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## Critical Discourse Analysis of the News Related to the Covid-19 Vaccines

### ——Taking *China Daily* and *the Guardian* as an Example

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## Abstract

*Covid-19 has been spreading all over the world from 2019, and the designing of the Covid-19 vaccines has become the strong fighter of the pandemic. China Daily and the Guardian are two main mass media around the world, and their news reports related to the Covid-19 vaccines can partially represent the blueprint of the vaccinations. Therefore, totally 20 pieces of news from China Daily and the Guardian are selected and analyzed with the help of Halliday's systemic functional grammar and Fairclough's three-dimensional framework. With the analysis of reports, it is proved that there are slight differences from the perspective of language features existing in the reports of China Daily and the Guardian. Meanwhile, those choices of language strategies can also be affected by various factors including political, economic and cultural factors.*
**Keywords:** Covid-19 vaccines, Systemic functional grammar, Three-dimensional framework, CDA

## Introduction

Covid-19 has spread all over the world for recent two years, which has caused thousands of deaths according to the World Health Organization (WHO). However, there has been no standard treatment for it until now. The design of the Covid-19 vaccines in short term is one of the most effective methods of avoiding the wide spreading of the virus. According to the statistics, over one hundred of the designing projects of the Covid-19 vaccines have been launched until April 2020 (Kang Zhuang & Tang Mei, 2020). what is more, two kinds of vaccines which are produced by Chinese enterprises have been proved for the emergency use on 1st June 2021 according to WHO. the design of the vaccines has also become the hot spot of the news publishers recently.

This paper aims to discover and compare the linguistic features of two international media, and to analyze the influential factors of the news reports. It is necessary to select two different and representative news reports. *China Daily* was established in 1981, and the number of its readers is over 0.2 million according to its statistics, while *the Guardian* was established in 1982. As for *China Daily* and *the Guardian*, both newspapers have become the national English newspapers of the largest circulation within China and the United Kingdom (Du Weiwei, 2007). Therefore, those two newspapers are two excellent representatives of comparing to reveal the ideological positions related to the Covid-19 vaccines.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was raised by some linguistic scholars including Fowler in Language and Control at 1979 (Sun Kaiyuan, 2018). Language, power, and fact became three key elements in CDA. Language is a kind of social practice, and it is the interfering force. It aims to figure out the action between the ideology and discourse (Sun Kaiyuan, 2018). Through the analysis of critical discourse, the purpose of enhancing the ideology, pursuing interests, and keeping the social development can be revealed. Therefore, CDA and effective frameworks can be adopted to analyze the similarities and differences of two newspapers, and to reveal the social context behind the linguistic features.

### *Purpose and significance*

The news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* represents the ideological positions towards the epidemic and the Covid-19 vaccines to some extent. this paper tries to find out the relations between the discourse and society which has been influenced by the epidemic, and the differences of two mainstream media.There also exists three significance of this paper theoretically and practically.

From the theoretical perspective, the study enriches the application of CDA in the field of the Covid-19 vaccines. CDA has been widely adopted to analyze the news related to the Covid-19. the vaccines play an important role in preventing from the spreading of the epidemic, and yet the vaccines have just been designed. The analysis have not been adopted to analyze the vaccines, and it is necessary for researchers to use apply CDA to analyze the Covid-19 vaccines.

From the practical perspective, it helps to present the international views about the epidemic and the Covid-19 vaccines. Language is a kind of social practice, and the political discourse can reflect the development of society. with the further development of globalization, countries are connected tightly and can be mutually influenced. True and false information have glutted, and people should be critical enough to reveal the hidden meanings behind the language. The news reports can also present the international views by analysis.

What is more, it helps receivers to find effective methods of sharing information related to the epidemic and the Covid-19 vaccines. CDA helps receivers to get the ability of identifying the information related to the epidemic and vaccines. Through the CDA, receivers such as journalists and researchers can also figure out the effective strategies of reporting news by analyzing the linguistic features, and it is easier for receivers to establish the smooth communication channel.

Therefore, based on the analysis, this paper adopts CDA to analyze the news related to the Covid-19 vaccines with the theoretical foundations of Halliday's systemic functional grammar and Fairclough's three-dimensional framework.

