



Exploring Attitude in Political Discourse with Large Language Models: The Case of News Articles on Trump's Election Victory

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ABSTRACT

Donald Trump's election victory, as a landmark international political event, offers a critical site for observing how national ideologies are discursively constructed and communicated through news media. In particular, the reporting of such events provides a rich empirical context for examining the deployment of evaluative language and its ideological implications. This study investigates how attitude resources are realized across news discourse produced by Chinese, American, and British media, with the aim of uncovering both cross-national patterns and the ways in which evaluative meanings align with broader framing practices. Drawing on the appraisal framework from Systemic Functional Linguistics, the analysis focuses on 60 English news articles and employs RoBERTa to automatically annotate instances of attitudinal resources. In addition, the study integrates DiVoMiner, a discourse-structure-aware computational tool, to identify dominant news frames and explore their alignment with specific attitudinal patterns. The findings reveal that although national media exhibit culturally shaped differences in their use of attitude resources, there is a notable convergence in the overall discursive structure of reporting. This convergence suggests the emergence of a shared transnational framing logic in the coverage of global political events. These results not only contribute to a deeper understanding of evaluative strategies in multilingual media discourse, but also demonstrate the potential of combining systemic functional theory with large language model-based annotation to analyze the ideological underpinnings of news narratives.

Keywords: large language models, appraisal framework, attitudinal resources, news discourse, news frame

1. Introduction

As a distinctive discourse genre, news discourse occupies a central position not only in various journalistic forms such as news reports, commentaries, and features (van Dijk, 1988), but also serves increasingly as a key vehicle for national communication and cultural exchange in the era of globalization. Through narrating and evaluating social events, news discourse not only conveys information but also shapes public cognition, emotional response, and social attitudes (Hao & Li, 2024). This function is especially prominent in the reporting of international political events, where news discourse goes beyond factual transmission (Fairclough, 2006) and constructs public stance and ideological alignment through strategic language choices and discursive structuring (Feng & Miao, 2022). In this regard, news discourse plays a pivotal role in shaping public understanding and attitudes toward global political developments.

In the analysis of news discourse, the application of appraisal theory (Martin & White, 2005; Thompson, 2004) provides a powerful theoretical foundation for uncovering how language reflects social and cultural values. The earliest applications of the theory focused on the analysis of print media discourse (Hu et al., 2017). As Thompson (2014) argues, evaluation lies at the heart of discourse meaning, and any analysis of interpersonal meaning must take evaluative resources into account. The centrality of the Appraisal framework in interpersonal discourse analysis is thus evident, particularly in understanding media stance and ideological alignment in news reporting. Within this framework, attitudinal resources form the core subsystem, enabling multidimensional

evaluations of international political events and projecting the ideological orientation of state-affiliated media through explicit polarity choices.

Simultaneously, framing theory, a widely adopted approach in media and communication studies, plays a crucial role in the organization of information and narrative construction, and significantly shapes the selection and expression of attitudinal resources (de Vreese, 2005; Entman, 1993; Han et al., 2017). Through the selective highlighting and structuring of information (Jin & Wu, 2024), news frames determine what aspects are foregrounded in reporting and how they are framed evaluatively, thereby influencing both the polarity and discursive realization of attitudinal meanings. This provides the analytical basis for an integrative exploration of the relationship between attitude and frame in the context of international political events.

Building on existing framing theory (de Vreese, 2005), the present study employs the RoBERTa large language model and the DiVoMiner software to analyze English-language news coverage of Trump's election victory from Chinese, American, and British media. By reconstructing three context-specific news frames grounded in topic and content analysis, and integrating them with Appraisal-based attitude analysis, the study aims to identify cross-national similarities and differences in attitudinal patterns and polarity. Furthermore, it seeks to uncover the underlying relationship between evaluative resources and framing strategies in the construction of ideologically charged media discourse in global political reporting.

2. Literature Review

As an interdisciplinary research domain, news discourse has garnered widespread academic attention in recent years across fields such as communication studies, linguistics, and other related disciplines. According to a bibliometric analysis by Wang et al. (2022), methodological approaches to the study of news discourse are highly diverse, encompassing critical discourse analysis (CDA), framing theory, Appraisal theory, and multimodal discourse analysis, among others. Since its emergence, CDA has remained one of the most influential and widely adopted methods, especially in the analysis of political topics, where its critical orientation is particularly valuable (Chen & Wang, 2022; Liu & Li, 2017). In parallel, Appraisal theory (Martin & White, 2005; Thompson, 2004) has developed into a major theoretical framework that focuses on the affective, judgmental, and appreciative dimensions of language. This framework enables a more fine-grained examination of how media evaluate social events and articulate ideological positions (Jiao, 2020; Xu & Dong, 2023).

A number of scholars have also emphasized the role of narrative construction and discursive strategies in shaping news discourse. For example, Si (2025) analyzes how different media outlets construct foreign news narratives and national image through competing narrative strategies. Zhang (2024) further argues that a narrative turn in journalistic discourse is essential for overcoming conventional reporting deadlocks and enhancing communicative efficacy.

