© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

EXPLORING THE LANGUAGE OF EVALUATION IN THE DISASTER STORIES OF SOME GHANAIAN NEWSPAPERS

BY

MARK PAUL TSEWOO

Thesis presented to the Department of English of the Faculty of Arts, College of Humanities and Legal Studies, University of Cape Coast, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Philosophy degree in English

MAY 2023

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original research and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Name of Candidate Mark Paul Tsewoo

Signature …….

Date ……..

SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation of the thesis was supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Name of Supervisor Professor J.B.A. Afful

Signature …….

Date ....……..

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

ABSTRACT

The Ghanaian press reach and influence a section of Ghanaian readers with their messages. Readers, therefore, need to have adequate knowledge of the language use in the media not only for constructing the intended meaning in the news but also for decoding other texts. This study investigates the use of the language of evaluation in the front pages and the editorials of state and private newspapers namely; *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* respectively. The theoretical framework used in this study is Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory. Qualitative content analysis and case study approaches were used to collect data about attitude (affect, judgment and appreciation) markers in both papers. The study revealed that the front page news exposed mainly the cause and effect of the disaster, made emotional appeals to readers, and assessed facilities to combat the disaster through emotive language and judgment resources whilst the editorials, through the abundant use of appreciation and judgment resources, mainly distanced themselves from government, and ascribed the cause of the disaster solely to careless and wanton human activities. These findings will be applied in researching similar texts.

Keywords: Disaster stories, editorial, front page, language of evaluation

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, my profound gratitude goes to my supervisor, Professor J.B.A. Afful, for his tolerance, encouragement, patience, constructive criticism, and support. Sir, working with you has been amazing and I have learned a lot during this period. God richly bless you!

This academic journey would not have been possible without the support of my lecturers, mentors, friends, and others who played various roles towards the completion of this work. Special thanks go to Dr. Mwinlaaru, Dr. Asempasah, Dr. Nkansah, Dr. Sam, Dr. Arko and other lecturers and staff of the Department of English, not forgetting my course mates, for the love and dedication they showed throughout the writing of this work. Many thanks go to Mr. Kumah and Apana of UCC Language Library, the staff of Sam Jonah Library, Padmore Library, Ghana Library Board, National Archives, and Akatsi College of Education Library. I am extremely grateful to my colleagues, Mr. Amenyedzi, Dr. Zonyra, Mrs Abotsi and Mr. Kwasivi, for their amazing efforts in helping me complete this work.

This acknowledgment would not have been complete without mentioning my family. I am grateful to my wife, Miss Mensah, who supported me emotionally and financially. Without you this work would not have been successful. I also acknowledge the help and support my children offered during the writing of this report.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my family, whose help and encouragement laid a solid foundation for the writing of this work.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT	PAGES
DECLARATION	II
ABSTRACT	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	IV
DEDICATION	V
TABLE OF CONTENTS	VI
LIST OF FIGURES	IX
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	X
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	5
1.3 Research Questions	7
1.4 Significance of the Study	7
1.5 Scope of the Study	8
1.6 Organisation of the Study	11
1.7 Chapter Summary	11
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	12
2.0 Introduction	12
2.1 Theoretical Framework	12
2.1.1 Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)	12
2.1.2 Appraisal Theory	15
2.2 Key Concepts	18

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

2.2.1 The Language of Evaluation 18

2.2.2 Discourse (Media Discourse & News Discourse) 20

2.3 Review of Previous Studies 28

2.4 Chapter Summary 47

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS 49

3.0 Introduction 49

3.1 Research Design 49

3.2 Data Source 54

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique 56

3.4 Procedure for Data Analysis 62

3.5 Validity, Reliability, and Ethics 66

3.6 Chapter Summary 69

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 70

4.0 Introduction 70

4.1.0 Affect Resources 71

4.1.1 Comparison of Affect Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages 75

4.1.2 Comparison of Affect Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials 82

4.2.0 Judgment Resources 87

4.2.1 Comparison of Judgement Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages 87

4.2.2 Comparison of Judgement Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials 91

4.3.0 Appreciation Resources 95

4.3.1 Comparison of Appreciation Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages 95

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

4.3.2 Comparison of Appreciation Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials 108

4.4 Chapter Summary 116

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 118

5.0 Introduction 118

5.1 Summary 118

5.2 Key Findings 119

5.3 Conclusion 122

5.4 Recommendations for Further Research 124

5.5 Recommendations for Policy 125

REFERENCES 126

APPENDIX A 140

APPENDIX B 147

APPENDIX C 152

APPENDIX D 154

APPENDIX E 157

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

LIST OF FIGURES **PAGES**

Figure 1: Stories Selected and their Respective Codes 60

Figure 2: An example of the coding process 66

Figure 3: Affect Resources on *The Daily Graphic* Front Pages 73

Figure 4: Affect Resources on *The Chronicle* Front Pages 74

Figure 5: Judgement Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages 88

Figure 6: Judgment Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials 91

Figure 7: Appreciation Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages 96

Figure 8: Appreciation Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials 109

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS **PAGE**

PNDC – Provisional National Defense Council 3

L1 – First language 4

SFL – Systemic Functional Linguistics 12

AT – Appraisal Theory 15

EPPM – Extended Parallel Processing Model 29

NSM - Natural Semantic Metalanguage 35

NELC - National Emergency Language Competency 36

EAPP – English for Academic and Professional Purposes 43

RA – Research Articles 43

CH FP – *The Chronicle* Front page 59

DG FP – *The Daily Graphic* Front page 60

DG ED – *The Daily Graphic* Editorial 60

CH ED – *The Chronicle* Editorial 60

AMA – Accra Metropolitan Assembly 66

NADMO – National Disaster Management Organization 77

Prof – Professor 90

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This first chapter aims at providing a general context for the study, which is on the language of evaluation. Items discussed here are background to the study, statement of the problem, research questions, and scope of the study. Other subsections considered in this chapter are the significance of the study and organization of the thesis. The chapter ends with a summary.

1.1 Background to the Study

Today, the media are the most effective means and sources of information worldwide (Afful, 2017). Across the world, they reach the public with information about education, sports, entertainment, socioeconomic news, culture, politics, as well as history. Because the media are agenda setters and gate keepers, and affect the governance of every country negatively or positively, their activities are closely monitored by governments and individuals in authority.

The 'media' refers to institutions that frame and propagate news (information) to the public. They are subcategorised into the electronic media (television, radio, and the social media) and the print media; that is, newspapers and magazines (Afful, 2017). Also, newspapers are disposable publications, periodicals, or newsprints most often in broad sheet form intended for general circulation, and which contain news, events and opinions, photographs, and advertisements published at intervals such as daily, weekly, and bi-weekly (Afful, 2017)). On the other hand, the electronic media transmit news by the air

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

waves, cables, satellite of sound or images for a concurrent reception by a mass audience (Afful, 2017)).

The media landscape varies slightly from country to country, depending on the existing political, social, economic, educational and cultural environments. In Ghana, the media landscape is determined by specific socio-cultural and political factors that transcend pre-independence era. For example, economic and educational constraints (affordability) make radio the most popular news source in Ghana, followed by TV and last, newspapers (Media Ownership Monitor Ghana, 2019). Newspaper or press media operation in Ghana predates to 1822 when 'The Gold Coast Gazette and Commercial Intelligencer' was published. In 1935, 'Radio Ghana' (called Radio ZOY, and later Gold Coast Broadcasting) was established to serve the whole Ghana. By 1957, about forty (40) newspapers out of which only eleven (11) survived were established. Those that survived included 'Catholic Voice', '*The Daily Graphic*', and 'Sunday Mirror' (Owusu, 2012). With the inception of the 1992 Republican Constitution in Ghana, many radio and TV stations, and newspapers were established. Currently in Ghana, there are over 481 registered radio stations, 93 (ninety-three) television stations and about 3000 (three thousand) print media (newspapers, magazines, journals), out of which 135 (one hundred and thirty-five) are newspapers (Media Ownership Monitor Ghana, 2019). Some of these newspapers are state-owned and others are privately owned. Some of the state-owned ones are *The Daily Graphic*, *The Mirror*, *Junior Graphic*, and *Ghanaian Times*, while some of the privately owned ones include *The Chronicle*, *The Daily Guide*, and *The New Crusading Guide*.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

The core mandate of these newspapers is covering and reporting news (reportage). Reportage, which is a journalistic activity, is also about emphasising a particular news. It is the essence of the news; thus, giving the background or the reasons for exploring news from a viewpoint. Generally, reportage is categorised into genres. Some reportage genres include fact-story, action story, quote story (Ferrari & Sore, as cited in Bonini, 2009)); profile reportage, photographic reportage, itinerary reportage, didactic reportage, retrospective reportage, opinion reportage, deepening of news, reportage from interview, research reportage (Chaparro, 1998; Kinderman, 2003; & Lage, 1985 as cited in Bonini, 2009). According to (Bonini, 2009), news and reportage are in continuum, but news reports facts, and establishes the reporter's viewpoints (Lage as cited in Bonini, 2009). Similarly, reportage in Ghanaian newspapers involve news genres such as editorials, feature articles, letters to the editor, sports and entertainment, education news, job and admission advertisement, classifieds, announcements, and weather forecast. Reportage is done in various journalistic ways or techniques.

Two of these newspapers, *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*, state-owned and privately owned newspapers respectively, and which are the focus of this study contain these part genres. *The Daily Graphic* was established in 1950 (GhanaWeb, 2018). At the time of its establishment, it had a circulation of one hundred thousand copies (100,000) in the country. Currently, this paper is widely circulated in every district of the country and resultantly considered one of the most widely read newspapers in Ghana. During the PNDC regime, it was named as *People's Daily Graphic* in order to remind the people that it belonged to them and, therefore, aimed at promoting their interest. The

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

newspaper has one key mandate, which is raising awareness of events in and outside the country to ordinary Ghanaians. It is published daily (GhanaWeb, 2018). *The Chronicle* which was also established in 1990 had an average readership of fifty-three thousand audience in 2017. In 2003, it was voted as the most credible newspaper in the country by GhanaWeb (Media Ownership Monitor Ghana, 2019). *The Chronicle*, like all other private and government press, reports on a broad range of issues. According to Media Ownership Monitor Ghana (2019), *The Chronicle*'s major mandate is doing investigative reporting to uncover the ills in the Ghanaian society. This became evident when the newspaper was adjudged the best investigative newspaper of the year in 1993. It was published weekly and bi-weekly in the past, but now, daily.