## Literature Review

The definition of Critical Discourse Analysis can be discussed in this section. Because the news related to the Covid-19 vaccines, to some extent, belong to the political discourse analysis, and the purpose of this paper is to reveal the relations between political discourse, power, and ideology, this paper also makes use of the three dimensional framework of Fairclough and the systemic functional grammar of Halliday to illustrate the linguistic features and social factors of the news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian*.

### *Critical Discourse Analysis*

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is defined as "a kind of discourse analysis which aims to systematically explore the hidden relations between discourse practice and social and cultural structures" (Fairclough, 1996). It mainly concentrates on the relationship among language, power, and ideology.

The theory of CDA shows four characteristics (Hu Yan & Sun Yongmei, 2016). Firstly, there exists particular research objectives. CDA is usually used to examine the social phenomenon, and figure out the relations between the focuses. Secondly, CDA is involved in many different research fields. It is inevitable for researchers to refer to other disciplines when discussing the reasons why the phenomenon has occurred. Thirdly, the relations between those subjects are dependent, and they can affects others continuously. Lastly, research schools have been formed in this developing process.

Although CDA has been developed for over five decades, it has been discussed from 1990s in China. The development of its conception and the practical frameworks of CDA have been wildly analyzed abroad. There are three focuses Chinese scholars mainly explored including the the combination of CDA and other theories, the guided methods of CDA and the solving measures of language problems within the particular situation especially China (Tao Fangyuan, 2020).

Two approaches including systemic functional grammar and three-dimensional framework have been adopted to identify the relations between language, power and ideological positions contained by the news reports.

### *Three-Dimensional Framework of Fairclough*

Fairclough believed that "CDA is a kind of discourse analysis that creates strange relationships between different social and cultural groups" (Hassan et al., 2019). He believes that all discourse analysis should contain three dimensions including text, discursive practice and social practice (Zhang Yue, 2018). The text level concentrates on the beliefs conveyed by the authors through the discourse(Zhou Luzhen, 2017; Hassan et al., 2019). The discursive practice emphasizes on the analysis of the discourse and the interpretation consisting of production, communication and acceptance (Zhou Luzhen, 2017; Hassan et al., 2019), which focuses on the relations between the text and the social phenomenon (Song Fanghui, 2018). Social practice refers to the analysis of the social background from various perspectives including politics, economy and culture(Song Fanghui, 2018). For further analysis, Fairclough (1992) raised three stages under the guideline of CDA including description, interpretation and explanation.

Description refers to the stage "which is concerned with formal properties of text" (Fairclough, 1989), which means that this stage only focuses on the original text analysis from different categories such as "vocabulary section", "grammar section" and "textual structures section" (Handayani et al., 2018; Song Fanghui, 2018).interpretation aims at figuring out the relations between the text and interactions through interpretation of the discourse (Zhang Yue, 2018; Song Fanghui, 2018). Meanwhile, explanation means the interpretation and explanation of the relations between the behavior and the social sociocultural practice (Zhang Yue, 2018; Song Fanghui, 2018), and it "aims to figure out the larger social cultural, historical and political environments where the text and discursive practice take place" (Fairclough, 1989; Zhou Luzhen, 2017; Song Fanghui, 2018).

### *Systemic Functional Grammar of Halliday*

Systemic functional grammar has been raised by Halliday in 1970s (Halliday & Matthiessen,

2014). It indicates that "language is considered as interlocking options or network of systems for creating meaning" (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015). Therefore, the text can also serve for conveying the meanings which also reflects the authors' ideology. ovide a basis for explaining the meanings of different kinds (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015). The language functions can also be divided into three main contents including ideational function, interpersonal function, and textual function (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015).

Ideational function presents the experiences shared by participants of the discourse
It refers to "those functions that provide a basis for understanding human experience as a kind of resource for realizing the reality" (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015). Transitivity and transformation functions magnificently in the process of delivering the discourse. Transitivity refers to "the process that determines the participants' roles" (Zhang Yue, 2018), which consists of six categories including material processes, relational processes, mental processes, verbal processes, behavioral processes, and existential processes (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015; Song Fanghui, 2018). What is more, transformation refers to "the change of sentence structure from one form to another, which equipped with a special connotation in CDA" (Zhang Yue, 2018).

