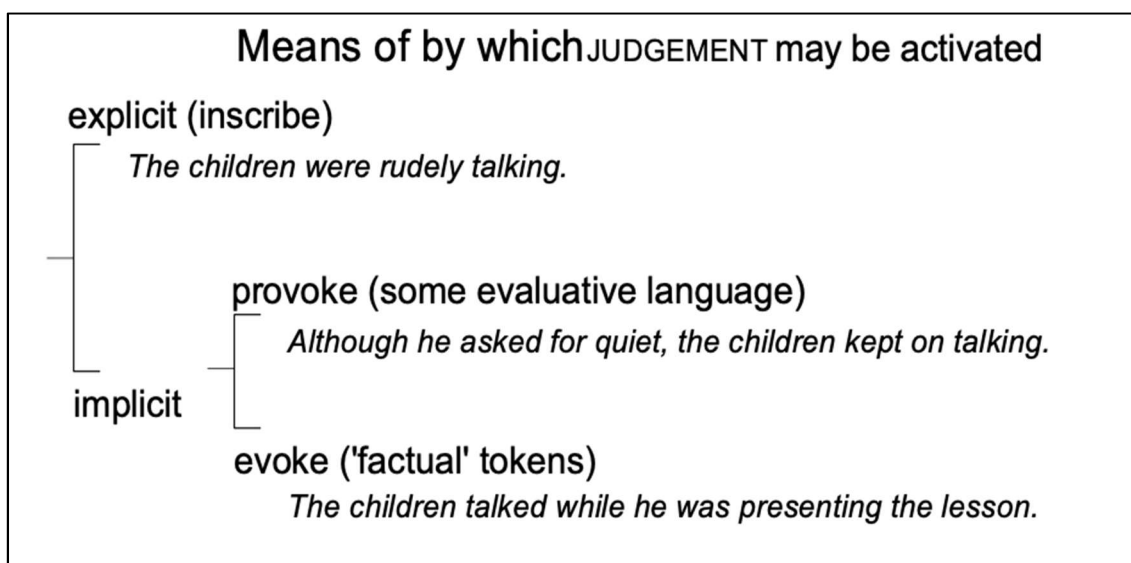


Figure 9: Modes of Judgement (White 2015e: 7)

Whereas all three examples in Figure 9 above point towards being rude as the reason for Judgement, the way Judgement is expressed – i.e. the mode of Judgement – varies. The first sentence can be identified as an instance of inscribed Judgement because the children's activity is described as 'rudely talking'. The presence of the word 'rudely' is what makes the Judgement explicit. In this case, the single word 'rudely' points towards a negative evaluation of what the children are doing. Thus, the usage of the terms 'explicit Judgement' or 'inscribed Judgement' in this thesis signifies that the utterance categorized as implicit or inscribed contains a word or wording which, of itself, indicates a positive or negative assessment of human behaviour.

When it comes to the detection of implicit Judgement, however, context is of utmost importance. In the second sentence, there is no explicit mentioning of any variation of the word 'rude'. Hence, no specific word or wording by itself indicates positive or negative Judgement. Instead, 'although' as well as 'kept on' are the terms which suggest negative evaluation of the children's behaviour. In contrast to 'rude', 'although' as well as 'kept on' are wordings which are entirely neutral by themselves. Put into context, however, they provoke negative Judgement; therefore, sentence two is to be categorized as an utterance featuring implicit provoked Judgement as certain words or wordings in context indicate a positive or negative assessment of human behaviour.

The third example sentence on the other hand, does not feature words or wordings which are suggestive in context such as *although* or *kept on* in the second sentence. Instead, Judgement is expressed through what has been termed 'factual tokens'. This means that – even in context – no specific word or wording can be identified to indicate a positive or negative assessment. Nevertheless, the indication of attitudinal positioning is still there. It might be more difficult to detect, but this does not signify that it is not present. In this case, it is more the readers' background knowledge of how people are expected to behave when somebody is presenting something which evokes negative assessment of the children's behaviour. Consequently, when Judgement is expressed without the usage of certain words or wordings which indicate negative or positive assessment of human behaviour in context, it is referred to as implicit evoked Judgement.

For the identification as well as the classification of the second element of Judgement examined in the fourth phase of analysis – the reason for Judgement – Tables 2.6 and 2.7 from Martin and White (2005: 53) were consulted. As one can see in Figure 10 on the next page, these tables include lists of adjectives which facilitate a more detailed identification of the reason for Judgement. As part of the fourth phase of analysis, at least one suitable adjective was ascribed to every instance of Judgement in the data under analysis. This ascription, in turn, has led to the classification of every instance of Judgement into one out of five distinct categories specifying the reason for the positive or negative assessment of human behaviour: Normality, Capacity, Tenacity, Veracity or Propriety (cf. Figure 11, column 4). The descriptive adjectives taken as the basis for classification were exclusively taken from the tables depicted in Figure 10 with one exception: ‘dangerous’ was added as a negative adjective in the category Capacity due to the fact that in some instances, no other pre-existing item featured in those lists seemed appropriate.

Table 2.6 Judgement – social esteem

SOCIAL ESTEEM	Positive [admire]	Negative [criticise]
normality 'how special?'	lucky, fortunate, charmed ...; normal, natural, familiar ...; cool, stable, predictable ...; in, fashionable, avant garde ...; celebrated, unsung ...	unlucky, hapless, star-crossed ...; odd, peculiar, eccentric ...; erratic, unpredictable ...; dated, daggy, retrograde ...; obscure, also-ran ...
capacity 'how capable?'	powerful, vigorous, robust ...; sound, healthy, fit ...; adult, mature, experienced ...; witty, humorous, droll ...; insightful, clever, gifted ...; balanced, together, sane ...; sensible, expert, shrewd ...; literate, educated, learned ...; competent, accomplished ...; successful, productive ...	mild, weak, whimpy ...; unsound, sick, crippled ...; immature, childish, helpless ...; dull, dreary, grave ...; slow, stupid, thick ...; flaky, neurotic, insane ...; naive, inexperienced, foolish ...; illiterate, uneducated, ignorant ...; incompetent; unaccomplished ...; unsuccessful, unproductive ...
tenacity 'how dependable?'	plucky, brave, heroic ...; cautious, wary, patient ...; careful, thorough, meticulous tireless, persevering, resolute ...; reliable, dependable ...; faithful, loyal, constant ...; flexible, adaptable, accommodating ...	timid, cowardly, gutless ...; rash, impatient, impetuous ...; hasty, capricious, reckless ...; weak, distracted, despondent ...; unreliable, undependable ...; unfaithful, disloyal, inconstant ...; stubborn, obstinate, wilful ...

Table 2.7 Judgement – social sanction

SOCIAL SANCTION 'mortal'	Positive [praise]	Negative [condemn]
veracity [truth] 'how honest?'	truthful, honest, credible ...; frank, candid, direct ...; discrete, tactful ...	dishonest, deceitful, lying ...; deceptive, manipulative, devious ...; blunt, blabbermouth ...
propriety [ethics] 'how far beyond reproach?'	good, moral, ethical ...; law abiding, fair, just ...; sensitive, kind, caring ...; unassuming, modest, humble ...; polite, respectful, reverent ...; altruistic, generous, charitable ...	bad, immoral, evil ...; corrupt, unfair, unjust ...; insensitive, mean, cruel ...; vain, snobby, arrogant ...; rude, discourteous, irreverent ...; selfish, greedy, avaricious ...

Figure 10: Categorization of the reason for Judgement (Martin & White 2005: 53)

As one can see at the end of every line in Figure 10 listing descriptive adjectives, the series of items does not end with a full stop. Instead, the three dots are indicative of the fact that these lists are not meant to be exhaustive. Therefore, the addition of 'dangerous' to the list of adjectives seems very much in line with the inventors' ideas.

The third element of Judgement under investigation concerns the people involved. The central question to be answered here is ‘who judges whom?’. As one can see in the first column to the right of Figure 11 underneath, both the person or people judging someone (placed before the arrow) as well as the person or people judged by someone (placed after the arrow) are identified in the respective column.

No.	Comment	Mode of Judgement	What is judged? (adjective from table 2.6 or 2.7)	Who judges whom?
1	Suddenly the UK leaving Europe doesn't seem quite so bad [1] when one sees America leaving the human race? [2] 🤔	Explicit negative [1] Implicit evoked negative [2] (grammatical structure – comparison, implicit because analogy – explicit would be something like “US leaving the UNHRC is even worse”)	Propriety (bad) saying it seems not as bad as before because of comparison to something worse (US leaving) but that does not make it good just says that Brexit is bad and US withdrawal is even worse Propriety (immoral, bad – worse)	Reader → Brexit Reader → US (human behaviour because of the use of “leaving”, an object can’t leave anything)

Figure 11: Example of subcategorization of an instance of Judgement (phase 4)

As the example in Figure 11 has been taken from one of the comments posted on Facebook, the person carrying out the assessment is the person who wrote the comment. Hence, the reader of the news article he or she responded to is identified as the judge on the left side of the arrow in column 5. On the other side of the arrow, the people responsible for the UK leaving Europe, i.e. the Brexit, as well as the people responsible for the US withdrawal from the UNHRC, i.e. ‘America leaving the human race’, are the ones being judged. Please note that in both occurrences of attitudinal positioning, the people being assessed by the reader are not explicitly referred to as humans. Instead, it was the decision by the analyser to regard the Judgement of ‘the UK’ as well as ‘America’ as the evaluation of the behaviour of the people who are accountable for the actions taken by ‘the UK’ and ‘America’. By the same token, frequent terms like ‘US’ or ‘UN’ are not regarded as abstract objects or objective institutions. Instead, throughout the fourth phase of analysis, these items are treated as an accumulation of people taking decisions in the name of those institutions, nations etc. which, in turn, enables the analyser to view these utterances as evaluations of human behaviour, i.e. as instances of Judgement. This reflects similar decisions regarding the way institutions are to be viewed have been taken by the very creators of the Appraisal framework, Martin and White (2005: 232), when identifying *America* as the primary

target of Judgement in one of the analyses exemplified in their seminal work on Appraisal in the English language.

Phase 5

The aim of the fifth level of analysis was a more specified investigation of all instances of Appreciation. As explained by White, “evaluations which are concerned with positive and negative assessments of objects, artefacts, processes and states of affairs rather than with human behavior” are to be categorized as instances of Appreciation (White 2015f: 1). Figure 12 below shows an example of an instance of Appreciation from the data under analysis.

No.	Comment	Type of Appreciation	Positive or Negative?	What or who is being appreciated?
18	The US at this rate is bound to withdraw from every organisation that has made this world a better place. Those who sat long hours in meetings that came up with these wonderful world solutions to peace, trade and human rights must be turning in their graves.	Reaction: quality 'did I like it?'	Positive	World solutions from organisations that have made the world a better place

Figure 12: Example of subcategorization of an instance of Appreciation (phase 5)

The first word highlighted in bold type in the second column to the left, ‘wonderful’, presents the key word of this example. ‘Wonderful’ strongly suggests admiration, i.e. positive assessment, of the term following the former: ‘world solutions’. After reading the previous paragraphs about the evaluation of human behaviour one might ask why this example is categorized as an instance of Appreciation; not of Judgement. Of course, it was humans who made these ‘wonderful world solutions’ possible. However, the text under analysis does not indicate this. What is being admired here is not the productive and therefore good behaviour of people. Rather, it is the product of human behaviour which is assessed as being ‘wonderful’, which is exactly what points towards the categorization as an instance of Appreciation. Naturally, any Appraisal analysis will include evaluations which are ambiguous. For this reason, it is of utmost importance that the analyser remains consistent. Solely in this way validity can be assured.

4.3 Methodology for addressing research question 2

The aim of the second research question is to confirm the text types under analysis. The news articles investigated as part of this research have so far been referred to as hard news reports. From the perspective of a journalist, this usage of the term is unequivocally correct. However, linguistically speaking, the texts require the application of parts of the Appraisal framework to ensure the proper usage of the term 'hard news report'. Accordingly, the results from the Appraisal analysis explained in the previous section are utilized to respond to the second research question asking whether the news reports under analysis are written in reporter voice. To be categorized as hard news reports, texts are expected to feature no or minimal authorial inscribed Judgement, no authorial Affect, some observed Affect as well as some inscribed authorial Appreciation (cf. section 3). Phases three, four and five of the analysis provide all the information necessary to verify whether the reports legitimately qualify for hard news reports according to the criteria laid out by Martin and White (2005: 173).

4.4 Methodology for addressing research question 3

The third research question was inspired by the findings of Aloy Mayo and Taboada's (2017) research. The pair of researchers found that negative Attitudes prevailed throughout both text types. However, as the articles analysed by Aloy Mayo and Taboada range from seemingly objective reports to highly opinionated commentaries, the results of the present study are expected to differ substantially. The assumption here is that the reports in this study will feature an equal amount of positive and negative Attitudes, whereas the comments are presumed to include predominantly negative Attitudes. This hypothesis is not only a response to Aloy Mayo and Taboada's (2017) findings, it is also based on the personal perception of online comments in general as extremely critical. Prior to the work on this project, user comments responding to news articles were perceived to solely aim for the detection of as many mistakes as possible. As these criticisms are most likely to be expressed through negative attitudinal positionings, it is hypothesized that the majority of comments will feature negative Attitudes. To test this hypothesis, the results from phases three, four and five of the analysis are needed.

Furthermore, an additional analysis visualized in Figure 13 has been conducted to find out more about the main topics addressed in the comments responding to the news articles on Facebook.

No.	Comment	Word count	Reactions (like, laugh, love, cry, angry, surprised/shocked)	Responses	Sarcasm & Analogy	We vs. Them vs. I/American vs. non-American writer of comment	Addressed to someone specifically?	Main topic + Positive or negative? (comment as a whole)
1	So basically Everyone around you is telling you how evil your pima is "Israel" but the US Govt (Trump tards) wants to keep being it's hoe	25	279 (235, 22, 21, 1, 0)	24			Israelis	Reason behind US decision
2	You can't always blame bias when people disagree with you . If the whole world is calling you out maybe you're the problem.	22	164 (155, 4, 5, 0, 0)	4			You, possibly Trump/US	US

Figure 13: Examples of topical analysis of comments

As shown in the first column to the right in Figure 13, the main topic of the comment, e.g. 'reason behind US decision', as well as the positivity or negativity of the comment as a whole as perceived by the reader, are identified through this analysis. In both examples in Figure 13, the main topic of the comment has been categorized as negative which is indicated by the dark colour of the cell. The crucial difference between this topical analysis here and the various phases of the Appraisal analysis elaborated on in previous sections, is the fact that in contrast to the preceding analysis, the topical analysis requires the classification of the entire comment as either positive or negative. As one can see in Figure 11, the previous analysis of the same comments allowed the identification of both positive and negative instances of Attitude in one and the same comment and relied on the structure and rules of the Appraisal framework. The topical analysis, on the other hand, is solely based on the impression the reader (i.e. the analyser) gets when reading the comment as a whole. To approach research question 3, the results of the topical analysis as well as the results of all afore-mentioned phases of analysis are to be taken into account.

4.5 Data

The data under analysis consists of 2 online news articles and 97 user comments. The selection of the two articles was based on the following criteria:

1. they are written in the English language;
2. they are published by an international news organization;

3. they are of similar length;
4. they are the first news reports published online about an event considered worthy of being news worldwide;
5. they have been shared on the Facebook pages of the respective news organizations.

Figures 14 and 15 below display screenshots of the posts on Facebook advertising the two articles chosen for analysis. As can be seen, one article has been published by Al Jazeera and the other one by CNN. Both articles were shared on one of the Facebook pages of the international news organizations on June 20, 2018 and inform about the US decision to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

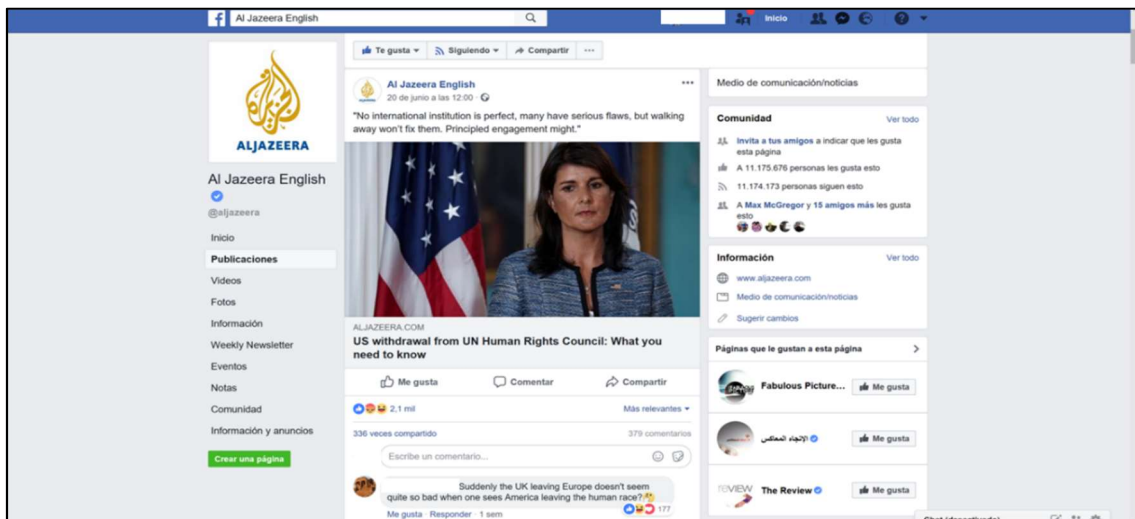


Figure 15: Screenshot of Al Jazeera article on Facebook



Figure 14: Screenshot of CNN article on Facebook

Through clicking on the links depicted in Figures 14 and 15, one is redirected to the respective webpages of Al Jazeera and CNN as shown in Figures 16 and 17 on the next page.

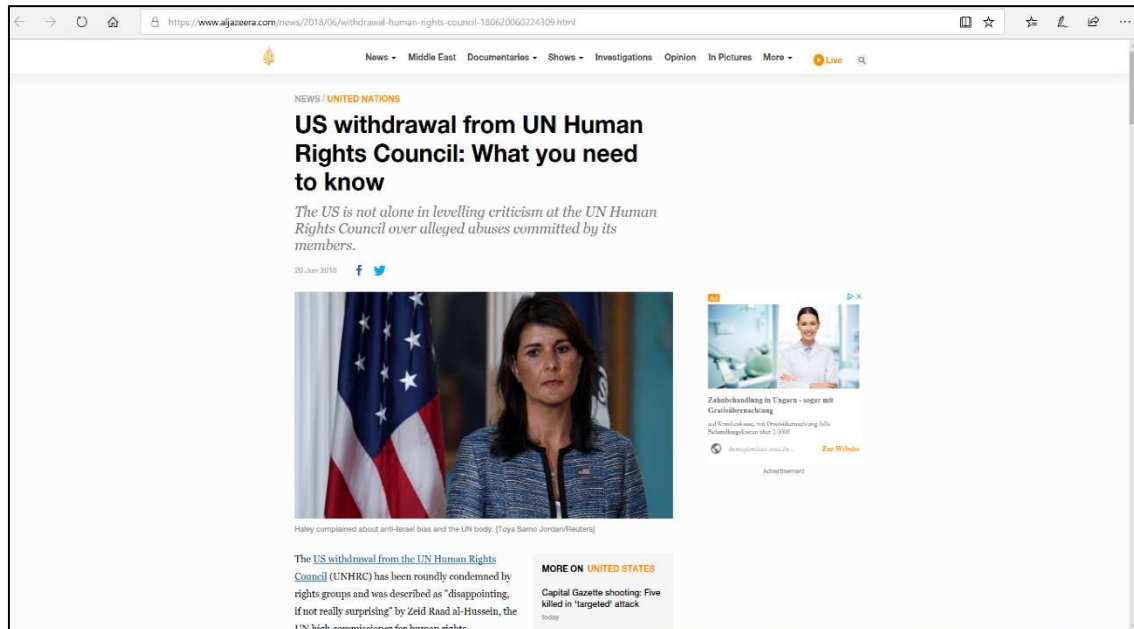


Figure 16: Screenshot of article on *aljazeera.com*

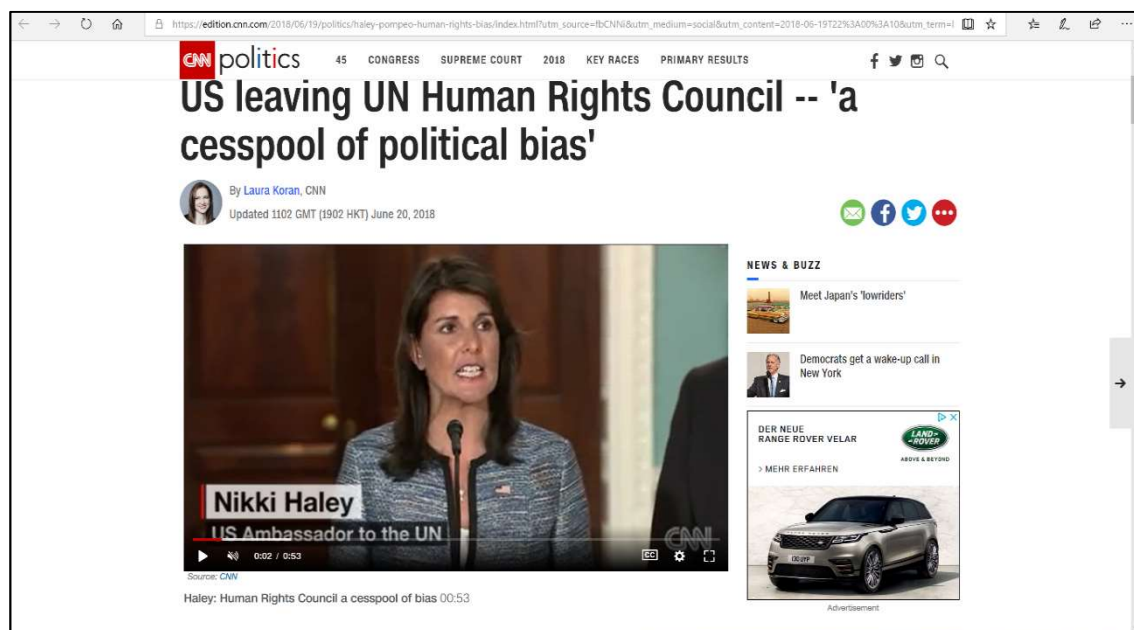


Figure 17: Screenshot of article on *cnn.com*

Figures 16 and 17 show the webpages visible right after clicking on the hyperlinks on the Facebook pages. As one can see, the CNN article includes a video right at the beginning of the report whereas the Al Jazeera report does not. Although the importance of visual

elements in news articles cannot be denied, elements such as pictures or videos were not included in the analysis as these lie beyond the scope of this project.