Almost all the newspapers in Ghana, including *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* publish news in English language. This probably is based on the fact that language is very important to the success of the media. English language makes the Ghanaian press reach and influence a larger majority of Ghanaian newspaper readers with their messages (Fosu, 2016). Also, in the media, English language which serves as a unifying force for the newspaper readers who are from different first language (L_1) backgrounds in Ghana, and which is a legacy from Ghana's colonial masters is complex to the elite and literate who are targets of the Ghanaian press.

Since there is a relationship between language and social situations (Bell, 2001), readers are made to read ideologically constructed news stories and pictures. Thus, the beliefs and doctrines reporters hold behind the stories they report on are construed in the creative use of language in the newspapers. News in the press holds readers captive (Barnhurst & Nerone, 2001). Moreover,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

news publishers employ gimmicks and stunts to get attention, spread news, and sell a lot of copies of their newspapers (Barnhurst & Nerone, 2001). This is highly creative and initiative as it persuades, challenges, and seizes readers' attention. In summary, the language of the media is emotive and sensational (Bell, 1991; Macagno & Walton, 2010). Thus, several literary and linguistic resources are deployed to encode messages in the newspapers.

Meanwhile, information about disaster stories published in English is presumably important if only the citizens who are the final consumers of the reportage have the ability to understand and respond to them (Patterson, 2000). For readers to decode the disaster stories effectively, the linguistic resources must be comprehensible. This study wants to explore how reporters deployed the language of evaluation (affect, judgment and appreciation) resources in constructing the June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle.*

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The essence of the media worldwide has led to extensive studies into the use of language in both the electronic and the print media. Some of these studies have focused on disaster stories from various linguistic and thematic perspectives. Thus, the Japan Quake and Tsunami (Arai 2013), the Brisbane Flood (Shephered &Vuuren, 2014), Heysel Stadium Riot (Young, 1986), 1985 Air India Flight 182 (Singh, 2015), Accra Floods (Ayikpa, 2015), Cyclones in Queensland, Australia (Alharbi, 2014), the natural disasters in Kwazulu-Natal Province (Ngcamu & Binza, 2015), Hurricane Katrina (Banes et al., 2008), among others, have received extensive attention.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Studies of Young (1986), Arai (2013), Shephered and Vuuren (2014), and Singh (2015) indicate that knowledge of language use to construct disaster stories is important for addressing problems related to loss of lives and property, for taking informed decisions in responding to disasters worldwide and shedding light on some linguistic features that pervade disaster stories, but they are limited to disasters outside Africa. Besides, two other works such as Iraq War (Hasan et. al, 2021) and 'The Three-Year Old Drowned Refugee Boy in the Greek Journalistic Discourse' (Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis & Derveni, 2018) have specifically explored attitudinal meanings (affect, appreciation and judgment) in the reportage of disasters. These studies established that appreciation and judgment meanings were used to assess state of affairs while affect was used to elicit emotional responses, and to persuade people to adopt a specific viewpoint about certain lead actions. But, such studies on the language of evaluation in disaster stories are yet to be undertaken in Ghana.

This study thus explores the language of evaluation, specifically attitude (affect, appreciation and judgment) in the 'June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster stories in two leading Ghanaian newspapers (*The Chronicle* and *The Daily Graphic*). The study focuses on the language choices reporters use to enact and construe the interpersonal meta-function of language in disaster stories. Since the news media highlight and shape public view by delineating public discourse around important issues (Holliman, 2004), it is important to explore the linguistic features reporters use to communicate their understanding of disaster stories that affect the nation.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

1.3 Research Questions

1. How does the language of evaluation manifest affect in the reportage of the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster on the front pages and in the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*?

2. How does the language of evaluation manifest judgment in the reportage of the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster on the front pages and in the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*?

3. How does the language of evaluation manifest appreciation in the reportage of the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster on the front pages and in the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*?

1.4 Significance of the Study

The present study is both theoretically and practically important. This work makes a significant contribution to the scholarship on the language of evaluation in media reportage in Ghana as its findings reveal the meaning making resources reporters use to enact attitudes /values, roles and relationships.

Since the media serve as a watchdog for the public, it is important to highlight the language they use to construct reports on events and occurrences of national interest. The exploration of appraisal resources aid in the comprehension of the reportage on disasters in Ghanaian newspapers. This is because reporters frame news, engage the readers in the sharing of interpersonal meaning as well as propositions and value systems. Readers will be able to decode the texts only when there is sufficient reader-awareness of the language resources used and how to interpret them.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Findings on the language of evaluation in the present study will inspire further investigation into the language of evaluation in the reportage in the Ghanaian press and media education. This is based on an inspiration found in Martin and White (2005) who argue that analysis of any text must take into account the interpersonal metafunctions. It is certain that we have limited understanding of how and when reporters use the language of evaluation since the available studies seem not to have focused on how the reporters use attitudinal meaning resources to report on disasters in Ghana.

Finally, this study will make media practitioners become self- conscious of and recognise the value of their own language use in reporting disaster stories in Ghana. To this end, this study adds to the empirical literature on media discourse and contributes to the understanding of interpersonality among the readership of disaster stories in newspapers, through the meaning making resources.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This section delineates the reach of the study, viz the kind of discipline the study involves, the kind (type) of media involved in the study, number of newspapers studied, the kind of disaster studied, the kind of stories selected, and the extent of effects of the disaster on the nation.

The first issue is the selection of the text for the study. In Discourse Semantics, areas of research are countless but the current study focuses on the language of evaluation resources used to realise affect, judgment and appreciation in the hard news (disaster stories) in some Ghanaian newspapers. Exploration of the language of evaluation (Fairclough, 2003; Tajvidi & Arjani,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

2017; Thompson, 2016) is the focus of this work since the disaster stories selected present emotive subjects.

The second issue regarding the scope of the study involves the print media (newspaper discourse). Almost all the 97 (ninety-seven) state-owned and 38 (thirty-eight) privately owned newspapers in Ghana (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2015) covered the 'June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster. Selecting a government and private newspapers respectively provides an opportunity for a fair and wider representation of government and private papers and their reportage. Pairing them provides an opportunity for analyzing how each uses the language of evaluation resources to cover the disaster. The newspapers are also selected, for they display a variety of attitude resources in the stories reported, which makes them rich texts for analysis.

The Daily Graphic, a government newspaper and *The Chronicle*, a private-owned newspaper, are considered for this study. According to GhanaWeb (2018), '*The Daily Graphic* is the most widely read in the country' and, therefore, considered a fair representation of the state-owned newspapers. It covers all genres of news including disaster stories. It is a popular view that state-owned media do not display sensationalism in their reportage. This is another reason for which *The Daily Graphic* newspaper is considered in this study. On the other hand, *The Chronicle* is selected to represent the private newspapers in Ghana. The reportage in this newspaper may be characterised by sensationalism, another reason for which it is also selected. The news reports of these papers (front page stories) are selected for this study as these type of news on the front pages present the day's critical stories that grab readers' attention and reflect the newspaper's organisation core values (Ghavamnia & Dastjerdi,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

2012). They are also selected to be analysed in this study for the roles attitude is deployed to play in reporting the disasters (Pranoto & Puspita, 2021). On the other hand, the editorials are also selected for their communicative intent. They use persuasive and evaluative language to present news to readers, interpret the news for and educate readers on the depth of news, which some readers may not understand due to lack of enough time to read newspapers and therefore prefer skimming commentaries for the news and the understanding they need (Hutleng, 1973: Macdougall, 1973). Editorials also present expert views on events, issues, and policies for the consumption of the public, the government, and stakeholders (Lavid, et al., 2012). They are also selected to be analysed for the language the editorials use to educate the citizenry, mostly the poor and the deprived on the perennial disasters that leave devastating socioeconomic impacts on all aspects of their lives.

The next point involved in delineating the scope of this study is the nature of the disaster studied. Ghana has experienced several residential and non-residential disasters. There have been fatal lorry accidents (carnage on the roads), fire outbreaks and gas explosions, floods, civil wars, chieftaincy clashes, mob actions, and riots in schools and tertiary institutions. This current study, however, focuses on only the terror-stricken one: 'June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster. This is a non-residential disaster.

Finally, the disaster stories attracted the attention of the whole nation due to the economic, social, emotional, political as well as human resource effects that the stories show the whole nation suffered from. These disaster stories might have naturally invoked the emotions of the readers. Therefore, many readers may have wanted to read them for their messages. They are,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

therefore, worth studying. According to the Ghana National Fire Service Public Relation Officer (http://gnfs.gov.gh/article/june-3rd-disaster), the June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster, for example, left 152 people dead, making it one of the worst disasters to have ever occurred in Ghana.

1.6 Organisation of the Study

This thesis is structured into five chapters. The first chapter comprises background to the study, statement of the problem, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study, and organisation of the study. The second chapter discusses theories, concepts, and review of previous studies which are related to the topic of this study. The third chapter details the methodology of the study. It explains items such as the research design, data source, sample size and sampling technique, procedure for data analysis, validity, reliability and ethics. The fourth chapter presents analysis and discussion of the findings of the study whereas the last chapter (Chapter 5) contains an introduction, summary, key findings, implications, and recommendations for further research and policy.

1.7 Chapter Summary

The indispensable roles played by the media in the life of individuals and the country, Ghana, are discussed in the background to the study. The chapter also discussed the statement of the problem, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study and organisation of the study. Chapter two comes next and is devoted to the review of literature.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In the preceding chapter, I provided a background to this work to contextualise the study. This second chapter reviews literature germane to this study. It, therefore, presents the theoretical and empirical review that will help to place the study in a particular perspective. The review is, thus, subdivided into three main sections: theoretical framework, key concepts, and previous studies.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is both a theory of language, and a framework for analysing how language functions in contexts. As a theory, it views language as a resource for making meaning and communicating in social contexts. SFL claims that language is used to perform specific communicative functions (e.g. communicating information, making meaning about the world or expressing relationships between people) and it is shaped by the specific social purpose it serves. The theory posits that language is a system of abstract rules tied to social and cultural practices. It explains that language can be analysed at structural levels such as grammatical, semantic and pragmatic levels. These levels are interconnected to make language a meaning-making resource.