"The interpersonal function embodies all uses of language to express social and personal relations" (Hu Zhuanglin, 1988; Song Fanghui, 2018). it is proved that the interpersonal function focuses on the social relations and discuss how to establish and maintain it (Song Fanghui, 2018). interpersonal function has been presented from two perspectives including the mood and modality. Mood concerns "the role that the speaker plays" (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015; Zhang Yue, 2018). What is more, modality refers to "speaker's attitudes toward what they are saying" and it extends between "extensive positive and extensive negative in social communication" (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015; Zhang Yue, 2018).

The textual function indicates "the mode, the internal organization and communicative nature of a text" and "it comprises textual interactivity, spontaneity and communicative distance" (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015). The textual function mainly contains "the thematic structure", "information structure" and "the cohesive system" (Zhang Yue, 2018).

## Research Methodology

In order to fulfill the purpose and target of this paper, this section clearly illustrates the research objectives, and research questions. Based on the theoretical frameworks of three-dimensional framework and systemic functional functions, the research procedure can also be strictly followed in this section.

### *Research objectives*

20 pieces of news from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* are selected as the research objectives for this study. As for 10 pieces of news reports from *China Daily*, it was published from March to June 2021, and totally concludes 3395 vocabularies. 10 pieces of news reports from *the Guardian* were delivered from February to June 2021, and totally conclude 3257 vocabularies. The linguistic features of discourse and the relations between discourse and

social factors can be analyzed based on two frameworks of Fairclough and Halliday.

### Research questions

In order to realize the purpose of this paper, there are two main research questions for this paper: (1) what linguistic features are presented by the news related to the Covid-19 vaccines from *China Daily* and *the Guardian*? and whether the characteristics from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* are different? and (2) what social factors influenced the differences presented by the linguistic features?

### Research procedure

The news reports from China Daily are collected from the official websites. The analysis of news reports from those two mainstream media belong to CDA, and it concerns with the relations between language, power, and ideology.

The vocabularies and grammar of the news are systematically calculated. Based on the collection, data can also be analyzed with the foundation of Fairclough's three-dimensional framework and Halliday's systemic functional grammar.

What is more, according to the analysis of linguistic characteristics of those news, social factors of influencing the news related to the Covid-19 vaccines should also be considered and discussed. Because *China Daily* and *the Guardian* reveals the ideological positions to some extent, and the news reports are usually influenced by many social factors. Therefore, the social factors of politics, economy, culture, and foreign affairs are contained in those news reports.

### Results and Findings

This paper totally collects 20 pieces of the news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* as the corpus, analyzes the linguistic features of those reports, and tries to present the relations between discourses, power, and ideology contained in the analysis. This section first tries to present the relations from the perspectives of description, interpretation, and explanation.

### Description of linguistic features

According to the Fairclough's three-dimensional framework, Description should be discussed as the beginning, however, it is hard for researchers to identify and analyze the three functions without the guide theory. Therefore, the framework of Fairclough needs to be more systematic, and this paper tries to adopt Halliday's systemic functional grammar based on the previous researches (Zhou Luzhen, 2017; Song Fanghui, 2018; Zhang Yue, 2018; Yu Qian, 2020). According to the Halliday's framework, the description of the original discourse can present the ideational function and interpersonal function.

Ideational function can be analyzed from two aspects including the transitivity and transformation.

Transitivity has the function of reflecting speaker's inner intention and logical relations between the real world and other objects (Zhang Yue, 2018), The news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* are analyzed in this section. The details of each process and its proportions are presented in the following table.

**Table 1. Six processes of transitivity and its distribution**

| Types | Material | Mental | Relational |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Guardian (Total: 246) | 138 (56.10%) | 24 (9.76%) | 27 (10.98%) |
| | **Verbal** | **Behavioral** | **Existential** |
| | 52 (21.14%) | 2 (0.81%) | 3 (1.22%) |
| **Types** | **Material** | **Mental** | **Relational** |
| China Daily (Total: 263) | 136 (51.71%) | 23 (8.75%) | 33 (12.55%) |
| | **Verbal** | **Behavioral** | **Existential** |
| | 64 (24.33%) | 6 (2.28%) | 1 (0.38%) |

According to the statistics collected in the table 1, it is proved that four processes of material, mental, relational and verbal processes occurred most frequently accounting for nearly 98%. because the behavioral and existential process do not occupy large proportion, this paper analyzes the first four processes with examples from the news reports of *the Guardian* and *China Daily*.

