

# A Comparative Analysis of Attitude Resources in Chinese and American English News Reports on “Roe v. Wade”\*

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**Abstract**—In 1973, “Roe v. Wade” (hereinafter referred to as *Roe*) became one of the important judgements in modern American society because of its establishment of women's reproductive choice. In 2022, the US Supreme Court officially overturned the *Roe* case, which also caused an uproar at home and abroad. News media, as an important information dissemination medium, widely influences readers' attitudes and opinions. This paper mainly conducted by the application of the Appraisal Theory, which has developed by the linguist J. R. Martin covering three subsystems: attitude, engagement and graduation, to the study of news reports concerning the *Roe*. The study is focus on the perspective of the attitude system, and the research corpus consists of a total of 10 news articles selected from two mainstream media both in China and the U.S., *China Daily* and *New York Times*. Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, this study has discussed in detail the attitude resources in the overturning of *Roe* in Chinese and American news discourse. Through analysis and comparison, the author finds that there are similarities and differences in the overall distribution of attitude resources between the two media. First of all, the distribution of attitude resources between the two sides is roughly in the same trend. Secondly, *New York Times* employs more attitude resources than that of *China Daily*, with a dominant air of negative attitude resources.

**Index Terms**—Appraisal Theory, attitude resources, Roe v. Wade, news discourse

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. The Roe Case

The 1960s were a time of significant social change in American history. With the end of World War II, social stability, and economic development, the United States experienced a proliferation of liberal ideas and a flourishing of the civil rights and women's movements within the country. In 1972, attorneys Sarah Waddington and Lynda Coffee attempted to challenge the abortion policy of the time. They selected a 21-year-old woman, Jane Roe, who wished to have an abortion, and then they took Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade to court to have the abortion ban lifted in Texas. On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court finally voted 7-2 to confirm that women's right to decide whether to continue a pregnancy is protected by the constitutional provisions on personal autonomy and privacy, which is equivalent to recognizing the legalization of abortion in the United States.

The decision is one of the most significant and impactful Supreme Court verdicts in modern American history and also sparked a bitter abortion debate in American society. However, on June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the *Roe v. Wade* abortion rights ruling, putting an end to almost fifty years of constitutional protection for abortion. When this case was overturned, it caused an uproar all over the world, and many media rushed to report. Conducting a linguistic analysis on the *Roe* news reports can help us know the usage of linguistic rules as well as achieve a better understanding in the views and attitudes of domestic and foreign media on women's right to abortion.

### B. The Appraisal Theory Perspective

In the course of the evolution of linguistic theories, many influential linguistic theories have been developed, such as the Structural Linguistics, which was established by Saussure; the Generative Grammar, which was established by the American linguist Chomsky; the Cognitive Linguistics, which was established by the American linguist Lakoff; and the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which was represented by the British linguist Halliday.

Halliday proposed systemic functional grammar in the 1950s and studied interpersonal meaning from the perspective

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of clause grammar. Interpersonal meaning, according to Halliday (1994), is the speaker's intentional expression of attitude, identity through language in a specific situation, which in turn affects the listener's attitude and conduct. Martin (2003) then studied systemic functional grammar in further details. The scope of the study has been widely expanded from the level of clause syntax to the study of the semantics of the discourse. Meanwhile, according to the interpersonal function of SFL, Martin (2003) proposed the Appraisal Theory, that is, attitude, engagement, and graduation are the three subsystems that are included in the appraisal system. It focuses on the speaker's attitudes in discourse from a lexical perspective, such as how words convey interpersonal meaning in discourse. The discourse resources, attitudes, views, and opinions expressed by speakers, as well as the connection between language and values, are the main topics of Appraisal Theory. The Appraisal theory has become an important instrument for scholars in various fields such as translation studies, discourse analysis and cross-cultural studies. In addition, the Appraisal Theory is frequently employed in news discourse.

This study contrasts the frequency use of attitude resources in Chinese and American news reports on the overturning of *Roe* by using Appraisal Theory as its theoretical framework and analyzing the differences due to cultural and political factors.