As a framework for analysis, SFL has proposed and proved how language in use is supposed to be analyzed and the linguistic structures to be

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

analyzed. In this context, the framework identifies and categorises three main components, functions or meanings of language, called metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal and textual (Martin & White, 2005). The framework focuses on how language functions to communicate purposefully in context. It is one of these functions (the interpersonal) that this study is concerned with. This concern (focus) of this study makes the study overlap with SFL theory and SFL framework.

Halliday and Hasan (1989) who support this categorization of language claim that these functions reflect the three features of context of situation – field, tenor, and mode. The ideational meta-function, according to Thompson (2016) and Martin and White (2005), refers to the language human beings use to talk about their experience of the world, what is in the mind of mankind, events, states and entities. This is the function used to represent experiences, events, and states of affairs. It is the way of phrasing context and meaning (thoughts/ideas), including participants of communicative events and circumstances surrounding what is going on or being communicated. The ideational metafunction which correlates with field is subdivided into experiential and logical functions respectively, with the former involving using language to express ideas and experiences; that is, what is happening, what will happen, and what has happened, who is causing an event to happen, who is doing something, and who is being affected by the ongoing action, where, when, how and why an event occurs. The latter (logical function) deals with meaning relationships that exist between the ideas and the experiences conveyed in the ideational function. These meaning relationships are communicated, using linguistic forms/features such as subordinators, coordinators, and logical/

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

chronological ordering. The ideational function relates to the current study as it overlaps with the interpersonal which is the focus of this study. The present study is exploring how reporters in a section of the Ghanaian press employ attitude to shape and communicate disaster stories to their readership and the basic language resources (words, phrases and clauses) by which this attitude (affect, judgment and appreciation) is construed is the domain of ideational metafunction. This makes the ideational function and attitude (interpersonal function), the focus of this study, overlap.

The next function, interpersonal metafunction, also means how human beings interact, establish and maintain relations among themselves. According to Martin and White (2005), interpersonal meaning is the speaker's current meaning imposition on the ongoing communication (speech situation). It is the sole viewpoint of the speaker on the conversation, the speech roles assigned by the speaker to other participants, and the speech roles he or she assumes or acts out. The interpersonal function, which is linked to tenor, deals with social exchanges or language resources used to express and understand feelings, attitudes, a point of view, admiration, sarcasm, and modality. It (the interpersonal meaning) is construed as the implications of the ideational function of language. Language resources (hedges, boosters, attitude markers), and the range of different ways of expressing modality including relational markers, personal markers or the interrogative mood, the declarative mood, for example, are used to realise the interpersonal meaning. It is the illocutionary meaning of a text (Kyei & Afful, 2021; Hyland, 2004; Martin & White, 2005). This component of SFL also relates to the present study. The function focuses on use of language to construct social relationships and interpersonal meanings

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

between participants in a communicative event, construct speech acts, and negotiate identities and roles. This study, by virtue of exploring how language choices manifest attitude in the reportage on disaster stories in a section of the Ghanaian media, is consequently laced to attitude which lies in the domain of the interpersonal function of the SFL framework.

Finally, language is used to organise text into a coherent message. This is the textual function of language. It also links to mode and is concerned with using language to organise the ideational and interpersonal functions through transitional markers, frame markers, code glosses, evidentials, some modality markers and other cohesive devices such as endophoric markers. The textual function deals with information flow, the ways in which the other two functions (ideational and interpersonal) are interconnected (Martin & White, 2005).

Among these functions, the interpersonal is the subject of attention of the present study. This current work seeks to explore attitudinal meaning (affect, judgment and appreciation) which is one of the domains of interpersonal metafunction in news discourse.

2.1.2 Appraisal Theory

Appraisal Theory (AT) is grounded in SFL discussed in 2.1.1. According to White (2015), Appraisal Theory (AT) is a psychological theory that concentrates on the individual's way of evaluating and interpreting events, situations or stimuli in his/her environment. This assertion explains emotions as reactions to external stimuli, and active cognitive evaluations. As a reaction, it means the individual's own interpretations and evaluations of the events, situations or stimuli in his/her environment trigger the person's emotions. As a

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

cognitive process, it also means that emotions are actively constructed through cognitive (logical/mental) evaluations. White (2015) and Martin and White (2005) posit that AT is also a framework situated within SFL, and used to analyse how language conveys attitudes, emotions, and stances. The framework concentrates on assessing evaluative language used to express a writer or speaker's feelings, tastes or opinions with varying degrees of intensity and directness. Its particular concern is the interpersonal metafunction of language of SFL, which explains how social roles, personas, and relationships are enacted through use of language. The Appraisal framework is divided into three main domains namely: attitude, engagement and gratitude (Martin & White, 2005; Thompson, 2016; Wei et al., 2015). In the next paragraph, the term 'appraisal' and the domains are discussed and explained one after the other in the subsequent paragraphs.

According to Afful and Twumasi (2022), and Wei, Wherrity, and Zhang (2015), 'appraisal' which is closely related to the language of evaluation, is a broad concept referring to the group of all meaning-making resources in language, used by writers or speakers to convey attitude or emotions, judgments, valuations and engagements in texts. The resources include lexical words, phrases and structures that writers or speakers employ to realise or negotiate positive or negative meanings.

First, attitude is termed a taxonomy (classification technique) used to assess positive and negative attitudinal meanings in texts. Martin and White (2005) claims that attitude refers to a system of meanings in texts. It is in three categories. One of them is labelled *affect*, which is the assessment of positive and negative feelings and emotional reactions of a writer or speaker to a

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

phenomenon. Also, affect refers to both linguistic and non-linguistic resources used to realize feelings and emotions of writers/speakers. The second categorisation which is labelled, 'judgment' refers to language resources (positive or negative) that evaluate ethics, that is, human behavior or character based on established societal or institutional norms and morality guidelines. Judgment comprises social esteem (normality and capacity) and social sanctions (veracity and propriety). The third subcategory of attitude under the taxonomy is termed, 'appreciation'. It deals with the resources for assessing aesthetics, objects, artifacts, texts, states of affairs, and processes based on the way these processes are valued in the social setting. It is also the significance that the society in which the evaluation is being done attaches to an entity. Martin and White (2005) claim that appreciation is classified as the impact an object or an entity leaves on a writer or speaker; whether he or she likes it or dislikes it. Another division of appreciation is composition (how balanced, proportional, and consistent the object of appreciation is). The third division of appreciation is valuation. It deals with the worth of what is being appraised, whether the object is original, timely, profound, or dated.

In addition to the attitude domain, the taxonomy encompasses engagement and graduation. According to Hyland (2005b) and Pascual et al. (2010), engagement refers to the writer's relationship with their readers and this is expressed in the way these writers position themselves in the text. Martin & White (2005) say 'engagement deals with sourcing attitudes' and referencing opinions in a particular discourse. Engagement embraces all the meaning making resources that writers and speakers use to express their interpersonal positions in the texts they (the writers) produce. These resources include stance

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

or modality markers such as hedging devices (e.g. boosters, self-mention devices, questions, directives, shared knowledge, personal asides, evidentiality resources). It is the engagement system that refers to language resources which, in different ways, make the text a heteroglossia. Thus, there is a backdrop of prior utterances, alternative viewpoints and anticipated reader responses (Hyland, 2005b; Pascual et al., 2010). The last subsystem in the AT taxonomy is labelled graduation. This involves grading phenomena. In this domain, feelings for example, are magnified or downplayed.

The current study focuses on the attitudinal meanings. The SFL and the AT theories reviewed in 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 respectively inform the concept of the language of evaluation in this study. The language of evaluation is reviewed under the key concept in 2.2.1.

2.2 Key Concepts

2.2.1 The Language of Evaluation

This section discusses the language of evaluation and how it is linked to appraisal and AT. The language of evaluation is a framework that is construed as the linguistic resources used by speakers or writers to express their attitudes, opinions or evaluations towards a particular subject or person. The framework emphasises language as a tool for communicating information and at the same time expressing social meanings and interpersonal relationships. According to Martin and White (2005), the language of evaluation framework comprises three components such as affect, judgment and appreciation. By its definition and scope in this context, the language of evaluation overlaps attitude, one of the domains of appraisal, a concept which is the focus of the present study.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Thompson (2016), Wei et al. (2015) and Huston and Thompson (2000) as cited in Agcan (2015) also posit that those meanings by which texts convey positive and negative assessments are referred to as the language of evaluation. Stance (modality), appraisal, voice, criticality and metadiscourse are all means by which evaluation is expressed in language and texts.

Fairclough (2004) views evaluation as that facet of text meaning that deals with value and value assumptions. Any statement that shows the assessment of the value of a writer about what he or she is saying constitutes evaluative language. Thus, Fairclough (2004) focuses on what a speaker or writer perceives and expresses as desirable or undesirable. This desirable or undesirable view is then expressed in modality or attitude markers by a speaker or writer in a text. Fairclough's view about evaluation is in accord with Hohulin (2001), Thompson's (2016) and Wei et al. (2015) who claim that appraisal, stance, and attitude are related to the language of evaluation.

According to Thompson (2016), evaluation resources also known as the language of evaluation play three major roles in texts. First, they reveal the value system of the writer or speaker (beliefs, philosophies or principles cherished or despised in the author's community), author's purpose or his/her identity (for example as a journalist, a teacher, a consumer, news reporter, a gender activist). This role manifests in either the attitude (frame markers, boosters, person markers, moods and metaphors etc) or stance markers in the text. It can be concluded that texts or text meanings are based on the ideology (value system) of the writer or speaker. Second, evaluation resources in texts construct and maintain speaker/writer and listener/reader relations and interactions. These are arguments (dialogic elements) in texts (Thompson, 2016). Finally, evaluation

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

resources (the language of evaluation) help in organising the text. This happens when the evaluation resources indicate the meaning relations being expressed by the speaker or writer in the text.