Example 1: material process: In partnership with Facebook, WHO *has        established* a regional blood donations feature to connect people with nearby   blood  banks. (from *the Guardian* on 15th June 2021)

From the first example, the news report indicates that the spreading of Covid-19 leads to the serious shortage of the blood in Africa. The vocabulary "establish" can be done physically, and it means that the organization has taken some necessary measures like the regional blood donations feature to help locals connect with the blood banks. This word makes the measures "seen". The type of material process is mainly presented by vocabularies which shoulder physical behaviors like "establish".

The feelings and experiences of the individuals involved in the discourse shoudl be discussed in the mental process. As for the news reports, the distance between the journalists and receivers can be shortened with the proper concerns of the mental process.

Example 2: mental process: Professor Bershteyn *urged* New York officials to  focus     on communities with the lowest levels of vaccinations. (from *China Daily*     on 16th June 2021)

From the second example, the vocabulary "urge" is usually used to express the individual positions and cognition. In this sentence, the word "urge" is used to express the academic position of the professor Bershteyn towards vaccinations. The sentence "to focus on communities with the lowest levels of vaccinations" presents the current situation where the public do not have strong willingness to get vaccinated and the government do not take effective and immediate actions to avoid the spreading of the pandemic. By quoting the words from the professor, the purpose of this sentence in the news reports is to illustrate the future direction of the vaccinations in New York city and its surroundings, and the report

becomes more convinced.

Example 3: relational process: Hungary *is* the only European Union country to        use Chinese vaccines under an emergency protocol and has a leading vaccination        rate among EU nations. (from *China Daily* on 30th April 2021)

From the third example, the verb "is" is used to connect the noun and the noun phrase. This sentence is used to describe the situation of Hungary after receiving the donations of vaccines from China. When got vaccinated, the country owned the leading vaccination rate among the EU countries. The use of relational process makes the result of becoming safer in terms of the vaccinations get more emphasized.

Example 4: Verbal process: An attempt by Taiwan to secure five million doses of corona-virus vaccine failed at the last minute because of "political pressure", Taipei's health minister *said* Wednesday, raising fears China could be creating roadblocks for the inoculation drive. (from *the Guardian* on 17th February 2021)

The sentence described by the Taipei's health minister in Taiwan, China presents the intention of the provincial government. As for this example, citing the words from the officers proves that some people in Taiwan still prefers to regard Taiwan as a "country" and to separate the island from China. In other words, the sentence also shows the political position of the foreign press like *the Guardian*.

Much attention should be paid on the inflection of the words and the change of the sentence structure and sentence elements in the transformation. Therefore, the passivization should be concerned in the sentence structure and the language elements.

According to the research of Zhang Yue (2018), passivization can achieve "the effect of impersonality and enhance the objectiveness of the discourse" (Zhang Yue, 2018).

Example 5: Passivization: Jiang Zaidong, the Chinese ambassador to Laos, said in      his speech at the ceremony that he *was informed* that 85 percent of Lao's        vaccinated population *were administered* with China's donated vaccines. (from        China Daily    on 16th June 2021)

The sentence structure can be used to illustrate that the current situation of vaccinations in Laos has been shared with the ambassador and over 85 percent of population has been vaccinated with China's donated vaccines. The main purpose of this sentence is to show that China has made large contribution to the protection. When readers see this news report, people can clearly know the current situation and perceive the development of the protection system with the help of China. The sentence is also more objective to be perceived by the foreign readers through using the passive voice.

The interpersonal function aims at "expressing the attitude, position, judgment, and

willingness of the proposition to the listener in the communicative interaction" (Yu Qian, 2020), which can be found that the social relations should be discussed in the illustration of the interpersonal function. The modal verb and personal pronouns can, to some extent, present the distance between the journalists and the receivers, and the attitudes of the journalists towards the reality. Therefore, those two aspects should be analyzed in this section.