Regarding the inclusion of attributed material, it shall be stressed that all direct and indirect quotes from external sources featured in the news reports have been included in this analysis within the system of Attitude (one of the three main systems which comprise the Appraisal framework). This decision might appear somewhat unusual given the fact that the system of Engagement was designed to investigate attributed material; not the system of Attitude. Moreover, most analysts in the past – in line with the original ideas of the founders of the Appraisal framework – decided to either exclude attributions from the analysis, or to include them within the system of Engagement (see e.g. Aloy Mayo & Taboada 2017). Nevertheless, as Jullian (2011: 769) stressed in his seminal work on the power of quotations in news reports,

the model offers a more helpful tool for our purposes within the system of ATTITUDE. Within this system is the subsystem JUDGEMENT, which focuses entirely on the writer's expression of evaluation in discourse. This framework is very helpful since it addresses not only outright evaluations, but also offers the necessary tools to identify and describe subtler forms of Appraisal. [original emphasis]

Thus, following Jullian's approach on the inclusion of attributed material, quotes from external sources have been included in the analysis within the system of Attitude, most frequently within the subsystem of Judgement as this was the most frequent type of Appraisal present in the data under analysis.

The selection of the user comments, on the other hand, consisted of two separate stages. In stage one, about 80 comments posted underneath the link to the articles on Facebook were saved. In Figures 14 and 15, the very first of these comments are visible in the grey boxes below the hyperlink. For the collection of the comments, the default display setting on Facebook was used. This means that Facebook arranges comments by decreasing relevance to the user, i.e. the comment which is expected to be most relevant to the user is ranked first. In practice, comments with a high number of likes were situated right below the article, regardless of the time of posting. For this analysis, solely those comments which responded directly to the article were copied and saved. Conversely, the comments responding to other comments were not included as these

comments are regarded as yet another conversation taking place between different commenters; therefore, not directly responding to the articles under investigation. Figure 18 on the next page depicts both types of comments.

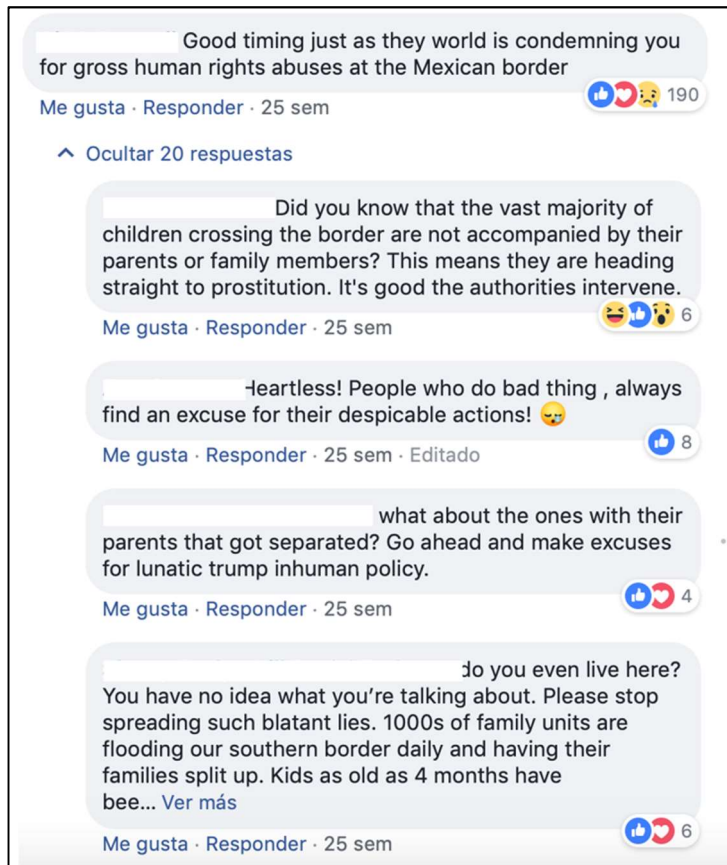


Figure 18: Screenshot of comments on Facebook

The first comment viewed in Figure 18 has become part of the comments saved during stage one of the selection process. All other – indented – comments are comments responding to the first comment. For this reason, they have not been stored separately.

The second stage of the selection process involved the exclusion of some of those comments saved during the first phase. In total, 166 comments (80 responding to the Al Jazeera article and 86 responding to the CNN article) have been saved in stage one. During stage two, 68 of those comments (32 responding to the Al Jazeera article and 36 responding to the CNN article) needed to be excluded for one reason: semantical opaqueness. As the examples in Figure 19 on the next page show, it is extremely difficult to identify the meaning of the comments highlighted in green.

33	F..k human right, f..k cannabis, f..k LBGT,f..k white helmet, f..k the free Syria army,f...k Saudi led coalition in Yemen, f...K ICCJ,f...k UN and what next?
34	US WITHDREW FROM UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL TO BECOME HUMAN ! CIVILIZATION TEST GOING ON FOR US .
35	It will fix them. Bias UN, HUMAN RIGHT.
36	Leaving because they won't let puty in
37	If one violet the law how can he stand with it
38	Foolishness at it's best bravo to empty tins

Figure 19: Examples of excluded user comments due to semantical opaqueness

As a consequence, the comments which did not make sense to the analyser were first highlighted in green (see Figure 19) and then, as a next step, deleted from the list of comments to be investigated. The following reasons were identified as the most frequent causes for semantically opaque user comments:

- lack of grammatical accuracy (see comment #37 in Figure 19)
- typos or usage of uncommon nicknames etc. (see comment #36)
- off topic, e.g. through domineering religiousness (*God will punish Nikki*)
- incomprehensible combination of words (see comment #38)

4.5.1 Al Jazeera English

One of the two news reports under analysis in this thesis got published by Al Jazeera English, the sister company of the Arab news organization Al Jazeera. According to Barkho (2008: 68-69) the “two channels are separate with two, albeit very close, but quite different premises; different budgets; different editorial policies and guidelines”. What they do have in common, though, is the fact that they are both financed by the

Qatari Royal family. Interestingly, the launch of Al Jazeera on November 1, 1996 is closely related to Shaykh Hamada bin Khalifa, a non-traditional Amir who came to power in 1995 (Ghareeb 2000: 405). Back then, Khalifa's aim was to "liberalize and open up Qatari politics by increasing political transparency and public participation": launching Al Jazeera was one out of many fresh initiatives designed to achieve this aforementioned liberalization (ibid). A full decade later, in 2006, the introduction of Al Jazeera English marked another milestone in the history of the Qatari based news channel. One of the fundamental differences between the Arabic and the English news channel are the people who work for them: whereas Al Jazeera solely hires Arab staff from a few Arab states, English-speaking people from more than 50 nations make up the staff of Al Jazeera English (Barkho 2008: 68-69). Hence, Al Jazeera English is not to be regarded as an English copy of the original Al Jazeera. Instead, it is to be viewed as an entirely separate news channel.

These differences also become obvious when searching for 'Al Jazeera' on Facebook. What comes up are myriad Facebook groups as well as numerous Facebook pages featuring the term. The four pages with the highest number of likes are 'Al Jazeera English' (11 million likes), 'Al Jazeera America' (2 million likes), 'Al Jazeera World' (648,000 likes), and 'Al Jazeera PR' (378,000 likes)⁵. In comparison, when searching for 'الجزيرة' – 'Al Jazeera' in the Arabic language – the page with most likes states 22 million likes, the second one 13 million, and the third page still receives 1.7 million likes. Thus, according to this very basic Facebook research, the Arab channel has a much bigger followership on the platform than the English one. Nevertheless, the page most important for this study remains 'Al Jazeera English' as this is the Facebook page the article under investigation has been shared on. Interestingly, the description of the Al Jazeera English page on Facebook simply says "we are the voice of the voiceless" which in fact represents one of the slogans of the English language news channel. Unsurprisingly, this so-called description quite substantially differs from the text put in the description section on the Al Jazeera Facebook page. The Arabic text roughly translates to "Welcome to the official Facebook page of Al Jazeera channel. Join us and share the page with your friends!" which again, cannot really be called a description,

⁵ All Facebook searches have been conducted on November 26, 2018.

rather, this text seems to be an advertisement asking people to help Al Jazeera become more popular. In short, the two news channels sharing the same name are to be regarded as two independent news organizations sharing their internally produced content on several Facebook pages including the one where one of the news reports under analysis got posted: Al Jazeera English.

4.5.2 CNN International

The second news report to be investigated in this study has been shared online by CNN International, one of the many sister networks of the well-known Cable News Network (CNN). Different to its sister channel CNN International which usually broadcasts from outside the United States, CNN primarily transmits from one of the American studios situated in Washington, Los Angeles or New York City. Importantly though, the relationship between CNN and its sister networks is not comparable to the relations between Al Jazeera and Al Jazeera English. CNN and CNN International work more closely together than their Arab counterparts as the one is operated by the other: the focus of CNN International might be a more global one, but the channel is still operated by the same American Cable News Network, which started as an American pioneer in 24-hour news coverage around 40 years ago (Wikipedia contributors 2019).

Searching for 'CNN' on Facebook, more than 100 pages are listed within a few seconds. The one receiving the highest number of likes is 'CNN' with 30 million likes, followed by 'CNN International' with 17 million likes and 'CNN en Español' with 12 million likes. The description section of CNN International – the page most relevant for the purposes of this project – states "CNN International provides news and information about the day's most talked about stories around the world". Unsurprisingly, this is also the page that the news article under analysis in this thesis has been found on, as global newsworthiness was one of the five selection criteria in regard to news reports (cf. section 4.5).

Thus, comparing the results of both Facebook searches, it can be concluded that CNN International is definitely more popular on Facebook than Al Jazeera English as the former has received 5 million likes more than the latter. As a consequence, the article

shared on the Facebook page of CNN International also received a much higher number of likes and comments compared to the article posted on Al Jazeera English: 3,500 likes compared to 2,100 likes; 593 comments compared to 379 comments (see Figures 14 and 15).

5 Results and Discussion

This section contains all relevant results in order of the research questions presented in section 4. In addition, selected findings and their presumed consequences are discussed. Furthermore, it shall be noted that a concise summary of the most important findings is provided in the concluding section of this thesis.

RQ 1a: What is the most common Attitude type?

The first research question is concerned with the types of Attitude. Figure 20 below visualizes all instances of Affect, Judgement and Appreciation encountered in all datasets under analysis. While the vertical axis indicates the absolute numbers of expressions of Attitude, the horizontal axis features the four datasets analysed in this study: one news report from Al Jazeera, one news report from CNN, and about 50 user comments responding to each of these reports on the Facebook pages Al Jazeera English and CNN International.

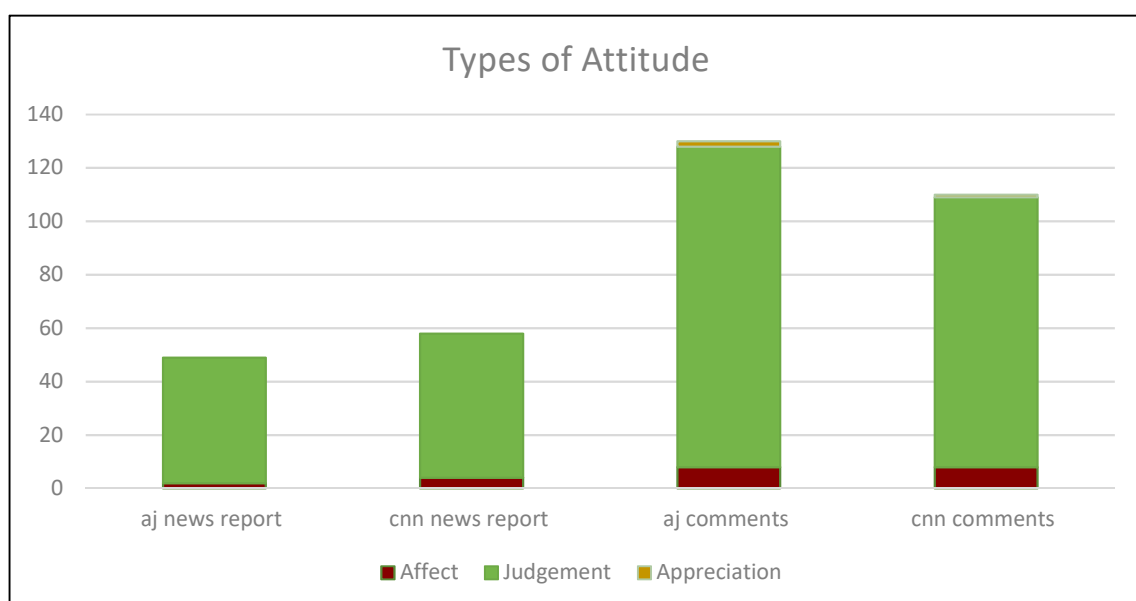


Figure 20: Types of Attitude

As a quick glance at the bar chart on the previous page clearly shows, the most frequent type of Attitude by far is Judgement (coloured in bright green) followed by Affect (coloured in dark red). Correspondingly, Table 2 below confirms the predominance of Judgement in all four datasets under investigation.

Table 2: Subtypes of Attitude in percentage of the total amount of Attitudes per subset

	Affect	Judgement	Appreciation	Attitude (total)
AJ news report (799 words)	4%	96%	0%	100%
CNN news report (818 words)	7%	93%	0%	100%
AJ comments (1059 words)	6%	92%	2%	100%
CNN comments (1112 words)	7%	92%	1%	100%

Out of all instances of Attitude detected, every single dataset under analysis was found to consist of more than 90 percent Judgement (cf. Table 2). In other words, the assessment of human behaviour by reference to social norms has been identified as the predominant type of evaluation present in both articles and comments.

Regarding the absolute numbers of Attitudes, the varying heights of the individual bars in Figure 20 point towards the varying number of Attitudes identified in the different datasets. AJ comments, i.e. the comments responding to the news report published on Al Jazeera's Facebook page, feature the highest number of Attitudes as well as the highest ratio of Attitudes to words: every 8th word an evaluation takes place⁶. Of course, one instance of Attitude does not always equal one single word, however, to facilitate the comparison, this shall be assumed for now. The lowest Attitude-word ratio was calculated for AJ news report. The news report published on Al Jazeera's Facebook page turns out to be the least evaluative compared to all other datasets under analysis: instances of Attitude were found to occur every 16th word (cf. CNN news report every 14th word, CNN comments every 10th word, AJ comments every 8th word). This seems particularly interesting as no positive relationship between the frequency of evaluations could be detected: the news report featuring the lowest number of assessments (AJ

⁶ Calculation of Attitude-word ratio: total number of words divided by total number of Attitudes

news report) did not provoke the lowest number of assessments in comments. A preliminary conclusion that could be drawn from this observation is that the less attitudinal positioning is visible in the news reports, the stronger the urge to evaluate in responding comments becomes. However, it is important to keep in mind that the amount of data under analysis in this study was rather limited. For this reason, further data would be needed in order to justify the previously suggested conclusion.

Taking a closer look at Table 3, one can see that the total number of Attitudes in the AJ news report is 49, whereas a total of 130 expressions of Attitude was detected in AJ comments. The CNN news report, on the other hand, features a total of 58 Attitudes – 9 more than the AJ news report – and CNN comments contain a total of 110 Attitudes, 20 less than AJ comments.

Table 3: Subtypes of Attitude

	Affect	Judgement	Appreciation	Attitude (total)
AJ news report (799 words)	2	47	0	49
CNN news report (818 words)	4	54	0	58
AJ comments (1059 words)	8	120	2	130
CNN comments (1112 words)	8	101	1	110

Thus, less evaluation in the AJ news report led to more evaluation in AJ comments, whereas more evaluation in the CNN news report (compared to the AJ news report) led to less evaluation in CNN comments (compared to AJ comments). Consequently, these initial findings suggest that the number of assessments formulated in the comments responding to the articles could indeed depend on the number of assessments featured in the respective news reports: more evaluation in articles results in less evaluation in responding comments, and vice versa. At this point it is again important to keep in mind that the amount of data under analysis in this study was limited. For this reason, further data would be needed in order to justify the afore-mentioned conclusion.

RQ 1b: Does Judgement in news reports differ from Judgement in Facebook comments? If yes, in which ways?

The first sub-question of research question 1 focusses on the comparison of Judgement in news reports to Judgement in responding comments. First of all, it needs to be clarified that the short answer to research question 1a is 'yes': Judgement in news reports does differ from Judgement in Facebook comments. In the following paragraphs, ways in which the assessment of human behaviour by reference to social norms varies shall be elaborated on.

Difference 1: The total number of Judgements is much higher in comments than it is in news reports (cf. Table 3). Looking at the percentages calculated from the very same numbers, however, both comments and news reports contain a rather similar amount of Judgement: 95 percent of evaluations expressed in the news reports appraise or criticize human behaviour; 92 percent of evaluations voiced in comments do the same (cf. Table 2). Thus, whether articles or comments feature a greater amount of Judgement, in fact depends on the type of comparison made. When comparing absolute numbers, comments contain more Judgement because the absolute number of Attitudes is higher. When comparing percentages, both comments and articles show an extremely high percentage of Judgement. Yet, the percentage of Judgement in news reports is even higher than the one in comments since almost all evaluations expressed in news reports concern human behaviour (AJ news report 47 out of 49, CNN news report 54 out of 58).

Difference 2: The reasons for Judgement tend to vary. While there seems to be an emphasis on Judgement based on Propriety ('how far beyond reproach?') in both comments and news reports, Tenacity ('how dependable?') plays a much bigger role in news reports than in comments (see Table 4).

Table 4: Reason for Judgement

	Comments	News reports
Capacity	39%	30%
Normality	4%	3%
Propriety	39%	39%
Tenacity	6%	16%
Veracity	11%	13%

Capacity ('how capable?'), on the other hand, is very present in both text types, but comments feature a higher percentage than news reports. What both comments and articles have in common, is that Normality ('how special?') does not receive much attention in neither of them. In case the five categories of Judgement – each of which can take either a positive or a negative value – are still perceived as somewhat impalpable, the following excerpt from White's Appraisal website illustrates characteristic examples from each category.

CATEGORY	EXAMPLE
NORMALITY	<i>"In an extraordinary about-face, the government rescinded its previous directive and raised interest rates by two percent"</i>
CAPACITY	<i>"Rather than being a classic stylist, or <u>naturally talented</u> athlete ..."</i>
TENACITY	<i>"Border embodies the traditional qualities of the Australian cricketer. He is ... <u>uncomplicated</u>, <u>courageous</u>, <u>resourceful</u>, <u>defiant</u> and <u>indefatigable</u>"</i>
VERACITY	<i>"The major problem for President Bush is that the US electorate finds what ever promises he makes about taxes <u>entirely unconvincing</u>."</i>
PROPRIETY	<i>"Hussein's actions are those of a <u>greedy</u> and <u>morally bankrupt despot</u> with no respect for international law and no concern for human life."</i>

Figure 21: Characteristic examples of Categories of Judgement (White 2015c: 9)

To put in another way, the examples depicted in Figure 21 serve as an additional clarification of the categories referred to in Table 4.

Difference 3: With respect to Capacity, the US is assessed negatively a lot more often in comments than in news reports. Whereas the AJ news report contains double as many instances of negative Judgement of the US (6 compared to 3 in absolute numbers), AJ comments and CNN comments feature an equal amount of negative Judgement of the actions taken by the United States. As Table 5 shows regarding negative US Judgement, in both AJ comments and CNN comments, 28 percent of all Judgements voiced in the respective dataset were of negative polarity.

Table 5: Capacity results

CAPACITY	AJ comments	AJ news report	CNN comments	CNN news report
US negative	28%	12%	28%	6%
US positive	3%	2%	3%	2%
UN negative	8%	2%	5%	13%
UN positive	0%	13%	2%	9%
Total percentage of subset	39%	30%	38%	30%

This seems particularly interesting as these percentages can in no way be related to the amount of Judgement present in news reports. With respect to Capacity, the AJ news report features double as much negative Judgement of the US than the CNN news report; still, the percentage of negative Judgements expressed in the comments responding to the AJ news report is not higher than the percentage voiced in the comments added to the CNN news report.

Difference 4: In regard to Normality, most Judgements in comments are negative assessments of US behaviour, whereas the majority of Judgements in news reports are positive assessments of UN behaviour. Notably, Normality does not receive much attention in any of the datasets (cf. Table 6).

Table 6: Normality results

NORMALITY	AJ comments	AJ news report	CNN comments	CNN news report
US negative	3%	0%	2%	0%
US positive	2%	0%	1%	0%
UN negative	0%	0%	0%	0%
UN positive	0%	4%	0%	2%
Total percentage of subset	4%	4%	3%	2%

Once again, Table 6 confirms that the amount of positive or negative assessment of UN or US actions in comments does not seem to be related to the amount of positive or negative assessment of UN or US actions in news reports.

Subsequent Tables 7, 8 and 9 illustrate the results with respect to the missing categories of Judgement: Propriety, Tenacity and Veracity.

Table 7: Propriety results

PROPRIETY	AJ comments	AJ news report	CNN comments	CNN news report
US negative	35%	11%	29%	2%
US positive	0%	0%	0%	6%
UN negative	1%	17%	2%	33%
UN positive	0%	9%	4%	0%
Total percentage of subset	36%	36%	35%	41%

Table 8: Tenacity results

TENACITY	AJ comments	AJ news report	CNN comments	CNN news report
US negative	3%	6%	9%	0%
US positive	0%	6%	0%	9%
UN negative	0%	0%	1%	0%
UN positive	1%	9%	0%	2%
Total percentage of subset	3%	21%	10%	11%

Table 9: Veracity results

VERACITY	AJ comments	AJ news report	CNN comments	CNN news report
US negative	10%	4%	9%	4%
US positive	0%	2%	1%	2%
UN negative	0%	0%	2%	11%
UN positive	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total percentage of subset	10%	6%	12%	17%

The rows highlighted in light green in Tables 7, 8 and 9, are the ones which most clearly indicate what has already been suggested in the preceding paragraphs: the amount of positive or negative evaluation of UN or US behaviour in comments is in no way related to the amount of positive or negative evaluation of UN or US behaviour in news reports.