In summary, the language of evaluation encompasses appraisal, attitude, value assumptions of the speaker or writer, and stance. Evaluative or appraisal meaning is the integral part of any text. It is the interpersonal meaning of the text. Finally, it refers to all meaning-making resources in language.

2.2.2 Discourse (Media Discourse & News Discourse)

This section discusses the meanings of 'discourse', 'media discourse', 'news' and 'news genres'. Hyland (2009) explains that 'discourse is a way of being.' Thus, discourse refers to the customs, practices, institutions and values that show the identity of a race, a group of people in an institution, organisation, a profession/occupation, or a community. It is this perspective that Hyland (2009) describes as discourse that begins with lower case—'d'—in writing. It shows language in use. It is in this kind of discourse that a writer's identity as, for example, a biologist, a driver, or a teacher is construed. In agreement with Hyland (2009), Talbot (2007) claims that discourse is a process of interaction and a cultural activity; an ongoing process of making interaction which leads to text. It is in this vein that Fryer (2007:12) opines that 'discourse refers to language with a specific communicative purpose used in a given social context (discourse community)'.

One kind of discourse is (mass) media discourse. It refers to the parameters (factors) within which an issue is framed (discussed in the public domain) by the media (Dawson & Phelan, 2016). Thus, in media discourse,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

reporters present news that is more recognisable than what the news is to an audience. Reporters achieve this by focusing on the language system of the text, context of culture, context of situation and the mode (Nyarko, 2016; Dawson & Phelan, 2016). For a listener or reader to interpret a text for the kind of meaning that is preferred by the encoder in media discourse, he or she has to understand five cultural perspectives. These are representation, identity, production, consumption and regulation (Dawson & Phelan, 2016; Tabolt, 2007). This derives from the fact that culture, which is a shared meaning, is circulated by the media through language in its operations as a signifying system.

From another point of view, media discourse refers to interactions that occur on broadcast platforms such as radio, television, newspapers and any social media, in which the discourse is directed towards a distant listener, viewer or reader. It (media discourse) is a manufactured and recorded form of communication that is public. It is both literally and ideologically constructed. Moreover, it is planned, not impromptu or spontaneous (O'Keeffe, 2001). Again, it is an indirect (not face-to-face) communication (Talbot, 2007). Essentially, it is a process which has distant audience and intervening factors or persons influencing it.

Drid (2019) also claims that 'news discourse' refers to the discourse that reports raw information presented in a mode that is generally accepted in various media available. Thus, discourse is presented similarly in diverse media available. Drid (2019) explains that news discourse is a text and new information about recent events on radio, on TV or in newspapers. There are other institutional features that make news discourse a form of mass communication. The discourse is published either regularly or periodically

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

through the means of technology. It is also publicly available to readers, but those who produce the news (texts) do not receive any feedback on the news from the readers. Another characteristic is that news produced targets a large, diverse and unanimous audience (Claridge as cited in Drid, 2019).

Based on the medium of dissemination of the news or the mode of publication, news discourse is categorised into four (print news discourse, online news discourse, radio, and TV or televised news discourse). Also based on structure and purpose of the news, there are divergent news discourse categories, which have not received attention in this review. The printed news discourse which dates back to the ancient times (Roman times) was first popular in paper form in several formats, and some perished with time. Today, pamphlet, messelation, corantos, newsbook, and newspapers are the types that exist (Claridge, as cited in Drid, 2019). Another type of this discourse is the news magazine.

Among all the types of the printed news discourse, it is the newspaper that is the most widely circulating discourse. It is in three formats: the broadsheet, the middle-range tabloids and tabloids. These are distinguished based on size, style and news content (Drid, 2019). The present study aims at examining stories in the press.

Etymologically, the concept of 'genre' is originally traced back to a Latin and French word, 'genus' and 'genre' respectively, denoting a kind or class, and was used pervasively in rhetoric, literary and media theories. Today, in Literature, it refers to a distinct type of text, such as poetry, prose, and drama. Within drama for instance, there are part genres such as tragedy, comedy, and

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

tragicomedy. By form, each of these genres (classifications) has rhetorical moves.

The genre in modern times is seen as a type of rhetorical action that people perform in their everyday interaction with their world. Thus, a genre performs communicative purposes. Specific genres have some common features, conventions, content, style and certain limitations regarding language use, purpose and the targeted audience. This view affirms Swales (1990) who also says "genre is a class of communicative events whose members share a set of communicative purposes" (p.23). Thus, a genre involves participants in a communicative activity, what they are using language to do, the language (register being used by these participants) and how the interactants organise the language event typically in recognisable stages for them to achieve a set goal or purpose. Language choices vary from stage to stage for the purpose of realising specific meanings. The foregoing view on genre means that "genre is a way of acting and interacting linguistically" (Fairclough, 2003). In the next paragraphs, I dwell on newspaper genres.

Etymologically, 'news' is traced to the word 'news' used in 1432 (Drid, 2019). It stands for the dissemination of information about newsworthy events. Regarding the media, 'news' refers to 'a report of a current happening or happenings in a newspaper, on television, on radio, or on a website' (Danesi, 2009 as cited in Drid, 2019). It is regarded as a complex process that involves information that is socially-constructed. According to (Reah, 2002 as cited in Drid, 2019), any information or recorded event regarded as news must be sufficiently considered by a large group of the readers as newsworthy and should leave a serious economic, social, and political effect on their lives. This

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

significance distinguishes news from other forms of information readers or listeners receive daily.

News is facts. It refers to pieces of information produced by organisational structures and professional practices (Bell, 2001). 'News form', on the other hand, refers to news content (the fact contained in the news) and the rules for presenting and reporting the news (Bell, 1991; 2001). 'News is a report of what a news organisation has recently learned about matters of some significance or interest to the specific community that the news organisation serves' (Tanikawa, 2017). It means, 'news', to the reading public, is a coverage of very important, and sensitive issues and events of the day (Tanikawa, 2017). The delivery of news to the elite readership is done through newspapers published daily, weekly, fortnight or, sometimes, monthly. According to Tanikawa (2017), news is event-driven and time-sensitive. Thus, events worth reporting as news are motivated or determined by its time-sensitiveness and eventfulness (Boukes & Boomgarden, 2015). There are types of news and they are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Traditionally, there are two major categories of print media news. These are 'hard' and 'soft' news. Lehman-Wilzig and Seletzky (2010) argue for 'general' news, which is a third category that lies between 'hard' and 'soft' news. First, 'hard' news refers to the reportage on serious events that involve ranking leaders, major issues, and significant disruptions (life-threatening events) of the day. It focuses mostly on economic, political, national security, domestic and foreign policies, a new discovery, crime coverage, law and other issues which are considered relevant and important to the society for its immediate influence on the public and the surrounding world. It is usually connected to an ongoing

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

story and demands an immediate reporting because it is regarded as a breaking news, a surprising and short-lived one (Bell, 2001; Boukes & Boomgarden, 2015, Lehman-Wilzig & Seletzky, 2010). Some examples of events that constitute 'hard news' are an outbreak of a new virus, threatening and international epidemic, pandemic, a natural disaster, and a terrorist attack. Hard news is factual, informative, and a critical function of journalism.

On the other hand, soft news develops from hard news. Empirical literature on this category of news proves soft news as news that has little or no intrinsic social or personal importance. Therefore, it can be reported at any time at all. It deals with 'sex or celebrity, gossip, fire, accident, disasters, health-related stories, human interest stories and local scandal (crime of the social, not the political type)', sports and entertainment, and has little influence on the public. Thus, soft news is of importance to a small portion of the public. It is subjective and full of sensationalism about legendary figures (personalities), utilitarian in nature and it is has a specific background. It is not connected (does not have any follow-up story) to any ongoing story (Boukes & Boomgarden, 2015; Lehman-Wilzig, & Seletzky, 2010; Patterson, 2000). In its presentation, simpler vocabulary and familiar expressions are used more often than in hard news. This feature (simple language of the text) makes soft news familiar and closer to its readers. According to Bell (2001), features are examples of soft news.

Despite the contrasting features between soft and hard news as delineated in the foregoing paragraphs, the two forms of news have characteristics that overlap. Both of them sometimes cover political and economic issues considered very significant to the public. This commonality

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

results when soft news reportage involves episodic framing. That means reporting news from human interest point of view and emphasising the experiences of individuals instead of focusing the news on a broader political context (Bell, 2001, Boukes & Boomgarden, 2015). This overlap between hard and soft news gives birth to 'general news' (Lehman-Wilzig & Seletzky, 2010).

Besides the two broad categories of news, there are specific classifications. Thus, the traditional news (hard, soft, and general news) have been sub-classified further into newspaper genres in empirical literature. Tanikawa (2017) classifies articles (news) into 'straight' and 'non-straight' news. Straight news is defined 'as the report of the latest newsworthy event in the available edition'. This type of news covers what happens in the immediate past, (i.e. what has just happened). The time of the incident is also part of the reportage. Usually, it is produced to inform the readership about an event the newspaper reporting it learned just a little while ago. Tanikawa (2017) opines that non-straight news, on the other hand, is regarded as features or analytical news stories. These are news forms that can be described as analysing a development (a pattern that developed in the days, weeks or months preceding a day or a particular time of the reportage under consideration). Unlike straight news, features or analytical news stories do not focus on a particular event that occurred the day before the reportage. Feature articles, news features, news analysis and any form of analytically-oriented articles are ramifications of analytical news stories (Tanikawa, 2017). He also adds 'contextual journalism' as a category of non-straight news (Tanikawa, 2017). Announcements, weather forecasts, classified advertising, game shows and cartoons are also newspaper sub genres. Others are newspaper commentaries (opinion articles) such as

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

feature(s) stories, editorials, news reports and stories, and letters to the editor (Afful, 2017; Bell, 1991; Lavid et al., 2012).

