ANALYSIS OF APPRAISAL THEORY USED BY THE MAIN

CHARACTER IN THE *PROFILE* MOVIE (2018)

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor
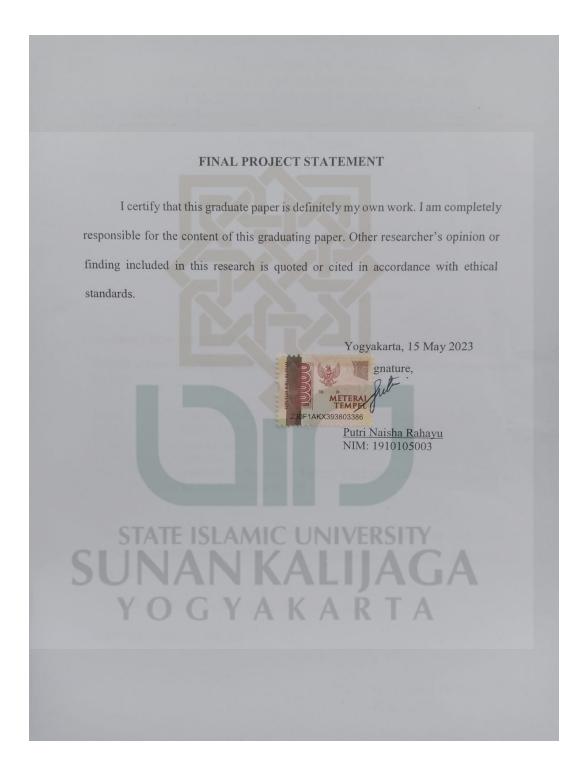
Degree in English Department

By:

Putri Naisha Rahayu

19101050031

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SUNAN KALIJAGA

YOGYAKARTA

2023

FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
SUNAN KALIJAGA
YOGYAKARTA

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NOTA DINAS

Hal: Skripsi

    a.n. Putri Naisha Rahayu   Yth.

                                    Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

                                    UIN Sunan Kalijaga

                                    Di Yogyakarta

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Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudara:

Nama   : Putri Naisha Rahayu
NIM   : 19101050031
Prodi   : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas   : Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
Judul   : **Analysis of Appraisal Theory Used by The Main Character in The Profile Movie (2018)**

kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb

                                    Yogyakarta, 15 Mei 2023
                                    Pembimbing

                                    Dr. Arif Budiman, S.S., M.A

                                    NIP: 19780309 201101 1 003

KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA
FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA
Jl. Marsda Adi Sucipto, Telp. (0274) 513949 Fax. (0274)552883 Yogyakarta

PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

Nomor : B-787/Un.02/DA/PP.00.9/06/2023

Tugas Akhir dengan judul   :Analysis of Appraisal Theory Used by the Main Character in The Profile Movie (2018)

yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:

Nama   : PUTRI NAISHA RAHAYU
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa   : 19101050031
Telah diujikan pada   : Selasa, 23 Mei 2023
Nilai ujian Tugas Akhir   : A-

dinyatakan telah diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

TIM UJIAN TUGAS AKHIR

Ketua Sidang

Dr. Arif Budiman, S.S., M.A
SIGNED

Valid ID: 64804aaed14b9

Penguji I

Dwi Margo Yuwono, M.Hum.
SIGNED

Valid ID: 6476beb6bd216

Penguji II

Bambang Hariyanto, S.S., MA
SIGNED

Valid ID: 64803b3f06f1c

Yogyakarta, 23 Mei 2023
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

Dr. Muhammad Wildan, M.A.
SIGNED

Valid ID: 648088754f60a

1/1   08/06/2023

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MOTTO

You just gotta go the hardest ways cause the easy routes never lead you to

the right destination

You start the journey when you want something and find passion for it on

the way

-ineffalucas

DEDICATION

This graduating paper is dedicated to me, my parents, my dearest support system

for their endless love, trust, and encouragement, the readers, and English

Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences, State Islamic

University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamu'alaikum wr.wb

Praises are only for the Almighty, Allah SWT who has given us Mercy and Blessing so that I can finish this graduating paper entitled "Analysis of Appraisal Theory Used by The Main Character in The Profile Movie (2018)". In completing this research, there are many people who have contributed to this project. Therefore, I want to give the appreciation from deep of my heart to everyone who has been a part of my journey. Those people are:

1. My beloved parents who has helped me mentally and materially, and never stopped praying for my success.

2. Ulyati Retno Sari, S.S. M.Hum, as The Head of English Department, Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. I am sincerely grateful for her supports, advices, and her kindness.