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### A. Overview of Appraisal Theory

For the past 40 years, the Systemic Functional Linguistics has primarily studied the conceptual function, interpersonal function, and textual function of language. The development of Appraisal Theory is based on SFL. Interpersonal function refers to the application of language to establish and maintain social relationships. It focuses on how the speaker or listener's attitude in the language affects the reader or listener's attitude and conduct. In interpersonal function, SFL only examines mood, intonation, and mood adverbs; it does not take into account the lexical level. In view of evaluative discourse, the Appraisal Theory differs from earlier studies, which primarily concentrate on the grammatical level and favor lexical level research.

Martin (2000) introduced the theory for the first time in *Beyond Exchange: APPRAISAL Systems in English*. Martin and Rose (2003) pointed out that appraisal system includes three major systems: attitude, engagement, and graduation, which are shown in Figure 1. Martin (2004) described how authors use language tools to negotiate with their audience. Then Martin and White (2005) introduced the theory systematically in *The Language of Evaluation*. The three subsystems of the theory's framework are further standardized and elaborated throughout the book. To be more precise, attitude has to do with how people feel, which includes their emotional responses, opinions, and appreciation. Engagement is concerned with the different discourse voices. Additionally, the categorization and exaggeration of people's emotions are influenced by graduation. Numerous connections exist among the three subsystems. In fact, based upon the Appraisal Theory, there are some previous studies on discourse. The scholars have developed or put forward their divergent opinions concerning the framework of Appraisal Theory. As a result, these debates have been recognized as a turning point in the evolution of Appraisal Theory, providing a firm platform for ongoing research in the area. Along with Martin and White, significant researchers in Appraisal Theory include Iedema, Eggins, Coffin, and Thompson.

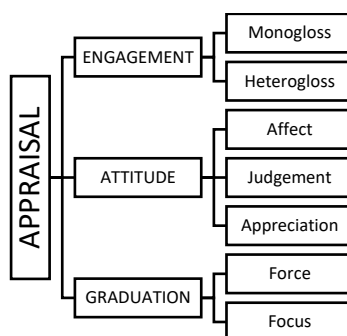


Figure 1 An Overview of Appraisal Resources (Martin & White, 2005, p. 38)

Engagement is the foundation of attitude. Engagement is concerned with evaluation resources, which are further separated into monogloss and heterogloss. The relationship between the author's voice and other voices in a particular discourse field, also known as intersubjectivity, is reflected by the engagement system proposed by Martin and his colleagues (Liu & Liu, 2010). People can use language to clearly express their opinions and attitudes, or they can adopt the viewpoints of others to subtly express their own. Monogloss means that no other viewpoints or voices are acknowledged; just the claims of speakers or writers are present. Dialogical contraction and dialogical expansion are two categories into which Martin and White (2005) split heterogloss. The illustration above shows the engagement system's basic architecture.

Graduation, according to Martin and White (2005), refers to the speaker's emotional power and the amount of

external voice in the discourse space. Gradability is a key factor in graduation. Graduation involves changing the level of engagement values and attitudinal meanings. According to Martin and White (2005), force can be defined as the magnitude as well as the quantity of the attitude and graduation system. Focus, unlike force, refers to an attitude that cannot be rated, but rather a precise or imprecise description of the semantic type's focus. As depicted in the picture, the graduation system comprises the concepts of force and focus.

Attitude subsystem is the primary one among the three subsystems in the Appraisal Theory. Attitude is concerned with our feelings, including emotional reactions, evaluations of behavior and evaluation of things (Martin, 2005). In next section, the attitude system's three subsystems will be described in depth and detail.

*B. Detailed Introduction to Attitude*

The central aspect of Appraisal Theory is the attitude system. According to Martin and White (2005), attitude is the psychological evaluation and analysis of human behavior, text, process, and phenomenon. Attitude includes affect, judgement and appreciation. The core of the attitude system, according to Wang (2001), is affect, and the institutionalized emotions are approval and judgement. Affect relates to emotions. Language users' emotional responses to acts, texts, processes, and events can be interpreted by the affect system. The essence of judgement is the evaluation of behavior. The judgement system is employed to describe the moral judgements that language users make on behavior based on moral principles or legal requirements, such as whether the act is honorable, trustworthy, brave, etc. Appreciation encompasses attitudes toward natural and semiotic phenomena. The appreciation system is used to explain the language user's appreciation of the text or process and the aesthetic quality of the phenomenon (Wang, 2001). Figure 2 depicts the framework of the attitude system proposed systematically by Martin and White (2005).