Generally, newspapers present two main types of news genres. These are news (news report), and comments or articles. News (news reports) usually written by journalists deals with facts (content of news) (Afful, 2014; Lavid et al., 2012; Tanikawa, 2017). That is, it makes reference to information sources such as dates, statistics, and graphs. News, therefore, relies on various external voices such as communicative events like speeches, interviews, and press releases as sources of authority in the broadcast. It is objective so it involves low personal involvement. This is evident in the absence of personal expression of the writer in the text. Hard news (e.g. disaster stories) is a type of news report. News reports aim to use language to communicate different points of view, voices or perspectives about an event, a phenomenon or an issue to readers. Consequently, the language use in the news genre is neutral. The communicative intent of news report is to educate the readership.

Comment articles, on the other hand, deal with the opinion of the writer as an evaluative assessment of the facts presented in new stories. They are highly subjective. These are analytical, evaluative and persuasive commentaries written by columnists who are usually academics, journalists, experienced writers, specialists or any one knowledgeable in a particular discipline. News commentaries influence political opinion formation and impose these viewpoints on the daily reader, institutions, and elite members of the society. This is to trigger the information of certain favoured or preferred viewpoints about the issue. These articles provide distinct and authoritative voices about issues of public importance (Lavid et al., 2012). Examples of comment article

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

genres are editorials or lead articles, rejoinders and original opinion articles. An editorial is a persuasive news aimed at making its readers reason in the same or similar line with the author about a particular issue. It is an intellectual article based on facts or quotes that back up the writer's opinion. Furthermore, editorials are commentary pieces about issues written by people who have special knowledge. The opinions of the specialists are highly regarded viewpoints considered newsworthy by editors for publication (Roberts, 2016). Some scholars argue that some examples of editorial articles are news reports and newspaper commentaries.

2.3 Review of Previous Studies

This section reviews works that are similar in focus with the present study and with a particular attention to non-linguistic, linguistic, and the language of evaluation studies in disaster stories. A number of studies based on Ghanaian media editorials are considered in this review. The review here is to establish the niche in research on evaluative language in the global scene in general and the African setting, specifically Ghana, in order to justify the need for the present study. Empirical literature from the global setting are reviewed first followed by literature from the African, and then the Ghanaian contexts.

Non-linguistic disaster studies such as Alharbi (2014), Bohensky and Leitch (2013), Barnes et al. (2008) studied various themes in disasters in Australia, Asia and USA respectively. Bohensky & Leitch (2013) used case study to examine framing floods, focusing on learning as a means of building resilience to the 2011 Brisbane flood, and to similar recurring events in Australia. They established that media coverage of the flood reinforced aspects

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

of resilience. Alharbi (2014) also used quantitative content analysis and Extended Parallel Processing Model (EPPM) to analyse Australian media coverage of the 2011 cyclones in Queensland. The study scrutinised how effective risk communication was to the public and the flood victims, and the different types of risk–related messages. It was revealed that coverage (of communications of risk to the public) during disasters either helped the public to make prudent decisions, unable to respond appropriately to disasters, alerted them to a potential risk or made them helpless in controlling the fear that aroused in them. Alharbi's (2014) risk communication analysis of the Brisbane Times and the Australian newspapers also found that the newspapers reported a factual account of the cyclones and also framed the threat (severity) of it. The study also established that the communication on the disaster limited threat and, therefore, controlled the fear associated with it.

Similarly, Barnes et al. (2008) analysed 1,590 articles in four (4) newspapers that covered Hurricane Katrina in USA. The first among the many findings established by these researchers is that the papers did not adequately cover key public health roles necessary before, during and after the disaster. Secondly, they claimed the media projected the needs of the vulnerable by pushing health practitioners to promote policy-oriented actions. Thirdly, they said the papers adequately informed and influenced key audiences and policy makers. Fourthly, they revealed that the papers claimed that disaster response is basically a social issue that required a broad governmental involvement and that the government must bear the primary responsibility in the event of a disaster. Finally, they established that over 40% of the articles gave attention to accountability by the federal government. Though these studies (Alharbi, 2014;

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Barnes et al., 2008; Bohensky & Leitch, 2013) are similar to the current one in that all of them employ the same designs to study disaster stories and, secondly, all of them are risk communication discourses, there are differences between them. Alharbi (2014), Barnes et al. (2008) and Bohensky & Leitch (2013) are based on quantitative content analysis and case studies respectively. The studies also concentrated on only thematic issues in disasters outside Africa. However, the current study uses qualitative document analysis and case study designs, it uses Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Framework and explores attitude in disaster news in Ghana.

In Africa, Ngcamu and Binza (2015) and Ngidi (2014) also conducted non-linguistic studies into disasters. Ngcamu and Binza (2015) used quantitative content analysis to analyse how 11 online newspaper articles framed the Kwazulu-Natal (KZN) province government's disaster contingency plans. Key among Ngcamu and Binza's (2015) findings are that the media emphasised disaster response over preparedness and mitigation. Secondly, the Durban metropolitan, midlands and North Coast areas were most hit by most of the natural disasters and that most of the disaster victims—(62%)—were females. Finally, the highest occurrence of disasters within the period in view was from 2011 onwards. Ngcamu and Binza (2015) differs from the present study in that it is a non-linguistic quantitative content study that studied 11 online newspapers and concentrated on framing thematic issues while the current study is a linguistic qualitative document analysis and case study research.

Ngidi (2014) also discussed stadium riots, the resultant inauguration of inter-race tournaments and the aftermath of the riots in South Africa. Ngidi's

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

(2014) historical and qualitative study established that the riots were racially motivated. Although both Ngidi (2014) and the current study are qualitative, the current study differs from Ngidi's (2014) as it is linguistic and Ngidi's (2014) is a non-linguistic, historical and thematic study.

Similar to these global non-linguistic disaster studies reviewed are Ayikpa (2015), and Gakpe and Mahama's (2014) studies in Ghana. Ayikpa (2015) used content analysis to study framing of flooding in Accra, Ghana, with specific reference to the extent to which the media (*The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*) gave prominence to both the reportage and their viewpoints on the flooding in the capital. The study found that, one, almost all the stories on flooding concentrated on the loss of human lives and property as well as the ordeals and challenges of the disaster victims. Two, the flood victims were given donations, and finally, each of the two newspapers placed 60% of the flood stories on the front, centre and back pages. Gakpe et al.'s (2014) study also used qualitative content analysis to study various publications on fire outbreaks and safety issues in Ghana in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* from January to June 2009 and 2010 respectively. Analysing 288 editions of both papers within the period under review, from the agenda-setting, attribution framing and normative news values perspectives, Gakpe et al. (2014) found that news articles traced most of the fire outbreaks to power fluctuations and unstable power supply. Secondly, only 1.44 per cent of the recorded fires were published by *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*. Both Gakpe et al. (2014) and the current study examine disasters (flooding and fire outbreaks) but differ in different perspectives. While Gakpe et al. (2014) and Ayikpa (2015) are

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

thematic and non-linguistic, the current study is linguistic. Again, Gakpe et al. (2015) was quantitative but the current study is qualitative.

Furthermore, Young (1986), and Arai (2013) also looked at subjects that involve the use of the language of evaluation and other linguistic resources. Using Framing Theory, Young (1986) investigated 'Heysel Stadium Stampede' from both linguistic and thematic points of view. The focus of Young's (1986) investigation was to appraise the style of presentation and framing of the 'Heysel Stadium Stampede' in the press (*Toronto Star*, *International Press*, *Daily Mirror*, *Globe and Mail*, *The Spectator*, and *Times*). He established that the press used linguistic features (lexical items) such as nouns and adjectives to present football as warfare and militia. Young (1986) also established that both literary and literal images (bestial image, image reification, overstatement, irony, metaphor and invectives) were used to depict spectators on football fields as perilous domains of irrational beings. What aligns the study of 'Heysel Sports Stadium Stampede' with the current study is the study of linguistic resources in disasters reported in the media. They differ as Young's (1986) study combined framing theory with content analysis to investigate a man-made disaster outside Africa, specifically Ghana, while the present study applies Appraisal Theory framework combined with qualitative document analysis and case study approaches to examine a disaster in Ghana from emotive language perspective.

Arai (2013) is another linguistic and pragmatic analysis of the hi-tech information transmission system that failed to communicate Tsunami warnings effectively in Japan. Arai (2013) discovered that the 'Quake and Tsunami Warnings and Evacuation Instructions' were ineffective because there was information confusion resulting from multiple sources of information, the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

presence of different voices in the texts, passive voices with evasive actions and lexical complexity. In addition, the use of politeness expressions, for example, the passive voice, negated the urgency the language (the instruction) was expected to convey about the disaster to the people. Arai's (2013) study is similar to this current work because both focus on the linguistic analysis of disaster stories in the media. However, they differ. While the current study explores the language of evaluation in disaster stories in Ghana by means of the Appraisal Theory framework, and qualitative document analysis and case study designs, Arai (2013) analysed risk communication in Japan, by means of a pragmatic framework and content analysis.

Aligned to the previous linguistic studies is Chmutina and Meding's (2019) study that systematically, and with qualitative content analysis design, examined the usage of the expression "natural disaster" in 589 articles purposively sampled from six key academic journals. Chmutina & Meding (2019) found that researchers used the expression to differentiate natural and unnatural hazard from each other, to leverage popularity and to critique the vocabulary 'natural disaster'. This study also established vulnerability themes that illustrated the contexts in which 'natural disaster' is used. The study also stimulated debate on the use of the expression among the disaster studies researchers.

One of the differences between Chmutina & Meding's (2019) study and this work is in the analysis of the pragmatic aims and the linguistic resources. The present study seeks to analyse the various positive and negative attitudinal meanings, and the resources used to realise these in disaster stories as against the use of 'natural disaster' to delineate hazards, achieve popularity and critique

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

the expression. On the contrary, both the current and Chmutina & Meding's (2019) works are linguistic studies on disaster stories, as they share the same sampling technique (purposive) and the same research design (qualitative design).

Focusing on 54 (fifty-four) languages across the globe, Chmutina, Meding, Sadler, and Abukhalaf (2021) also explored how the dominance of English in disaster studies affects the meaning of disaster concepts when the expressions used to realise these concepts were translated in different cultures, and also how things could be done differently in these different cultural settings. Chmutina & Meding (2019) also focused on the issue of undermining disempowering mistakes that result from misconstruing concepts or words common among disaster study researchers who use 'insider jargons'. The study found that local expressions used to translate English words such as 'resilience', 'vulnerability' and 'disaster', for example, virtually meant nothing to the local people (Mozambicans) who had to communicate typically in English by applying some of these words when explaining their ordeal after the 2019 flood they suffered to foreign aid workers for them (Mozambicans) to access financial assistance. It was identified also that this communication barrier made these Mozambicans lose sensitivity to the local culture and were found alienated in their own environment.