3. Febriyanti Dwiratna Lestari, S.S., M.A. as my Academic Advisor. Her patience and guidance have always helped me to always be aware of academic matters.

4. Dr. Arif Budiman, S.S., M.A. as my Research Advisor who has given a lot of guidance, advise, and support to finish my graduating paper well.

5. All the lecturers of English Literature Department for giving me knowledges, advices, the chance and convenience to learn in this institution.

6. My gorgeous and coolest friends: Nurul Fidya, Sifa Fauziah , Fira Yunika, Vina Septika, Syaharani Hamidah, Putri Cahya, La Afrina, Bunga Maharani, and Nadia Maritza who always be there for me.

7. For my best musicians who have fought from bottom to the top, saved my life, and for always being on my ear while doing this research: Day6, Treasure, and Eaj; YNR especially Homies Chin, Louie, and CK; Big Naughty, Trade L, Park Hyeonjin, Lee Youngwoong, Juto, Jaeha, Lee Heesang, Gist; my dearest role models: Changmo and Ash Island; my amazing brothers: Skinny Brown, Jayci Yucca, Toil, Kid Wine.

8. Nabil Pawaka as my second chapter supporter, thank you for the support and your music.

9. Lucas, thank you for your advice, I know it's not easy to achieve dreams and sometimes there are many hard times, but as you said, easy roads will not lead you to the right destination.

Wassalamu'alaikum wr.wb

Yogyakarta, 23 Maret 2023

The Researcher,

Putri Naisha Rahayu

Student ID Number: 19101050031

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ABBREVIATIONS

_   'negative appraisal'

✓   'there is an appraisal'

+   'positive appraisal'

Aff   'affect'

App   'appreciation'

AT   'Appraisal Theory'

Foc   'focus'

For   'force'

H   'heterogloss'

ISIS   'Islamic State of Iraq and Syria'

Jud   'judgement'

M   'monogloss'

ANALYSIS OF APPRAISAL THEORY USED BY THE MAIN

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By Putri Naisha Rahayu

19101050031

ABSTRACT

This research was related to the use of Appraisal theory in analysing the main characters in movie using transcript text. The transcription used in this study was *Profile* movie (2018) obtained from the subtitlist.com website. Researcher used purposive sampling techniques to obtain primary data, the dialogues of Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson. This study used the descriptive-qualitative method. This study aimed to describe how appraisal theory applied to the characters of Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson and how appraisal theory used to show character differences between Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson in *Profile* Movie (2018). The results showed that Amy used a total of 187 of appraisal tools, consisting of 69 (36.89%) attitude, 60 (32.09%) engagement, and 58 (31.02%) graduation. Melody Nelson with a total of 234 appraisal tools, consisting of 89 (38.03%) attitude, 88 (37.61%) engagement, and 57 (24.36%) graduation. The difference between Amy and Melody is shown from the dominance of the use of attitude and engagement used by Melody with 89 (38.03%) which shows that Melody is more focused on expressing attitudes or subjective views on events or things that occurred. The graduation used by Amy with a total of 58 (31.02%) showed that Amy was focused on completing or achieving communicative goals, for instance the use of force and focus to determine the strength and focus or certainty of the conversation.