As has been shown in the preceding Tables 4, 6 and 7, the reasons for Judgement most present in articles as well as comments are summed up under the categories of Propriety and Capacity. Together, they comprise two thirds of Judgements in all datasets under analysis. For this reason, some assessments of human behaviour by reference to social norms and expectations of Propriety as well as Capacity are exemplified in Figures 22 and 23 below.

11	The US problem with the body is twofold: the make-up of its membership [1] and what it considers a disproportionate focus on allegations of human rights abuses committed by its ally, Israel. [2 + 3]	Explicit negative [1]	Capacity (ignorant)	US (supported by author) → UNHRC
		Explicit negative [2]	Propriety (unfair, corrupt)	US (not supported by author) → UNHRC
		Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'what it considers')	Capacity (incompetent)	Author → US

Figure 22: Example of Judgement from AJ news report

Figure 22 shows an example taken from the AJ news report. In the passage, three instances of Judgement have been indicated. The first one is an explicit negative evaluation of UN actions by reference to the social expectations of Capacity. In [1] the UN is criticized for the continuing ignorance of the problems regarding their membership. Note that *ignorant* has been chosen as the best fitting descriptive adjective, as instances of Attitude are always to be considered in context: elaborations following this declaration ("In 2006, when the council was established, then-US

President George W Bush refused to join because the organisation included members accused by Washington of human rights violations.”) pointed towards persistent ignorance as the reason for criticism.

Evaluation [2] offers a revealing insight into the difficulties of conducting this type of linguistic analysis. In [2], the reason for Judgement is based on social expectations of Propriety: the UN is regarded as ‘unfair’ and ‘corrupt’ because the organization is accused of a ‘disproportionate focus on allegations of human rights abuses committed’ by Israel. Utterly important to realize at this point is that the very same passage could have easily been interpreted as negative Judgement based on social expectations of Capacity: in this case, the disproportionate focus on Israel would have been interpreted not as an allegation of corruption, but as a criticism centred on the UN’s (in)competence. Following this line of reasoning, the UN would have been viewed as incapable of focusing on different problem areas simultaneously. Therefore, evaluation [2] would have been categorized as an assessment based on social expectations of Capacity; not Propriety. However, there is one essential part of the analysis which most certainly would not have been subject to change: the polarity of Judgement. Following both trains of thought would have led to the identification of a negative assessment of human behaviour by reference to social norms. Thus, it shall be noted that even though the identification of the right category of Judgement often appears purely subjective, the polarity of Judgement – which forms the basis for most of the findings of this thesis – does not.

Examining the comment illustrated in Figure 23, the differences in the language used to evaluate in news reports compared to user comments become most obvious. At first glance, one might wonder why this comment has not been excluded from the analysis like many other comments have been (see section 4.5). The first thing to remember, however, is the primary criterion for the exclusion of comments: semantic opaqueness. According to the opinion of the analyser, the meaning aimed to convey in this text is still clear despite the numerous misspellings. As a consequence, the comment has not been excluded from the analysis.

8	yeah...a country with a devil administration [1]... did do doing many genocide around z world [2] have nothing know about what we call "human rights"[3].....US threaten z right to life directly n indirectly [4]	Explicit negative [1]	Propriety (evil) <i>devil = the most powerful evil being</i>	Reader → US
		Explicit negative [2]	Propriety (immoral, cruel) <i>genocide = the murder of a whole race or group of people</i>	Reader → US
		Implicit provoked negative [3] <i>(some evaluative language: 'what we call')</i>	Capacity (ignorant) <i>In my opinion, this passage evokes the impression that the US simply does not care about human rights; not necessarily that they are not educated or smart enough to know the theory.</i>	Reader → US
		Explicit negative [4]	Capacity (dangerous) <i>threaten something = to be a danger to something</i>	Reader → US

Figure 23: Example of Judgment from AJ comments

Similar to Figure 22, Figure 23 illustrates assessments of human behaviour by reference to social expectations of Propriety as well as Capacity. In evaluations [1] and [2], the US is referred to as ‘a country with a devil administration’ responsible for genocides all around the world. Both instances have been categorized as examples of explicit negative assessments of US behaviour based on the expectation that the people governing a country are supposed to aim for peace and security; not for mass murder. The base for evaluation [3], on the other hand, is the expectation that the US is supposed to respect and care about the basic right of citizens to be treated fairly by their government. In this case, ‘ignorant’ was identified as the most suitable descriptive adjective as not caring about something that you should care about – according to social norms – makes you not only reluctant but also ignorant. As a result, Capacity has been chosen as the most appropriate category of Judgement.

Moreover, evaluation [4] provides an ideal opportunity for further clarification of the potential ramifications resulting from the process of identification chosen for this analysis. In section 4.2, it has been clarified that – as part of the fourth phase of analysis – at least one suitable adjective needs to be ascribed to every instance of Judgement; this ascription then leads to the classification of every instance of Judgement into one out of five distinct categories specifying the reason for the positive or negative assessment of human behaviour. In other words, the identification of the appropriate category of Judgement is based on the descriptive adjectives. In evaluation [4], the US is accused of representing a danger to people’s life. Therefore, the descriptive adjective chosen was ‘dangerous’ and the appropriate category resulting from this adjective is Capacity. Nevertheless, referring to the US as a threat to life could also have led to the

conclusion that the US is regarded as an evil nation by the author of this comment. Thus, following the latter line of thought, the appropriate category of Judgement would have been Propriety; not Capacity. For this reason, it shall be stressed that – even though it is possible in many cases to argue for different adjectives from other categories of Judgement – the descriptive adjectives remain key to the classification.

Regardless of the peculiarities of the process of categorization, the discussion of potential conclusions to be drawn from the predominance of Propriety and Capacity in all datasets under analysis remains missing. The question here is: what exactly does the fact that most Judgements are based on social expectations regarding Propriety or Capacity imply? In essence, it signifies that these were the main criteria for evaluating US as well as UN behaviour in both articles and comments. Neither the authors of the news reports, nor the authors of the comments responding to these news reports, focussed on aspects related to Normality, Tenacity or Veracity in the same amount as they cared about aspects related to Propriety and Capacity. Instead, the authors of those texts were eager to share their opinion on the US administration's capability to govern, presumably because the main topic of the hard news reports was the decision made by the US to leave the UN Human Rights Council. Naturally, this decision also represents the core theme almost all Judgements are related to.

Nevertheless, it shall not be forgotten that the options chosen to evaluate the US decision to leave the UN Human Rights Council were not the only options available for said evaluation. One alternative option would have been to regard the US behaviour as (ab)normal: yet, as already known, not many authors chose to do so (see Table 6). Another option was to support the decision by viewing the US administration as very capable of doing their job, or to show the opposition to the decision by voicing doubts about US capability. As has already been stressed before, many authors chose this option (see Table 5). Furthermore, it was possible to evaluate the decision by judging how ethical the US behaviour has been. As the data shows, numerous authors have expressed doubts about the morality of the US decision which is the very reason why the category Propriety is featured more often than any other (see Table 7 or Table 4).

Difference 5: Respecting all five categories of Judgement, the negative assessment of US behaviour is significantly more common in comments compared to the news reports (see bars coloured in dark blue in Figure 24 below). Correspondingly, the positive assessment of US behaviour has been found to be less common in comments (see bars coloured in light blue).

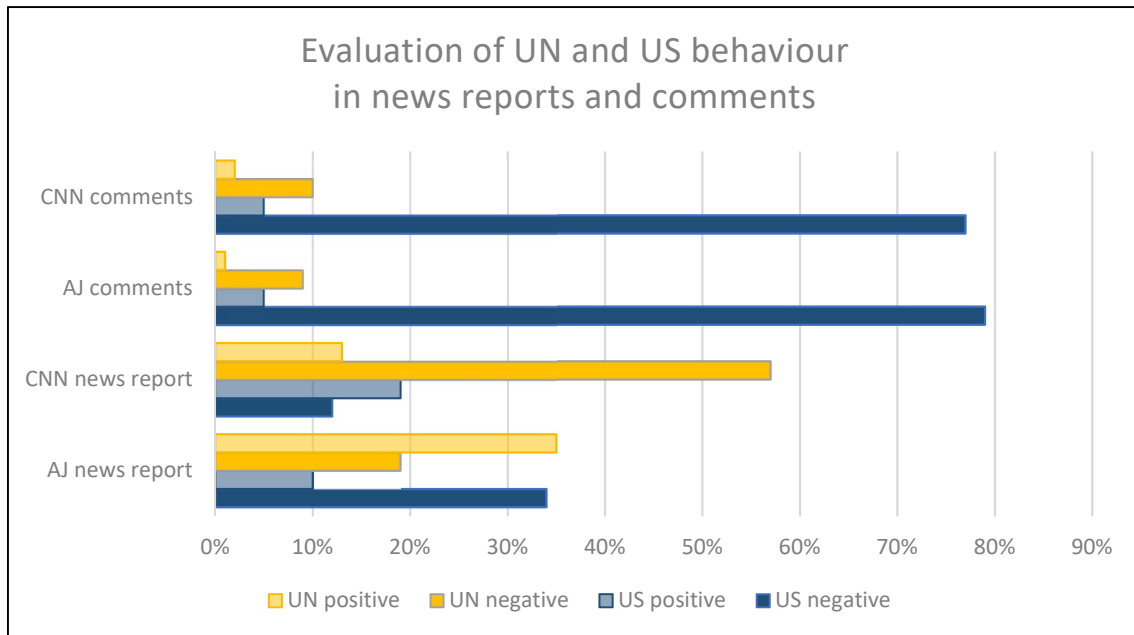


Figure 24: Evaluation of UN and US behaviour in news reports and comments

Difference 6: On a similar note, both the positive and negative assessment of UN behaviour – with respect to all five categories of Judgement – is more frequent in reports (see dark yellow bars in Figure 24). This difference in Judgement clearly indicates that the comments analysed are a lot more focussed on US actions, whereas the news reports seem a bit more balanced as they evaluate actions taken by the US as well as the UN.

Most importantly, these differences are not seen to signify that Judgement in comments is totally unrelated to Judgement in news reports. In fact, it has been observed that – especially when it comes to suggesting that the US decision to withdraw from the UNHRC is somehow related to the strained relationship between the UN and its ally Israel – comments do take up arguments from the respective news reports (exemplified in Figures 25 and 26).

18	Ken Roth of Human Rights Watch said that the US was attempting to discredit the council because of its regular criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians.	Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'attempting to discredit')	Veracity (dishonest, manipulative) saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal discredit = to make people stop respecting somebody/something	Ken Roth (HRW) → US
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Figure 25: Example 'Israel' from AJ news report

75	Nikky, the peace loving nations of the world do not need Trump's country [1] to muddle in UNHRC's affairs [2] to satisfy Israel [3]--the Zionist Murderers [4]! Do not come back again until Americans Vote your boss out of Power!	Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'peace loving nations')	Propriety (immoral, evil) saying that Trump's country is not peace loving because it is excluded from the term	Reader → US
		Explicit negative [2]	Capacity (incompetent) To muddle = to put things in the wrong order	Reader → US
		Implicit evoked negative [3]	Veracity (dishonest) saying this was the real purpose of the US membership	Reader → US
		Explicit negative [4]	Propriety (evil)	Reader → Israel
77	I think it is okay for the US to pull out. [1] That will allow the UNHRC [2] to condemn US and Israel policies [3] and avoid a US veto.	Explicit positive [1]	Capacity (sensible)	Reader → US decision
		Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'allow')	Capacity (weak)	Reader → UN
		Explicit negative [3]	Propriety (unjust)	Reader → US & Israel

Figure 26: Examples 'Israel' from AJ comments

Figure 25 shows an indirect quote from the AJ news report where it is written that 'the US was attempting to discredit the council because of its regular criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians'. Thus, the regular criticism of Israel by the UN is suggested as the reason for the US decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council. This argument is taken up in both comments exemplified in Figure 26. In comment 75, US President Trump's actions are interpreted as having the ulterior aim of 'satisfying' Israel. In comment 77, on the other hand, the same argument is actually used to state something positive: this decision 'will allow the UNHRC to condemn US and Israel policies and avoid a US veto'. Note that in both comments the strong relationship between Israel and the US as well as the fragile relationship between Israel and the UN pointed towards in Figure 25 represent the basis for formulating the Judgements in Figure 26. Thus, even though the polarity of Judgement is not necessarily taken up in comments (e.g. the UN is not evaluated positively in comments just because the organization is assessed positively in reports), the information on which the evaluation is based on can occasionally be related back to certain passages in news reports.

Difference 7: Regarding the modes of Judgement as visualized in Figure 27 on the following page, comments show a rather equal distribution of implicit and explicit

Judgement (51% compared to 49%), while news reports including attributed material feature more implicit than explicit Judgement (63% compared to 38%⁷).

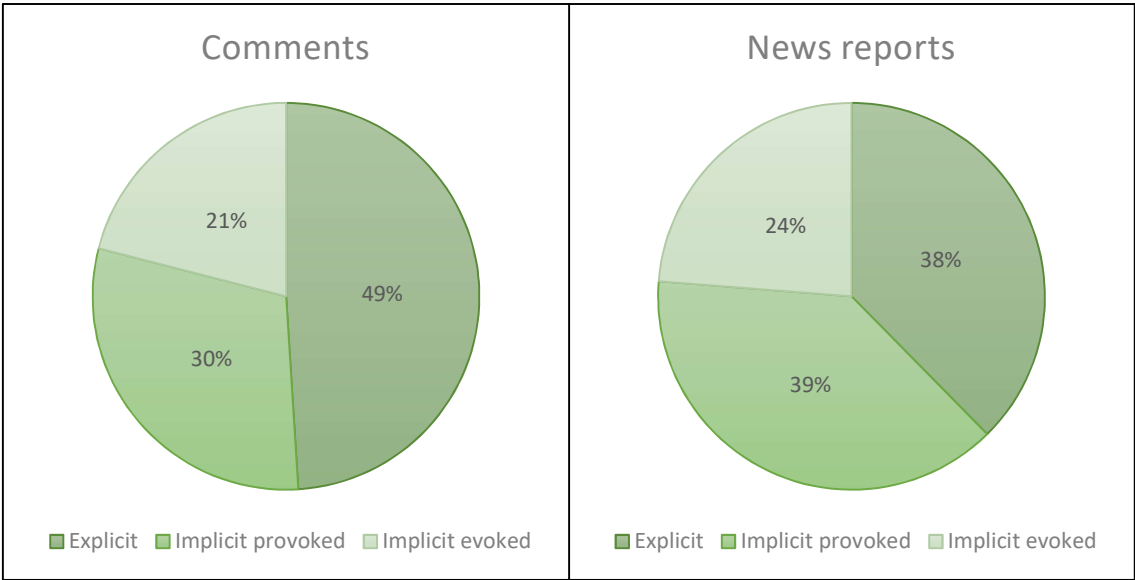


Figure 27: Modes of Judgement in comments and news reports

As illustrated in Figure 27, explicit Judgement is more present in comments than in articles (see dark green part in pie charts). Yet, explicit Judgement remains surprisingly frequent in news reports. Excluding explicit Judgements expressed in attributions, however, the percentage in news reports would be almost zero as the great majority of explicit Judgements in articles is expressed in attributions. Considering that hard news reports are supposed to feature only a minimal amount of explicit Judgement expressed by the author, these findings were to be expected (Thomson, White & Kitley 2008: 222).

⁷ Sometimes the total percentage is 101% instead of 100% because the percentages have been rounded in order to make the results clearer, i.e. more than one percentage has been rounded up in those cases.

RQ 1c: Does Judgement in the Al Jazeera news report differ from Judgement in the CNN news report? If yes, in which ways?

The second sub-question of research question one concerns the comparison of Judgement in the AJ news report to Judgement in the CNN news report. In this case, it will be clarified that the answer to research question 1b is 'yes', but also 'no': to a great extent, Judgement in the AJ news report clearly differs from Judgement in the CNN news report; yet in some ways, remarkable similarities have come to the fore as well. Subsequently, differences as well as similarities in the evaluation of US and UN behaviour in the AJ news report compared to the CNN news report are expanded on.

Difference 1: There are 7 more instances of Judgement in the CNN news report. As Table 10 confirms, the total number of Judgements in the AJ news report is 47, compared to a total of 54 Judgements in the CNN news report. Regarding the Judgement-word ratio, every 17th word in the AJ news report features Judgement, compared to every 15th word in the CNN news report.⁸ Hence, again the numbers point towards a more frequent use of Judgement in the CNN news report compared to the AJ news report.

Table 10: Categories of Judgement in news reports

	Capacity	Normality	Propriety	Tenacity	Veracity	total
AJ news report (799 words)	14	2	17	10	4	47
CNN news report (818 words)	16	1	22	6	9	54

Similarity 1: Ranking the categories of Judgement, Propriety is listed as the most frequent reason for Judgement in both news reports, closely followed by Capacity. Further, Table 10 indicates that Normality is the least frequent reason for Judgement in both.

Difference 2: Ranking the categories of Judgement, the third place in the ranking varies: Tenacity is identified as the reason for Judgement more often in the AJ news report than

⁸ Calculation of Judgement-word ratio: total number of words divided by total number of Judgements

in the CNN news report. Correspondingly, Veracity is more present in the CNN news report than in the AJ news report.

What is mostly judged in the AJ news report? Propriety, Capacity, **Tenacity, Veracity**, Normality
 What is mostly judged in the CNN news report? Propriety, Capacity, **Veracity, Tenacity**, Normality

Figure 28: Ranking categories of Judgement based on Table 10

To put it differently, the ranking of categories of Judgement resulted in the discovery of differences as well as similarities. Once again, these findings suggest that the authors of both the AJ and the CNN news report primarily focus on aspects related to Propriety and Capacity when formulating Judgement about the main topic of both hard news reports, namely the US decision to leave the UNHRC.

Difference 2: The most frequent mode of Judgement varies. While in the AJ news report implicit provoked Judgement has been identified as the most frequent mode of Judgement, explicit Judgement – quite surprisingly – turns out to be the most frequent mode of Judgement in the CNN news report (see Table 11 and Figure 29).

Table 11: Modes of Judgement in news reports

	Explicit	Implicit evoked	Implicit provoked	Total
AJ news report	13 (28%)	14 (30%)	20 (43%)	47 (101%)
CNN news rep.	25 (46%)	10 (19%)	19 (35%)	54 (100%)

How is mostly judged in the AJ news report? Provoked implicit, evoked implicit, **explicit**
 How is mostly judged in the CNN news report? **Explicit**, provoked implicit, evoked implicit

Figure 29: Ranking modes of Judgement based on Table 11

A possible explanation for these somewhat unexpected findings might be discovered by examining the bar chart illustrated in Figure 30. Presumably, the higher amount of explicit Judgement in the CNN news report compared to the AJ news report is caused by the substantial amount of non-authorial Judgement in the CNN news report: external sources are more likely to judge explicitly as they do not have to aim for perceived objectivity like news report authors are supposed to (cf. Thomson, White & Kitley 2008: 1).

Difference 3: The people who get to judge vary substantially (see Figure 30).

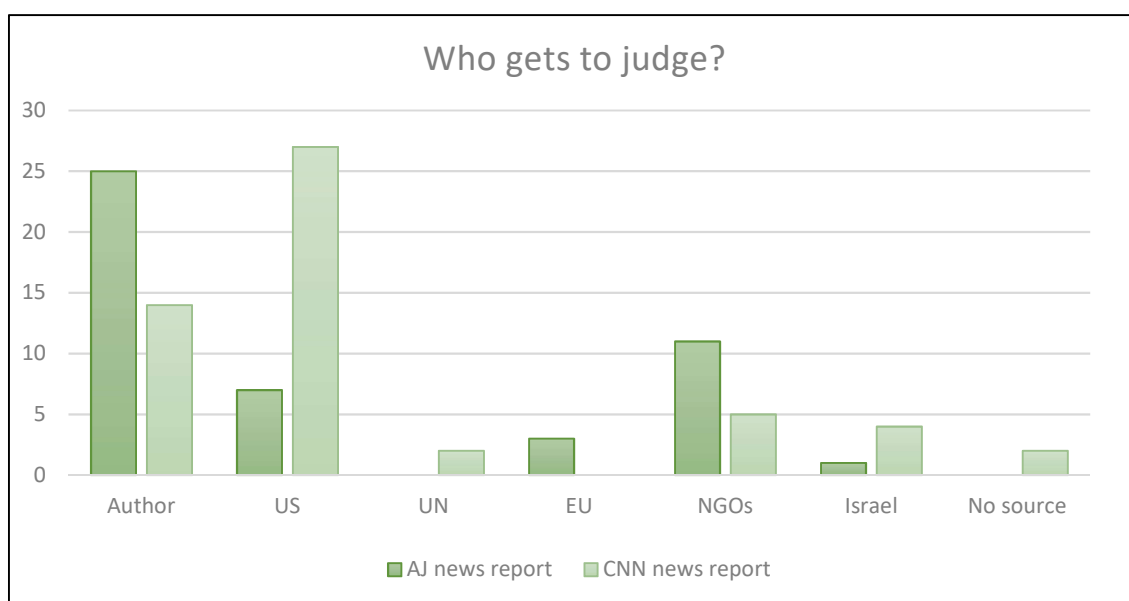


Figure 30: Judges in news reports

As the first two bars in Figure 30 show, the author of the AJ news report chooses to evaluate 11 times more often than the author of the CNN report. In contrast, people representing the US such as US President Trump or US Ambassador to the United Nations at the time Nikki Haley, get to evaluate significantly more often in the CNN news report (27 instances of Judgement compared to 7). NGOs such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, on the other hand, are given more space to assess in the AJ news report (11 compared to 5). Intriguingly, Israel gets to have a voice in both articles whereas the UN as well as the EU only get to express their Judgements in one of the reports.