In the context of globalization, news discourse not only reflects but also helps construct social reality (Sun & He, 2018; Xin, 2016). As a central vehicle for national communication, international news reporting often carries explicit ideological orientations, whereby media actors use specific language strategies to disseminate political messages and construct national identity (Sun, 2023). Within this process, attitudinal resources play a pivotal role. Through polarity (positive vs.

negative) and evaluative layering, these resources convey institutional stance and shape public perception at a deeper cognitive level (Farkas, 2023).

In relation to international political events, existing research widely recognizes the media's role in shaping public perceptions and attitudes. Framing theory holds that by selectively organizing and presenting information, the media construct interpretive frameworks that guide audience understanding (de Vreese, 2005; Graves-Sandriman, 2025). In international political reporting, framing decisions determine not only the structure and focal points of news texts but also influence the selection and expression of attitudinal resources. Framing effects are especially evident in the coverage of political conflicts and issues of social responsibility (Han et al., 2017). While media in different countries may report on the same political event, variations in frame construction often reflect differences in ideological orientation and national context (Kuang & Wang, 2020). For instance, Wang (2024) observes that in reporting on U.S. elections, media outlets may adopt different frames, yet all remain shaped by prevailing political ideologies, resulting in highly polarized coverage.

Although cultural and ideological differences often shape national reporting styles, discursive convergence is also emerging in the global media landscape. Framing theory suggests that information salience is strategically constructed, and this selectivity often aligns closely with attitudinal realization (Graves-Sandriman, 2025). Under certain conditions, news reporting on international political events may transcend national boundaries and exhibit a degree of discursive uniformity.

While both Appraisal theory and framing theory have been widely applied in news discourse research (Wang et al., 2022), few studies have attempted to integrate attitudinal resource analysis with framing analysis in a systematic manner. To address this gap, the present study employs the RoBERTa language model and DiVoMiner software to analyze international media coverage of Donald Trump's election victory. Building on existing literature, this study focuses on the following research questions to explore the relationship between news frames and attitudinal resources:

RQ1: What are the distributional features attitudinal resources and their polarity across national media in reporting Trump's election victory?

RQ2: What are the distinctive patterns of news framing employed by Chinese, American, and British media?

RQ3: How do the selection and expression of attitudinal resources and frames reflect convergence or divergence in media discourse on international political events?

3. Method

3.1 Theoretical framework

3.1.1 The attitude system

The attitude system, as a core component of Appraisal theory within Systemic Functional Linguistics, comprises three interrelated subsystems: affect, judgment, and appreciation (Martin & White, 2005: 42-90). The affect subsystem concerns individuals' emotional responses to events or phenomena, typically expressed through positive or negative emotions such as happiness, pain,

satisfaction, or anger. The judgment subsystem focuses on moral evaluation, assessing people's behavior in terms of social norms and ethics, and is often realized through expressions of praise or criticism, tolerance or disapproval. The appreciation subsystem evaluates the aesthetic or value-oriented qualities of objects, processes, or performances, addressing whether something is seen as admirable, beautiful, or worthwhile.

In addition, attitudinal expressions are generally marked by polarity, where positive polarity reflects endorsement or affirmation, and negative polarity conveys critique or rejection. These polarity choices not only reveal the evaluative stance of the reporting institution but also reflect the ideological positioning of media outlets in specific sociopolitical contexts.

3.1.2 News framing theory

News frames function as key discursive mechanisms through which media selectively present and organize information, thereby influencing how audiences perceive and interpret events (de Vreese, 2005: 51; Han et al., 2017). Building on framing theory and grounded in the thematic patterns of the corpus, this study identifies three dominant frame types in international political reporting: the power and attribution frame, the leadership and morality frame, and the social impact frame.

Firstly, the power and attribution frame focus on institutional power dynamics and the distribution of responsibility within complex political, social, or economic contexts (de Vreese, 2005: 56). It highlights issues such as power struggles, decision-making processes, and the shifting or deflection of blame, reflecting how media shape audience perceptions of justice and accountability. Common lexical indicators include power, political campaign, and electoral votes, all of which foreground structural authority and political contestation.

Secondly, the leadership and morality frame centers on the ethical evaluation of political leadership, particularly in terms of whether leaders act in accordance with moral norms and demonstrate concern for marginalized populations (Grossberg et al., 2005: 65-96). This frame emphasizes the moral responsibility of political actors and reflects societal expectations of ethical leadership. Frequently occurring words include promise, moral, leader, election, and responsibility, which explicitly reference moral judgment, institutional integrity, and the leader-follower relationship.

Thirdly, the social impact frame addresses the broader societal consequences of political events or policies, particularly in the economic, cultural, or environmental domains (Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000: 93). This frame analyzes how such events alter social structures and affect public well-being, drawing attention to both positive and negative ramifications. High-frequency lexical items include impact, consequence, global, economy, and tariff, reflecting the perceived economic and structural implications of political decisions.