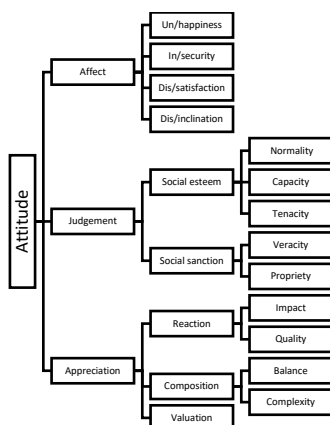


Figure 2. Attitude System

*(a). Affect*

According to Jiao (2020), affect is a psychology term used to describe our responses to things, behaviors, processes, and events. In other words, the speaker can use language resources to convey the expression of his emotions. In systemic functional linguistics, if the speaker contains some affect resources when evaluating an event, the audience will subtly accept this feeling, thus establishing some interpersonal relationship between the speaker and the audience. According to Martin and White (2005), affect can be conveyed positively or negatively, and it can be expressed directly or implicitly. There are four distinct categories of affect that can be defined by their content: un/happiness, in/security, dis/satisfaction and dis/inclination. Un/happiness encompasses feelings associated with interior issues which are related to a person's state of mind, and it can either refer to an individual's inner joy or sadness. (e.g., joy, happiness, sadness). In/security comprises feelings associated with eco-social well-being, that is, people's perceptions of the safety or insecurity of their environment. (e.g., anxiety, fear, confidence). Dis/satisfaction includes emotions that come with our pursuit of objectives (e.g., engagement, happiness, anger). Dis/inclination encompasses feelings related to anticipations of particular individuals or things (e.g., longing, craving, long for).

*(b). Judgement*

According to Martin and White (2005), the judgement system, as a subclass of the attitude system, judges behavior according to ethics and social norms. This judgement can be appreciation or praise, and it can also be condemnation or criticism. The two components that make up judgement are social esteem and social sanction, which both have distinctive positive and negative meaning, similar to the affect subsystem. Negative social esteem should be condemned, whereas positive social esteem should be appreciated. Social esteem evaluates a person's personality and conduct from the three vantage points of normality, capacity, and tenacity. Normality refers to whether or not individuals conform to convention or custom. Capacity refers to the abilities of the individual. Tenacity refers to a person's dependability and trustworthiness. Positive social esteem should be admired and negative should be criticized. Social respect is mild, so negative texts or processes are not evil and do not violate the law. Negative texts or processes are not against the law

because of the moderate social esteem. Social sanction is the process of evaluating a person's character and conduct from the viewpoints of veracity and propriety. The former entails honesty, sincerity, and kindness, whereas the latter specifies the moral behavior of the evaluation object. The evaluation of social sanction is dependent on legitimacy and morality. The legal significance and gravity of the negative implications of social sanction are evident.

### (c). *Appreciation*

According to Martin and White (2005), appreciation is a subcategory of attitudes toward appraising objects and processes in which individuals can communicate their evaluations of things. It includes assessments of natural items, human-made objects, and even more abstract structures, such as a policy or strategy. Appreciation is within the aesthetics category and has both positive and negative meaning, consisting of reaction, composition and valuation. Reaction refers to whether something engages or emotionally affects the reader. It is associated with the psychological process of feeling and serves an interpersonal purpose. Reaction has two components: impact and quality. Impact refers to the extent to which a procedure or text catches our attention. A text's or a procedure's emotional affect is related to its quality. Impact covers *arresting, moving, intense, remarkable*, etc. Quality concerns *good, welcome, bad, ugly*, etc. Balance and complexity are both aspects of composition; the former relates to whether elements are balanced and coordinated, while the latter refers to whether elements are challenging to comprehend. Balance covers *balanced, logical, flawed, shapeless*, etc. Complexity covers *simple, lucid, ornate, plain*, etc. The valuation, which is concerned with cognition process and demonstrates ideational function, determines if the occurrence of items has worth or positive meaning. Valuation covers *deep, original, creative, shallow, reductive*, etc.