In addition to the linguistic studies reviewed in the foregoing paragraphs, Bromhead (2021) conducted a trans-textual investigation into public discourses in the 2011 Queensland floods. The study sought to specifically explore how the discourses were enacted as a public discourse in the selected events. It employed a culturally-informed approach called a trans-textual semantically

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

enhanced discourse studies based on Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). A combination of content analysis and case study designs were used to analyse a collection of public inquiry witness statements, and prototypical flood scenarios. Bromhead's (2021) study established a few findings among which four (4) key ones are summarised below. First, it brought to light some of the 2011 Queensland floods public discourses. Second, it explained that the sense of 'flood' is 'anthropocentric' (placed humans at the centre of disasters). In other words, people have different meanings for 'flood' based on their culture and their geographical setting. Third, the study explained that the discourse of Queensland floods indicated that people usually sought clear and timely messages from experts and those in authority during disasters. Finally, the study revealed a culturally-informed approach that enabled one to interpret word meanings in semantic explications, specific event-based genres in discourse scripts, and with which one could explore disaster linguistics, climate change semantics and public discourse studies. Bromhead's (2021) study is distinct from the current study in three key ways while maintaining semblance with it in two ways. First, in terms of the sample and the nature of subject discipline, the present study sampled four stories (2 front page news and two editorials) from government and privately owned newspapers, as against Bromhead's (2021) eighteen (18) inquiry witness statements and flood scenarios. Second, while the present study explored attitudinal meanings and the linguistic resources used to realise them, Bromhead's (2021) study examined discourse topics and the vocabulary patterns used to realise the topics. Finally, the present study adopted Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework but Bromhead's (2021) study employed trans-textual semantically enhanced

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

discourse studies. On the other hand, both studies are similar in subject discipline as both delve into flood disasters though the pragmatic intents and linguistic features examined differ.

The terrain of linguistic analysis of disasters is extended in a different perspective when Li, Rao, Zhang, and Li, (2020) proposed a theoretical model for constructing National Emergency Language Competency (NELC). Li et al.'s (2020) study discussed their proposal along four dimensions (emergency stage, language tasks, non-linguistic resources, and types of emergency languages). Li et al. (2020) employed a review of Emergency Language Services and Language Competence Development as a guide for designing the strategies of constructing the NELC. Regarding findings, Li et al.'s (2020) study established three major findings (conclusions), which were suggestions and pieces of advice. The first was that usually NELC was constructed and improved "to meet the language needs of emergency response efforts and to allocate sufficient time and space to the role of language in the process of emergency preparation, response, and recovery". Secondly, the study established that since constructing NELC is a daunting task, scholars must carefully examine the existing language practices to prepare for, fight or prevent disasters and to provide post-disaster support services. Finally, Li et al. (2020) were sure that language lessons from China's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, would be useful for the construction of NELC in China and beyond. Apart from the fact that both Li et al.'s (2020) study and the present study consider the same subject or discipline (disasters or hazards), they are diametrically opposed to each other in other respects. The present study uses Appraisal Theory, qualitative document analysis and case study designs with

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

purposive sampling technique to analyse data from newspapers but Li et al.'s (2020) study suggested a theoretical model which was designed based on existing literature.

Another linguistic analysis in disaster research is Uekusa's (2019) cross-national study that examined the concept of linguicism (a language-based discrimination at structural and interpersonal levels). This study investigated linguistic minority emigrants and refugees in New Zealand and Japan. Uekusa (2019) employed Pierre Bourdieu's concept of 'symbolic violence' and qualitative interview design to investigate linguistic minorities complex disaster experiences in the 2010 Canterbury Earthquake and the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake (all Canterbury disasters), and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (the Toboku disaster). The study established many cogent findings among which five of those considered most pertinent are recorded in this review. First, the study found out that linguistic minorities in New Zealand and Japan were confronted with unique disaster vulnerability, partly due to linguicism. Second, linguicism was a consistent form of social discrimination in host countries. Third, linguistic minorities felt inferior, experienced linguistic oppression and were made to feel responsible for their limited language competency. Fourth, native speakers who were service providers in host countries of linguistic minority emigrants and refugees tended to ignore their (native speakers') privileged circumstances and the structural oppression they may have unknowingly perpetuated. Finally, vulnerable linguistic minorities were unable to ask for help, narrate their experiences in their own language, and therefore, could not receive support before, during and after disasters.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

The only feature the current study and that of Uekusa (2019) have in common is that both analyse linguistic resources and themes in disasters. Thus, with qualitative design, Uekusa (2019), investigated linguicism, which parallels attitudinal meanings examined with qualitative document analysis and case study designs by the present study. However, on three distinct grounds, Uekusa's (2019) study differs from the current study. The first difference relates to the pragmatic intent, the linguistic resources and the context (setting) of each study. Uekusa (2019) analysed language resources that realised discrimination against linguistic minorities in earthquake disasters in New Zealand and Japan while the present study examines the language of evaluation in reportage on 2015 Flash/Flood fire in Ghana. Second, in terms of the source of data and subject (discipline), Uekusa's (2019) study drew data from linguistic minority immigrants and refugees (both human population and verbal-oral text) as against four newspaper stories (written document only) by the present study. Third, Uekusa (2019) used Pierre Bourdieu's concept of symbolic violence with qualitative interviews and sampling technique while the present study adopts Appraisal Theory as its analytical framework, qualitative document analysis and case study designs with purposive sampling technique to sample and analyze data in the study.

Exploring the language of evaluation on the front pages and in the editorials reportage worldwide has attracted renowned scholars such as Martin and White (2005), Puspita and Pranoto (2021), Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis and Derveni (2018), Zhang (2015), Ghavamnia and Dastjerdi (2012). Martin and White (2005) for instance, used the Appraisal Theory to examine the language of appraisal in the reportage on 'September 11 (eleven) Terrorists Attack on

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

World Trade Centre' in US. The study explored selected publications showing both the US and Afghanistan's viewpoints on the attack on the US. The study revealed that Americans were hard hit with loss of life and property. There was a gloomy aftermath of the attack on businesses. According to Martin and White (2005), the use of nominalisation conveyed the proposition that those who opposed US's poised intention of war against terrorists were cowards and their perception was illogical and defective. In addition, it was shown that the language use in the reportage on US' intention of war against terrorism showed author's dislike for critics of this view and, therefore, wrote in the readers of the text to share the strong emotions of dislike that the author had, and to distance themselves from the critics. Further, the study found that linguistic resources such as simple noun phrases and declarative mood were used to signal appreciation, judgment, and affect. The present study also uses Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework and qualitative document analysis to explore attitude. The framework and the design make the current study and Martin and White's 2005 study similar. The only difference between these studies is in the size of data and the research site. While Martin and White (2005) is situated within the context of terrorism in the US, the present study is based on reportage on Flash/flood fire disaster stories in Ghanaian media.

A similar work is Puspita and Pranoto's (2021) study that explored the attitude features in 100 articles sampled by means of Sketch Engine and query system from three (3) Japanese newspapers, using descriptive qualitative method, and analysed with the appraisal theory by Martin and White (2005). The study found that judgment was the most frequent attitudinal feature used in the papers, followed by appreciation and affect. The attitudes with their order

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

of occurrence a shown in the findings shows that the papers construed evaluation towards the events/phenomena reported rather than revealing the emotions experienced by the emoters. The study also revealed that the distribution of the attitude features in the reportage of disaster in the Japanese newspapers is highly ironical as it emphasised criticism, and condemnation alongside admiration and praises for the disaster events. Besides Puspita and Pronoto's (2021) study, Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis and Derveni (2018) also used qualitative content analysis approach and Critical Discourse Analysis to examine the linguistic presentation of the images of a drowned refugee child in Greek media. Thus, they examined how emotive language is selected, systematised as well as framed in the form of both general beliefs and ideological constructs in 20 (twenty) randomly selected online newspaper headlines and articles. It was revealed that the media language provoked emotional response, sympathetic and compassionate coverage during the period of the study.

Very Similar to Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis and Derveni (2018) is Zhang's (2015) *Comparative Study on the Appraisal Resources of China Daily's Disaster News*. Zhang (2015) studied 20 (twenty) news discourses purposively selected on natural disasters (The Shangyi and the Wenchuan earthquakes in 1998 and 2008 respectively), using both qualitative (UAM Corpus Tool 236) and quantitative approaches. He adopted Martin and White's (2008) Appraisal Framework in examining improvements in disaster reportage within the period between 1998 & 2008 and found out that drastic improvements were observed in attitudinal, engagement and some features of affect, specifically in the 2008 earthquake reports over the 1998 one. Appraisers in 2008 earthquake reports

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

were observed to be far more diversified than those in the 1998 reportage. 'Ordinary people-oriented reporting strategy' which gave attention to people's true feelings than in the 1998 reporting replaced the 'traditional sheer positive reporting strategy' in the 1998 stories. Another work that focuses on the language of evaluation in disaster stories on the front pages is Ghavamnia and Dastjerdi's (2012) study. It compared the reportage on the 2011 Iran Airplane Crash by Iranian and foreign journalists, using Bednarek's (2006) core evaluative parameter and Bell's (1991) value taxonomy. The study established that Iranian journalists presented information in the online media verbatim and acknowledged the sources of the information in the coverage of the airplane crash while the foreigners reported an elaborate reportage on the incident by providing insights and viewpoints on it.