Modal verbs are usually used "with another verb to express ideas such as necessity, likelihood, ability, permission, and obligation" (Zhou Luzhen, 2017). According to the research (Yu Qian, 2020), modal verbs are mainly used to present the probability (e.g. can, could and may), obligation (e.g. need, should and must) and inclination (e.g. will and would).

### Table 2. three categories of modal verbs

| Types | Probability | Obligation | Inclination | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *China Daily* | 5 (10.42%) | 18 (37.50%) | 25 (52.08%) | 48 (100.00%) |
| *The Guardian* | 7 (16.67%) | 5 (11.90%) | 30 (71.43%) | 42 (100.00%) |
| Total | 12 (13.33%) | 23 (25.56%) | 55 (61.11%) | 90 (100.00%) |

According to the collection of statistics, it is proved that the modal verbs of inclination are widely used in both *China Daily* and *The Guardian*. The modal verbs of probability and obligation are rarely used in the formal news reports. In general, the modal verbs of inclination are most commonly used in the news reports related to the Covid-19 vaccines from both media. Those three types of modal verbs can be analyzed with examples.

> Example 6: Probability: The bloc is hoping an uptick in deliveries of vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna and the single-shot Johnson & Johnson jabs *can* help it gain ground on inoculation pacesetters like the United States and Britain. (from *the Guardian* on 28th April 2021)

In this example, the vocabulary "can" present the high probability, and a kind of expectation. The news report aims to describe the current situation of vaccines from different enterprises among the EU countries. Therefore, those modal verbs of probability make the receivers have a more clear picture of vaccines among the EU countries. The responsibility of providing vaccines in EU can be shared by many different companies including Pfizer, Moderna and the Johnson. However, this type of modal verbs can increase the uncertainty to some extent, and sometimes it is avoided in those formal news reports, which appears in the modal verbs of obligation.

> Example 7: Obligation: The vaccine is a powerful weapon against the virus and brings hope for saving lives. It *should* serve the entire world and benefit all humanity. (from *China Daily* on 31st March 2021)

The modal verb "should" is more likely to show the responsibility and obligation of senders

and receivers. As for the seventh example, the importance of vaccinations has been strongly mentioned. the vaccines can provide effective protection for the population, and it is quite necessary for people to get vaccinated. In other words, China has successfully shouldered the responsibility as a large nation in terms of providing the Covid-19 vaccines.

Example 8: Inclination: The plant *will* eventually produce up to one billion Covid jabs a year, once fully operational. (from *the Guardian* on 30th March 2021)

As for the eight example, the vocabularies "will" are used to express the expectation and willingness. The news report emphasized on the increasing production of the BioNTech Covid-19 vaccines. This sentence means that if the company get help and extend the production of vaccines, people can get enough jabs of the Covid-19 vaccine. The audiences of the report can definitely attracted by the expectation formed by the press, and can give more supports to the production and the vaccinations.

Personal pronouns can be divided into three categories including the first person, the second person and third person. Different personal pronouns can create different distance between the senders and receivers. According to the researches (e.g. Zhou Luzhen, 2017; Zhang Yue, 2018), the distances of different personal pronouns can be seen as a continuous process and be divided into eight categories. The process if presented in the following table 3.

**Table 3. personal pronouns**

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | We | You (plural) | one | You (single) | it | she | he |
| Distancing from self | | | ⟶ | | | | |

From the table 3, it is proved that the first person pronouns show the closest distance between the journalists and receivers than other two personal pronouns. In order to present the reading distance of two newspapers, this paper collected date from these reports of *China Daily* and *the Guardian*, and the statistics can be further shown in the table 4.