### C. *Previous Studies on News Discourse*

There is no single standard for the classification of English news. News can be classified in several ways. Generally speaking, the purpose of news reports is mainly divided into three categories. One is to tell readers what it is, the other is to tell readers why, and the third is to publicize a truth to readers and have some positive effects on them. According to these three purposes, the genre of news reports can be divided into three categories: objective reports, critical reports and propaganda reports. It is possible to distinguish between hard news and soft news based on the many elements of news occurrences. The term "hard news" is also known as "spot news" or "straight news"; it refers to a more serious and objective report of recent events. Soft news is of more human interest, frequently taking the form of social news with a deep human touch and an easy writing style that slants the language of news to be less professional and gives them an air of conversational chattiness, which has become a trend in contemporary newspapers. Unquestionably, *Roe v. Wade*-related news can be classified as other forms of news due to differing opinions. A news item may belong to multiple kinds.

Li (2004) composed some applications of Appraisal Theory in diverse discourses, including historical discourse, advertisement discourse, and autobiographical discourse. Many theories based on stylistics, critical discourse analysis, and ecological discourse analysis have been utilized to analyze a variety of news articles. Appraisal Theory has also been applied to the examination of certain news reports. These studies can not only enlighten editors on how to write news articles but also help the general public better comprehend news articles. The following will introduce the information about news discourse in detail. There are numerous varieties of discourse in the human language. News discourse, as a common written or spoken language, has been explored from a variety of scholarly approaches. News, as a form of discourse, has both the commonness of discourse and the characteristics of news discourse, so it has always been one of the focuses of linguists.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### A. *Research Subject*

The applied research of Appraisal Theory mainly involves three fields, namely translation, discourse analysis and teaching. In the aspect of discourse analysis, there is little research on the application of news reports based on Appraisal Theory. With the overturning of *Roe*, media organizations in different countries have given renewed attention to the case. This study focuses on the news reports of *Roe v. Wade* in Chinese media (*China Daily*) and American media (*New York Times*). Based on the Appraisal Theory, this study will address the three research questions:

1. How are attitude resources distributed in the Chinese and American media in the coverage of *Roe*?
2. What are the characteristics and similarities in the distribution of attitude resources used by Chinese and American media in their coverage of *Roe*?
3. What are the reasons for the differences in the use of attitude resources by the Chinese and American media in *Roe*?

### B. *Data Collection*

These ten articles were selected from *China Daily* and *New York Times*. This study restricts the corpus's source, time period, and topic in order to eliminate the topic's sensitivity and to assure the comparability of the two media and the effectiveness of the research. The articles selected are all from the year 2022 to 2023. In order to avoid sensitive subject matter, the article's main focus is on the media's perspective on the occurrence. Based on the above conditions, the author selected five articles from *New York Times* corpus totaling 3,305 characters and five articles from the *China*

Daily corpus totaling 3,246 characters.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Overall Comparison of the Attitude Resources

In this section, the statistical data are presented following the annotation of all attitude resources used in all news articles. Due to the diverse characteristics of the attitude system and its subsystems, the results are presented in two stages. Initially, the general distributed characteristics of the two national media reports' attitude resources are summarized.

Among the 10 pieces of news reports on *Roe v. Wade* in Chinese media (China daily) and American media (*New York Times*) annotated in this thesis, there are attitude resources in each piece. The total number of words of the selected news reports in *China daily* and *New York Times* are respectively 3,246 and 3,305. In terms of the length of the Chinese media, the average number of words is 649, while 661 words are contained in each American report on average. The total number of attitude resources identified in this thesis is 95 in Chinese media and 108 in American media. The general distributions of the frequency of the attitude resources are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1  
OVERALL FREQUENCY OF ATTITUDE RESOURCES IN NYT AND CD

Feature	NYT		CD	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Affect	48	44.4%	40	42.1%
Judgement	32	29.6%	38	40%
Appreciation	28	25.9%	17	17.9%
Total	108	100%	95	100%

According to Table 1, there are 95 total attitude sources in the Chinese media (CM) database. The overall number in the American media (AM) is 108, which is slightly less than the previous figure. In CM, there are 48 affect resources, 32 judgement resources, and 28 appreciation resources, which account for 44%, 30% and 26%, respectively. For the AM, the figures are 40, 38, and 17, representing 42%, 40%, and 18%, respectively. The affect resources comprise the largest proportion of the overall attitude resources in both CM and AM (42% and 40%), followed by the judgement resources (40% and 30% in CM and AM), and the appreciation resources (18% and 26% in CM and AM).