Although all these studies and the current one share some features in common, they differ in some respects as well. Regarding similarities, the current study and those reviewed are all based on aspects of the language of evaluation in the disaster stories on the front pages. Some of such similarities are Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework and qualitative approach (Puspita & Pranoto 2021) and purposive sampling technique and qualitative design (Zhang 2015). On the other hand, in terms of specific design, this study employs qualitative document analysis and case study designs while those reviewed mostly used mixed method and descriptive qualitative design with CDA or any other. The settings of all the studies reviewed are also outside Africa and Ghana specifically, while the present study focuses on Ghana. These differences provide a niche in the literature for the current study to fill.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

There are also works on the linguistic issues in the Ghanaian newspaper editorials. A team of Ghanaian researchers, Adjei (2020), Adjei and Opoku (2017) and Wiredu (2017) examined various linguistic issues in the newspaper editorials of Ghana. Adjei (2020), in a qualitative research, identified predominant stylistic features in 30 (thirty) editorials randomly selected and analysed with Leech and Shorts' (2007) stylistic categories. She established that content words such as nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and main verbs were used. Nouns were more frequently used than adjectives in the editorials. Besides, she established that the use of different linguistic and stylistic features in conveying information helps in the interpretation of the editorial. Moreover, it facilitates communication between the reader and the author.

Similarly, Adjei and Opoku (2017) used descriptive survey and textual analysis to study the expansion relations of clause complexes in 10 (ten) purposively selected editorials from *The Daily Graphic* and revealed that the clause complexes were of elaboration, extension and enhancement, with enhancement being highly used, followed by elaboration and extension respectively.

A similar study is Wiredu's (2017) study that also examined the linguistic choices made at the level of the sentence. He studied 338 complex sentences in 22 selected editorials published in January 2008 edition of *The Daily Graphic*, using Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional Grammar. He found out that only declaratives were used in the editorials, most of which were made up of multiple rank-shifted structures. In addition, subordination was used as a means of packing as much additional important information as possible for the reader. By drawing on Martin and White's 2005

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Appraisal Theory framework, adopting document analysis and case study designs alongside purposive sampling technique to sample and analyze two-front page disaster stories and their editorials from *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*, the current study differs from all these studies in all respects except that all of them including the present study are situated in *The Daily Graphic* in Ghana. This gap presents the need for the present study to be done.

Some Ghanaian scholars (Afful & Twumasi, 2022; Bisiki and Bisiki, 2017; Musa, 2014; Ngula, 2017; Sobeng, 2016) have investigated the language of evaluation and its related terms in different subject areas. For instance, Afful and Twumasi (2022) also used qualitative content analysis, exclusion and inclusion, and comparison approaches to study the emerging scholarship on the language of evaluation in academic writing in thirty-nine (39) both published and unpublished texts in Ghana. Key findings in Afful and Twumasi's (2022) study was that the language of academic writing is personal, interactive, evaluative and full of value judgment. The study also established that evaluative language was used in different styles, depending on the Ghanaian tertiary institution of use. Politeness, modality, tense usage, reporting verbs, evaluative speech acts, evaluative lexis, nominalisation, formality, staging of moves were the commonest linguistic, rhetorical, and pragmatic features used by researchers of English for Academic and Professional Purposes (EAPP) in Ghana. Similarly, genres that authors in academic writing use in exploring the language of evaluation involved research proposals and articles, theses/dissertations and, sometimes, examination essays, written feedback comments, and thesis assessment reports.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Afful and Twumasi's (2022) study and the present study differ on two (2) grounds while sharing some common features. The first difference is that the present study explores the language of evaluation (i.e. affect, appreciation and judgment resources in the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster news on the front pages and in the editorials of two Ghanaian newspapers) while Afful & Twumasi (2022) explored 'linguistic, pragmatic and rhetorical features such as politeness, modality, tense usage, reporting verbs, evaluative speech acts, evaluative lexis, nominalisation, formality, staging of moves and bibliographic citation in academic writing in Ghana. Second, in terms of data sample and the nature of the subject studied, the current study samples four (4) newspaper stories made up of two front page news and two editorials from a government and a privately owned newspapers as against thirty-nine (39) published and unpublished texts on EAPP issues. These differences, notwithstanding, both studies are similar on the grounds that they explore aspects of the language of evaluation in the Ghanaian context.

Bisiki and Bisiki (2017) employed qualitative content analysis to investigate the use of evaluative speech acts in review language of graduate students at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana. They drew on Hyland's (2004) conceptual framework of evaluative language. Bisiki and Bisiki (2017) found out that the reviews of the studies were replete with both positive and negative evaluative speech acts and linguistic mitigating resources. They also established that positive speech acts (praises) dominated the reviews. The present work shares some features with Bisiki and Bisiki (2017), as both explore aspects of the language of evaluation. However, the current study is theoretically influenced by Martin & White's (2005) Appraisal Theory

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

framework. The domain of the current study is the media while Bisiki & Bisiki's (2017) is the academic domain.

Another study on an aspect of the language of evaluation is Musa's (2014) study that applied a mixed method of qualitative and qualitative content analysis designs with purposive and random probability sampling procedures to examine hedging in the introduction and discussion sections of English and Chemistry masters' theses. He investigated discourse functions of hedges, and the differences in the functions of hedges in English and Chemistry masters theses in University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Two major findings were established by the study. One, hedges were used for three pragmatic reasons (i.e., used to express claims with precision, to present claims with the needed humility and for self-protection). Secondly, whilst researchers in Chemistry made use of reader-oriented and accuracy-oriented hedges, researchers in English used more of writer-oriented hedges in their writings. Musa's (2014) study diverges slightly from the current research on three (3) grounds. While Musa (2014) employed a mixed method combined with purposive and random probability sampling procedures to examine data on hedges only, the present study uses qualitative document analysis and case study designs, and purposive sampling technique only to study news report on the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster in Ghana for affect, judgment and appreciation.

There is also a cross disciplinary research where Ngula (2017) studied epistemic modal verbs as rhetorical markers of argumentation in research articles (RAs) by Ghanaian and international scholars (Anglo-American native speakers). Ngula (2017) adopted corpus linguistics methods to statistically analyse the differences in the extent of use (depth of use, diversity of use, phraseological

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

patterns and epistemic strength) of epistemic modal verbs by the Ghanaian and international authors in about one (1) million words in two sub corpora of one hundred and twenty-nine RAs in Sociology, Economics and Law. Most significant among the numerous findings Ngula (2017) established is that first, the Ghanaian scholars used less epistemic modal verbs than their international counterparts. Two, the commonest modal verb used by both groups to mitigate claims is **may.** Three, while Ghanaian scholars used **could** more frequently than **might** to hedge their propositions, international authors used **might** more than **could** to express claims. Finally, seldom were **should** and **must** used by the two groups of authors to express epistemic modality.

The source of data and research site differ for the present study - the language of evaluation in four (4) disaster stories in the media as against corpora (one million words) in one hundred and ninety-nine RAs in Sociology, Economics and Law by Ngula (2017). Regarding pragmatic intent, both studies differ. While Ngula (2017) analysed 'depth of use, diversity of use, phraseological patterns and epistemic strength of modal verb rhetorical markers' for stance, the current study explores rhetorical markers that illuminate affect, judgment and appreciation. Finally, the present study combines qualitative document analysis and case study designs to analyse data, but Ngula (2017) adopted corpus linguistics methods to statistically analyse his data.

Using Appraisal framework developed by Martin and White (2005), Sobeng (2016) also investigated the evaluative language used by judges of the TV reality show, (Ghana's Most Beautiful) and established how judges in this show expressed their feelings towards the participants, assessed or judged the participants, and showed their (judges') appreciation towards the performance

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

of the contestants. Sobeng (2016) established that judgment is the main appraisal language resource the judges of reality shows employed in assessing the performance of the participants. According to her, judgment resources were used by the judges to depict instances of praise, criticism, and admiration. The current study differs from Sobeng's (2016) study in that it explores the language of evaluation in monoglossic editorials and front pages (written articles) contrary to a verbal dialogic text investigated by Sobeng (2016). Also, the current study explores the three subcategories of appraisal (affect, judgment and appreciation) in the disaster stories while Sobeng (2016) limited her work to judgment resources only. The emotions in the subject of her study are limited. While the current study investigates how appraisal resources are used in the media to realise misery, disquiet, criticisms, and frustration, Sobeng (2016) limited her study to the emotions of praise, admiration and criticism.

From the review of the previous literature, it could be concluded that the language of evaluation has received serious attention in and outside Ghana. Despite this increasing body of research on the language of evaluation in disaster stories by Anglo-Americans, Asians, and Africans (excluding Ghana), very little is known about research on how reporters use language of evaluation (affect, judgment and appreciation) in constructing their reportage on disaster stories in the Ghanaian media. It is this gap in the empirical literature that the present study seeks to fill.

2.4 Chapter Summary

The literature review has covered Systemic Functional Linguistics, Appraisal Theory, key concepts of the language of evaluation such as the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

language of evaluation, discourse and news discourse, genre and media genres. empirical literature which also encompasses non-linguistic and linguistic aspects of disaster stories has also been reviewed thereby enabling the niche to be created for the present study.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

3.0 Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with literature review. This chapter discusses the methodology used in obtaining and analysing the data for this work. Specifically, the chapter describes the research design, sample size and sampling procedure, data collection, and data analysis procedures used for this study. Other issues included in the chapter are validity/ reliability, and ethics.

3.1 Research Design

This study uses qualitative document analysis, and case study. Qualitative research is a research methodology that explores feelings, emotions and ideas or experiences (Berg, 2004; Creswell, 2003; Ugwu & Eze, 2023, Guest, Namey & Mitchell, 2013). It is the study of the quality and different manifestations of phenomena and the context or perspective from which the phenomena appear or are perceived. Qualitative research gathers and analyses non-numeric data such as texts, video or audio. Thus, qualitative datum is in the form of words. Some approaches (methodologies) of qualitative research are ethnography, phenomenological research, action research, grounded theory, and narrative research. Some data collection methods of qualitative research are secondary research, observation, interview and survey. The data analysis approaches of qualitative research include document(discourse) analysis, textual analysis, content and thematic analyses.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Although this design is said to be characterized by disadvantages such as subjectivity and bias, limited generalizability, being time consuming and resource intensive, posing challenges in data analysis and interpretation; ethical issues, and resource constraints, it has many advantages. Some key of these advantages of qualitative research are, one, it improves the collective understanding of attitudes. It is also cost-effective as it uses comparatively small sample sizes but yields quick results for crucial decisions. It also allows researcher creativity, originality and elicits accurate and authentic responses from respondents. It also allows flexibility and follow-up in its processes and consequently seek information and feelings.