The reasons behind the AJ author's decision to evaluate significantly more often than the CNN author, can only be speculated about. It is not known to the author of this thesis whether different guidelines for writers working for the respective news organizations exist. Moreover, it could be argued that Al Jazeera is a news network perceived as utterly proud of its strong and critical voice, whereas CNN tends to emphasize its neutrality. However, it shall be stressed that all of these suggestions are mere speculations. On the contrary, the reason behind the CNN author's decision to provide quite a lot of space for the voice of people representing the US seems rather obvious: they are probably used to critique the UN. With respect to the noteworthy amount of space given to NGOs in the AJ report compared to the CNN report, it can be assumed that these voices are

utilized to either praise the UN, or to criticize the US. Findings presented in the following paragraphs in fact confirm these assumptions (see subsequent Tables).

Difference 4: Regarding the people whose actions were assessed, the AJ news report features a lot more negative evaluation of US behaviour than the CNN news report (cf. Table 12).

Table 12: Negative Judgement of US in news reports

Negative Judgement US	AJ news report	CNN news report
Capacity	6 (4 author, 2 EU)	3 (2 no source, 1 NGO)
Normality		
Propriety	5 (2 author, 3 NGO)	1 (1 author)
Tenacity	3 (1 author, 2 NGO)	
Veracity	2 (1 author, 1 NGO)	2 (2 author)
In total	16 (8 author, 6 NGO, 2 EU)	6 (3 author, 2 no source, 1 NGO)

Similarity 2: Both reports contain a similar amount of positive Judgement of the US (cf. Table 13).

Table 13: Positive Judgement of US in news reports

Positive Judgement US	AJ news report	CNN news report
Capacity	1 (1 EU)	1 (1 US)
Normality		
Propriety		3 (1 author, 2 US)
Tenacity	3 (2 author, 2 Israel)	5 (2 author, 2 US, 1 Israel)
Veracity	1 (1 author)	1 (1 author)
In total	5 (2 author, 1 EU, 1 Israel)	6 (3 author, 2 no source, 1 NGO)

Difference 5: Negative Judgement of the UN is three times more present in the CNN news report (cf. Table 14).

Table 14: Negative Judgement of UN in news reports

Negative Judgement UN	AJ news report	CNN news report
Capacity	1 (1 US)	7 (1 author, 6 US)
Normality		
Propriety	8 (1 author, 6 US, 1 NGO)	18 (2 author, 13 US, 2 Israel, 1 UN)
Tenacity		
Veracity		6 (2 author, 3 US, 1 Israel)
In total	9 (1 author, 7 US, 1 NGO)	31 (5 author, 22 US, 3 Israel, 1 UN)

Similarity 3: The great majority of negative assessment of UN actions in both articles is expressed by people representing the US (cf. Table 14).

Difference 6: Positive Judgement of the UN is more frequent in the AJ news report (cf. Table 15).

Table 15: Positive Judgement of UN in news reports

Positive Judgement UN	AJ news report	CNN news report
Capacity	6 (5 author, 1 NGO)	5 (2 author, 2 NGO, 1 UN)
Normality	2 (2 NGO)	1 (1 NGO)
Propriety	4 (3 author, 1 NGO)	
Tenacity	4 (4 author)	1 (1NGO)
Veracity		
In total	16 (12 author, 4 NGO)	7 (2 author, 4 NGO, 1 UN)

In light of the latest findings regarding the people being judged (i.e. differences 4, 5 & 6; similarities 2 & 3) it can be concluded that the most fundamental differences become visible when examining the negative Judgement of both US and UN actions: while the great majority of negative evaluation of US behaviour is voiced in the AJ report (16 instances), the preponderance of negative assessment of UN behaviour is expressed in the CNN report (31 instances). Thus, it could be argued that the author of the AJ news report is rather opposed to the US decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights

Council, while the author of the CNN news report seems to be more in favour of the withdrawal.

Figure 31 visualizes the preceding statements (note length differences between the lights and dark greens bars).

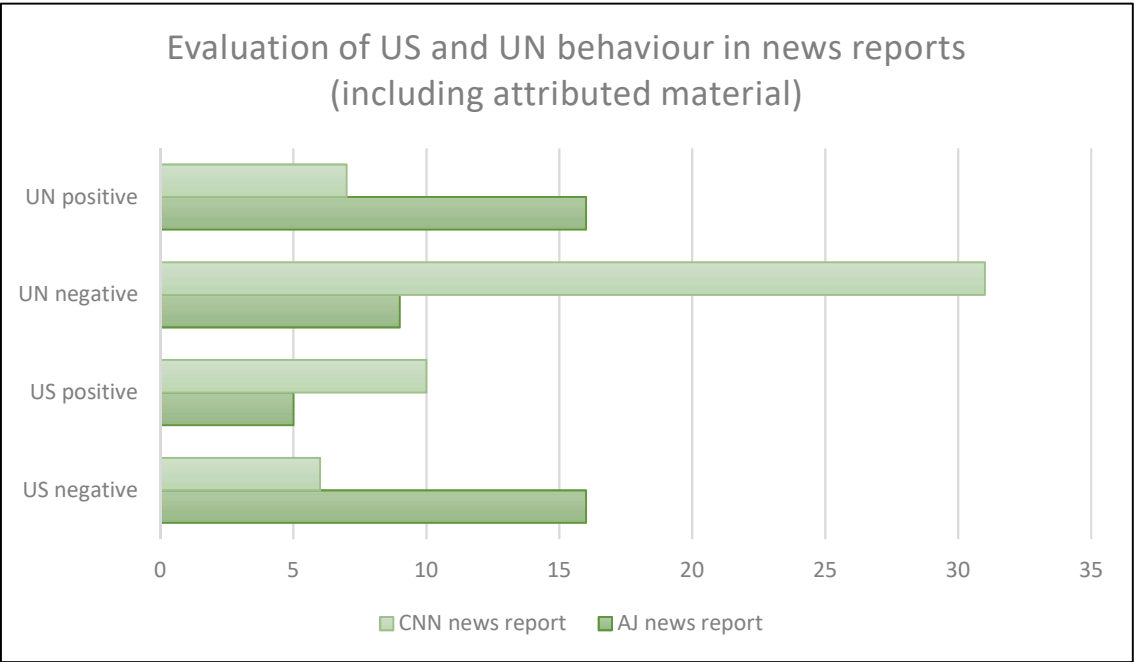


Figure 31: Evaluation of US and UN behaviour in news reports

Similarity 4: Comparing results visualized in Figures 31 and 32, the striking similarity between evaluations of US and UN behaviour including attributions, and evaluations of US and UN behaviour excluding attributions becomes visible. Naturally, the number of Judgements varies, but – more importantly – the trends remain the same. In the majority of instances, the author of the AJ report (see dark green bars in Figure 32) assesses US actions negatively and UN actions positively, whereas the author of the CNN report (see light green bars) evaluates US behaviour positively and UN behaviour negatively.

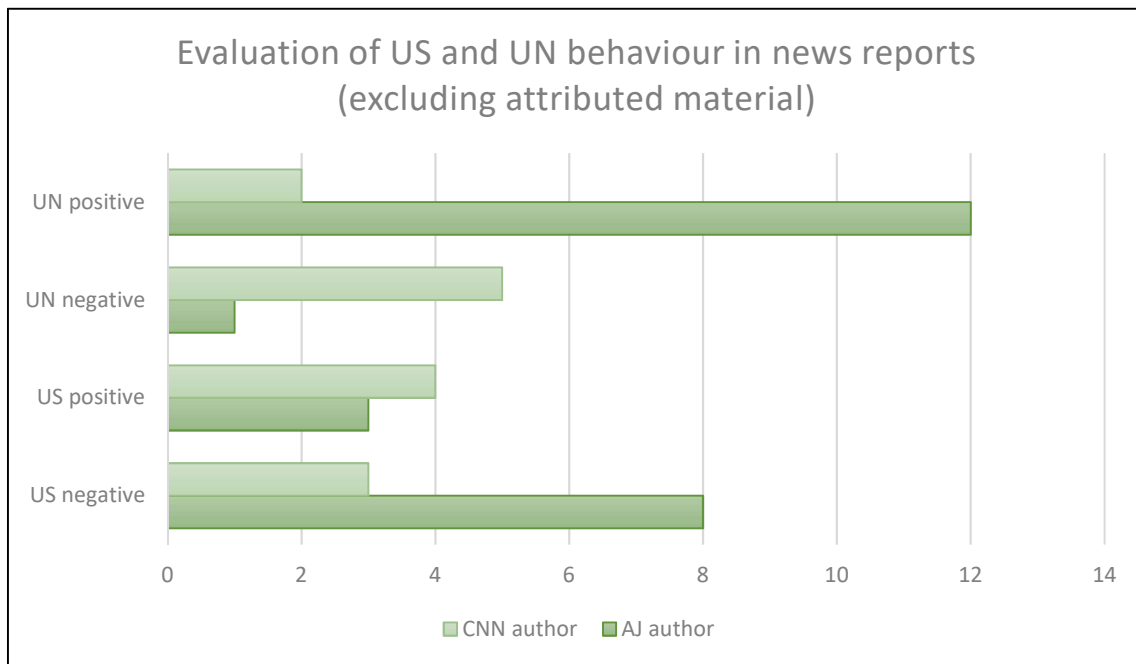


Figure 32: Evaluation of US and UN behaviour by authors only

Hence, the comparison of the results depicted in Figures 31 and 32 indicates that the authors of the respective news reports have made use of attributed material in order to strengthen their points. In fact, this finding confirms Jullian’s (2011: 766) notion of the power of quotations in news reports: the linguist compellingly argues that “attributions are not evaluation outlets for sources only, but indirect means of Appraisal for the journalists as well, who support – and reinforce – the points they want to make through these voices”. To emphasize these astoundingly affirmative findings in Jullian’s words, the inclusion of attributed material in the CNN news report as well as in the AJ news report, has been identified as an indirect means of Appraisal for the journalists who wrote the articles.

RQ 1d: Does Judgement in the Facebook comments responding to the Al Jazeera news report differ from Judgement in the Facebook comments responding to the CNN news report? If yes, in which ways?

The third sub-question of research question 1 focusses on the comparison of Judgement in AJ comments to Judgement in CNN comments. Prior to going into detail, it shall be clarified that the one-word answer to research question 1c is 'no': albeit encountering some differences, the similarities comparing Judgement in AJ comments to Judgement in CNN comments outweigh the differences. In the following, differences as well as similarities in the evaluation of US and UN behaviour in AJ comments compared to CNN comments shall be elaborated on.

Difference 1: There are 19 more instances of Judgement in AJ comments (120 compared to 101).

Similarity 1: The assessment of UN and US actions in CNN comments is strikingly similar to the assessment of UN and US actions in AJ comments (see Figure 33).

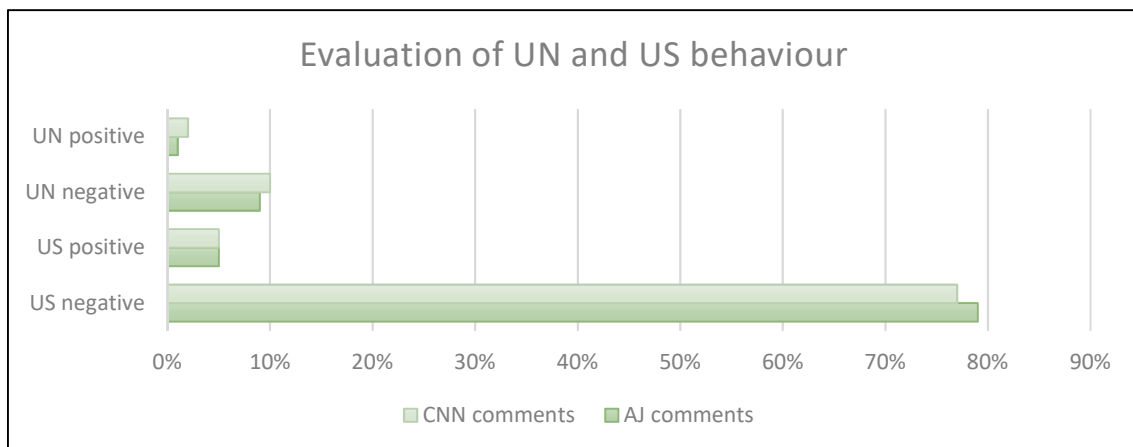


Figure 33: Evaluation of UN and US behaviour in comments

As the bars in Figure 33 indicate, the predominant focus of Judgement is directed towards US behaviour. For the most part, US actions are assessed negatively in both AJ and CNN comments. Differences in regard to the number of positive and negative assessments of UN and US actions voiced in CNN comments compared to AJ comments are almost undetectable (compare the light green bars to the dark green bars illustrated in Figure 33).

Similarity 2: With respect to the five categories of Judgement, AJ comments and CNN comments again show comparable results (see Table 16).

Table 16: Categories of Judgement in comments

	AJ comments	CNN comments
Capacity	39%	38%
Normality	4%	3%
Propriety	36%	35%
Tenacity	3%	10%
Veracity	10%	12%

As Table 16 shows, the only category of Judgement indicating some differences is Tenacity (3% compared to 10%). All other categories are featured to a similar extent in both AJ comments and CNN comments (maximum difference of 2%).

Difference 2: The application of the three modes of Judgement in AJ comments compared to CNN comments varies slightly (see Figure 34).

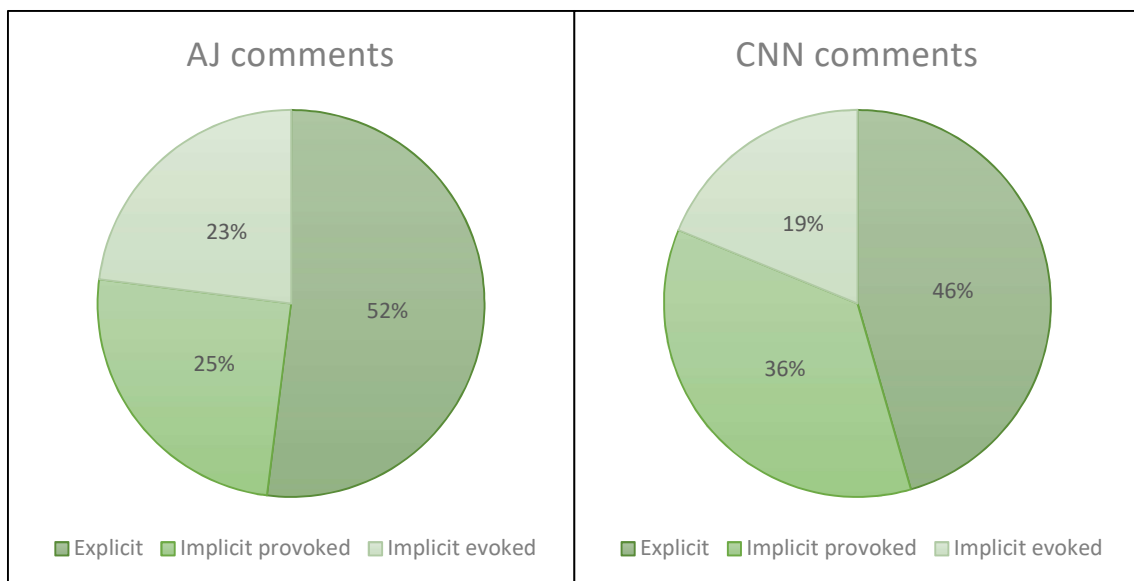


Figure 34: Modes of Judgement in AJ comments and CNN comments

Comparing the two pie charts above, the differences regarding the modes of Judgement become more pronounced. The amount of implicit provoked Judgement seems much bigger in CNN comments than in AJ comments. Correspondingly, explicit Judgement is featured more often in AJ comments than in CNN comments. Thus, it can be concluded that readers expressing their Judgements on the AJ Facebook page do so in a slightly

more direct way than readers voicing their evaluations of US and UN behaviour on the CNN page (compare amount of explicit Judgement in Figure 34).

Considering the results of all sub-questions to research question one, it is suggested that the influence journalists have on the positive or negative assessment in user comments is rather limited. As a consequence, the persuasive power of hard news reports appears quite limited as well. For this reason, further studies comparing evaluative choices in hard news reports to evaluative choices in responding user comments would be necessary as the number of datasets under analysis in this thesis was limited. Moreover, it would be of interest to conduct an Appraisal analysis of news reports and user comments centred on a less provocative topic than the US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council. To put it differently, an investigation of evaluative choices in both hard news reports and responding user comments with a focus on a less polarizing topic – similar to Anderson et al.'s (2014) approach to analysing influence on readers' opinion formation – would be required in order to facilitate the generalization of the conclusions drawn in regard to research question one.

RQ 2: Are the news reports written in 'reporter voice'?

The simple answer to this research question is yes, the news reports are written in reporter voice. The more complex answer entails an explanation of the criteria which need to be fulfilled in order to identify reporter voice. First of all, only minimal authorial inscribed, i.e. explicit, Judgement is supposed to be present in a hard news report. In the news reports under analysis, only two instances of authorial inscribed Judgement were encountered, one in the AJ news report and another in the CNN news report. These results are in line with Martin and White's (2005: 168) findings: after the analysis of over 70 news articles, they concluded that the "absolute prohibition on unmediated explicit **judgement** (grouping 1) operates more frequently in certain journalistic domains than in others – for example it typically operates in police-rounds and court reporting but significantly less frequently in the context of political coverage" [original emphasis], which would also be the journalistic domain both the news reports under analysis pertain to as they are reporting about a news event closely related to politics. Consequently, the first requirement for the categorization as hard news report has been

met as only minimal authorial Judgement was found to be present in the news reports under analysis.

One of the two authorial inscribed Judgements detected in the respective datasets shall be exemplified in the following Figure. Evaluation [4] in Figure 35 identifies explicit negative Judgement of US behaviour, in this case negative assessment of Nikki Haley's behaviour in particular. The mode of Judgement is regarded as explicit because the negative assessment can be related to one single verb, namely 'to hit out'. As is explained in Figure 35, 'to hit out at somebody' means 'to attack somebody or something violently by fighting them or criticizing them'. That is to say, the author refers to Haley as someone who attacks someone else violently which – in the opinion of the analyser – explicitly signifies irreverent as well as extremely discourteous behaviour. For this reason, Propriety has been chosen as the category of Judgement regarding evaluation [4] in Figure 35.

2	She cited "chronic bias" against Israel [1] and hit out at the "hypocritical [2] and self-serving organisation". [3] [4]	Explicit negative [1]	Propriety (unfair)	Haley → UNHRC
		Explicit negative [2]	Propriety (immoral) <i>hypocritical = pretending to have moral standards or opinions that you do not actually have</i>	Haley → UNHRC
		Explicit negative [3]	Propriety (selfish)	Haley → UNHRC
		Explicit negative [4] (<i>'hit out at' instead of 'criticized'</i>)	Propriety (irreverent, discourteous) <i>hit out at somebody/something = to attack somebody/something violently by fighting them or criticizing them</i> <i>irreverent = not showing respect to somebody/something that other people usually respect</i> <i>Also, the way Haley is quoted makes me assume that the author does not agree with her. He or she is clearly separating Haley's words from his or her own.</i>	Author → Haley

Figure 35: Authorial inscribed Judgement in the AJ news report

The absence of authorial Affect was the second requirement which needed to be fulfilled in order to be able to – linguistically – categorize an article as hard news report. As no instance of authorial Affect was detected in neither of the news reports, there are no examples of authorial Affect to visualize at this point.

Furthermore, some observed Affect should be present in a news report written in reporter voice, i.e. a hard news report. Correspondingly, some instances of observed Affect have been encountered in both articles under analysis. The AJ news report

featured 2 instances of observed (non-authorial) Affect; the CNN news report 4. One of these instances is exemplified in Figure 36 below.

The US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has been roundly condemned by rights groups and was described as " disappointing , if not really <u>surprising</u> " by Zeid Raad al-Hussein, the UN high commissioner for human rights.	Zeid Raad al-Hussein	US withdrawal	Attribution, direct quote (insertion)	Non-authorial	Unhappiness: misery <i>disappointed = not as good as you had hoped, making you feel disappointed</i> <i>disappointment = sadness because something has not happened or been as good, successful, etc. as you expected or hoped</i>
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Figure 36: Example of observed Affect in AJ news report

Affect, one of the subtypes of Attitude, concerns human emotions. In the first column to the left in Figure 36, the adjective ‘disappointing’ is highlighted in bold which indicates that it is this sole word which points towards an evaluation by referring to feelings. According to the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, disappointment is a kind of ‘sadness because something has not happened or been as good, successful, etc as you expected or hoped’. Thus, the usage of the adjective ‘disappointing’ implies a feeling of sadness about something that has happened in the past. In this case, ‘something’ refers to the US decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council. As a result, the US decision is evaluated in a negative way based on the expression of emotion. On the grounds that there is no indication whatsoever that this sad feeling is being experienced by the author of the text, this instance of Affect has been categorized as non-authorial or observed Affect. The experiencer in this case is Zeid Raad al-Hussein; not the author.

Note that it is possible to include this type of Affect when writing a hard news report because it does not endanger the perception of the author’s objectivity. In respect to the guidelines for reporter voice, the image of objectivity – which, in the context of journalism, is often used as a synonym to professionalism – is of utmost importance. The expression of emotions is unacceptable when the emotions in question are experienced by the author him- or herself, simply, because these authorial emotions would most certainly result in the creation of an image of subjectivity from the readers’ point of view. However, when someone other than the author is referred to as experiencing emotions, the perception of the author as a professional in his field is not regarded as endangered as it is not the author per se who is viewed as emotional; thus, subjective. For this reason, observed Affect in a hard news report is accepted, whereas authorial Affect is not.

The last requirement defined by Martin and White (2005) centres on inscribed authorial Appreciation. The explicit evaluation of the form, appearance, composition, impact, significance, etc. of human artefacts, natural objects as well as human individuals by reference to aesthetics by the author of the text is what should be featured in a hard news report in some instances of Attitude. As a matter of fact, this is not the case when it comes to the news reports under analysis. Inscribed authorial Appreciation was found to be absent in both the CNN as well as the AJ news report. Nevertheless, it shall be noted that this is the only instance where a slight divergence from Martin and White's criteria could be noticed.