Keywords: *SFL, appraisal theory, attitude, engagement, graduation*

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19101050031

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berkaitan dengan penggunaan teori Appraisal dalam menganalisis karakter utama dalam movie menggunakan transkrip. Transkripsi yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah *Profile* movie (2018) yang diperoleh dari website subtitlist.com. Peneliti menggunakan teknik purposive sampling untuk mendapat data primer yaitu tuturan Amy Whittaker dan Melody Nelson. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif-kualitatif. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana teori appraisal diterapkan pada karakter Amy Whittaker dan Melody Nelson dalam *Profile* Movie (2018) dan bagaimana teori appraisal digunakan untuk menunjukkan perbedaan karakter antara Amy Whittaker dan Melody Nelson. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Amy Whittaker menggunakan total 69 (36.89%) attitude, 60 (32.09%) engagement, dan 58 (31.02%) graduation. Melody Nelson menggunakan total 234 piranti appraisal yang terdiri dari 89 (38.03%) attitude, 88 (37.61%) engagement, dan 57 (24.36%) graduation. Perbedaan Amy dan Melody ditunjukkan dari dominasi penggunaan attitude dan Engagement yang digunakan oleh Melody dengan 89 (38,03%) yang menunjukkan bahwa Melody lebih fokus pada pengekspresian sikap atau pandangan subjektif terhadap peristiwa atau hal yang terjadi. Serta, graduation yang digunakan oleh Amy dengan jumlah 58 (31,02%) menunjukkan bahwa Amy fokus pada menyelesaikan atau mencapai tujuan komunikatif yaitu pemakaian force dan focus untuk menentukan kekuatan atau kepastian dari ujaran.

Kata kunci: *SFL, teori appraisal, attitude, engagement, graduation*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a symbol system that has meaning and sound articulation that has no direct relationship between the symbol and what it symbolizes and is created by general agreement, which is used as a means of communication by a group of people to give birth to feelings and thoughts (Wibowo, 2001, p. 3). A language can be conveyed through various media, for example written media such as novels, and unwritten media such as speech. In both media, there are sounds produced in a language where it aims to express and express certain attitudes or emotions from the researcher and the person who pronounces it to other individuals. Language as the field of linguistics examines various aspects related to language, its components, concepts, and its uses. One of the concepts of language function in linguistic studies is the act of evaluating through Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Halliday (1993, p. 93) explained that language simultaneously functions in three ways, known as metafunction. These metafunctions are ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning, and textual meaning. All three are studied to find out the meaning of a language function by examining a clause as a representation, exchange, and message.

In this study, the researcher wants to focus on the characters' interpersonal relationships depicted in the dialogue. Interpersonal meaning is related to social life and the use of clauses as exchanges, especially the relationship between the speaker or writer and the listener or reader. In examining this, the researcher uses the

appraisal theory which is dealing with exploring attitudes negotiated in the text. Martin and White (2008, p. 33) stated Appraisal is the main system of discourse semantics whose job is to interpret interpersonal meaning along with convolution and negotiation. From this statement, this study focuses on how someone gives an attitude expressed in a language.

This approach examines how appraisal sub-systems such as attitude, engagement, and graduation are depicted in the text and how these three implied, presumed, or imagined (Saragih, 2006). Appraisal theory is an evaluative theory of language developed in the systematic functional language tradition that examines, describes, and explains how language is used to evaluate and display mental attitudes, construct textual personalities, and manage attitudes and relationships between people. The three sub-systems in this theory work side by side, to find out how a person expresses a situation, placement, and completion examines how the use of language strengthens or weakens attitudes and commitment/positioning (Martin and White, 2005, p. 35).

The object that will be used in this research is *Profile* Movie (2018). The researcher chose this object because *Profile* Movie has different cinematography from movies in general. It is a screen-life thriller or a movie that is presented with a computer screen as the background. All scenes and camera angles in this movie are inside a computer screen. The movie is also based on a true story and based on the non-fiction book *In The Skin of a Jihadist* by Anna Erelle. The researcher chose the form of the movie to study because we can see the expressions and attitudes shown by the characters. This movie is a documentary story of British journalists

who investigate ISIS recruiting techniques to lure women to Syria. Amy Whittaker, the main character, creates a fake profile on Facebook and disguises herself as a convert (Melody Nelson) to join the group. In this movie, Amy and Melody are the same person, where Melody is just Amy's second character or persona that she used to spy on Bilel. Her daily Internet contact with an ISIS recruiter gradually drew her in and pushed the boundaries of her investigation.