3.1.3 An adapted framework of attitudinal resources and news framing

In the analysis of news discourse, the appraisal framework and framing theory represent two complementary yet distinct analytical perspectives, each offering unique insights into meaning-making processes (Wang et al., 2022). While attitudinal resources within the appraisal system focus on the implicit emotional, ethical, and aesthetic evaluations embedded in language, framing theory attends to the selection and organization of information that shapes how audiences perceive and

interpret events. Both approaches contribute to the understanding of media stance and ideological positioning.

In the context of international political reporting, media outlets strategically deploy attitudinal resources to express affective responses and moral judgments toward unfolding events. At the same time, the framing of such events determines how these evaluations are structured and rendered salient to the audience. The interaction between attitudinal polarity and framing logic thus plays a crucial role in shaping public cognition and political interpretation. By integrating the analysis of attitudinal resources with that of news frames (see Figure 1 in **Annexure A: Figures & Tables**), this study seeks to uncover how Chinese, American, and British media construct divergent emotional, ethical, and value-laden positions in their coverage of Trump's election victory. More importantly, the combined framework enables an exploration of how evaluative meanings and framing structures co-articulate ideological perspectives and institutional stances within global news discourse.

3.2 Corpus compiling

This study focuses on international news reports concerning Donald Trump's election victory, drawn from official media outlets in China, America, and Britain. To ensure both cross-national representativeness and data consistency, four English-language reports were selected from each country, yielding a total of 60 articles. These reports were published by fifteen major media organizations between November and December 2024, in the immediate aftermath of the election. The Chinese news reports were retrieved from the Factiva database using the keywords Trump, president, and victory, while American and British reports were selected directly from relevant post-election coverage published in leading national newspapers.

In addition, to ensure data traceability, each news article in this study was uniformly labeled. For example, *A-ust1* indicates the first news article sourced from American newspaper *USA Today*. Detailed source information is provided in Table 1 (See in **Annexure A: Figures & Tables**).

For the annotation of attitudinal resources, the study employed the RoBERTa model, which was pretrained and fine-tuned to enhance both precision and generalizability in classification tasks. Using Python (version 3.13.1), the model automatically identified and labeled instances of affect, judgment, and appreciation, along with their corresponding polarity. News frames were identified using the DiVoMiner software, which integrates automated discourse structure analysis with manually coded frame categories to improve both annotation efficiency and reliability. The complete annotation workflow is illustrated in Figure 2.

To explore the influence of news framing on attitudinal choices, the study first conducted a Kruskal–Wallis test to examine whether significant differences existed in the distribution of the three types of attitudinal resources (affect, judgment, appreciation) across different news frames. Given that this non-parametric test does not fully account for the potential interaction of multiple variables, a subsequent multiple regression analysis was performed to assess the combined effects of framing categories and national origin on the selection and polarity of attitudinal resources.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Analysis of attitudinal resource patterns

As shown in Table 2, the use of attitudinal resources in the coverage of Trump's election victory reveals both convergences and divergences across Chinese, American, and British media.

In terms of affectual resources, all three media systems exhibit a shared tendency to foreground negative emotional polarity. The frequency of negative affect expressions reaches 14.03, 17.91, and 17.23 per 10,000 words in Chinese, American, and British reports, respectively. These findings suggest that in the reporting of international political events, negativity is commonly employed to signal controversy and uncertainty, reflecting a shared affective strategy in news discourse. For example:

- (1) *It was a campaign as **dark** as any in recent memory, filled with **invective**, **fear** and **vows of retribution**.* (A-wp3)

With regard to judgment resources, a similar pattern of convergence emerges, particularly in the prevalence of negative judgment. American and British media employ negative judgment more frequently than Chinese media, with frequencies of 165.87 and 227.76 compared to 132.29, respectively. This indicates a stronger inclination in Western media to reinforce their institutional credibility through critical evaluations and watchdog discourse. In contrast, positive judgment shows relatively high and stable frequencies across all three corpora, suggesting a baseline level of value alignment in appraising leadership or institutional actions. For instance:

- (2) *After Tuesday's victory, **the world lies at Mr. Trump's feet**.* (B-te1)

Notably, greater variation is observed in the use of appreciation resources. Chinese media demonstrate a significantly higher frequency of positive appreciation, at 30.57 per 10,000 words, compared to only 3.30 and 11.96 in the U.S. and U.K. reports, respectively. In contrast, the frequency of negative appreciation remains relatively consistent across countries. This pattern suggests that while all three media rely more heavily on judgment for analytical evaluation, Chinese media show a marked tendency to frame political outcomes in aesthetically or morally affirming terms. For example:

- (3) *A **stable, sound and sustainable** China-U.S. relationship serves the two countries' shared interests.* (CH-pd1)

Statistical analyses further support these observations. The use of affectual resources does not differ significantly across the three media systems ($F = 0.76$, $p = 0.561$), indicating a common tendency toward negative emotional expression. While judgment resources vary in frequency, the differences are not statistically significant ($F = 1.83$, $p = 0.300$), reflecting general cross-cultural consistency in evaluative positioning. However, the use of appreciation resources shows significant variation ($F = 20.73$, $p = 0.017$), with Chinese media demonstrating a significantly higher reliance on positive appreciation than their American and British counterparts.