**Table 4. distribution of personal pronouns**

| Types | | Single | Plural | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| China Daily (38, 1.12%) | First person | 0 (0.00%) | 5 (13.16%) | 5 (13.16%) |
| | Second person | 0 (0.00%) | | 0 (0.00%) |
| | Third person | 9 (23.68%) | 8 (21.05%) | 17 (44.74%) |
| | Third person (it) | 16 (42.11%) | | 16 (42.11%) |
| The Guardian (65, 2.00%) | First person | 5 (7.69%) | 15 (23.08%) | 20 (30.77%) |
| | Second person | 2 (3.08%) | | 2 (3.08%) |
| | Third person | 8 (12.31%) | 6 (9.23%) | 14 (21.54%) |
| | Third person (it) | 29 (44.62%) | | 29 (44.62%) |

According to the table 4, the personal pronouns are rarely used in both *China Daily*

accounting for 1.12% and *the Guardian* calculating 2%. however, the use of the personal pronouns plays an important role in both media, and there exists slight differences between *China Daily* and *the Guardian*. Third personal pronouns are most commonly used in both media (86.85 % in China Daily and 66.18% in the Guardian) which shows that they prefer to adopt the third personal pronouns to keep far distance with the receivers and stay at the objective position. What is more, the second personal pronouns are rarely used in both media. In addition, fist personal pronouns appears frequently in *the Guardian*, especially the first plural personal pronouns, which makes the receivers easier to perceive the intentions that journalists want to express. The news reports related to the Covid-19 vaccines belongs to the serious topic and keep close distance with the public health. It is necessary for journalists to use more serious vocabularies to describe the related events, which is obviously proved by the use of personal pronouns.

### *Interpretation of discursive practice*

Fairclough (1989) deems that "only explanations can be used for critical analysis of dialogue, and the explanation phrase requires supplementary explanations and explanations". Therefore, three aspects including the methods of presenting, the elements involved in these reports, and the role of language shown in the reports should be concerned
.

As for the news reports from *the Guardian* and *China Daily*, the purpose of both media is to present the whole picture of the event and show the standpoints of the journalists towards the audience. As for the news reports from China Daily, the journalists try to adopt English language to show the events and ideas with Chinese characteristics, and it wants to arouse the supports from its readers, while the Guardian, the medium of the native speakers, wants to presents the selected ideas and the opinions are to some extent related to the political position.

By analyzing the news reports from both media through the RST tool, those news reports are mostly sing-centered. In the news reports from China Daily, it almost emphasizes that China has contributed a lot in the world-wild vaccinations, and the donations of vaccines has been undergoing. Other countries should shoulder the responsibility for their residents' health which should be the core of all the political policies. While in those from the Guardian, it criticizes the donations of vaccines from China from political perspectives, and shows more preference to the donations of vaccines from other European bio-companies.

With the development of the information technology, people are exposed into the information flow more frequently than any other period of history. For example, Chinese people can check many international information from other nations like America and Britain through the internet channel. What is more, both *China Daily* and *the Guardian* are the representatives of the information media in the world-wide range, and their news reports to some extent can present the political positions of many social events including the Covid-19 vaccines. In other words, the role of language in the news reports is to share the objective events and ideology of the senders to the receivers, and try to make their readers accept and support their standpoints carried by the diction of news reports.

### *Explanation of social practice*

From the previous analysis, three focuses including the language, power, and ideology, and their relations have become clear, and their relations can get influence from various social factors. "the purpose of interpretation is to portray discourse as a part of social practice and a part of social processes" (Yu Qian, 2020). therefore, the news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* should be discussed in a wider social environment. In this paper, the news reports from both media are analyzed from the following three aspects including political factors, economic factors, and cultural factors.

According to Fairclough (1989), "language is a tool to fight for the power, and the speaker can establish the power by means of a series of language strategies" (Yu Qian, 2020). As for the political aspects, *China Daily* and *the Guardian* selected the news reports and the diction according to their political standard.

Until 2022, the pandemic has caused millions of death and costs, and people have not find an effective and particular way to overcome this problem. Many cities have been locked due to the current situation. At be beginning stage of the pandemic, Wuhan was regarded as the origin of the pandemic, and the virus was called "Wuhan virus" and "China virus". From 2020, many countries including America and Britain have invested a lot into the production of vaccines. However, the vaccines were supported mostly by the nation, and it has kept close relations with the political power. It is inevitable that *China Daily* and *the Guardian* could select some positive respects of many events according to their ideology, which obviously presented the consideration of politics.