Moreover, it has not been clarified by the architects of the Appraisal framework whether the exact fulfillment of every single requirement is necessary in order to regard articles as hard news reports (cf. Martin & White 2005: 161-184). What has been stated clearly, however, is that "values of **appreciation** occur more frequently in writer voice than in reporter voice" [original emphasis] as with respect to reporter voice, "35 out of the 42 texts contained instances at rates of between 0.9 and 6.3 per 500 words" (Martin & White 2005: 176). Whereas "all texts contained instances at rates between 1.6 and 11.3 per 500 words" regarding writer voice (Martin & White 2005: 177). Note that even though an explicit clarification of the necessity of Appreciation in reporter voice remains missing, the fact that Martin and White (2005: 176) report that "35 out of 42 texts" contained instances of Appreciation in fact confirms the assumption that it is very likely for hard news reports to feature authorial Appreciation, however, it is not to be regarded as an absolute requirement. Rather, it is to be viewed as an optional requirement as only 7 out of 42 texts comprising Martin and White's group of articles written in reporter voice were found to comply with this requirement. That is to say that, although one of the (optional) requirements has not been fulfilled in its entirety, in the opinion of the analyser, both the AJ news report as well as the CNN news report qualify for the linguistic categorization as hard news report as all other (compulsory) requirements have been met.

RQ 3: Is there a trend towards negativity in the Facebook comments responding to the news reports?

Taking a quick glance at the dark blue bars in Figure 37 confirms that – ‘yes’ – with respect to the evaluation of US behaviour in both news reports and comments, the amount of negative Judgement in comments is much higher than the amount of negative Judgement in reports.

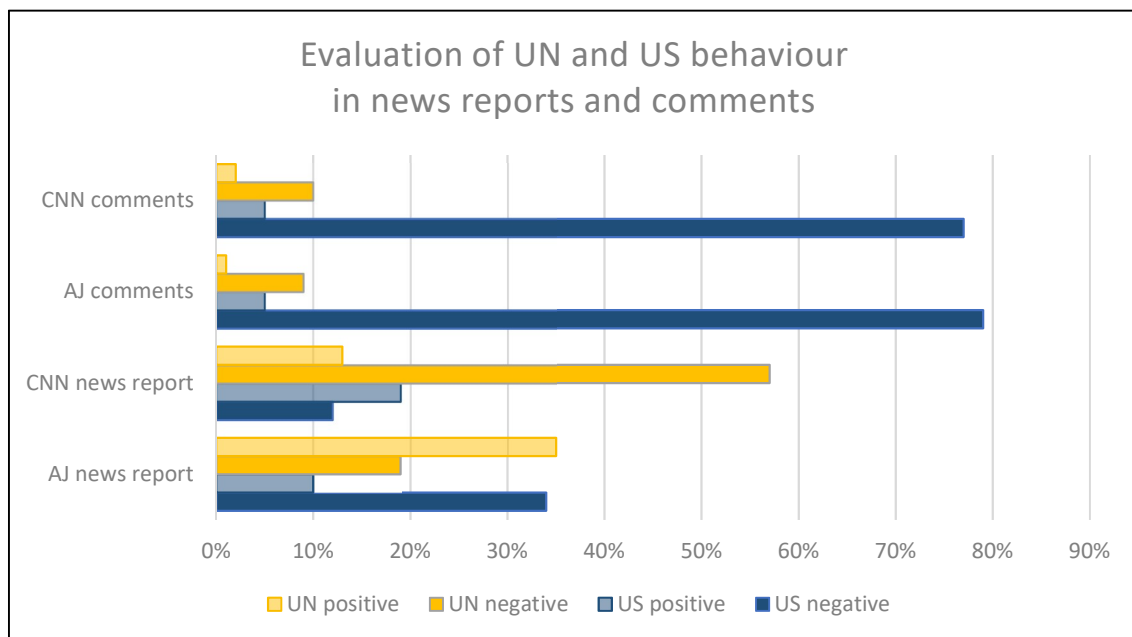


Figure 37: Evaluation of UN and US behaviour in news reports and comments

However, considering the dark yellow bars in Figure 37, the news reports are found to contain more negative Judgement than the comments. As a consequence, all Judgements together need to be taken into account in order to answer research question three in regard to Judgement.

Table 17 below shows that – regardless of who is identified as the primary target of evaluation – comments feature a lot more negative Judgement than news reports (91% compared to 61%).

Table 17: Negative Judgement in news reports and comments

	Comments (2171 words)	News Reports (1617 words)
Judgements in total	221	101
Negative Judgements in total	202	62
Percentage of negative Judgements	91%	61%

This signifies that – in comments – almost all Judgements expressed were negative ones: 202 out of 221 instances of Judgement were categorized as negative Judgements. Therefore, with respect to Judgement, the answer to research question three is ‘yes’, there is a clear trend towards negativity noticeable in Facebook comments responding to news reports.

In section 4.4, two separate hypotheses regarding research question three were proposed. The first assumption formulated in section 4.4 was that the reports in this study will feature an equal number of positive and negative Attitudes, whereas the comments are presumed to include predominantly negative Attitudes. This hypothesis could only be confirmed in parts. Examining the results illustrated in Figure 37 as well as in Table 17, it can be affirmed that comments predominantly include negative Attitudes. Note that in these results only one subtype of Attitude is shown as Judgement has been identified as the by far most common, almost exclusive subtype of Attitude in the datasets under analysis (see answer to research question 1 in this section for more information). The part of the hypothesis which cannot be confirmed, however, is the claim that news reports feature an equal number of positive and negative Attitudes: 61 percent of Judgements expressed in news reports were found to be negative (see Table 17). Therefore, both comments and news reports contain a higher amount of negative Judgement compared to positive Judgement. The second assumption formulated in section 4.4 was that the majority of comments will feature negative Attitudes. This hypothesis can be fully confirmed as 202 out of 221 Judgements formulated in comments were classified as negative Judgements (see Table 17).

In addition, a second analysis – unrelated to the Appraisal analysis producing the results regarding Judgement elaborated on in the previous paragraphs – has been conducted with the aim of answering research question 3. The key criterion of this analysis was the

main topic of the comments. For each comment individually, the main topic has been identified by the analyser. As Figure 38 is meant to exemplify, the main topic is not necessarily the only topic present in the comment under analysis. In this example, the first sentence ‘I think it is okay for the US to pull out. That will allow the UNHRC to condemn US and Israel policies and avoid a US veto.’ would point towards the US decision as the main topic of the text. Yet, the following sentence was regarded as more important in this instance which is why the main topic has been termed ‘good for the rest of the world’ and not ‘US decision’.

77	I think it is okay for the US to pull out. That will allow the UNHRC to condemn US and Israel policies and avoid a US veto.	27	0	0				Good for the rest of the world
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Figure 38: Example from AJ comments

Note that the colour of the first column to the right in Figure 38 indicates whether the overall message of the comment is to be regarded as positive or negative. Gold stands for positive, dark orange would point towards a negative meaning of the overall message of the respective comment. In respect to the 47 AJ comments under analysis, 38 were coloured in dark orange. Thus, 81% of all responses to the AJ news reports were categorized as negative. Similarly, 45 out of 50 CNN comments under investigation were found to convey a negative main message. This signifies that an astounding 90% of all responses to the CNN news report featured a negative core message. Tables 18 and 19 below illustrate further details of these findings.

Table 18: Main topics in AJ comments

Negative main topics AJ c.	Positive main topics AJ c.	Neutral AJ c.
9 US	5 Good for the rest of the world	1 Al Jazeera
7 US administration	1 Trump	
7 Reason behind US decision	1 Reason behind decision	
5 US decision	1 US decision	
3 Haley		
2 US decision consequences		
1 Human rights generally		
1 Reason behind US decision + consequences		
1 Trump		
1 UN		
1 UNHRC		
38 in total	8 in total	1 neutral

Table 19: Main topics in CNN comments

Negative main topics CNN comments	Positive main topics CNN comments
15 US	4 Good for the rest of the world
7 Haley	1 US decision
7 reason behind US decision	
5 Trump	
5 US administration	
3 US decision	
2 UN	
1 Trump & Haley	
45 in total	5 in total

The US related negativity in comments discovered in preceding findings is also visible in Tables 18 and 19 which illustrate the core messages conveyed in comments responding to the news reports. Regarding AJ comments, 28 out of 35 negative main messages were US related. Looking at the main topics in CNN comments, incredible 43 out of 45 negative core messages were found to be US related. Coming back to the question whether there is a trend towards negativity in online comments, these new findings focusing on the core messages conveyed in individual comments again show that ‘yes’, there is a clear trend towards negativity noticeable in Facebook comments responding to news reports.

Even though negativity is not be equated with incivility, the extensive research on incivility in online comments served as a vital trigger for research question three: based on the studies elaborated on in section 3.2, a high amount of negativity in user comments was expected. In regard to the findings of this thesis, one of the conclusions drawn by Ziegele et al. (2017) seems most interesting. The team of researchers found that readers are more likely to reply in an uncivil manner when experiencing negative emotions as a result of reading news articles and responding user comments. With respect to Ziegle et al.’s conclusion, the most crucial phrase is ‘negative emotions’. As readers are experiencing negative emotions when responding to news articles, they can be expected to not only produce an uncivil comment, but – presumably – also a negative one. What is more, readers are not only affected by the news report itself but also by other responding user comments. For this reason, the probability of producing an uncivil or negative response in the form of an online comment increases because other users

are formulating (predominantly negative) responses visible to all. To put it differently, there appears to be a plausible connection between incivility and negativity in user comments responding to news reports. However, it shall be stressed that this suggested relation is based on mere assumptions: no specific research into the feelings experienced when writing user comments comparable to Ziegele et al.'s (2017) study has been conducted as part of this thesis.

Furthermore, it is important to realize that a rational explanation for the presence of this enormous US related negativity in the majority of comments under analysis cannot be provided by scrutinizing the numbers leading to the findings of this thesis. However, it is indeed possible to present a few suggestions merely based on common knowledge. The perhaps most obvious reason for US related negativity in comments would be that mainly US critics are reading articles published on the Facebook pages the articles were taken from. Yet, this idea seems rather unlikely as Al Jazeera and CNN do not exclusively publish articles related to the US. Another suggestion would be that – although people with varying opinions about the US in general read the news reports – only those who disapproved of the US decision were the ones who felt the need to comment which, in turn, would result in comments featuring predominantly negative assessments of US behaviour.

Yet another theoretically possible explanation for the excessive amount of negative Judgement of US behaviour in comments responding to the news articles would be that even though it is not the case that the majority of Al Jazeera and CNN readers are US critics – which in fact seems highly unlikely considering that CNN is an American news network – it would still be possible that the great majority of both CNN and Al Jazeera readers are not US critics, but Trump critics. This line of thought actually appears quite reasonable given the fact that the most recent US president has become the least liked president in US history (Bialik 2018, FiveThirtyEight 2019). Ever since the current US president has come to power, it seems as if apart from his voters, the rest of the world appears to fully agree on the incompetence of the current US president (see Figure 39).

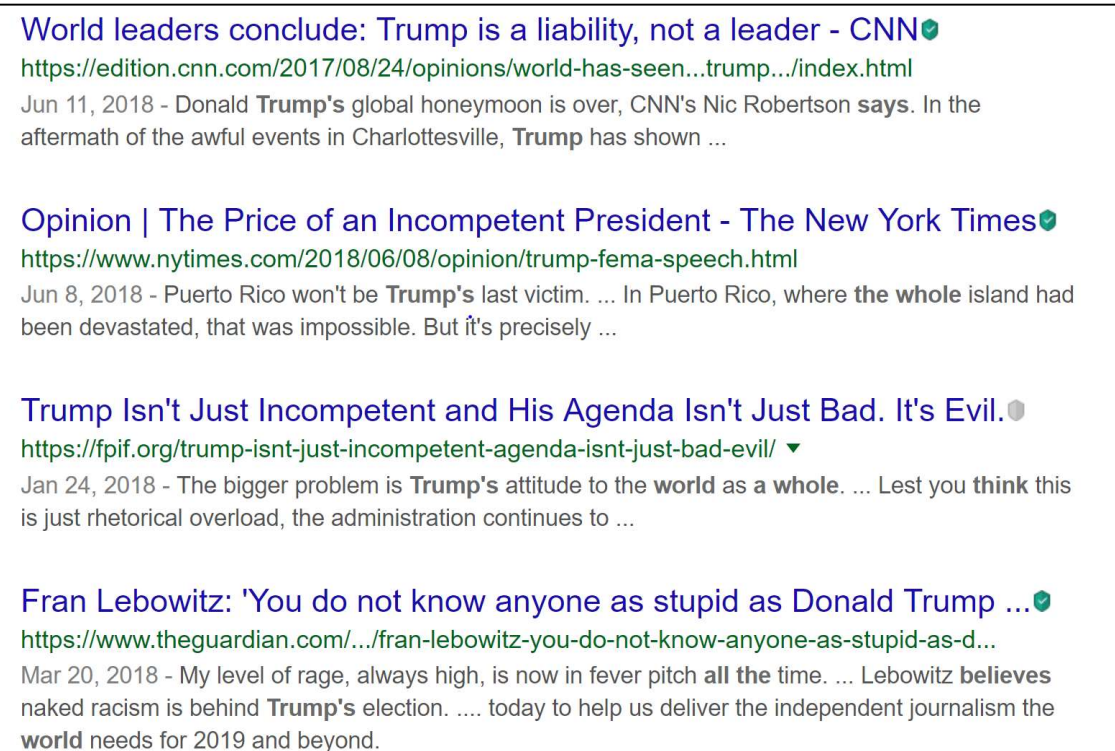


Figure 39: Screenshot Google search on January 25, 2019

If the collection of opinion polls (Bialik 2018; FiveThirtyEight 2019) as well as the opinion pieces written by journalists depicted in Figure 39 are taken to represent the predominant opinion about president Trump, then in fact, the results showing an almost unanimous condemnation of the US decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council should not come as such a surprise.

6 Conclusion

This study was designed to explore evaluative language in hard news reports and user comments. More precisely, the aim was to investigate whether the way journalists evaluate political decisions in news reports affects the way readers assess these actions online. To approach this issue, Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal framework, an extension of the linguistic theories of M.A.K. Halliday and his colleagues, has been applied.

Summing up the results, there are three main findings which could be obtained from this study. First, only limited indications hinting at the presumed influence Appraisals formulated by journalists have on Appraisals expressed in user comments could be

detected. Although comments were found to take up the reasons for Judgement (i.e. the categories of Judgement) from the respective news reports, the polarity of Judgement in user comments often differed from the polarity of Judgement in news reports. In other words, positive assessment of a specific action in one of the news reports did not result in positive assessment of the same action in responding comments. Concerning the news report published on the Facebook page of Al Jazeera English, US behaviour was evaluated negatively in the majority of cases, whereas UN behaviour was evaluated positively. Intriguingly, the exact opposite turned out to be true for the hard news report posted on the Facebook page of CNN International: for the most part, US behaviour was evaluated positively, UN behaviour negatively. Regarding the evaluations expressed in user comments, however, the comments responding to these news reports were found to feature strikingly similar ways of expressing Appraisal. This signifies that even though Appraisal in the two hard news reports under analysis differed, Appraisal in the two sets of comments did not. Therefore – in contrast to what would have been expected – evaluative choices in user comments could be related to evaluative choices in hard news reports regarding the categories of Judgement, but not with respect to the polarity of Judgement.

Second, based on the findings by Aloy Mayo and Taboada (2017), a trend towards negativity in the online comments under analysis was expected. This hypothesis could be fully confirmed as the amount of negative Judgement encountered in user comments was much higher than the amount of negative Judgement present in the news reports (91 percent compared to 61 percent). In addition, comments were found to almost exclusively convey negative core messages. Quite remarkably, the great majority of both Judgements and main topics identified in the comments was US related. Thus, not only can the trend towards negativity in online comments be confirmed, an extreme amount of US related negativity could be detected. Future study of this issue would be of interest as the size of the datasets under analysis in this thesis was limited.

Third, Jullian's (2011) notion of the power of quotations could be supported by the findings of this thesis. In both hard news reports under analysis, attributions could be identified as indirect means of Appraisal for the journalists: comparing the evaluation of US and UN behaviour in the news reports including attributed material to the evaluation

of US and UN behaviour in the news reports excluding attributed material, i.e. solely including authorial Judgements, it was found that even though the number of Judgements varies, the trend remains the same. In the majority of cases, the author of the Al Jazeera news report assesses US actions negatively and UN actions positively, whereas the author of the CNN report evaluates US behaviour positively and UN behaviour negatively. Hence, the comparison indicates that the authors of the respective news reports have made use of attributed material in order to strengthen their points: attributions were used as indirect means of Appraisal by the journalists who wrote the articles.

In conclusion, the findings of the present study suggest that the influence journalists have on the positive or negative assessment of political actions in user comments responding to their articles is quite limited. For this reason, it could be argued that the persuasive power of hard news reports seems rather limited as well. Further studies comparing evaluative choices in hard news reports to evaluative choices in responding user comments would be necessary as the number of datasets under analysis in this thesis was limited. Furthermore, it would be of interest to conduct an Appraisal analysis of news reports and user comments centred on a less provocative topic than the US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council. That is to say that an investigation of evaluative choices in both hard news reports and user comments with a focus on a less polarizing topic – similar to Anderson et al.'s (2014) approach to analysing influence on readers' opinion formation – would be required in order to facilitate the generalization of the conclusions drawn in this thesis.

26,478 words

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Facebook Page Al Jazeera English: <https://www.facebook.com/aljazeera/>

Facebook Page Al CNN International: <https://www.facebook.com/cnninternational/>

8 Appendices

8.1 Abstracts

Abstract (in English)

Trögl, Theresa. 2019. *Evaluative choices in hard news reports and user comments: an Appraisal analysis*. Diploma Thesis, University of Vienna.

In recent years, researchers have become increasingly interested in the way language is used in the context of news. However, less attention has been paid to the possible effects evaluative language in news articles could have on assessments made in responding user comments. The purpose of this study is to investigate whether the way journalists evaluate political decisions in news reports affects the way readers assess these actions online. To approach this issue, Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal framework, an extension of the linguistic theories of M.A.K. Halliday and his colleagues, has been applied which provides an elaborate structure for the in-depth analysis of evaluation in English. Results show that evaluative choices in user comments could be related to evaluative choices in hard news reports regarding the categories of Judgement (i.e. the reasons for Judgement), but not with respect to the polarity of Judgement (i.e. positive or negative Judgement). Further, the results reveal that the expected trend of negativity in online comments could be confirmed, and an extreme amount of US related negativity could be detected in comments responding to the news reports. Moreover, the results provide strong support for Jullian's (2011) notion of the power of quotations as attributions could be identified as indirect means of Appraisal for the journalists who produced the reports. Based on the findings of this research, it is suggested that the influence journalists have on the positive or negative assessment of political actions in responding user comments is rather limited.

Keywords: User Comments, Evaluation, Appraisal framework, Reporter Voice, News

Zusammenfassung (auf Deutsch)

Trögl, Theresa. 2019. *Evaluative choices in hard news reports and user comments: an Appraisal analysis*. Diploma Thesis, University of Vienna.

Diese Studie soll als Gelegenheit dienen um die Art und Weise wie Sprache in Nachrichtenberichten und Onlinekommentaren zur Bewertung benutzt wird besser zu verstehen. Ziel war es herauszufinden ob die Art und Weise wie Journalisten in den von ihnen verfassten Zeitungsberichten politische Entscheidungen bewerten, Einfluss auf die Art und Weise wie Leser in Onlinekommentaren diese politischen Entscheidungen bewerten hat. Dafür wurde das Appraisal framework von Martin und White (2005) – eine Erweiterung der sprachwissenschaftlichen Theorien von M.A.K. Halliday und seinen ArbeitskollegInnen – angewendet, welches eine wohldurchdachte Struktur für die detaillierte Analyse von Evaluierung in englischer Sprache bietet. Die Ergebnisse zeigen deutlich, dass die Bewertung in Onlinekommentaren nur zum Teil mit der Bewertung in Zeitungsberichten in Verbindung gebracht werden kann. Folglich wird nahegelegt, dass der Einfluss den Journalisten auf die Bewertung politischer Entscheidungen in Onlinekommentaren haben sehr begrenzt ist.

Keywords: Evaluation, Appraisal framework, Reporter Voice, User Comments, News

8.2 AJ news report

[https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/06/withdrawal-human-rights-council-180620060224309.html](#)


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NEWS / UNITED NATIONS

US withdrawal from UN Human Rights Council: What you need to know

The US is not alone in levelling criticism at the UN Human Rights Council over alleged abuses committed by its members.

20 Jun 2018 f t



Haley complained about anti-Israel bias and the UN body. [Toya Sarno Jordan/Reuters]

The US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has been roundly condemned by rights groups and was described as "disappointing, if not really surprising" by Zeid Raad al-Hussein, the UN high commissioner for human rights.

Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the UN, made the announcement on Tuesday in Washington, DC, alongside US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

She cited "chronic bias" against Israel and hit out at the "hypocritical and self-serving organisation".

The move is the latest in an increasingly isolationist approach towards international institutions since US President Donald Trump took power.

It comes little over a month after the Trump administration withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal despite protests from its European allies and a year after the US withdrawal from the Paris agreement to combat climate change.

Here we explain where the US criticism of the body stems from and what impact the decision is likely to have on its future.

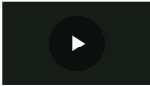
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Capital Gazette shooting: Five killed in 'targeted' attack today

Trump confidant was willing to share information with UAE: report today

Trump and Putin to hold talks in Helsinki in mid-July today

The Korematsu moment for Muslim Americans today



WATCH: US withdraws from UN Human Rights Council (2:38)

What does the UNHRC do?

The UN body was established in 2006 with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights around the globe, as well as investigating alleged human rights violations.

It is made up of 47 member states, which are selected by the UN General Assembly on a staggered basis each year for three-year-long terms.

Members meet around three times a year to debate human rights issues and pass non-binding resolutions and recommendations by majority vote.

The council also carries out the Universal Periodic Review of all UN member states, which allows civil society groups to bring accusations of human rights violations in member states to the attention of the UN.

Its recent investigations into human rights abuses include a fact-finding mission to Myanmar to investigate abuses against the mostly Muslim Rohingya minority and establishing a commission to look into abuses taking place in Syria.