Overall, the findings indicate a high degree of convergence in the use of affect and judgment, especially in the strategic deployment of negativity to signal contention and institutional critique. American and British media show a stronger orientation toward critical judgment, consistent with

traditions of adversarial journalism and democratic accountability. By contrast, although appreciation resources constitute a smaller portion of the evaluative repertoire, their distribution particularly the elevated use of positive appreciation in Chinese media suggests culturally shaped differences in aesthetic or value-based evaluation.

Despite the broadly convergent reporting styles observed across national media, the differentiated use of specific attitudinal subsystems, especially appreciation, highlights underlying cultural and ideological variation in evaluative language (Farkas, 2023; Jiao, 2020; Xu & Dong, 2023). In light of the study's aims and the central role of judgment in positioning stance, the following section will focus on the judgment subsystem, examining its rhetorical and ideological functions in constructing national perspectives and institutional identities in political reporting.

4.2 Analysis of judgment resources and polarity

Judgment resources in news discourse reflect the media's evaluative stance toward individuals, behaviors, and social phenomena. In the case of Trump's election victory, a close analysis of the three national corpora reveals notable polarity differences in the deployment of judgment, particularly across the dimensions of capacity, propriety, and normality (see Table 3). While positive evaluations of capacity are relatively consistent across all three countries suggesting a general recognition of Trump's political effectiveness evaluations in the domains of propriety and normality are predominantly negative, often centering on critiques of Trump's policies and leadership style.

In terms of capacity, Chinese, American, and British media all express affirmative evaluations of Trump's leadership and political acumen. Chinese media emphasize the decisiveness of his electoral victory, thereby affirming his competence as a political actor. U.S. reports underscore the exceptional nature of his campaign strategy and political comeback. Meanwhile, British media highlight his tactical advantage and dominant position in the political landscape. Despite variations in wording, all three media systems converge in positively evaluating Trump's political capacity, indicating his perceived legitimacy and influence as a global political figure:

- (4) *Donald Trump scored a **decisive victory** in the Nov 5 United States presidential election.* (CH-cd3)
- (5) *Even Trump was left marveling at **one of the most remarkable comebacks** in political history.* (A-ust4)
- (6) *This put him in a **strong position** in the medium term.* (B-ft3)

Nonetheless, negative assessments of Trump's capacity also appear across all three corpora. Chinese media express deep concern over Trump's potential global impact through phrases such as *Trumpian nightmare*, signaling anxiety about geopolitical instability. American reports warn that Trump might *squander political capital* through retaliatory actions, while British outlets use descriptors such as *quixotic* and *transactional* to imply strategic shortsightedness and political unpredictability. These critiques suggest that, although his capabilities are acknowledged, doubts persist regarding the long-term consequences of his leadership style.

Judgments of propriety reveal even stronger cultural divergences. Chinese media emphasize the importance of *mutual respect*, reflecting expectations of diplomatic fairness and harmony. In contrast, American and British media criticize Trump's immigration policies as ethically problematic, employing expressions such as *little regard for consequences* and *ruthlessly* to underscore

the perceived moral deficiencies of his decision-making. These distinctions point to broader cultural values shaping normative assessments of political action.

As for normality, the three countries offer contrasting evaluations of Trump's leadership style. Chinese media describe it as *highly consistent and stable*, recognizing his ability to maintain political coherence. By contrast, American reports characterize his rhetoric as *dark* and refer to his presidency as an *aberration*, signaling a profound departure from democratic norms. British media echo this sentiment, similarly portraying Trump's presidency as a historical anomaly. These divergent judgments reveal the complex interplay between ideological stance and normative expectations in international political reporting.

Taken together, the use of judgment resources reveals both shared concerns and culturally inflected differences in how Trump's political persona is constructed across media systems (Xu & Dong, 2023). While positive evaluations of capacity suggest a degree of common ground in recognizing political efficacy, the contrasting stances on propriety and normality reflect deeper ideological and cultural cleavages. These evaluative patterns, shaped by each country's journalistic traditions and sociopolitical context, contribute to the ongoing negotiation of political meaning in global news discourse.

4.3 Analysis of news framing patterns

This study examined the distribution of three reconstructed news frames which include power and attribution, leadership and morality, and social impact across media coverage from China, America, and Britain. Based on a corpus of 60 news articles (20 from each country), the findings indicate distinct national preferences in frame selection. Table 4 presents the frequency of each frame across the three national corpora.

Given the equal number of articles from each country, a direct comparison of frame frequencies was conducted. The power and attribution frame appeared most frequently in Chinese and British reports (50% each) but was less prominent in American coverage (30%). The leadership and morality frame dominated in American reporting (45%), while its presence in Chinese and British coverage was comparatively lower (30% each). The social impact frame was used least frequently across all three corpora, with Chinese and British media showing a 20% usage rate and American media slightly higher at 25%. To further investigate the discursive focus within each frame, keyword frequency analyses were performed on the texts grouped by frame category. The results are visualized in Figure 3.