Thus, the total amount of distributed attitude resources in AM and CM are comparable. Next, both judgement and affect resources predominate in the general distribution, whereas appreciation resources are used the least in both the CM and AM. Specifically, affect resources and appreciation resources are employed somewhat more frequently in AM than in CM, whereas judgement resources are employed slightly more frequently in CM than in AM. According to Table 1, there is no significant variation in the general distribution of attitude resources between CM and AM.

According to the general distribution of attitude resources in Chinese media, the proportion of affect resources and judgement resources are of equal status, ranking first and second respectively and appreciation resources occupy the least space. It shows that Chinese media coverage of *Roe v. Wade* is dominated by affect and judgement rather than appreciation resources. In the general distribution of American media, the proportion of affect resources are the highest, the proportion of judgement resources are the second-highest, and the proportion of appreciation resources are the lowest. Hence, the overall distribution characteristics of the sub-resources are roughly the same in Chinese and American media.

The study found that both the American media (AM) and the China media (CM) have a negative attitude towards the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. It can be found that AM employs more negative attitude resources than CM. Additionally, American media maintains a more negative stance towards the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* than Chinese media. Meanwhile, they assess the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* negatively and frequently based on judgement resources and affect resources. There are numerous negative attitude resources in both. Specifically, the amount of negative affect resources exceeds the number of positive affect resources. The majority of the judgement resources are negative, while there are little positive elements. Specifically, in the distribution of appreciation resources, the number of negative resources approaches half the total. In other words, although the Chinese and American media should have tried to minimize the use of affect resources, they still could not avoid the presence of a large number of affect resources, which shows that the media on both sides are opposed to the overturning of *Roe*.

B. Distribution Features of the Attitude Resources

There are parallels and differences in the frequency distribution based on the following broad statistical analysis. In this section, comparative research is conducted on the specific distribution and utilization of attitude resources in Chinese and American media. In addition, the process of analysis is undertaken based on the classification of the three subsystems.

(a). Analysis of Affect Resources

Affect is the core of attitude resources and the foundation of judgement and appreciation. It refers to an individual's emotional reaction. Affect can be split into positive and negative emotions, which express primarily as four types:

un/happiness, in/security, dis/satisfaction and dis/inclination.

Based on the Table 2, in NYT and CD, the NYT prefer to use un/happiness resources and dis/inclination resources, accounting for 13%, 12% and CD prefer to use dis/satisfaction and dis/inclination resources respectively. Table 3 displays affect type and typical expressions

TABLE 2  
SPECIFIC FREQUENCY OF AFFECT RESOURCES IN NYT AND CD

Feature	NYT		CD	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Affect Type (Total)	48	44.4%	40	42.1%
Un/happiness	14	13.0%	8	8.4%
In/security	12	11.1%	9	9.5%
Dis/inclination	13	12.0%	11	11.6%
Dis/satisfaction	9	8.3%	12	12.6%

TABLE 3  
AFFECT TYPE AND TYPICAL EXPRESSIONS

Affect Type	Typical Expressions
Un/happiness	<i>sad; dystopian; good; helpless</i>
In/security	<i>tremendously endangers; attacked; worried</i>
Dis/inclination	<i>not viable; believes; disapprove; wanted</i>
Dis/satisfaction	<i>cruel and inhumane; extremely dissatisfied</i>

The following are examples of the un/happiness resources employed in CM and AM:

(1) Massive protests against the ruling have broken out in many US cities. President Joe Biden lamented the court decision as a "**sad [unhappiness]** day" for the nation". (CD, 7.8, 2022)

(2) In this **horrificing [unhappiness]** story, the woman should not have had to wait so **helplessly [unhappiness]** for the medical care she needs. (CD, 2.16, 2023)

(3) "I knew it was coming but I got hysterical," said Ms. Kostmayer, of the Upper West Side. "It's just a real hard time, it's a real **hard time [unhappiness]** in this country. This country is going downhill." (NYT, 6.24, 2022)

The example (1) from CM adopts the "sad" to express the unhappiness of the American people and the President with the Court's decision. The example (2) from CM adopts the "helplessly" to express the dire straits of the American people after the overturning of *Roe*. The example (3) from AM adopts the "hard time" to express people's pessimistic attitude towards the future. Basically, the CM and AM adopt negative personal feelings towards the overturning of *Roe*.