At the beginning of the movie, Amy has a clear goal to show her professionalism as a journalist and performed the role of Melody perfectly. However, after a few days of incognito, her nature changes and she begins to be attracted to the male character, Bilel. He is part of the ISIS organization who has a plan to pretend to fall in love with Melody and bring her to Syria. After they got married online, they practicing the Islamic marriage regulations, for instance Melody had to respect and serve Bilel. Melody always obeys Bilel's words, including the order to go to Syria. After Bilel's incitement and seduction almost succeeded in tricking Melody, someone made her realize what Bilel was going to do to herself. Bilel would get paid for every woman he managed to bring in. These women's prices differ depending on where they come from and their appearance. Throughout the movie, there are several conflicts in the duality of characters, namely Amy, who is a Christian journalist, and Melody, who is a spy who recently embraced Islam.

From the religious background, way of dressing, different traits, and characterization, the researcher wants to examine how the appraisal is applied to

the main character and whether these backgrounds can produce different attitudes even though they are played by the same person. The aspect of the theory that will be used by the researcher to research is the aspect of attitude, engagement, and graduation. Attitude relates to feelings, including feelings of reaction to a person or an event, judgements about one's behaviour, and judgements about objects. While engagement is related to the source of the evaluation, graduation is related to the sharpness or softness of the words of the assessment.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on this explanation, the researcher wants to analyse how the appraisal theory is applied to the character of Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson in *Profile* Movie (2018) and how the appraisal theory be used to show the difference in character between Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson.

1.3 Objective of Study

As mentioned in the previous explanation, the objectives of this research are to explain how the appraisal theory is applied in the character of Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson in *Profile* Movie (2018) and how the appraisal theory be used to show the difference in character between Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson.

1.4 Scope of Study

This research includes a study of Systemic Functions Linguistics, which uses a study of appraisal theory. The researcher limits this research analysis into elements of appraisal theory which is used by the main character in the movie. The researcher focused with the use of appraisal tools such as attitude, engagement, and graduation in the dialogue.

1.5 Significance of Study

This research is expected to give the insight in the area of linguistics in the analysis of movies using the Appraisal Theory. Then, it is also to give significance to students majoring in English Department in providing additional information and references for their final research. Finally, this study will contribute to all researchers from other linguistic scopes who are interested in discussing appraisal theory and in the object of this research.

1.6 Literature Review

The researcher found several studies that might be useful to compare with this study. The five studies bellow have similarities that is focusing on Appraisal analysis. However, there are some differences to show that there is no identical similarity compared to this study.

The first research is entitled *Evaluation of Wadjda: A Comparative Discourse Analysis of Western and Saudi Movie Reviews* by Maram Saleh Almohaimeed from King Saud University (2021). Maram analysed her research with Fairclough's three-dimensional framework and Martin and White's appraisal theory. The researcher used two reviews of the Saudi movie Wadjda in English and Arabic languages. In this study, it was found that in the English text, there are balanced positive and negative expressions. However, the negative expression refers more to Arab society. Whereas in Arabic texts, there are more negative expressions, and most of them are related to the film and the director. This study focused more on avoiding criticism of negative evaluations and how Western media speak for Arabs and Muslims. However, the negative assessment of some aspects

of the film found in Arabic reviews can be seen from the critics who are part of society and thus are not distracted by social problems.

The second research entitled *Evaluative Language as Portrayed in The Texas Chainsaw Massacre Movie Review by Roger Ebert: An appraisal analysis* by Eva Crystalia & Sunardi, S.S., M.Pd. from Dian Nuswantoro University Semarang (2018). The researcher used the results of Roger Ebert's review because he is a well-known movie reviewer. Roger's attitude to the review activity on the movie was used to find information about the movie. With these results, the researcher concluded that Roger focused on evaluating the quality of a movie and wanted to give an evaluation of himself. In addition, in his review, Roger tends to give a negative evaluation.