An analysis of the top 30 high-frequency words under each frame reveals considerable lexical overlap across the three categories. Common keywords such as *Trump*, *president*, *victory*, *voters*, and *win* reflect the shared focus on Trump's electoral success, his campaign activities, and broader political implications. Nevertheless, each frame also displays a set of frame-specific lexical patterns. For instance, the power and attribution frame is characterized by terms such as *Harris*, *political*, and *party*, highlighting a focus on partisan competition and institutional power dynamics. In contrast, the leadership and morality frame foregrounds terms such as *election*, *states*, and *Republican*, reflecting a concern with leadership choices and their ethical ramifications. The social impact frame includes words such as *European*, *tariffs*, and *economy*, drawing attention to the societal and global economic consequences of Trump's policy agenda.

A case in point is the British article *White House Awaits Its Erratic Leader* (UK-tt), which exemplifies the social impact frame by focusing on the potential economic and structural effects of Trump's presidency on both domestic and global scales. The article emphasizes anticipated changes in trade, taxation, and market dynamics following Trump's victory. The six most frequent lexical items—*cent* (11), *trump* (10), *trade* (5), *big* (5), *time* (4), and *tax* (4)—underscore the article's focus on economic discourse.

Among these, *cent* appears predominantly in the collocation *per cent*, frequently used to quantify socioeconomic indicators such as corporate tax rates and unemployment figures. For instance, the article notes Trump's policy to reduce corporate tax from 35 per cent to 21 per cent, with a proposed further reduction to 15 per cent. While such policies may incentivize short-term corporate expansion, they also risk exacerbating income inequality and altering the broader economic structure. The terms *trade* and *tax* reflect Trump's assertive stance on global trade and fiscal policy, with phrases such as *trade war*, *tax cuts*, and *corporation tax* suggesting potential disruption to the international economic order. The adjective *big* is employed in evaluative expressions like *big promises* and *big bets*, emphasizing the high-risk, high-reward logic underlying Trump's economic vision. Finally, *time* appears in patterns such as *last time* and *this time*, signaling temporal comparisons and rhetorical contrasts with past administrations.

In sum, the frame analysis reveals that Trump's policies are represented not only as economically consequential but also as transformative forces reshaping global trade systems and domestic social structures. The social impact frame, though less frequently employed, captures the depth and complexity of these broader consequences (Kuang & Wang, 2020; Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000), emphasizing the ideological and material stakes of Trump's leadership beyond the confines of U.S. domestic politics.

4.4 Interaction between attitudinal resources and news frames

To explore the potential influence of news frames on the distribution of attitudinal resources, the study employed a mixed-methods statistical approach combining the Kruskal-Wallis test with multiple regression analysis. The initial non-parametric analysis assessed whether the distribution of affect, judgment, and appreciation resources varied significantly across the three identified news frames (see Table 5). The results showed no statistically significant differences for any of the attitudinal subsystems: Affect ($H = 3.40$, $p = 0.180$), Judgment ($H = 2.00$, $p = 0.368$), and Appreciation ($H = 2.00$, $p = 0.368$). These findings suggest that although Chinese, American, and British media employed different framing strategies in reporting Trump's election victory, the type and polarity of attitudinal resources were not significantly shaped by the framing categories.

To further evaluate the combined effect of frame and national context, a multiple regression analysis was conducted. While some associations were observed between frame type and country of origin, the model exhibited a low level of explanatory power ($R^2 = 0.111$, adjusted $R^2 = 0.006$). The regression coefficients for all country variables were small and not statistically significant, with p -values exceeding 0.05. This indicates that although framing may influence certain rhetorical or narrative choices (Kuang & Wang, 2020), it does not exert a decisive impact on the selection or polarity of attitudinal resources in the coverage of international political events.

Despite the lack of statistically significant findings, the discursive interaction between frames and attitudinal resources warrants further attention. In the context of globalization, mainstream media across national boundaries appear to be converging in their construction of news frames, particularly in the reporting of high-profile international political events (Wang, 2024). In the case of Trump's election, the overall portrayal across Chinese, American, and British media leaned toward emphasizing electoral success and political momentum, while evaluations of Trump's policy positions frequently centered on issues of power structure and leadership accountability.

Specifically, Chinese media framed the event through the lens of political stability and national interest, highlighting the global economic and trade implications of Trump's victory. American media focused on democratic processes and policy shifts, emphasizing electoral legitimacy and institutional consequences. British media, by contrast, frequently drew on the leadership and morality frame to critique Trump's leadership style and its disruptive impact on the international order. These framing tendencies, reflected through variations in attitudinal resource distribution, align with prior scholarship on the role of cultural and ideological positioning in global news discourse (Graves-Sandriman 2025; Han et al., 2017; Kuang & Wang 2020).

While national media exhibited differences in frame preference (Grossberg et al., 2005), the coverage of Trump's victory was marked by a general convergence around the power and attribution and leadership and morality frames. These frames consistently invoked affective resources associated with victory and momentum, contributing to a shared discursive pattern across countries. Such convergence underscores the increasing homogenization of global political reporting, whereby national ideological distinctions are mediated through similar framing and evaluative strategies.