The following are examples of the in/security resources employed in CM and AM:

(4) The lack of health exception in abortion bans **tremendously endangers [insecurity]** women's health. Abortion bans **greatly violate [insecurity]** the rights to life and health. (CD, 2.16, 2023)

(5) "This was the first time I personally felt **attacked [insecurity]** by a government decision," said Ms. Coiro, of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. (NYT, 6.24, 2022)

In the example (4), "tremendously endangers" expresses how the abortion ban is a serious threat to the lives of American women. The "attacked" in example (5) reflects that the health of American women is being negatively affected. Both Chinese and American media have expressed that the overturning of *Roe* will do great harm to women in American.

The following are examples of the dis/satisfaction resources employed in CM and AM:

(6) Hours after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to overturn *Roe v. Wade* on Friday, thousands gathered in New York City to voice their **fears and anger [dissatisfaction]** over the historic decision to eliminate the constitutional right to an abortion. (NYT, 6.24, 2022)

(7) It is **cruel and inhumane [dissatisfaction]** that in many states like Alabama, Ohio and Texas, exceptions are not allowed even for a pregnancy that is the product of sexual assault after the first 6 weeks of pregnancy. (CD, 2.16, 2023)

In the example (6), "fears and anger" expressed the dissatisfaction and anger of the American public against the verdict. In the example (7), the "cruel and inhumane" is adopted to express it is an inhumane act that women who have been sexually assaulted cannot have an abortion.

The following are examples of the dis/inclination resources employed in CM and AM:

(8) Senator Josh Hawley, a Republican from Missouri, said he **believes [inclination]** the Supreme Court's ruling could reshape US politics and force people affiliated with one party to relocate to states that better support their views. (CD, 2.16, 2023)

(9) By contrast, a slightly smaller but also still sizable majority of Republicans — 59.2 percent — said they wanted the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe*, while 40.8 percent of Republicans said they were **opposed [disinclination]**. (NYT, 6.24, 2022)

In the example (8), the "believes" refers to the overturning of *Roe* is beneficial to the development of the United States. In the example (9), "opposed" presents the minority of Republicans who oppose overturning *Roe*. The above shows the different attitudes of those in power in the United States and the public toward overturning *Roe*.

(b). *Analysis of Judgement Resources*

The Judgement system of Appraisal Theory is related to evaluating the ethical behavior of humans and also incorporates positive and negative emotions. It consists of “social esteem and social sanction” (Martin & White, 2005, p. 42). In this section, we will compare the use of judgement in the news reporting of two countries. Table 4 displays the statistics of judgement resources in *NYT* and *CD*. Table 5 displays judgement type and typical expressions

TABLE 4  
SPECIFIC FREQUENCY OF JUDGEMENT RESOURCES IN *NYT* AND *CD*

Feature	<i>NYT</i>		<i>CD</i>	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Judgement Type (Total)	32	29.6%	38	40%
Social Esteem	17	15.7%	22	23.2%
Social Sanction	15	13.9%	16	16.8%

TABLE 5  
JUDGEMENT TYPE AND TYPICAL EXPRESSIONS

Judgement Type	Typical Expressions
Social Esteem	<i>convenient; surprising speed; enable</i>
Social Sanction	<i>hypocrisy; discrimination; exaggerating</i>

The following are examples of the normality resources employed in CM and AM:

(10) As for the Democrats, though claiming their opposition to abortion bans, they also focus ***heavily [normality]*** on abortion issues because they need to use this as a campaign strategy. (*CD*, 2.16, 2023)

(11) The anti-abortion position that was so ***convenient [normality]*** for Republican politicians for so long is, with ***surprising speed [normality]***, coming to seem like an encumbrance. (*NYT*, 1.19, 2023)

In the example (10), the “heavily” is used to describe the Democrats taking *Roe* so seriously, but actually as a campaign strategy. Example (11) demonstrates that for Republican politicians, the heightened attention to the *Roe* is in fact a political maneuver. The Chinese and American media share the same attitude towards politicians who care so much about the overturning of *Roe*.