The third research is *Appraisal Analysis in Freedom Writers Movie* by Nani Hidayati student from Sultan Agung Islamic University (2017). The researcher analysed the transcript of the Freedom Writers movie. This study is intented to find out the conveyed messages in Freedom Writers movie. The result of this research is, that there are attitudes that reveal that La Gravenese expressed his negative emotions in explicit way. He widely showed characters' negative. Engagement used in the screenplay described that he emphasizes more on characters' denial of each other's opinion and existence with the use of more disclaim heterogloss. Graduation used by La Gravenes presented the use of sharpening focus indicated that he pointed out on characters' category boundary more than the scaling of intensity.

The fourth research is *Stereotyping in Gung Ho Movie: An Appraisal Analysis* by Winda Adelia from Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga (2016). This study aims to find a form of stereotype against the audience in the Gung Ho movie using appraisal theory. The researcher took data from the dialogue transcript on the website https://www.subtitlist.com/index.php/subtitle/tt7826276 and watched the movie to start analyzing the stereotyping sentences with the theory. According to the researcher, the object of this research has many stereotypes. The results of this study, there are 15 sentences found to have stereotypes. There was no sentence of Appreciation. In teaching English, teachers tend to teach about grammar or vocabulary with more meaning than language use which results in some communication barriers. The data indicated that the most of the stereotyping threat sentences were Judgement.

The fifth research is *Appraisal Analysis: Attitude Evaluation towards The Three Main Characters in Part III "A Thousand Splendid Suns" Novel* by Salahuddin from State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta (2020). The purpose of this study is to analyse the use of appraisal theory by the three main characters in the novel by focusing on the attitude sub-system in appraisal theory and the use of lexical-metaphors. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method and data tables. The results show that the three main characters use the three attitude sub-systems with the use of affect dominating compared to the use of judgment and appreciation. Lexical metaphor by the main character is useful for explaining emotions, praising characters, and appreciating certain phenomena.

Based on some of the previous studies mentioned above, the research area that will be conducted by the researcher has several differences. First, the object that will be used in this research is *Profile* Movie (2018), an interface movie. This type of movie has a different shooting technique from movies in general. Second, unlike other movies where the main character only plays one character, in this movie main character in has two different characters because she has to disguise herself as a Muslim to spy on the target. Third, this research uses the three systems of appraisal theory and also uses functional systemic linguistics to see the interpersonal relationship.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

This research discusses about three sub-system of appraisal theory applied on the double characterization of the main character in the *Profile* Movie. Each of them faces a different problem, Melody Nelson, who struggles to uncover information about Bilel until she completely falls into the character, and Amy Whittaker, who struggles with her job as a journalist. Both face conflicts that occur using different emotions even though they are the same person. To analyse this case, the researcher uses the attitude, engagement, and graduation of the appraisal theory, which focuses on scaling the choice of words spoken by the characters.

Appraisal theory that becomes the reference is the development of interpersonal meaning introduced by Halliday (1994) and developed by Martin and White (2005) and Martin and Rose (2007). By utilizing lexico-grammatical, ideational meaning created to express the real-world experience in terms of: "what is going on, who is doing what, with whom, when, where, and how", and who

logically, created to express interdependence and logic semantic relationships. There are aspects in the appraisal system, namely attitude, engagement, and graduation.

Attitude contains three choices of aspects, such as affect, judgement, and appreciation. Affect is an assessment of the emotional reaction to something by expressing feelings either positively or negatively and directly or indirectly in the text. For example, feelings: happy or sad, confident or doubtful, interested or bored, and confused feelings described by 'considering options slowly'. The judgement relates to an assessment of the character or behaviour of people in a normative manner which is stated personally and directly or indirectly. Positive personal judgement is in the form of admiring or criticizing someone for a negative judgement and praising an act to judge a positive moral or criticizing someone for a negative moral judgement. Appreciation is related to the assessment of objects that are around humans regarding what is valued or not. The object being assessed can be in the form of a natural phenomenon or a semiotic unit in the form of a product or process (Wiratno, 2018, p .387).