*China Daily* was mainly used to spread the events with Chinese characteristics and the ways native speakers have usually used, which helps native speakers to understand the real meanings of the events and the intentions of the journalists. For example, the news reports related to the Covid-19 mostly includes the donations of the vaccines towards other countries and the real situation of getting vaccinations within the country. While *the Guardian* was used to increase the influence of their political standards and the ideology of the nation, and to transform administrative power to other objectives including China. The contents related to the Covid-19 vaccines from the Guardian mostly includes the positive functions of vaccines designed by some European bio-companies, and the negative functions of vaccines donated by China. Based on the comparison, it is proved that the news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* have been affected by their own political positions and it is important for the receivers to keep the distinguished and objective taste and to figure out the distinctions between the media according to their political positions.

As for the economic factors, the pandemic has spread all over the world from 2019, and the economy of many nations has been hit for the later years. With the stronger measures of controlling the Covid-19, China has successfully curbed the rapid growth of the spreading of the Covid-19. Compared with the European countries, Britain has faced more difficult economic situation. Meanwhile, many economic issues such as unemployment have been attached great attention. The design of vaccines costs a lot, and it is difficult for a single nation with poor economic condition to shoulder the responsibility. Therefore, *China Daily*

prefers to emphasize on the designation of vaccines and the donations, while *the Guardian* wants to expand the negative influence of the donations.

As for the cultural factors, it kept close relations with the individuals' living standards. With the influence of the British mechanism of politics and the senses of freedom having been formed thousand years ago. British people wants to keep the rights of rejecting the injection of vaccines. On the contrary, traditional Chinese culture emphasized on the peace and the shared interests, it is easier for Chinese residents to get vaccinations according to the instructions of the Chinese government, and the pandemic can be controlled well with the Covid-19.

## Analysis and Conclusion

With the previous sections, the language strategies, the effects, and the influential factors of the news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian* have been discussed. This section tries to generate the main findings of the research according to previous two research questions, and provide some suggestions for the future studies.

### *Analysis of the findings*

This research focuses on the news reports from *China Daily* and *the Guardian.* As for the language features presented in *the Guardian* and *China Daily*, there are some slight differences existing in both media. This paper mainly adopts systemic functional grammar to illustrate the linguistic features in the news reports of *China Daily* and *the Guardian*. According to the results analyzed above, news reports from both *China Daily* and *the Guardian* adopts similar language process and the according to the systemic functional grammar. But they use different personal pronouns to establish their language systems according to the analysis and comparison. As for *China Daily*, it usually adopts more obligation verbs and third personal pronouns. Obligation verbs were widely used to increase the international requirements about the Covid-19 vaccines towards other countries. The usage of third personal pronouns also makes the news reports related to the Covid-19 vaccines more objective, and become more acceptable towards the readers from other countries. While *the Guardian* is slightly different. It often uses more inclination verbs and the plural forms of the first personal pronouns. Inclination modal words help the receivers to form a blueprint about what the senders prefer to describe, and gives the audiences enough expectations about the future of getting vaccinations. Using more first plural personal pronouns helps senders to get more understanding about the vaccines and supports from the audiences, which makes the purpose of news reports realized.

For the second research question, this paper analyzes the social factors which influences the choices of language strategies from the perspectives of the relations between language, power and ideology. The news reports from *the Guardian* focuses on the spreading of ideas carrying the ideology and political standpoints of the journalists, while the reports from *China Daily* emphasizes on the spreading methods of the social events with Chinese characteristics. They can select proper language strategies according to their ideology and selecting purpose.

It is proved that both *China Daily* and *the Guardian* selected proper language strategies to address their political positions through their news reports from the perspective of linguistic features. However, those choices cannot be made only according to the individual tastes of the journalists. Their strategies have been affected by social factors as well, such as the political factors, economic factors and cultural factors. All those elements contribute to their selection, and the transforming of political power towards others.

### *Implications of the study and its limitations*

This paper analyzes total 20 pieces of news reports from China Daily and the Guardian from the perspective of critical discourse analysis, and it has research values theoretically and practically. This paper tries to answer the two research questions including the language features and influential factors.

However, the size of news reports is limited. Besides, news reports related to the Covid-19 vaccines are influenced by complex factors, and this paper just discusses three aspects including politics, economy and culture. Due to the limitation of life experiences, it is also difficult to cover all the influential factors. For further studies, the size of research objectives from the perspective of CDA should be enlarged. What is more, the influential factors should also be considered and discussed more carefully.

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