The following are examples of the capacity resources employed in CM and AM:

(12) At the very least, without a one-stop service system to fully protect the rights of women and newborns, the verdict to end the constitutional right to abortion is ***ill-considered [capacity]***. (*CD*, 2.16, 2023)

(13) Not only did Dobbs-motivated voters ***enable [capacity]*** the Democrats to hold the Senate, but they also given the chance to express themselves directly, accounted for abortion rights victories in all six states with an abortion-related question on the ballot. (*NYT*, 1.19, 2023)

Example (12) shows how overturning *Roe* is actually ill-considered without corresponding abortion protection regulations. Example (13) reveals that the motivation for overturning *Roe* may have more to do with politics than women's rights

The following are examples of the tenacity resources employed in CM and AM:

(14) At the very least, without a one-stop service system to ***fully protect [tenacity]*** the rights of women and newborns, the verdict to end the constitutional right to abortion is ill-considered. (*CD*, 6.30, 2022)

(15) It seems an unthinkable scenario in 2022. That’s because in 1967 the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that barring interracial marriage, as 16 states still did, violates the 14th Amendment’s ***guarantee [tenacity]*** of equal protection. (*NYT*, 1.19, 2023)

Example (14) reveals the failure of the U.S. to put in place measures to adequately protect the rights of American women and points out that this behavior is not credible.

In the example (15), the “guarantee” refers to the current law can't protect women's rights as well as before. In short, AM and the CM both believe that overturning *Roe* would be irresponsible.

The following is example of the propriety resource employed in CM and AM:

(16) Otherwise, they will once again expose their double standards and ***hypocrisy [veracity]***. (*CD*, 6.27, 2022)

In the example (16), the “hypocrisy” reveals that the United States has double standards for itself and other countries, accusing other countries of not having human rights, and overthrowing the *Roe* case. It shows that CM pointed out that this behavior is hypocritical.

(17) Abortion bans ***greatly violate [propriety]*** the rights to life and health. (*CD*, 2.16, 2023)

(18) And while all the justices in the Dobbs majority were raised in the Catholic Church, nearly two-thirds of American Catholics believe that abortion should ***be legal [propriety]*** in all or most cases. (*NYT*, 1.19, 2023)

“Greatly violate” in example (17) points out abortion prohibitions violate the rights to life and health in egregious way. It belongs to positive propriety resources. Example (18) expresses the fact that abortion should also be legal in Catholic culture.

In summary, AM and CM agree that it is unconventional to prohibit abortion.

(c). *Analysis of Appreciation Resources*

Evaluation of products and procedures is a function of appreciation. It comprises of reaction, composition, and valuation. It can also be differentiated into positive and negative attitude, just like affect and judgement resources. In

this section, we will conduct an in-depth investigation of appreciation resources in *China Daily* and *New York Times*. In this section, Table 6 presents an overall comparison of appreciation in news reports from two countries. Table 7 displays appreciation type and typical expressions.

In Chinese and American news discourse, the number of appreciation resources is the smallest when compared to the other two categories of attitude system. From the above table, it is obvious to see that in the selection of appreciation resources, NYT and CD tend to choose more reaction resources with 17.6% and 12.6% respectively. In NYT, the reporters prefer valuation, accounting for 6.5%, followed by compositions resources with 1.9%. In CD, reporters use valuation resources with 4.2%, followed by composition resources with 1.1%.

TABLE 6  
SPECIFIC FREQUENCY OF APPRECIATION RESOURCES IN NYT AND CD

Feature	NYT		CD	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Appreciation Type (Total)	28	25.9%	17	17.9%
Reaction	19	17.6%	12	12.6%
Composition	2	1.9%	1	1.1%
Valuation	7	6.5%	4	4.2%

TABLE 7  
APPRECIATION TYPE AND TYPICAL EXPRESSIONS

Appreciation Type	Typical Expressions
Reaction	<i>restrictive; good</i>
Composition	<i>disproportionately; issue; complex</i>
Valuation	<i>important; milestone</i>

The following are examples of the reaction resources employed in CM and AM:

(19) The US Supreme Court's *seismic [reaction]* ruling on Friday to overturn Roe vs Wade that has guaranteed women the constitutional right to abortion since 1973 has sent shock waves across the United States and around the world. (NYT, 6.24, 2022)

(20) But the justifiable focus on the role of abortion in the country's politics has crowded out much talk about what this *unexpected [reaction]* political turn actually means for the future of abortion. (NYT, 1.19, 2023)

Example (19) demonstrates that the overturning of Roe has made quite a splash around the world. The "unexpected" in example (20) also confirms that was unanticipated worldwide.