According to Martin & Rose (2005, p. 36), engagement or source is the origin of the assessment. In making an assessment, the creator of the text has a stance to position himself from his own opinion or certain sources. Assessments from one source or monogloss tend to have subjective values and those from various sources or heterogloss have objective values. Second, some sources are explored through projections, modalities, polarity, and concessions.

Graduation itself is related to the degree of evaluation. Graduation is related to the accuracy of the assessment that can be measured, namely whether it is sharpening or softening. This degree of precision is called focus. It is called amplification because the degree of rating is scalable, similar to the volume of an amplifier whose size can be adjusted. For example, something is rated as moderately good (low), pretty good (medium), or very good (high). The degree of size is called force). Under Focus, scaling, and therefore decreasing and increasing intensity is realized through category membership semantics, through the process of narrowing or expanding the terms by which category membership is determined, and through sharpening or softening of semantic focus.

This research will only analyse the Appraisal System in the transcript dialogue in *Profile* Movie 2018 using those three aspects to answer the problem statement with the lexis and word groups containing the appraisal system used by Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson. The researcher found several conflicts faced by the two characters in this *Profile* Movie with different problems so they both had different reactions. Therefore, the researcher wants to find out how the appraisal system applied in the dialogue spoken by the movie's main character. For a more complete description, it will be explained in chapter two along with an explanation of the theory and discovery of data on objects.

1.8 Method of Research

1.8.1 Type of Research

The type of research of this research is a descriptive qualitative. The object of research is a transcript of the dialogue from the *Profile* Movie (2018). The

researcher focuses on the three aspects of the appraisal theory used by the two characters in this movie. In the dialogue text, the words in written form will be analysed. The researcher chose this type of research because qualitative descriptive research generates data that describes the 'who, what, and where of events or experiences from a subjective perspective (Kim et al., 2017, as cited in Doyle et al., 2019, p.445). It is very suitable to use this method in this research because the researcher collects data from transcript text of *Profile* movie (2018) in the form of speech and sentences. This method is applied to understand the phenomena that occur in Amy and Melody by creating a thorough and complex explanation that can be presented in words.

1.8.2 Data Sources

Data sources are all information obtained by the researcher in the research process such as information about events, phenomena, and events in the form of documents, video files, written texts, and so on (Maryadi, et al, 2011, p.35). The data that will be used by the researcher is the clauses and sentences from the transcript text of the main character's dialogue in *Profile* Movie (2018). Researcher process the transcript text into a table consisting of sentences that contain appraisal tools spoken by the main character with the grouping of attitude, engagement, and graduation. The whole text are downloaded and gathered from the website https://www.subtitlist.com/index.php/subtitle/tt7826276.

1.8.3 Data Collection Techniques

Sutopo (2006, p. 64) mentions that qualitative research has a sampling technique based on the research objectives. The technique is used to present the data

as needed. This research was conducted using criterion-based sampling or purposive sampling to obtain data with specific qualifications or special criteria based on a certain rating and level of significance. This sampling technique is suitable for use in this study because the researcher must separate what is encompassed to the data and what is not. The sampling technique in this study was applied by providing a self-assessment of the sample among the selected population. These populations are lexis and word groups that contain appraisal systems in the form of attitude, engagement, and graduation that identified as data. The assessment is taken when a data meets certain criteria according to the research topic. Some of the criteria included are utterances uttered by Amy and Melody without the interference of other characters. This technique is done to obtain concrete data and focus on one objective, namely to apply appraisal theory to the main character's speech.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Techniques

The analysis technique used by the researcher is discourse analysis. Discourse analysis technique is the study of language use that has the aim of showing and interpreting the relationship between order or patterns with the purpose expressed through the linguistic unit (Nunan, 1993). Discourse analysis is able to be applied to a wide variety of fields and contexts so that it will help researcher analyse the application of appraisal tools to context and speech (Adger, 2001, p.25). This technique relating to the setting in which the words spoken by Amy and Melody are expressed is also considered. This context may include the social and cultural framework, the location of the speaker at the time of the discourse, as well

as nonverbal cues such as body language, and in the case of textual communication, may also include images and symbols. From it, the use of discourse analysis technique can be used to understand the nuanced layers of meaning added by social or institutional aspects of the workplace, such as gender, conflict, cultural background of the main character by looking at the context of language use rather than just the words.