In May, the UNHRC voted to send a probe to Gaza to investigate the killing of Palestinian protesters by the Israeli army.

Why does the US have a problem with the UNHRC?


The US problem with the body is twofold: the make-up of its membership and what it considers a disproportionate focus on allegations of human rights abuses committed by its ally, Israel.

In 2006, when the council was established, then-US President George W Bush refused to join because the organisation included members accused by Washington of human rights violations.

The country changed tack under the former Obama administration, but the ascent of Trump put Washington's continued membership back under the spotlight.




Benjamin Netanyahu @benjaminnetanyahu
Israel thanks President Trump, Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador Haley for their courageous decision against the hypocrisy and the lies of the so-called UN Human Rights Council.
11:38 PM · Jun 19, 2018
31.3K retweets 12.4K people are talking about this



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In 2017, Haley again argued that many of the council's members were in no position to be scrutinising the human rights violations of other countries.

Membership of the body includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China, and several other countries that are widely and regularly condemned for human rights abuses by rights groups.

What has the reaction been like?

The EU said the decision by the US "risks undermining the role of the US as a champion and supporter of democracy on the world stage," and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson called the move "regrettable".

On the other hand, Israel praised the decision as "courageous".

The reaction among human rights groups and activists has been universally negative.

Ken Roth of [Human Rights Watch](#) said that the US was attempting to discredit the council because of its regular criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians.



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Trump Administration Withdraws U.S. From U.N. Human Rights Council



Andrew Strohlein
@astrohlein

Replying to @astrohlein
The US joins Iran, North Korea and Eritrea as the only countries
that refuse to participate in the UN Human Rights Council's
meetings and deliberations. [nyl.ms/2K08SF5](#)

<https://twitter.com/astrohlein/status/100933313104904192/photo/1>

TRENDING



'Jordan, Palestine
and Saudi Arabia
warn Israel against
Turkey'

meetings and deliberations. [nyl.ms/2K08SF5](#)
9:13 AM - Jun 20, 2018
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"For the Trump administration, it's more important to defend Israel from criticism by the UN Human Rights Council than to defend human rights victims in Syria, North Korea, Myanmar and South Sudan," he wrote in a tweet, further condemning the Trump administration's "one-dimensional human rights policy".

His colleague at HRW, Andrew Strohlein, said the US was "turning its back not just on the UN, but on victims of human rights abuses around the world".

Strohlein said the UNHRC had its flaws, specifically the participation of "persistent rights violators", such as China, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, but added it had also worked towards holding human rights violators accountable.



The US decision to leave the UNHRC is disappointing, given its
past leadership on human rights at the council. This is yet
another blow to intl efforts to protect rights at a time when they
are under attack across the world (including in the US)
11:12 PM - Jun 19, 2018
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"It has initiated investigations into rights violations in Syria, Yemen, Burundi, Myanmar, and South Sudan, and addresses key topics such as migration, counterterrorism and protecting women, LGBT people, people with disabilities and others from violence and discrimination," he said.

"No international institution is perfect, many have serious flaws, but walking away won't fix them. Principled engagement might."

On its Twitter account, [Amnesty International](#) posted a sarcastic list of 10 reasons why the US was right to leave the UNHRC, all of which were blank.

TRENDING



'Jordan, Palestine
and Saudi Arabia
warn Israel against
Turkey'



Iraq executes 12
ISIL members on
death row: PM's
office



EU leaders reach
deal on migration
after marathon
talks



Iraq to execute ISIL
fighters on death
row: PM

**AmnestyInternational**
@amnesty

Ten good reasons for the #US to leave the UN Human Rights Council.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

(there are none)

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United States United Nations Human Rights

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Iraq to execute ISIL
fighters on death
row: PM

8.3 CNN news report

← → ↺ 🏠

https://edition.cnn.com/2018/06/19/politics/haley-pompeo-human-rights-bias/index.html?utm_source=fb&utm_medium=social&utm_content=2018-06-19T22%3A00%3A10&utm_term=I


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US leaving UN Human Rights Council -- 'a cesspool of political bias'

By  Laura Koran, CNN
Updated 1102 GMT (1902 HKT) June 20, 2018


   





Source: CNN

Haley: Human Rights Council a cesspool of bias 00:53

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Washington (CNN) — US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley announced the United States is withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council Tuesday, accusing the body of bias against US ally Israel and a failure to hold human rights abusers accountable.

 The move, which the Trump administration has threatened for months, came down one day after the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights slammed the separation of children from their parents at the US-Mexico border as "unconscionable."







Speaking from the State Department, where she was joined by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Haley defended the move to withdraw from the council, saying US calls for reform were not heeded.


"Human rights abusers continue to serve on, and be elected to, the council," said Haley, listing US grievances with the body. "The world's most inhumane regimes continue to escape its scrutiny, and the council continues politicizing scapegoating of countries with positive human rights records in an attempt to distract from the abusers in its ranks."

'Deeply disappointed'


"For too long," Haley said, "the Human Rights Council has been a protector of human rights abusers, and a cesspool of political bias."

Based in Geneva, the Human Rights Council is a body of 47 member states within the United Nations tasked with upholding human rights.

Membership on the council gives countries like the United States a voice in important debates over human rights atrocities, but the council's critics, including Haley, say abusers use their



Now Playing Haley: Human Rights...



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membership to guarantee their own impunity.

Vice President Mike Pence tweeted a statement: "Today the US took a stand against some of the world's worst human rights violators by withdrawing from the United Nations Human Rights Council. By elevating and protecting human rights violators and engaging in smear campaigns against democratic nations, the UNHRC makes a mockery of itself, its members, and the mission it was founded on. For years, the UNHRC has engaged in ever more virulent anti-American, and anti-Israeli invective and the days of U.S. participation are over."



The UN expressed disappointment. "The Secretary-General would have much preferred for the United States to remain in the Human Rights Council," Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesman for UN Secretary-General António Guterres, said in response to the US announcement. "The UN's Human Rights architecture plays a very important role in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide."

The move was immediately condemned by a dozen charitable groups, who wrote to Pompeo to say they were "deeply disappointed with the Administration's decision to withdraw the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council, the premier intergovernmental human rights body at the global level."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [praised the move](#) however, thanking Trump and Haley for their "courageous decision against the hypocrisy and the lies of the so-called UN Human Rights Council."

"For years, the UNHRC has proven to be a biased, hostile, anti-Israel organization that has betrayed its mission of protecting human rights," he said.



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'A so-called Human Rights Council'

"This decision is counterproductive to American national security and foreign policy interests and will make it more difficult to advance human rights priorities and aid victims of abuse around the world," they added.



Saifi Shetty, Amnesty International's secretary-general, said: "Once again President Trump is showing his complete disregard for the fundamental rights and freedoms the US claims to uphold. While the Human Rights Council is by no means perfect and its membership is frequently under scrutiny, it remains an important force for accountability and justice."

US withdrawal from the council follows efforts by Haley and the US delegation to implement reforms, including more stringent membership criteria and the ability to remove members with egregious human rights records.

"When a so-called Human Rights Council cannot bring itself to address the massive abuses in Venezuela and Iran, and it welcomes the Democratic Republic of Congo as a new member, the council ceases to be worthy of its name," said Haley. "Such a council, in fact, damages the cause of human rights."

Haley also blasted the council for a "disproportionate focus and unending hostility toward Israel," citing a series of resolutions highlighting alleged abuses by the Israeli government of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Haley said the United States will continue to promote human rights outside of the council and would consider rejoining it in the future if reforms are made.

"We have used America's voice and vote to defend human rights at the UN every day," she said, "and we will continue to do so."

CNN's Elise Labott and Eric Levenson contributed to this report.



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8.4 AJ News report: analysis of Judgement

No.		Mode of judgement	What is judged? (adjective from table 2.6 or 2.7)	Who judges whom?
1	The US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has been roundly condemned by rights groups...	Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'condemned')	Propriety (unjust, immoral) <i>By rights groups so I assume it is about the law</i> <i>condemn somebody/something for/as something = to express very strong disapproval of somebody/something, usually for moral reasons</i>	Author → US decision
2	She cited " chronic bias " against Israel [1] and hit out at the " hypocritical [2] and self-serving organisation ". [3] [4]	Explicit negative [1] Explicit negative [2] Explicit negative [3] Explicit negative [4] (<i>'hit out at'</i> instead of <i>'criticized'</i>)	Propriety (unfair) Propriety (immoral) <i>hypocritical = pretending to have moral standards or opinions that you do not actually have</i> Propriety (selfish) Propriety (irreverent, discourteous) <i>hit out at somebody/something = to attack somebody/something violently by fighting them or criticizing them</i> <i>irreverent = not showing respect to somebody/something that other people usually respect</i> <i>Also, the way Haley is quoted makes me assume that the author does not agree with</i>	Haley → UNHRC Haley → UNHRC Haley → UNHRC Author → Haley

			her. He or she is clearly separating Haley's words from his or her own.	
3	The move is the latest in an increasingly isolationist approach towards international institutions since US President Donald Trump took power.	Implicit evoked negative depends on reading position: does reader think isolation is good or bad? I personally think it is bad which is why this sentence, from my point of view, triggers negative judgement.	Capacity (ignorant, incompetent, foolish)	Author → US
4	It comes little over a month after the Trump administration withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal despite protests from its European allies and a year after the US withdrawal from the Paris agreement to combat climate change.	<p>Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'despite protests from its European allies')</p> <p>From my point of view, this is a listing of negative events, bad decisions by the US – the current withdrawal is presented as one out of many bad decisions taken by the US administration.</p> <p>'Despite protests' tells us that EU was not in favour of those decisions and therefore confirms or reinforces negative judgement. What is more, the so-called 'allies' were not in favour of the decision. Supposedly, allies support each other's decisions.</p>	<p>Capacity (ignorant)</p> <p>Does not explicitly say why this is bad. The Iran nuclear deal is supposed to be important for peace and security; combating climate change is necessary in order to save our planet. So, I would interpret this as a way of hinting at the idea that the US withdrawals are revealing the US' ignorance of world problems.</p>	Author → US administration

5	The UN body was established in 2006 with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights around the globe, as well as investigating alleged human rights violations.	Implicit evoked positive	Propriety (good, moral)	Author → UNHRC
6	It is made up of 47 member states, which are selected by the UN General Assembly on a staggered basis each year for three-year-long terms.	Implicit evoked positive	Capacity (together, powerful, expert)	Author → UNHRC
7	Members meet around three times a year to debate human rights issues [1] and pass non-binding resolutions and recommendations by majority vote. [2]	Implicit evoked positive [1] Implicit evoked positive [2]	Tenacity (persevering) Capacity (productive, competent)	Author → UNHRC Author → UNHRC
8	The council also carries out the Universal Periodic Review of all UN member states [1], which allows civil society groups to bring accusations of human rights violations in member states to the attention of the UN. [2]	Implicit evoked positive [1] Implicit evoked positive [2] Examples 5-8 stress credibility of UNHRC	Tenacity (thorough) Capacity (competent)	Author → UNHRC Author → UNHRC
9	Its recent investigations into human rights abuses include a fact-finding mission to Myanmar to investigate abuses [1] against the mostly Muslim Rohingya minority and establishing a commission to look into abuses taking place in Syria. [2]	Implicit provoked positive [1] (some evaluative language: 'mission', 'investigate') Implicit evoked positive [2]	Tenacity (thorough, plucky) plucky = having a lot of courage and determination Capacity (productive)	Author → UNHRC Author → UNHRC
10	In May, the UNHRC voted [1] to send a probe to Gaza to investigate the killing of	Implicit provoked positive [1]	Capacity (together) 'voted' can be associated with 'democratic' = based on the principle that	Author → UNHRC

	<p>Palestinian protesters by the Israeli army. [2+3]</p>	<p>(some evaluative language: 'voted' a possible alternative would have been 'decided')</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [2] (some evaluative language: 'probe', 'investigate')</p> <p>Implicit evoked positive [3]</p>	<p><i>all members have an equal right to be involved in running an organization, etc.</i></p> <p>Tenacity (thorough, careful) <i>Probe = a thorough and careful investigation of something</i> <i>Investigate = to carefully examine the facts of a situation, an event, a crime, etc. to find out the truth about it or how it happened</i></p> <p>Propriety (caring)</p>	<p>Author → UNHRC</p> <p>Author → UNHRC</p>
11	<p>The US problem with the body is twofold: the make-up of its membership [1] and what it considers a disproportionate focus on allegations of human rights abuses committed by its ally, Israel. [2 + 3]</p>	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'what it considers')</p>	<p>Capacity (ignorant)</p> <p>Propriety (unfair, corrupt)</p> <p>Capacity (incompetent)</p>	<p>US (supported by author) → UNHRC</p> <p>US (not supported by author) → UNHRC</p> <p>Author → US</p>
12	<p>In 2006, when the council was established, then-US President George W Bush refused to join because the organisation included members accused by Washington of human rights violations. [1+2+3]</p>	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'accused by Washington')</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit evoked positive [3]</p>	<p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>how truthful is the allegation? 'accused by Washington' is like saying only the US thought like that, not presented as fact, makes me as reader doubt the US decision</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral)</p> <p>Tenacity (constant, cautious)</p>	<p>Author → US (Bush)</p> <p>US (Bush) → UNHRC</p>

			<i>This background information is highlighting the fact that this issue with the UNHRC is not a new one. It seems to become somewhat more of a problem whenever a Republican becomes president of the US.</i>	Author → US administration
13	The country changed tack under the former Obama administration, but the ascent of Trump put Washington's continued membership back under the spotlight.	Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'but' → stress on last part of sentence)	Tenacity (inconstant) <i>US administration is inconsistent cause it keeps changing tack</i> <i>Tack = the way in which you deal with a particular situation; the direction of your words or thoughts</i>	Author → US
14	In 2017, Haley again argued [1] that many of the council's members were in no position to be scrutinising the human rights violations of other countries. [2]	Implicit provoked positive [1] (some evaluative language: 'again') Explicit negative [2]	Tenacity (constant) <i>Haley is consistent in her claims, accusations</i> Propriety (immoral)	Author → Haley Haley → UNHRC
15	Membership of the body includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China, and several other countries that are widely and regularly condemned for human rights abuses by rights groups. [1+2]	Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'condemned', 'abuses') Implicit evoked positive [2] of truth of US claims, critique about members presented as fact	Propriety (immoral) Veracity (credible, honest) <i>US problem with make-up of membership based on facts</i>	Author → UNHRC Author → US claims
16	The EU said the decision by the US "risks undermining the role of the US as a champion and supporter of democracy on the world stage," [1+2] and British	Explicit negative [1]	Capacity (less powerful - weak) <i>'risks' down tones the judgement, but 'undermining', in my opinion, is strong enough to categorize the judgement as explicit</i>	EU → US decision

	Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson called the move "regrettable" . [3]	<p>Implicit provoked positive [2] (some evaluative language: 'role of the US as a champion and supporter of democracy') underlying assumption for both judgements: reader thinks democracy is good</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'regrettable')</p>	<p>undermine something = to make something, especially somebody's confidence or authority, gradually weaker or less effective</p> <p>Capacity (competent, powerful)</p> <p>Capacity (incompetent) Reason for being a regrettable move not explicitly mentioned regrettable = that you are sorry about and wish had not happened – if I wish it had not happened it must not be a good thing</p>	<p>EU → US</p> <p>British Foreign Secretary → US decision</p>
17	On the other hand, Israel praised the decision as "courageous" .	Explicit positive	Tenacity (brave)	Israel → US decision
18	Ken Roth of Human Rights Watch said that the US was attempting to discredit the council because of its regular criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians.	Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'attempting to discredit')	<p>Veracity (dishonest, manipulative) saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</p> <p>discredit = to make people stop respecting somebody/something</p>	Ken Roth (HRW) → US
19	"For the Trump administration, it's more important to defend Israel from criticism by the UN Human Rights Council than to defend human rights victims in Syria, North Korea, Myanmar and South Sudan, " [1] he wrote in a tweet, further	<p>Implicit evoked negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral)</p> <p>Propriety (immoral, unjust)</p>	<p>Ken Roth (HRW) → US</p> <p>Ken Roth (HRW) → US</p>

	condemning the Trump administration's "one-dimensional human rights policy" . [2]			
20	His colleague at HRW, Andrew Stroehlein, said the US was "turning its back not just on the UN, but on victims of human rights abuses around the world" . [1+2]	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'turning its back')</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'victims of human rights abuses')</p>	<p>Tenacity (unreliable) <i>To turn your back on somebody or something = to reject somebody/something that you have previously been connected with</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral)</p>	<p>Andrew Stroehlein (HRW) → US</p> <p>Andrew Stroehlein (HRW) → US</p>
21	Stroehlein said the UNHRC had its flaws [1], specifically the participation of "persistent rights violators" [2] , such as China, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, but added it had also worked towards holding human rights violators accountable . [3+4+5]	<p>Implicit provoked positive [1] (some evaluative language: 'had its flaws')</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Explicit positive [3]</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [4] (some evaluative language: 'but' + structure of sentence)</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [5]</p>	<p>Normality (normal, natural) <i>flaw (in somebody/something) = a weakness in somebody's character → something very human, humanizes organisation</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral, not law abiding) <i>violation = a person, government, etc. that goes against or refuses to obey a law, an agreement, etc. or does not respect somebody's rights</i></p> <p>Propriety (moral, law abiding)</p> <p>Veracity (credible, truthful) <i>But-construction: stress is on the last part of the sentence + no quotation marks used</i></p> <p>Propriety (moral, law abiding)</p>	<p>Stroehlein (HRW) → UNHRC</p> <p>Stroehlein (HRW) → UNHRC</p> <p>Stroehlein (HRW) → UNHRC</p> <p>Author → Stroehlein (HRW)</p> <p>Author → UNHRC</p>

		(some evaluative language: 'but' + structure of sentence)	Author support Stroehlein's claims	
22	"It has initiated investigations into rights violations in Syria, Yemen, Burundi, Myanmar, and South Sudan, and addresses key topics such as migration, counterterrorism and protecting women, LGBT people, people with disabilities and others from violence and discrimination," he said.	Implicit evoked positive	Capacity (productive) <i>Listing things that the UNHRC was capable of doing</i>	Stroehlein (HRW) → UNHRC
23	"No international institution is perfect, many have serious flaws, [1] but walking away won't fix them. [2] Principled engagement might."	Implicit provoked positive [1] (some evaluative language: 'no...is perfect', 'flaws') Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'walking away')	Normality (normal) <i>drawing on the phrase "no one is perfect" → humanises the organisation</i> Tenacity (cowardly, inconstant) <i>From my experience, walking away is usually seen as something bad in our society, e.g. a mother walking away from her children. Walking away from a problem is often seen as giving up, hence as being weak or a coward.</i>	Stroehlein (HRW) → UNHRC Stroehlein (HRW) → US
24	On its Twitter account, Amnesty International posted a sarcastic list of 10 reasons why the US was right to leave the UNHRC, all of which were blank.	Implicit evoked negative	Capacity (foolish, incompetent)	Author → US

8.5 CNN news report: analysis of Judgement

No.		Mode of judgement	What is judged? (adjective from table 2.6 or 2.7)	Who judges whom?
1	US leaving UN Human Rights Council -- ' a cesspool of political bias ' [1+2]	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: structure of heading + omission of source)</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral) <i>Cesspool = a place where dishonest or immoral people gather</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral)</p>	<p>Haley → UNHRC</p> <p>Author → UNHRC</p> <p><i>It is a quote, however, as it does not explicitly say that Haley said those words, I would argue that those words are more likely to be regarded as the words of the author herself.</i></p>
2	Washington (CNN) US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley announced the United States is withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council Tuesday, accusing the body of bias against US ally Israel [1+2] and a failure to hold human rights abusers accountable. [3]	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'accusing', 'US ally')</p>	<p>Propriety (unfair, unjust, corrupt) <i>bias = a strong feeling in favour of or against one group of people, or one side in an argument, often not based on fair judgement</i></p> <p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>How truthful is the allegation? Using the word 'accused' puts a stress on the fact that the accusation is coming from the US and that it therefore is not a widely established fact or characteristic of the organisation. The author could have also chosen to refer to Israel simply as 'Israel', yet, she opted for 'US ally Israel' which, as a</i></p>	<p>Haley → UNHRC</p> <p>Author → US/Haley</p>

		Explicit negative [3]	<p>reader, reminds me of the strong connection between these two countries.</p> <p>Capacity (unsuccessful) failure = lack of success in doing or achieving something</p>	Haley → UNHRC
3	<p>The move, which the Trump administration has threatened for months, [1] came down one day after the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights slammed the separation of children from their parents at the US-Mexico border as "unconscionable." [2+3]</p>	<p>Implicit evoked positive [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [3]</p>	<p>Tenacity (constant)</p> <p>Propriety (bad, immoral) Unconscionable = so bad, immoral, etc. that it should make you feel ashamed Slammed = strongly criticized</p> <p>Veracity (dishonest) Saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal Passage as a whole = background info which makes me question the integrity, moral, reasons behind US decision</p>	<p>Author → US</p> <p>UNHRC → US</p> <p>Author → US</p>
4	<p>Speaking from the State Department, where she was joined by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Haley defended the move to withdraw from the council, saying US calls for reform were not heeded.</p>	Implicit evoked negative	<p>Capacity (ignorant, incompetent)</p> <p>Heeded = to pay careful attention to somebody's advice or warning Not heeded - in the negative you have got the positive: according to Haley, UNHRC is supposed to pay careful attention to US calls for reform</p>	Haley → UNHRC
5	<p>"Human rights abusers continue to serve on, and be elected to, the council," [1] said Haley, listing US grievances with the body. "The world's most inhumane</p>	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'abusers')</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral) abuser = a person or an organization that uses power or knowledge unfairly or wrongly</p>	Haley → UNHRC

	regimes continue to escape its scrutiny [2], and the council continues politicizing scapegoating of countries with positive human rights records [3] in an attempt to distract from the abusers in its ranks." [4]	<p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'inhumane regimes', 'escape')</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'scapegoating')</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [4]</p>	<p>Capacity (incompetent, unsuccessful)</p> <p>Propriety (unfair) scapegoat = a person who is blamed for something bad that somebody else has done or for some failure</p> <p>Veracity (dishonest) saying this is the real reason behind criticizing Israel</p>	<p>Haley → UNHRC</p> <p>Haley → UNHRC</p> <p>Haley → UNHRC</p>
6	"For too long," Haley said, " the Human Rights Council has been a protector of human rights abusers [1], and a cesspool of political bias. " [2]	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'abusers')</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral) abuser = a person or an organization that uses power or knowledge unfairly or wrongly</p> <p>Propriety (immoral) Cesspool = a place where dishonest or immoral people gather bias = a strong feeling in favour of or against one group of people, or one side in an argument, often not based on fair judgement</p>	<p>Haley → UNHRC</p> <p>Haley → UNHRC</p>
7	Based in Geneva, the Human Rights Council is a body of 47 member states within the United Nations [1] tasked with upholding human rights. [2]	<p>Implicit evoked positive [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'tasked with')</p>	<p>Capacity (together, powerful, competent)</p> <p>Capacity (unsuccessful) Using the phrase 'tasked with' creates this silent accusation of not fulfilling that task. The author could have also written 'fighting for human rights' which would have been a way more positive way of defining their task.</p>	<p>Author → UNHRC</p> <p>Author → UNHRC</p>