The news reports in the corpus employ compositional resources infrequently and lack evident trends. The following examples will provide a foundational comprehension of composition. The following are examples of the composition resources employed in CM and AM:

(21) It should also be noted that the harms brought on by abortion bans *disproportionately [composition]* affect women of color, who have less access to medical care due in large part to systemic discrimination, exclusion from the workforce and expensive health care. (CD, 2.16, 2023)

In the example (21), "disproportionately" implies that the overturning of *Roe* can affect women of color to varying degrees.

The following are example of the valuation resources employed in CM and AM:

(23) From then on, anti-abortion policies have become an *important [valuation]* card for Republicans to attract more voters. (CD, 2.16, 2023)

The word "important" in example (23) highlights the great importance of anti-abortion policies.

### C. Reasons Causing the Differences

A number of variables, including society, culture, etc., obviously influence news discourse. Consequently, the analysis of news discourse should incorporate the aforementioned elements (Richardson, 2007). This paper suggests that the nature of media, along with the cultural aspects and the socio-cultural context should be taken into account in the process of understanding the differences between the use of attitude resources in the Chinese and American media. In terms of the media itself, *China Daily* has long been tasked with guiding public opinion and conveying authoritative voices on time. Therefore, in its reporting related to the case, *China Daily* has been more likely to quote local journalists from a responsible perspective and to report from a personal perspective. Whereas the *New York Times* is in a rather independent position with less control from the officials. In addition, individualism and freedom of speech are celebrated in the United States. So, *New York Times* usually reports from multiple perspectives. And in order to attract readers, *New York Times* reports in a dramatic way through the strife and conflict between different interest groups in order to increase its attention and circulation. In relevance, readers can see that *New York Times* focuses more on presenting risky facts and people's influence, and therefore uses more negative attitudinal resources.

In terms of cultural aspects, evaluation is essential (Samovar et al., 2009). Due to cultural identity, mass media choose to portray emotions through language. Members of China's transparent inclination culture strive to avoid uncertainty at all costs. In contrast, American culture is a culture of ambiguity. Members of the culture will not be terrified of the unknown because uncertainty has been a part of their life, and they will accept the occurrence of



uncertainty. As a result, *New York Times'* reporting will not purposefully avoid dangers when the risk level changes. Thus, cultural differences will have a significant effect on the idea of communication in reports.

China adheres to collectivism in terms of social environment. Because of this, it is frequently stated in selected stories in the *China Daily* that the government respects the will of the people and listens to public opinion. In addition, they actively work with foreign nations, believing that the safety of any nation is interdependent on the safety of the world as a whole. The United States, in contrast, promotes individualism. Individualism, which promotes personal interests, is the dominant cultural model in the United States. Hence, the news media is generated in a particular cultural environment, and its news stories must include social and cultural aspects.

V. CONCLUSION

Using Appraisal Theory and a corpus of 10 news articles concerning reports on the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, this study has sorted out the comparative coverage of *China Daily* and *New York Times* primarily, and sought to elaborate the similarities and differences in the distribution, and conducted a qualitative analysis. The first finding is that the attitudes in the news reports are well expressed. The editors use resources that can provide different evaluations as well as make the news reports dramatic and thoughtful, thus to draw in more readers and arouse their interest to read more articles. The second finding is that both CM and AM use a lot of attitude resources in their news reports. Additionally, the principal media of the aforesaid countries share a similar distribution of each sub-system. In the news discourses, they both employed a greater proportion of affect and judgement resources and a lesser proportion of appreciation resources.

APPENDIX

SELECTED REPORTS FROM CHINA DAILY:

	Title	Date
1	From choice to crime: Facts about abortion bans in the US	2023-02-16
2	Abortion ban sign of times in US	2022-10-20
3	Overtured abortion ruling may reshape state politics	2022-07-08
4	Women's rights sacrificed at the altar of US judiciary	2022-06-30
5	Fatal backslide on women's rights	2022-06-27

SELECTED REPORTS FROM NEW YORK TIMES:

	Title	Date
1	Does the War Over Abortion Have a Future?	2023-01-19
2	The decision to overturn Roe clashes with the views of a majority of Americans	2022-06-24
3	America Is Not Ready for the End of Roe v. Wade	2022-05-06
4	Thousands Protest in New York After Supreme Court Overturns Roe v. Wade	2022-06-24
5	Overturing Roe Is a Radical, Not Conservative, Choice	2022-05-03

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