1.9 Paper Organization

This research consists of 4 chapters. The first chapter contains of an introduction that explains the background of the research, research questions, research objectives, research scope, research significance, literature review, theoretical approach, research methods consisting of sub-discussions of research types, data sources, data collection techniques, analysis techniques data, and the organization of the last paper. In chapter two, there is a further explanation of the theory that will be used in this study. Chapter three is the analysis of the object of research, the *Profile* Movie (2018), and appraisal theory. Chapter Four discusses the conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter contains conclusions and suggestions. The conclusion section conclude the results of data analysis, meanwhile the suggestions related to the advice and recommendation to the future research. In the previous chapter, the author found out how the appraisal theory is applied to the character of Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson in *Profile* Movie (2018) and how the appraisal theory can be used to show the difference in character between Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson. In this chapter, the researcher presents conclusions from the analysis of appraisal theory used by both characters, Amy and Melody in *Profile* Movie (2018).

4.1 Conclusion

From the data analysis, researcher concluded that the use of the appraisal system by Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson as follows:

1. Appraisal theory applied to the character of Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson in *Profile* Movie (2018) researcher found that Amy used a total of 187 of appraisal tools, consisting of 69 attitude (36.89%), 60 engagement (32.09%), and 58 graduation (31.02%). Melody Nelson with a total of 234 appraisal tools, consisting of 89 attitude (38.03%), 88 engagement (37.61%), and 57 graduation (24.36%). So, it can be concluded that Melody mainly use attitude (affect) and engagement (monogloss) in her conversation while Amy focused on the use of graduation (force).

2. The application of appraisal theory to see the difference in the characters Amy Whittaker and Melody Nelson can be shown by the use of affect. The form of affect expresses feelings of sadness, pleasure, fear, and surprise. Amy mostly uses positive affect as a form of evaluation or a good response that she gives to her interlocutors, for example colleagues, friends, and husband. Meanwhile, Melody dominantly use negative affect to express her feeling in a suspenseful disguise that greatly affect her mentality. In essence, attitude used by Melody with 89 (38.03%) shows that Melody is more focused on expressing subjective attitudes or views towards events or things that occur. On the other hand, the use of graduation by Amy with a total of 58 (31.02%) shows that Amy is more focused on completing or achieving communicative goals, for example with the use of focus and force to determine the strength and the focus or certainty of the conversations. Those distinction in the use of appraisal sub-system is due to the background diversity of the characters. In this movie, Amy plays a journalist and Melody plays as a fake character told in the movie. Melody is just someone who has embraced Islam and has a desire to join the ISIS organization. Seeing this, the author concludes that Melody's religious background that she uses as the basis of her beliefs does not determine a person's attitude and response positively in terms of her words. Besides, the religion on which Melody is based is just a fake thing. She consciously did it without actually practicing the teachings of Islam.

4.2 Suggestion

The followings are suggestions for the readers and future researchers as follow:

1. Critical understanding and awareness of the readers are needed to read the research product particularly on new methods or different approaches in analysing appraisal theory, then it is possible that inaccuracy of research results may occur.

2. After discussion from readers, this research is expected to be used as a reference source for the development of language evaluation teaching methods in educational environments or in the development of language evaluation programs for the general public.

3. This research is expected to be used as reference material for translators or other linguists in conducting language translation or analysis to be corrected and become a matter of discussion.

4. Finally, the results of this research hopefully can be used for the development of linguistic models or new language theories in describing the evaluation of everyday language.

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