8	<p>Membership on the council gives countries like the United States a voice in important debates over human rights atrocities, [1] but the council's critics, including Haley, say abusers use their membership to guarantee their own impunity. [2+3+4]</p>	<p>Explicit positive [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [3] (some evaluative language: 'but' + structure of sentence)</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [4] (some evaluative language: 'but' + structure of sentence)</p>	<p>Capacity (powerful)</p> <p>Propriety (immoral, corrupt, not law abiding) <i>impunity = if a person does something bad with impunity, they do not get punished for what they have done</i></p> <p>Veracity (credible, truthful) <i>But construction – second part is stressed. Makes me assume that the author supports the last part of the sentence.</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral, corrupt, not law abiding) Author supports Haley's claims</p>	<p>Author → UNHRC membership</p> <p>Critics including Haley → UNHRC membership</p> <p>Author → Haley</p> <p>Author → UNHRC membership</p>
9	<p>Vice President Mike Pence tweeted a statement: "Today the US took a stand against some of the world's worst human rights violators [1] by withdrawing from the United Nations Human Rights Council. By elevating and protecting human rights violators and engaging in smear campaigns against democratic nations [2], the UNHRC makes a mockery of itself, its members, and the mission it was founded on. [3] For years, the UNHRC has engaged in ever more virulent anti-American, and anti-Israel invective [4] and the days of U.S. participation are over." [5]</p>	<p>Implicit provoked positive [1] (some evaluative language: 'took a stand', 'violators')</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'smear campaigns')</p> <p>Explicit negative [3]</p> <p>Explicit negative [4]</p>	<p>Propriety (good, moral, caring) <i>take a firm line/stand (on/against something) = to make your beliefs known and to try to make others follow them</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral) <i>smear somebody/something = to damage somebody's reputation by saying unpleasant things about them that are not true</i></p> <p>Capacity (unsuccessful) <i>Mockery = an action, a decision, etc. that is a failure and that is not as it is supposed to be</i></p> <p>Propriety (rude)</p>	<p>Pence → US</p> <p>Pence → UNHRC</p> <p>Pence → UNHRC</p> <p>Pence → UNHRC</p>

		Implicit evoked positive [5]	<p>Virulent = showing strong negative and bitter feelings</p> <p>Invective = rude language and unpleasant remarks that somebody shouts when they are very angry</p> <p>Propriety (good, moral)</p>	Pence → US
10	The UN expressed disappointment. "The Secretary-General would have much preferred for the United States to remain in the Human Rights Council," Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesman for UN Secretary-General António Guterres, said in response to the US announcement. "The UN's Human Rights architecture plays a very important role in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. "	Implicit provoked positive (some evaluative language: 'important role')	Capacity (powerful, successful) role = the degree to which somebody/something is involved in a situation or an activity and the effect that they have on it	Stéphane (UN) → UNHRC
11	The move was immediately condemned by a dozen charitable groups, [1] who wrote to Pompeo to say they were "deeply disappointed with the Administration's decision to withdraw the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council, the premier intergovernmental human rights body at the global level. " [2]	<p>Implicit evoked negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit positive [2]</p>	<p>Propriety (bad, immoral)</p> <p><i>The author really only tells us about the actions of 'a dozen charitable groups'. Yet, because of the good image charitable groups have, them condemning the actions of the US makes me as a reader think that the decision might have been an immoral one.</i></p> <p>Capacity (successful, powerful) premier = most important, famous or successful</p>	<p>Author → US</p> <p>Charitable groups → UNHRC</p>
12	Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the move however, [1] thanking Trump and Haley for their	Implicit provoked positive [1] (some evaluative language: 'however')	Propriety (good, moral)	Author → US

	"courageous decision against the hypocrisy and the lies of the so-called UN Human Rights Council." [2+3]	Explicit positive [2] Explicit negative [3]	Tenacity (brave) Veracity (dishonest, deceptive)	Netanyahu → US decision + Trump and Haley Netanyahu → UNHRC
13	"For years, the UNHRC has proven to be a biased, hostile, anti-Israel organization [1] that has betrayed its mission of protecting human rights [2] ," he said.	Explicit negative [1] Explicit negative [2]	Propriety (unfair, immoral, rude) Propriety (immoral, selfish) <i>betray something = to ignore your principles or beliefs in order to achieve something or gain an advantage for yourself</i>	Netanyahu → UNHRC Netanyahu → UNHRC
14	'A so-called Human Rights Council'	Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: omission of source)	Veracity (dishonest, deceitful) <i>So-called = used to show that you do not think that the word or phrase that is being used to describe somebody/something is appropriate</i> Veracity (dishonest, deceitful)	Haley → UNHRC Author → UNHRC <i>It is a quote, however, as it does not explicitly say that Haley said those words, I would argue that those words are more likely to be regarded as the words of the author herself.</i>
15	"This decision is counterproductive to American national security and foreign policy interests [1] and will make it more	Explicit negative [1]	Capacity (inexpert, incompetent, foolish) <i>Counterproductive = having the opposite effect to the one which was intended</i>	??? → US decision No source given, who is 'they'?

	difficult to advance human rights priorities and aid victims of abuse around the world [2]," they added.	Implicit evoked negative [2]	Capacity (inexpert, incompetent, foolish)	??? → US decision No source given, who is 'they'?
16	Salil Shetty, Amnesty International's secretary-general, said: "Once again President Trump is showing his complete disregard for the fundamental rights and freedoms the US claims to uphold. [1] While the Human Rights Council is by no means perfect [2] and its membership is frequently under scrutiny [3] , it remains an important force for accountability and justice." [4]	Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked positive [2] (some evaluative language: 'by no means perfect') Implicit provoked positive [3] (some evaluative language: 'scrutiny') Explicit positive [4]	Capacity (ignorant) <i>disregard something = to not consider something; to treat something as unimportant</i> Normality (normal) <i>Humanises the organisation by drawing on the phrase "no one is perfect".</i> Tenacity (careful, thorough) <i>scrutiny = careful and thorough examination</i> <i>Literally, [2] and [3] list negative facts about the organisation, however, I think these facts actually work towards creating a positive impression on the readers.</i> Capacity (powerful) <i>force = a person or thing that has a lot of power or influence</i> <i>but construction without 'but' – last part is stressed</i>	Shetty (AI) → Trump Shetty (AI) → UNHRC Shetty (AI) → UNHRC Shetty (AI) → UNHRC
17	US withdrawal from the council follows efforts by Haley and the US delegation to implement reforms [1], including more stringent membership criteria and the ability to remove members with egregious human rights records. [2]	Implicit provoked positive [1] (some evaluative language: 'efforts') Implicit provoked negative [2]	Tenacity (constant, dependable) <i>'Effort' is a very positively connotated word in my opinion</i> <i>effort = an attempt to do something especially when it is difficult to do</i> Propriety (bad, immoral)	Author → Haley and US US → UNHRC

20	Haley said the United States will continue to promote human rights outside of the council and would consider rejoining it in the future if reforms are made.	Implicit evoked positive	Tenacity (loyal, persevering) <i>Loyal to the cause of human rights</i>	Haley → US
21	"We have used America's voice and vote to defend human rights at the UN every day [1]," she said, "and we will continue to do so." [2]	Explicit positive [1] Explicit positive [2]	Capacity (powerful, productive, successful) Tenacity (loyal, persevering) <i>Loyal to the cause of human rights</i>	Haley → US Haley → US

8.6 AJ comments: analysis of Judgement

No.	Comment	Mode of Judgement	What is judged? (adjective from table 2.6 or 2.7)	Who judges whom?
1	Suddenly the UK leaving Europe doesn't seem quite so bad [1] when one sees America leaving the human race? [2] 🤔	Explicit negative [1] Implicit evoked negative [2] (grammatical structure – comparison, implicit because analogy – explicit would be something like “US leaving the UNHRC is even worse”)	Propriety (bad) <i>saying it seems not as bad as before because of comparison to something worse (US leaving) but that does not make it good just says that Brexit is bad and US withdrawal is even worse</i> Propriety (immoral, bad – worse)	Reader → Brexit Reader → US (human behaviour because of the use of “leaving”, an object can't leave anything)

8	<p>yeah...a country with a devil administration [1]...did,do,doing many genocide around z world [2] have nothing know about what we call "human rights"[3].....us treaten z right to life directly n indirectly [4]</p>	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'what we call')</p> <p>Explicit negative [4]</p>	<p>Propriety (evil) <i>devil = the most powerful evil being</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral, cruel) <i>genocide = the murder of a whole race or group of people</i></p> <p>Capacity (ignorant) <i>In my opinion, this passage evokes the impression that the US simply does not care about human rights; not necessarily that they are not educated or smart enough to know the theory.</i></p> <p>Capacity (dangerous) <i>threaten something = to be a danger to something</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
9	<p>The operating words were "principled engagement". This administration has no principles [1] and does not know anything except pushing an agenda, [2] they don't know how to have a dialogue or hear alternate views. [3] They are leaving the discussion because they are not able to engage as the sole bully and be allowed to dominate. [4+5]</p>	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'don't know how to')</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral) <i>Principle = a moral rule or a strong belief that influences your actions</i></p> <p>Propriety (selfish) <i>'does not know anything except' here regarded as 'does not do anything except' agenda = the intention behind what somebody says or does, that is often secret</i></p> <p>Capacity (incompetent, uneducated) <i>negation makes me think that they are supposed to be able to 'have a dialogue or hear alternative views'</i></p>	<p>Reader → US administration</p> <p>Reader → US administration</p> <p>Reader → US administration</p>

		Explicit negative [4] Implicit evoked negative [5]	Propriety (rude, mean) <i>US referred to as 'the sole bully'</i> Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i>	Reader → US administration Reader → US administration
10	US withdraw from Human Right Council as they have blood on their hands [1+2] and face. They have violated all human rights [3] in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and all over the world.	Implicit evoked negative [1] <i>not explicitly written that US is not telling the truth but another reason for withdrawing is given</i> Explicit negative [2] Explicit negative [3]	Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i> Propriety (cruel, evil) <i>have somebody's blood on your hands = to be responsible for somebody's death</i> Propriety (cruel, unfair, not law abiding) <i>Human right = one of the basic rights that everyone has to be treated fairly and not in a cruel way, especially by their government</i>	Reader → US Reader → US Reader → US
11	"the decision by the US "risks undermining the role of the US as a champion and supporter of democracy on the world stage,"... a hugely diplomatic statement. [1] The US is already a laughing stock on the world stage,[2], save for the danger it represents. [3] <:- ¹²	Implicit provoked negative [1] <i>(some evaluative language: 'hugely diplomatic')</i> Explicit negative [2]	Veracity (dishonest) <i>diplomacy = the activity of managing relations between different countries; the skill in doing this → because 'managing relations between the countries' is regarded as the main aim of this statement, it can be assumed that the statement is not entirely true or at least trying to make the message sound the least bad possible</i> Capacity (stupid))	Reader → comment EU Reader → US

¹² Emoticons would be interesting to analyse, however, the inclusion of elements other than text would go far beyond the scope of this thesis.

		Explicit negative [3]	<p><i>Laughing stock = a person that everyone laughs at because they have done something stupid</i></p> <p>Capacity (dangerous)</p>	Reader → US
12	As it is a useless organization it is better all nations withdraw of it... let's people deal with each other not the politicians	Explicit negative	<p>Capacity (incompetent, unsuccessful, unproductive)</p> <p><i>Useless = not useful; not doing or achieving what is needed or wanted</i></p>	Reader → UNHRC
15	It's because U.S don't want Israel to be investigated on human Right violations on the Palestinians. [1] Birds of the same feathers fly the same . [2]	<p>implicit evoked negative [1] <i>not explicitly written that US is not telling the truth, but another reason for withdrawing is given</i></p> <p>implicit provoked negative [2] <i>(some evaluative language: usage of proverb)</i></p>	<p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i></p> <p>Propriety (bad, immoral) <i>birds of the same feathers fly the same → birds of the same feathers flock together = said about people who have similar characters or interests, especially ones of which you disapprove, and who often spend time with each other¹³ → so this statement is then saying that the US is as bad as Israel</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
16	Let the U S leave united nations,maybe something will get dome about Israelis atrocities [1+2+3] finally,which is long overdue [4]	<p>Implicit evoked negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p>	<p>Capacity (unproductive, mild, weak)</p> <p>Propriety (cruel) <i>atrocitiy = a cruel and violent act, especially in a war</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → Israelis</p>

¹³ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/birds-of-a-feather-flock-together>

		Implicit evoked negative [3] Implicit evoked negative [4]	Capacity (unproductive, mild, weak) Capacity (unproductive, unsuccessful, incompetent) <i>overdue = that should have happened or been done before now</i>	Reader → UN Reader → UN
18	A stupid [1], self serving [2] move... we will regret the actions of this administration and the proof is developing along our southern border as we speak.	Explicit negative [1] Explicit negative [2]	Capacity (stupid) Propriety (selfish)	Reader → US administration Reader → US administration
22	Wow on the same list as North Korea and Iran. How great do we feel America?	Implicit evoked negative	Capacity (dangerous) <i>Like saying US is as bad (or theoretically as good) as North Korea and Iran... It doesn't say why this would be a downgrade for the US, but both have a really bad reputation in the US: North Korea is seen as corrupt, cruel and possibly dangerous. The Iran is often presented as a threat to the country because of possibly producing nuclear bombs.</i>	Reader → US
23	Theyve just stuck kids in cages to separate their parents, [1] it isnt surprising due to their immigration policies there avoiding scrutiny from the UN. [2+3+4]	Implicit provoked negative [1] <i>(some evaluative language: 'stuck', 'cages')</i> Implicit evoked negative [2] Implicit provoked negative [3]	Propriety (cruel, immoral) <i>stick = to push something, usually a sharp object, into something; to be pushed into something cage = a structure made of metal bars or wire in which animals or birds are kept</i> Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i> Propriety (not law abiding, immoral, corrupt)	Reader → US Reader → US Reader → US

		<p>(some evaluative language: 'scrutiny')</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [4] (some evaluative language: 'scrutiny')</p>	<p>Lets me assume there is a reason for avoiding scrutiny – that they have done something not according to law and that there is a need or a reason for a careful and thorough examination</p> <p>Tenacity (careful, thorough) scrutiny = careful and thorough examination</p>	Reader → UN
24	<p>They are in love [1]...their love is blind [2]...blind enough to reject human rights [3]... How romantic! [4]</p>	<p>Implicit evoked positive [1]</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [2]</p> <p>Explicit negative [3]</p> <p>Explicit negative [4] Explicit because it is a very obvious use of sarcasm. The exclamation mark at the end strengthens that impression.</p>	<p>Normality (fortunate, normal) To me, 'being in love' is a very human thing, it is something considered to be uniquely human and therefore, in a way, normal for human beings. The use of the term also shows that the US is thought of as human rather than a state.</p> <p>Capacity (naïve) They are blind, so they can't see → they are stupid or naïve love is blind (saying) = when you love somebody, you cannot see their faults</p> <p>Propriety (cruel, unfair) Human right = one of the basic rights that everyone has to be treated fairly and not in a cruel way, especially by their government</p> <p>Propriety (not caring – cruel, bad) Romantic = showing feelings of love, here sarcastic use → not showing feelings of love, so not good, loving, caring but bad and not caring</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>

26	US is right. The UNHCR Should first stat with Human Right Violation in M.E especially by Saudia and UAE in Yemen.	Explicit positive	Capacity (competent, expert)	Reader → US
27	Good riddance for a country with the most inhuman [1] & villainous [2] leadership!	Explicit negative [1] explicit negative [2]	Propriety (not kind, not caring – cruel, mean) Propriety (evil) <i>villainous = very evil; very unpleasant</i>	Reader → US administration Reader → US administration
28	They should have kicked USA out [1+2]	Explicit negative [1] Implicit evoked negative [2]	Capacity (incompetent, foolish, mild) Propriety (bad, immoral) <i>USA behaviour bad enough to be kicked out</i>	Reader → UNHRC Reader → US
29	Got to be able to cage babies with impunity	Implicit evoked negative [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'to cage', 'impunity')	Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i> Propriety (bad, immoral, not law abiding) <i>impunity = if a person does something bad with impunity, they do not get punished for what they have done</i>	Reader → US Reader → US
30	She doesn't have any sense of humanity.	Explicit negative	Propriety (evil, bad, mean, cruel, not kind) <i>humanity = the quality of being kind to people and animals by making sure that they do not suffer more than is necessary; the quality of being humane</i>	Reader → Haley
31	What a bestial attitude !	Explicit negative	Propriety (cruel) <i>bestial = cruel and disgusting; of or like a beast</i>	Reader → US
32	If us will continue to follow Jewish lobby within no matter of time jews will destroy us and try to control whole world.....[1+2]	Implicit evoked negative [1] Explicit negative [2]	Capacity (foolish) Propriety (evil)	Reader → US Reader → Jews

39	<p>All these doing for Israel [1], wait for when Israel overtake them as 'world leaders' [2+3]</p>	<p>Implicit evoked negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [3] (some evaluative language: 'overtake')</p>	<p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i></p> <p>Capacity (foolish)</p> <p>Capacity (powerful, shrewd)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → Israel</p>
40	<p>U.S is the only country which has been committing atrocity against the common people around the world [1] in the veneer of humanitarian propaganda, [2] I think this decision will unmask them [3] 🙌🙌🙌🙌</p>	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'unmask')</p>	<p>Propriety (cruel) <i>atrocity = a cruel and violent act, especially in a war</i></p> <p>Veracity (deceptive) <i>veneer of something = an outer appearance of a particular quality that hides the true nature of somebody/something</i> <i>deceptive = likely to make you believe something that is not true</i></p> <p>Veracity (deceitful) <i>unmask somebody = to show the true character of somebody, or a hidden truth about something</i> <i>deceitful = behaving in a dishonest way by telling lies and making people believe things that are not true</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>

43	Do you ever think that if the WORLD is against you, maybe YOU are doing something wrong? [1+2]	<p>Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: doing something wrong)</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: doing something wrong)</p>	<p>Propriety (bad, immoral)</p> <p>Capacity (incompetent) Not explicitly said in what way behaviour or actions are wrong – reason for doing something wrong is not given which is the reason why this passage has been categorized as implicitly negative. However, the words 'doing something wrong' do provoke negative judgement – the type of judgement depends on the imagination of the reader.</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
45	us is loosing as superpower [1] and such immature decision [2] are the milestones	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p>	<p>Capacity (less powerful – weak)</p> <p>Capacity (immature)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
46	Isolating the country will only create more tensions abroad.	Implicit evoked negative	<p>Capacity (incompetent, foolish, inexperienced)</p> <p>Incompetent because reader is saying that tensions abroad will be the consequence of US's withdrawal; not a better working UNHRC.</p> <p>From my point of view, 'tensions abroad' are something bad, something negative.</p>	Reader → US administration
47	This move just makes things worse	Explicit negative	Capacity (incompetent, foolish, inexperienced)	Reader → US
49	Fear [1+2] does terrible things. [3]	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [2]</p>	<p>Capacity (weak) doing something out of fear is a negative characteristic from my POV; it is a sign of weakness</p> <p>Veracity (dishonest)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>

		Explicit negative [3]	<p>saying that US is not capable of acting out of a better reason than fear, but also saying that fear is the real reason behind the withdrawal</p> <p>Propriety (bad) <i>terrible [before noun] = used to show the great extent or degree of something bad</i></p>	Reader → US decision
50	Pay for the monster u voted for, pityyy	Explicit negative	<p>Propriety (cruel, evil) <i>monster = a person who is very cruel and evil</i></p>	Reader → Trump
51	No regrets! They did the world a favor by their withdrawal. Most of the injustice in the world is caused by them. [1] They always sides those who are wrong on the account of the innocents. [2]	<p>Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'innocents')</p>	<p>Propriety (unjust) Propriety (immoral, unjust)</p>	<p>Reader → US Reader → US</p>
53	Principled engagement from the Trump administration? That's asking too much	Explicit negative	<p>Propriety (immoral) <i>Principled = having strong beliefs about what is right and wrong; based on strong beliefs</i></p>	Reader → US administration
54	The US government HAS GONE MAD [1] I THINK THEY HAVE BIPOLAR [2]	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2] <i>analogy</i></p>	<p>Normality (not normal – odd, unpredictable) <i>Mad = having a mind that does not work normally; mentally ill</i></p> <p>Tenacity (capricious) <i>bipolar disorder = a mental illness causing somebody to change suddenly from being extremely depressed to being extremely happy</i></p>	<p>Reader → US administration</p> <p>Reader → US administration</p>