5. Conclusion

This study analyzed the use of attitudinal resources and news frames in the coverage of Donald Trump's election victory by mainstream media in China, America, and Britain, with the aim of exploring cross-national discursive strategies and cultural variation in international political reporting. The findings reveal that despite observable differences in evaluative and framing strategies, the three national media systems constructed a shared political meaning, contributing to an emerging discursive convergence in global news narratives.

With regard to attitudinal resources, the analysis shows a strong convergence in the use of affect and judgment, particularly in the expression of negative polarity. Media outlets from all three countries emphasized uncertainty and controversy, suggesting a common reliance on critical evaluation to enhance journalistic credibility and reinforce a watchdog function in political discourse (Sun & He, 2018). However, clear cross-national differences emerged in the use of appreciation resources, with Chinese media employing significantly more positive appreciation, reflecting cultural variation in aesthetic and value judgments.

In terms of news frames, notable differences were also observed. The power and attribution frame appeared more frequently in Chinese and British coverage, while American media relied more heavily on the leadership and morality frame. This indicates that Chinese and British outlets tended to focus on institutional power structures and responsibility attribution, whereas American

coverage prioritized ethical assessments of leadership conduct. Nonetheless, all three media systems exhibited a shared focus on Trump's political capacity and leadership accountability, reflecting a common discursive concern that contributed to structural convergence in political news reporting.

Furthermore, the study examined the interaction between attitudinal resources and news framing. Although differences in frame selection were evident across countries, there was also a degree of alignment in how frames and evaluative meanings were combined (Jiao, 2020). This suggests that while frames do influence the distribution and expression of attitudinal resources, they do not entirely determine evaluative stance. The Kruskal–Wallis test and regression analysis indicated that the direct statistical influence of frames on attitude selection was limited, but the interactional dynamics between frames and evaluative strategies nonetheless played a crucial role, particularly in the context of globalization, where media framing practices are increasingly shaped by transnational discourse norms.

Taken together, the findings suggest that while cultural and ideological variation persists in the reporting of international political events, a tendency toward discursive alignment is emerging at the level of narrative structure and evaluative focus. The interaction between news frames and attitudinal resources offers insight into how media representations shape public understanding of international politics and underscores the complex relationship between discursive convergence and cultural specificity in global news production.

The main contribution of this study lies in its methodological integration of the RoBERTa language model and DiVoMiner software, combined with the theoretical frameworks of Appraisal theory and framing analysis. This approach provides a new perspective for cross-cultural research on international news discourse. Future studies may expand the scope of the corpus to include a wider range of political events and national contexts and further investigate how frame-attitude interactions influence public understanding and perception across cultures, thereby advancing scholarship in global media discourse and international news communication.

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Annexure A (Figures & Tables)