55	I think it's a perfect time for Aljazeera to drop its documentary film about the Israeli lobby.			
59	Well, " principled " doesn't apply to this administration	Explicit negative	Propriety (immoral) <i>Principled = having strong beliefs about what is right and wrong; based on strong beliefs</i>	Reader → US administration
60	Hitler left and disregarded the League of Nations back in the 30's and few years later war broke out.... [1] Does anyone see the trend being repeated?? [2] Leaving the human rights council for fear of backlash to be faced because of taking migrants children?? [3+4]	Implicit evoked negative [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: rhetorical question) Explicit negative [3] Implicit evoked negative [4]	Propriety (bad) Propriety (bad) <i>rhetorical question = asked only to make a statement or to produce an effect rather than to get an answer</i> Capacity (weak) <i>doing something out of fear is a negative characteristic from my POV; it is a sign of weakness</i> Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying that US is not capable of acting out of a better reason than fear, but also saying that fear is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i>	Reader → Hitler Reader → US Reader → US Reader → US
63	This is just a matter of poor diplomatic engagement [1+2] between the UN and the US, and rather than being on the defence, both parties should mediate for the sake of the poor and vulnerable children around the world [3+4] , that their future depends on the contributions of the US and other donor agencies across the globe, because this move by the US	Explicit negative [1] Explicit negative [2] Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'should') Implicit provoked negative [4]	Capacity (incompetent, unsuccessful) Capacity (incompetent, unsuccessful) Capacity (incompetent) <i>Saying they should do that is simultaneously saying that this is what they are not doing at the moment</i> Capacity (incompetent)	Reader → UN Reader → US Reader → UN Reader → US

	<p>Is a bad OMEN [5] which may cause or mare encouraging partners to also back out. [6+7]</p>	<p>(some evaluative language: 'should')</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [5] (some evaluative language: 'bad')</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [6]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [7] (some evaluative language: 'back out')</p>	<p>Saying they should do that is simultaneously saying that this is what they are not doing at the moment</p> <p>Normality (unlucky, hapless) Omen = a sign of what is going to happen in the future</p> <p>Capacity (ignorant, incompetent) Ignorant of possible consequences</p> <p>Tenacity (unreliable, inconstant) back out of something = to decide that you are no longer going to take part in something that has been agreed</p>	<p>Reader → US decision</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
64	<p>How could the US embrace a murderous regime like that of N Korea [1+2], and then rip apart refugee families [3] and remain in the UNHRC? [4]</p> <p>We should have been kicked out of it. [5+6]</p>	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'how could')</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Explicit negative [3]</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral, bad) how can/could you! = used to show that you strongly disapprove of somebody's behaviour or are very surprised by it</p> <p>embrace something = to accept an idea, a proposal, a set of beliefs, etc., especially when it is done with enthusiasm</p> <p>Propriety (cruel, evil)</p> <p>Propriety (cruel) rip somebody/something apart/to shreds/to bits, etc. = to destroy something; to criticize somebody very strongly</p> <p>Propriety (immoral)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → North Korea</p> <p>Reader → US</p>

			<i>Joke = a person, thing or situation that is ridiculous or annoying and cannot be taken seriously</i>	
73	Haley is a fundamentalist Christian believer [1], she thinks that Israel being an apartheid state is acceptable because of her beliefs. [2] She has no sympathy for the plight of the Palestinians. They are disposable. Just like the asylum seekers coming into the USA. [3] How is this making America great? [4]	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'fundamentalist')</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [2] Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'plight' = a difficult and sad situation)</p> <p>Explicit negative [4]</p>	<p>Capacity (unsound) 'fundamentalist believer' evokes negative associations in Western societies</p> <p>Capacity (unsound) Capacity (unsound)</p> <p>Capacity (incompetent, foolish) <i>rhetorical question = asked only to make a statement or to produce an effect rather than to get an answer → saying this [Haley's behaviour] is not making America great</i></p>	<p>Reader → Haley</p> <p>Reader → Haley Reader → Haley</p> <p>Reader → Haley</p>
74	This is a good 1st step.	Explicit positive	Capacity (competent, shrewd)	Reader → US
75	Nikky, the peace loving nations of the world do not need Trump's country [1] to muddle in UNHRC's affairs [2] to satisfy Israel [3]--the Zionist Murderers [4]! Do not come back again until Americans Vote your boss out of Power!	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'peace loving nations')</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [3]</p> <p>Explicit negative [4]</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral, evil) <i>saying that Trump's country is not peace loving because it is excluded from the term</i></p> <p>Capacity (incompetent) <i>To muddle = to put things in the wrong order</i></p> <p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this was the real purpose of the US membership</i></p> <p>Propriety (evil)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → Israel</p>

77	I think it is okay for the US to pull out. [1] That will allow the UNHRC [2] to condemn US and Israel policies [3] and avoid a US veto.	Explicit positive [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'allow') Explicit negative [3]	Capacity (sensible) Capacity (weak) Propriety (unjust)	Reader → US decision Reader → UN Reader → US & Israel
78	Current UN is a failure [1] and have had no successful missions in more than 25 years.[2] US is paying 8 billion dollars to UN annually for what? [3+4]	Explicit negative [1] Explicit negative [2] Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'for what?') Implicit provoked negative [4] (some evaluative language: 'for what?')	Capacity (unsuccessful) Capacity (unsuccessful) Capacity (incompetent, unproductive) Capacity (foolish)	Reader → UN Reader → UN Reader → UN Reader → US

8.7 CNN comments: analysis of Judgement

No.	Comment	Mode of judgement	What is judged? (adjective from table 2.6 or 2.7)	Who judges whom?
1	So basically Everyone around you is telling you how evil your pimp is "Israel" [1] but the US	Explicit negative Explicit negative	Propriety (evil) Propriety (immoral)	Everyone → Netanyahu Reader → US administration

	Govt (Trumpfards) wants to keep being it's hoe[2]			
2	You can't always blame bias when people disagree with you. [1] If the whole world is calling you out maybe you're the problem. [2]	Implicit evoked <i>negative</i> [1] Explicit <i>negative</i> [2]	Capacity (ignorant) Capacity (ignorant)	Reader → <i>US</i> (presumably Trump) Reader → <i>US</i> (presumably Trump)
3	Says the country who runs Guantanamo [1], was in favor of water boarding [2], goes to war based on faked evidence [3] (remember Iraq, the second time?) and so on. Hilarious.	Implicit evoked <i>negative</i> [1] Implicit evoked <i>negative</i> [2] Implicit provoked <i>negative</i> [3] (some evaluative language: 'faked')	Propriety (immoral) <i>Guantanamo is known for the unacceptable way prisoners are treated there</i> Propriety (immoral) <i>Waterboarding is a form of water torture</i> Capacity (incompetent, foolish)	Reader → <i>US</i> Reader → <i>US</i> Reader → <i>US</i>
4	Good timing [1] just as they world is condemning you for gross human rights abuses at the Mexican border [2+3]	Implicit provoked <i>positive</i> [1] (some evaluative language: 'good timing' sarcastic) Implicit evoked <i>negative</i> [2] Implicit evoked <i>negative</i> [3]	Capacity (clever, shrewd) <i>Good timing = doing something at the most suitable moment - I assume that the reader is implicitly saying that this is not really a coincidence or accidental</i> Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i> Propriety (selfish)	Reader → <i>US</i> Reader → <i>US</i> Reader → <i>US</i>
5	We need to put a wall around Trump and Haley. [1+2]	Implicit evoked <i>negative</i> [1] Implicit evoked <i>negative</i> [2]	Normality (unpredictable) Capacity (dangerous)	Reader → <i>Trump & Haley</i>

			<p>No explicit reason for putting a wall around them given, but you put a wall around someone who is dangerous + this is what Trump wants to do at the border with Mexico because Mexican immigrants are perceived as a possible danger + crazy unpredictable people used to be 'kept' in a tower far away from other people – also a way of putting a wall around somebody</p>	Reader → Trump & Haley
6	<p>He made a right decision [1], UN are full of hypocrites! [2] Only the narrow minds follows them [3]</p>	<p>Explicit positive [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Explicit negative [3]</p>	<p>Capacity (competent, shrewd)</p> <p>Veracity (deceitful)</p> <p>Capacity (stupid)</p>	<p>Reader → Trump</p> <p>Reader → UN</p> <p>Reader → UN followers (people who support the UN)</p>
7	<p>This country is gradually making way for dictatorships !</p>	<p>Implicit evoked negative</p>	<p>Capacity (foolish, incompetent, ignorant)</p>	Reader → US
8	<p>Fun fact: If you are a general failure working in a team, you will always find "rational" reasons to leave it and stay by yourself.</p>	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'rational' sarcastic)</p>	<p>Capacity (unsuccessful)</p> <p>Capacity (stupid, incompetent)</p> <p><i>Irrational = not based on clear logic thought</i></p> <p><i>Rash = (of people or their actions) doing something that may not be sensible without first thinking about the possible results</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
9	<p>No place for the US in this council with Trump's policies.</p>	<p>Implicit evoked negative</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral)</p> <p><i>like saying you are not good enough, not capable enough – 'Trump's policies' are given for a reason though and they could be considered immoral or unjust</i></p>	Reader → US

10	I am confused, who does she work for, the US or Israel?	Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'I am confused' sarcastic)	Tenacity (disloyal)	Reader → Haley
11	I am beginning not only to be shocked and ashamed of my birth country but to seriously consider turning my back on it!....there are those who will say love it or leave it, but I give no consideration to such narrow minds ...I do not want to give up on my country....but my heart breaks, my mind numbs, and I start to feel that I simply want no part of the present path my country is taking	Explicit negative	Capacity (stupid)	Reader → people who say "love it or leave it"
13	The last of the US moral authority is gone	Explicit negative	Capacity (not powerful - weak) <i>Authority = the power to influence people because they respect your knowledge or official position</i>	Reader → US
15	OF COURSE ... caught with your dirty hands in the cookie jar... no Palestinian lives matter... no immigrant lives matter [1] ... how do you sleep at night knowing you made a deal with the devil..	Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: analogy 'caught with your dirty hands' & sarcasm 'no [...] lives matter') Explicit negative [2]	Propriety (immoral) Propriety (immoral) <i>devil = the most powerful evil being</i>	Reader → US Reader → US
16	Or the US is bowing [1]. Out because we are too morally reprehensible [2] to understand human rights or make any type of judgement call. [3]	Implicit provoked negative [1]	Capacity (weak) <i>bow your head = to move your head forwards and downwards</i> <i>Usually, the weaker one bows in front of the stronger or more respected one.</i>	Reader → US

		Explicit negative [2]	Propriety (immoral) <i>Reprehensible = morally wrong and deserving criticism</i>	Reader → US
		Implicit evoked negative [3]	Capacity (stupid)	Reader → US
17	Unfortunately, instead of stepping towards correcting of breaking human rights, US government withdraws membership of UN Human Right Council. [1] The world is not going on well being under leading of US government. [2]	Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'instead of')	Tenacity (cowardly)	Reader → US
		Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'not well under leading of')	Capacity (unsuccessful, incompetent) <i>saying the US is not doing a good job in leading the world</i>	Reader → US
18	The US at this rate is bound to withdraw from every organisation that has made this world a better place. [1+2] Those who sat long hours in meetings that came up with these wonderful world solutions to peace, trade and human rights must be turning in their graves.	Explicit positive [1]	Capacity (successful)	Reader → UN
		Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'bound to')	Propriety (immoral, bad) <i>feel honour-bound to do something = to feel that you must do something because of your sense of moral duty</i>	Reader → US
19	"Human rights abuse" this has been a western weapon for years against their opponent. The reason them to go to war and impose there will on other governments. [1] It good to see that the warmongering nation [2] is out.	Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'impose')	Propriety (selfish) <i>impose yourself on/upon somebody/something = to make somebody/something accept or be aware of your presence or ideas</i>	Reader → US
		Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'warmongering')	Propriety (immoral) <i>Using human rights abuse as a pretence to go to war</i>	Reader → US
20	Sickening. How do these people look in the mirror anymore. [1] Weak [2], cruel	Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'look in the mirror')	Veracity (dishonest)	Reader → presumably US administration

	[3], selfish [4] and plain wrong on all levels [5]	<p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Explicit negative [3]</p> <p>Explicit negative [4]</p> <p>Explicit negative [5]</p>	<p><i>In my opinion, people cannot look in the mirror anymore if they are not true to oneself, honest.</i></p> <p>Capacity (weak)</p> <p>Propriety (cruel)</p> <p>Propriety (selfish)</p> <p>Capacity (incompetent, stupid)</p>	<p>Reader → presumably US administration</p> <p>Reader → presumably US administration</p> <p>Reader → presumably US administration</p> <p>Reader → presumably US administration</p>
21	Huh, just as the states are being blasted for keeping illegal immigrants in cages they withdraw from this. [1+2] This is a little bit alarming actually. [3]	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'just as')</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'alarming')</p>	<p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i></p> <p>Propriety (not law abiding – corrupt, unjust) <i>illegal = not allowed by the law</i></p> <p>Propriety (bad, immoral) <i>alarming = causing worry and fear</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
22	Wow, Nikki. I doubt my Sikh colleagues won't be saying Sat Nam to you. You have betrayed your country (USA) and humanity.	<p>Explicit negative</p>	<p>Tenacity (disloyal)</p>	<p>Reader → Haley</p>
23	The U.S. used to be the self-styled guardian angel and policeman of human rights , now what?	<p>Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'used to be')</p>	<p>Tenacity (disloyal)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p>

24	<p>Surprise surprise !!!! To be honest they've done the most un hypocritical act [1] because being part of the UN HRC and only 'voicing' concern and no action makes no difference if your a member of the council or not. The US has just left the discussion- it was never going to action anything. [2]</p> <p>Let's see if anyone will.</p>	<p>Explicit positive [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'just, 'anything')</p>	<p>Veracity (truthful)</p> <p>Tenacity (gutless)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
31	<p>Couldn't she have said all that without leaving the group? [1] Seems we had more power as part of the group versus outside of it. [2]</p>	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'couldn't')</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p>	<p>Capacity (incompetent) <i>In the negative, you find the positive: she could (and should) have said that without leaving the group.</i></p> <p>Capacity (less powerful - weaker)</p>	<p>Reader → Haley</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
32	<p>It was a cesspool when the USA was involved. [1] Now the air will commence to clear and we will all be able to breathe much cleaner air. [2]</p>	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [2] (some evaluative language: 'air' analogy)</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral)</p> <p>Propriety (moral)</p>	<p>Reader → US (or UN with US) Reader → future UN (or UN without US)</p>
35	<p>I think the USA withdrew because the Trump administration was called out for their treatment of immigrant children at the border. [1+2] Trump cannot take any criticism. [3]</p>	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1] (some evaluative language: 'because' + this one reason)</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'called out for')</p> <p>Explicit negative [3]</p>	<p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral, bad)</p> <p>Capacity (immature)</p>	<p>Reader → US administration</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → Trump</p>

37	UN probably kicked US out because of child abuse at the border. [1+2] You cannot be part of human right advocates [3] when you are abusing children at the border for what their parents did. [4]	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'because of' + this one reason)</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [3] (some evaluative language: 'human right advocates')</p> <p>Explicit negative [4]</p>	<p>Propriety (cruel, not law abiding, immoral) <i>child abuse = the crime of harming a child in a physical, sexual or emotional way</i></p> <p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i></p> <p>Propriety (moral) <i>It would have been possible to refer to UNHCR in other not so positively connotated words.</i></p> <p>Propriety (immoral, cruel, not law abiding)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → UN</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
38	This is coming from a government that shook hand with Kim Jung Un.	Implicit evoked negative	Veracity (not credible, devious)	Reader → US administration
39	whatever!!! the US has never abide by UN conventions,[1] they do it when it pleases them [2] so I find it very redundant	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit evoked negative [2]</p>	<p>Propriety (not law abiding, immoral)</p> <p>Tenacity (unreliable)</p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
40	Leaving because now the US is trampling on the human rights of innocent children [1] they don't want to be shown up by it. [2] So transparent. [3]	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [2] 'Leaving because [...] they [...]'</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3]</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral, cruel) <i>Trample on/over somebody/something = to ignore somebody's feelings or rights and treat them as if they are not important</i></p> <p>Veracity (dishonest) <i>saying this is the real reason behind the withdrawal</i></p> <p>Capacity (stupid, incompetent) <i>transparent of an excuse, a lie, etc. = allowing you to see the truth easily</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>

		(some evaluative language: 'so')		
42	If the UN was not so corrupt [1] and actually did something but collect money then [2] maybe there would be a need for them. [3]	<p>Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'but')</p> <p>Implicit provoked negative [3] (some evaluative language: 'would')</p>	<p>Propriety (corrupt) Capacity (useless, unproductive)</p> <p>Capacity (useless, unproductive) <i>Saying that right now there is no need for them because they are not doing anything.</i></p>	<p>Reader → UN Reader → UN</p> <p>Reader → UN</p>
44	US cherry picks human rights violations! [1] The worst for me is the way Christianity is used as their umbrella! [2]	<p>Implicit provoked negative [1]</p> <p>Explicit negative [2]</p>	<p>Propriety (unfair) <i>cherry-pick somebody/something = to choose the best people or things from a group and leave those which are not so good</i></p> <p>Veracity (deceitful, dishonest) <i>It is a cover up,</i></p> <p><i>fig leaf = a thing that is used to hide an embarrassing fact or situation</i></p>	<p>Reader → US</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
45	In a country where it seems GUNS are more important than people, [1] decisions like this will be a normality. [2]	<p>Implicit evoked negative [1] Implicit evoked negative [2]</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral) Propriety (immoral) <i>immoral decisions will be taken</i></p>	<p>Reader → US Reader → US</p>
46	It's better to stay and Tell what you think about a topic instead of Put the Balloon Over the Camp and Leaving	<p>Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'better to', 'instead of')</p>	<p>Tenacity (cowardly) <i>Possibly a military analogy</i></p>	Reader → US
48	She should learn about the history of Israel and why there is a Human Rights Council to begin with	<p>Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'should')</p>	Capacity (uneducated)	Reader → Haley

50	Omg! What an idiotic woman! [1] What happen to America first, when do we do the bidding of Israel? [2] What's wrong with this picture?	Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'bidding')	Capacity (stupid) Capacity (weak) <i>bidding = what somebody asks or orders you to do</i> <i>to do somebody's bidding = to obey somebody</i>	Reader → Haley Reader → US
51	Last week he wanted the Nobel Peace prize for coddling to a Dictator. This week he is giving the finger to human rights. [1] Bipolar. [2] Idiot [3]	Implicit evoked negative [1] Explicit negative [2] Explicit negative [3]	Tenacity (capricious) Tenacity (capricious) Capacity (stupid)	Reader → Trump Reader → Trump Reader → Trump
52	The cesspool is located in the White House..... [1+2]	Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked positive [2] (some evaluative language: '...')	Propriety (immoral, corrupt) Propriety (moral, good) <i>[...] and not in the UN</i>	Reader → US administration Reader → UN
53	UN is a corrupt Organization. (1) They don't respect the right of Humans. [2] Anything involving France is full of bad luck and corruption. [3] US decision is cool [4]	Explicit negative [1] Implicit evoked negative [2] Explicit negative [3] Explicit positive [4]	Propriety (corrupt) Veracity (dishonest) Propriety (corrupt) Normality (cool) <i>Cool = used to show that you admire or approve of something because it is fashionable, attractive and often different</i>	Reader → UN Reader → UN Reader → France Reader → US
56	The UN has become a pointless organisation [1+2] with no ability [3] or will to effectively deal with global human rights abuses. [4] America withdrawing may be the wake up call it needs. [5]	Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked positive [2]	Capacity (unsuccessful) <i>pointless = having no purpose; not worth doing</i> Capacity (successful)	Reader → UN Reader → UN

		<p>(some evaluative language: 'has become')</p> <p>Explicit negative [3]</p> <p>Explicit negative [4]</p> <p>Implicit evoked positive [5]</p>	<p><i>suggesting that it used to be different, it used to have a point or purpose worth fighting for</i></p> <p>Capacity (incompetent – not having the ability to do your job)</p> <p>Tenacity (distracted) <i>will = the ability to control your thoughts and actions in order to achieve what you want to do; a feeling of strong determination to do something that you want to do</i></p> <p>Capacity (sensible)</p>	<p>Reader → UN</p> <p>Reader → UN</p> <p>Reader → US</p>
57	This is very shameful decision.	<p>Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'shameful')</p>	<p>Capacity (incompetent) <i>Not specified why decision is shameful but if reader feels ashamed of the decision than reader does not approve of US behaviour. It can thus be considered a bad decision made by an incompetent leader.</i></p>	Reader → US
63	The cesspool is more aptly the Trump administration. [1+2]	<p>Explicit negative [1]</p> <p>Implicit provoked positive [2] (some evaluative language: 'more aptly')</p>	<p>Propriety (immoral, corrupt)</p> <p>Propriety (moral, good) [...] and not the UN</p>	<p>Reader → US administration</p> <p>Reader → UN</p>
65	since we are now becoming a major offender we are worse than all the countries we used to say were bad	Explicit negative	Propriety (bad, immoral)	Reader → US
69	Does the US constitution not have any safeguards to protect the country when a president goes rogue?	Explicit negative	Propriety (immoral) <i>rogue = a man who is dishonest and immoral</i>	Reader → Trump

71	So wrong. [1] What more can Trump do to cut us off from our allies? [2]	Explicit negative [1] Implicit provoked negative [2] (some evaluative language: 'what more')	Capacity (incompetent, stupid) Capacity (foolish, incompetent) assumption: being cut off from allies is a something bad	Reader → Trump Reader → Trump
75	Withdrawing ... we don't believe in climate change... Withdrawing ... we don't believe in human rights.. what is next ... 🙄	Implicit evoked negative	Normality (unpredictable)	Reader → US
76	Nikki you have sold your soul. How can you live with yourself?	Explicit negative	Veracity (dishonest) <i>to sell your soul = to do anything, even something bad or dishonest, in return for money, success or power</i>	Reader → Haley
79	simply, united states doesn't know any tiny thing about human rights...	Explicit negative	Capacity (uneducated, incompetent)	Reader → US
80	Isolated. Of course, with the orange one [Trump] in there, the USA does not need any friends.	Implicit provoked negative (some evaluative language: 'of course', sarcastic)	Capacity (incompetent, stupid)	Reader → US
81	DC is a cesspool of political bias , don't see anyone withdrawing from there...	Explicit negative	Propriety (immoral, corrupt)	Reader → US administration
83	This is Putin's dream [1] to have America diminished of its status on the world stage. [2]	Implicit evoked negative [1] Explicit negative [2]	Capacity (powerful, dangerous) <i>Somehow creates that notion that Russia has managed to diminish America's status on the world stage. Therefore, it must be a powerful nation. Putin must be a powerful leader.</i> Capacity (weak)	Reader → Russia Reader → US