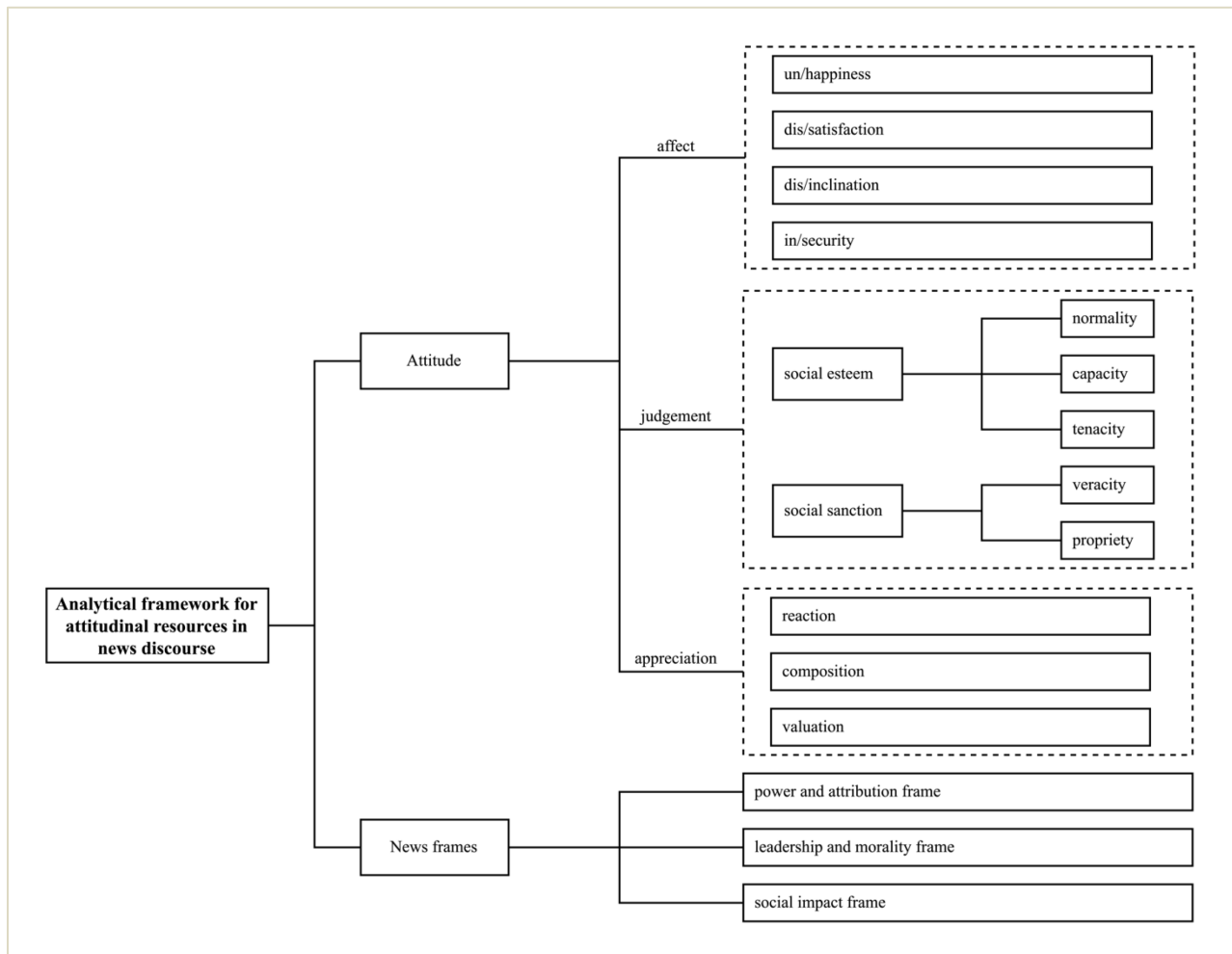


Figure 1. Analytical framework for attitudinal resources in news discourse

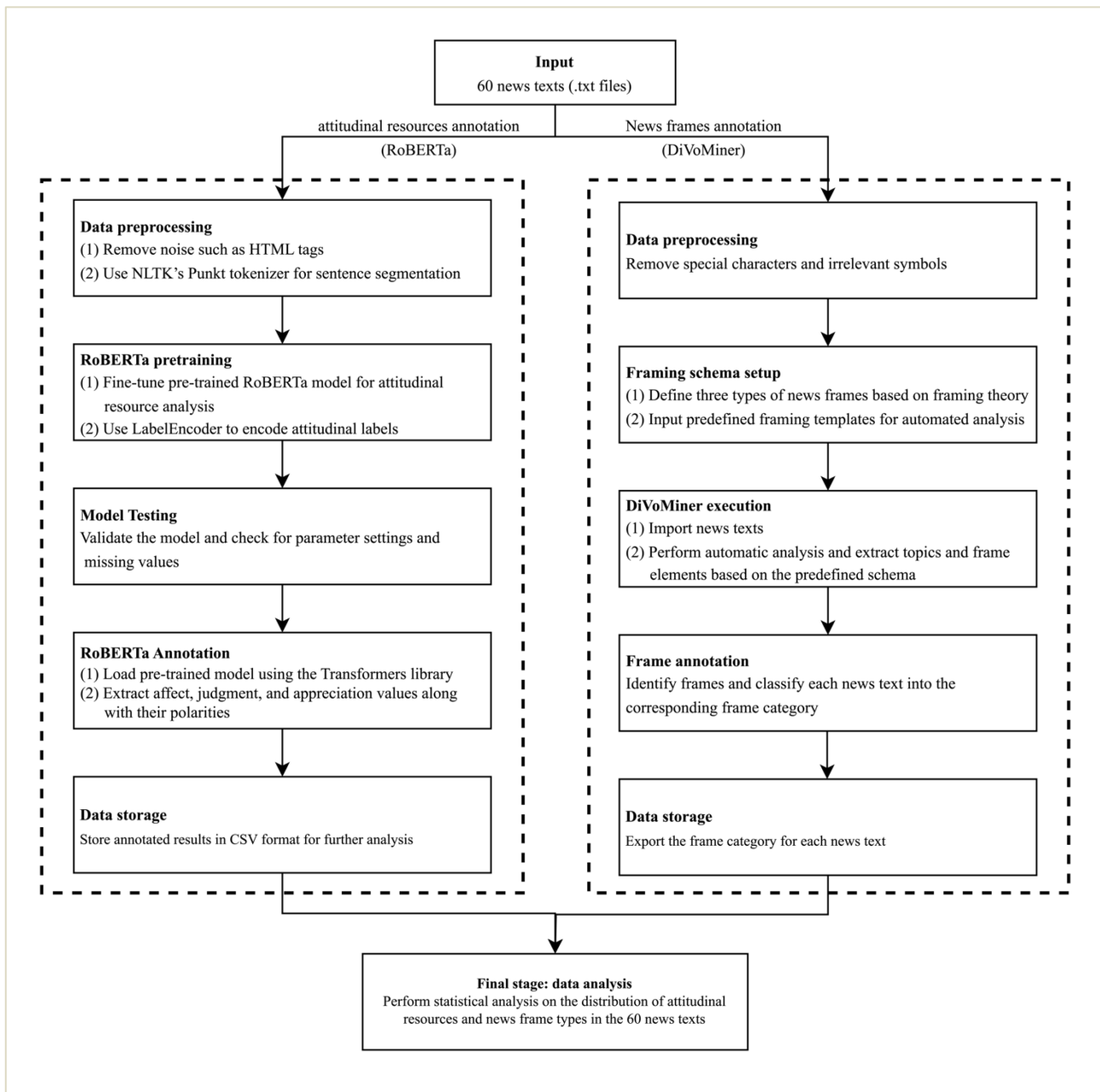


Figure 2. Annotation workflow of attitudinal resources and news frames in 60 news texts

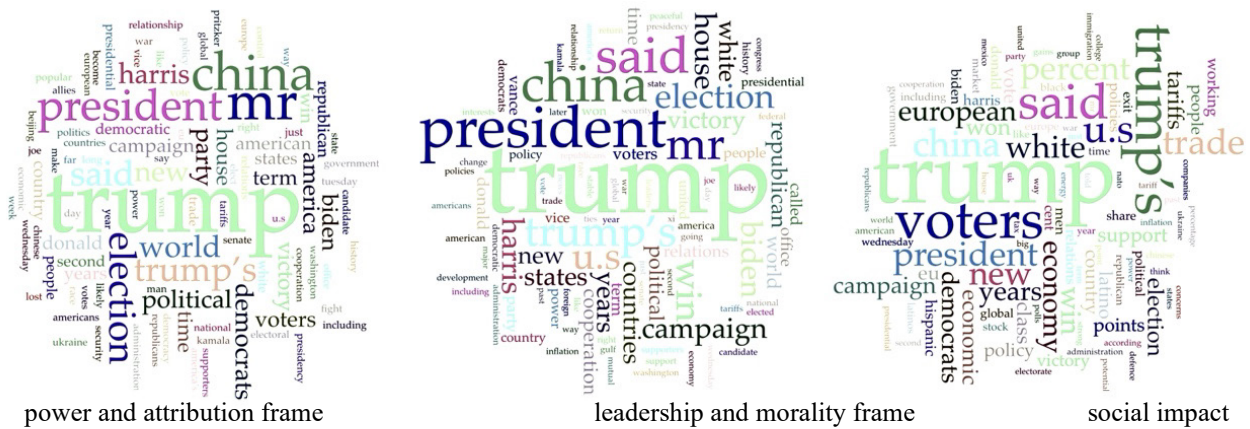


Figure 3. Word clouds of news coverage under three reconstructed frames

Table 1. Basic information about the corpus

Country	Media outlet	Source Code	Time span	Token
China	<i>China Daily</i>	CH-cd	7 Nov 2024 –	19,956
	<i>People's Daily</i>	CH-pd	17 Dec 2024	
	<i>Global Times</i>	CH-gt		
	<i>South China Morning Post</i>	CH-scmp		
	<i>Xinhua News Agency</i>	CH-xh		
America	<i>USA Today</i>	A-ust	7 Nov 2024 –	21,221
	<i>The New York Times</i>	A-nyt	8 Nov 2024	
	<i>The Washington Post</i>	A-wp		
	<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>	A-ws		
	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	A-ct		
Britain	<i>The Economist</i>	B-te	7 Nov 2024 –	20,899
	<i>The Times</i>	B-tt	9 Nov 2024	
	<i>Financial Times</i>	B-ft		
	<i>The Independent</i>	B-ti		
	<i>The Guardian</i>	B-tg		

Table 2. Distribution of attitudinal resources and their polarity in news reports

Attitude type	Polarity	China	America	Britain	Total
Affect	positive (+)	12	12	9	33
	negative (–)	28	38	36	102
Judgement	positive (+)	255	270	264	789
	negative (–)	264	352	476	1,092
Appreciation	positive (+)	61	7	25	93
	negative (–)	40	6	3	49
Total		660	685	813	2,158

Table 3. Distribution of judgment resources and their polarity in news articles

Judgment type	Polarity	China	America	Britain	Total
Social Esteem					
Normality	positive (+)	56	37	21	114
	negative (-)	71	135	34	240
Capacity	positive (+)	147	225	221	593
	negative (-)	136	167	213	516
Tenacity	positive (+)	7	6	0	13
	negative (-)	5	3	0	8
Social Sanction					
Veracity	positive (+)	0	0	0	0
	negative (-)	10	0	1	11
Propriety	positive (+)	45	2	22	69
	negative (-)	42	47	228	317
Total		519	622	740	1,881

Table 4. Distribution of news frames across national corpora

Frame type	China	America	Britain	Total
Power and attribution	10	6	10	26
Leadership and morality	6	9	6	21
Social impact	4	5	4	13
Total	20	20	20	60

Table 5. Distribution of attitudinal resources under each news frame

Attitude	Polarity	Power attribution			Leadership morality			Social impact			Total
		C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	
Affect	+	4	3	6	7	8	3	1	1	0	33
	–	28	12	23	0	23	12	0	3	1	102
Judgement	+	80	50	105	123	150	126	52	70	33	789
	–	144	138	255	38	145	108	82	69	113	1,092
Appreciation	+	19	1	14	23	3	7	19	3	4	93
	–	26	0	3	3	6	0	11	0	0	49
Total		301	204	406	194	335	256	165	146	151	2,158

Note: C = China; A = America; B = Britain.