Specific approaches used in this study are document analysis and case study designs which are explained in the subsequent paragraphs. The qualitative document analysis is a method used to systematically examine, review and interpret documents – both printed and electronic. The method involves scrutinizing types of documents to extract relevant information, identifying patterns, and gaining insights into a particular topic, phenomenon or research questions (Bowen, 2009; Morgan 2022). In terms of scope, document analysis involves analyzing newspapers (e.g. articles, advertisements, agenda, attendance registers and minutes of meetings, manuals, background papers, books and brochures, letters and memoranda, press releases, radio and television programme scripts), organizational or institutional reports, survey data, various public records etc. Regarding approach, this method approaches data collection by skimming, close reading and interpreting the text being used in the study. The document analysis approach also involves thematic analysis of the text. Thematic analysis involves a careful focused re-reading and review

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

of data, coding and organizing information into categories and interpretation of data. The analysis is also an approach that deals with audience research to data collection and purpose.

This scope of document analysis renders it a confluence of good qualities of other credible qualitative research design (e.g. content analysis mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs). As a result, this methodology breeds data credibility. These features, and other advantages of document analysis methodology, succinctly discussed below make its selection and use in this study very suitable.

Document analysis has both weakness and strengths. Though there are views that document analysis is used to analyse documents which are originally produced for different purposes other than for research so they may not provide sufficient details for research questions, that, sometimes, documents are archival records so retrieving a particular document for study may be very difficult, and finally, that selecting a document(s) may involve researcher bias, its advantages outweigh these disadvantages. It is cost-effective (data contained in documents have already been gathered). It is also less time consuming as it requires data selection rather than data collection. Besides, most documents are archival records either on the internet, in libraries, on CDs etc. and are, therefore, easily obtainable, sometimes, without the author's permission. Another advantage is that document analysed with document analysis have a feature of stability. Both the content and the document itself that are studied do not alter or disappear with researcher bias, the presence of the researcher or his/her investigation as happens with interviews, observations etc. They are permanently available for reference and replication or repeated reviews.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Documents studied with document analysis have a broad coverage of a long span of time, many events, many settings etc. (Yin as cited in Bowen, 2009). Apart from its advantages, the reason for selecting this design with case study for the study is vividly discussed in the following paragraphs.

Another specific example of qualitative approach used in this study is case study. It has different definitions and is classified differently by different authors. In this study, however, one definition regarded as common to most renowned researchers is the one adopted in this study. A case study is a holistic inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its natural setting (Harling, 2012). By this definition, Harling (2012) implies that the method is used to study an event, an individual, a phenomenon or an institution in an environment (context) by collecting in-depth data which involves multiple sources of information. Two main types of case studies are single case study (intrinsic, instrument, time dimensional and theory formation sub-types) and collective/multiple (case study) (Harling, 2012; Starman; 2013; Fleming & Zegwaard, 2018). Between these two case study types, the collective/multiple cases approach is adopted in this study. This specific case study describes a study exploring several cases. Similarities and differences between cases are explored by this type.

Case study has both strengths and weaknesses. The first among its numerous strengths is that it is comparatively strong in conceptual and theoretical development. The analysis may generate a new perspective and a clearer understanding of phenomenon (Starman, 2013). Second, case study (e.g., multiple case studies) study peculiarities or significant differences and similarities in the features, behaviours, lifestyles, and approaches of different

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

variables (individuals, institutions, departments). Third, in the course of the investigation, case study research reveals very significant, unexpected, rare and typical issues for examination; issues which other designs ignore. Finally, case studies are capable of displaying ways in which correlated variables studied in large and complex data influence each other. (Hodkinson & Hodkinson, 2001), and they also incorporate qualitative approach well (Starman, 2013; Zegwaard, 2018)

These qualitative document analysis and case study designs fit together in this study. They are related in that, documents are one of the key sources of data in case studies. Both document analysis and case study designs, sometimes, involve data from multiple sources. Sometimes too, preliminary document review is conducted to identify potential cases. In this study, stories were sourced from different newspapers for (document) study. Again, different sets of news (front pages and editorials) were selected and analysed. Secondly, documents provide a guide in the selection of cases that are relevant and meaningful for research objectives. In this study too, the guides provided in document analysis were applied to selecting the newspapers and the stories. Thirdly, sometimes, documents are analysed across cases to explore common themes and trends and by comparing documents analysed form different cases, researchers can identify similarities and differences in organizational practices, policy approaches, cultural norms or historical contexts, and this is what was done in the study. This may expose researchers to broader patterns and implications that may not be identified when an individual case is studied in isolation (Bowen, 2009). In the current study, language resources in reportage from different media houses were explored concurrently by means of document

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

analysis and case study designs and this revealed the different perspectives of these media houses on the disaster and different attitudes to rhetoric. These are some of the key reasons that informed the selection of these designs in this study. Combining the case study and the document analysis designs easily made the researcher analyse each pair of the disaster stories selected, compare, and contrast them in terms of themes, and the language of evaluation resources.

Since this study is very similar to an ethnographic one, secondary research data collection method (document/discourse analysis) was adopted. The main reason for adopting qualitative document (discourse) analysis is that this study sought to explore attitude in documents (newspaper reportage). The June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire coupled with mere mention or the sight of any flood or fire outbreak in this country usually sends chills down the spine of the researcher as it reminds him of the past disaster ordeals.

3.2 Data Source

The study used secondary data. Secondary data refers to the data that have been collected and published already for a purpose other than that of the current study (Ajayi, 2023; Bowen, 2009; Morgan, 2022). Secondary data is the data that involves analysis and interpretation of the primary data. It is the data whose collection is rapid and easy (Ajayi, 2023; Hox & Boeye, 2005). Some secondary data sources include existing sources such as books, journals, archival records (e.g. historical documents, reports, published articles/newspapers etc.) literature reviews, online databases etc. Secondary data include document analysis, interview transcripts, field notes, observations, audio visual materials, ethnographic techniques (such as participant observation,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

informal observations, field immersion, etc.), photo elicitations etc. This study selected an archival record (newspaper front pages and editorials). In this study, document analysis method has been adopted for data analysis and interpretation. It has been discussed under *Research Design in 3.1* in the foregoing section. The document analyzed are sample front pages and editorials that reported Flash/Flood fire by which a fuel station and other parts of Accra were gutted by fire on 3rd June 2015. Based on the exact nature of this disaster, this study has named it June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster. The stories were first published in the media on June 5, 2015. The state-owned paper selected was obtained from Sam Jonah Library of the University of Cape Coast and Akatsi College of Education library while the privately owned ones were also found in Ghana National Archives and Padmore Library, both of which are in Accra. Photocopies of all the publications of the disaster stories were made from the papers selected. This made access to the data (the stories) effortless, cost effective, and less time consuming. Maybe, because of the devastating effects of the occurrence, the reportage on the June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster spanned one full month and some days in these papers, starting from June 5 to July 13, 2015.

The source and selection of the disaster was also traced to researcher bias with flood. The researcher and some of his relatives have ever been victims of flooding and fire outbreak. At Atta-Akura, the first station of the researcher, in the Kintampo District of Brong Ahafo region, a torrential rainfall similar to the one that occurred in Accra on June 3, 2015, caused a great flood whose surface runoff, like acid, ate into parts of the walls of the room in which the researcher and a colleague teacher were sleeping. From 1am till daybreak, the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

researcher and his colleague battled with cold, scooping of the water from the room and keeping safe belongings that could be destroyed by water. Also, the spouse of the researcher went through a similar ordeal narrated in the foregoing sentences. She and her colleague candidates battled with scooping water that flooded the room in which they were sleeping in the night. Again, in 1997, at Ahenkro, a cocoa farming community in the then Asunafo District of the Brong Ahafo Region, a cousin at the researcher's second station (Ahenkro) paid compensation for one whole year to a cocoa farmer for allegedly causing fire that destroyed a cocoa farmer's farm, compensation that both parties involved in this damage case, regarded as tempering justice with mercy.

3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

In research, population refers to the larger group, the total number of elements/individuals/variables being studied in a research while the sample is a smaller group or the subset of the total population selected for the study (Punch & Oancen, 2014). In this study, all the newspapers that reported the June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire in Accra constitute the population or records from which the documents (the newspapers and the news articles) for this study were selected. A search conducted in National Archives and Padmore Library both of which are in Accra revealed that, out of about 135 newspapers that were operating in Ghana in 2015, the time of the occurrence of the disaster under investigation, only five (5) of them were found to have reported this disaster that destroyed lots of lives and property and halted almost all economic activities in the national capital, Accra. One of the purported underlying reasons for this comparatively small number of newspapers reporting the disaster was that the five newspapers had, among their core mandates, reporting both hard

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

and soft news to the public while others were dedicated solely to broadcasting entertainment, sports, business, social etc. news to their readers. Based on Morgan's (2022) view that a researcher must decide the sampling technique that will help him/her to select the suitable corpus that will enable him/her to achieve the study's goal easily, I decided to apply purposive sampling technique to target all the five (5) newspapers that reported the terror-stricken disaster.

The sample on the other hand, was then narrowed to two newspapers: *The Daily Graphic*, a state-owned newspaper, and *The Chronicle* also a privately owned newspaper. The newspapers and all the stories analysed were selected by purposive sampling technique alongside Kridel's (2015) factors for selecting documents and Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework. Kridel's (2015) four factors for selecting documents corroborated the effectiveness of purposive sampling technique in selecting the sample for generalization. Purposive sampling technique involves handpicking cases/data based on the opinion or judgment of the researcher or a particular knowledge he/she has about the issue under investigation. In this case, the subject considered relevant to the research topic is intentionally selected (Amedahe & Gyimah, 2013). The intention behind the use of purposive sampling in this study was deliberate and judgmental. The sampling technique was used at three levels. One, it was used together with Kridel's four factors in selecting the newspapers. At the second level, it was used to select the stories and thirdly, the disaster.

In selecting these newspapers and the stories, a guideline involving five key factors was considered. These factors are representativeness, authenticity, credibility, meaning, and the last one was sampling technique (purposive sampling technique). First, both the newspapers and the stories were checked

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

for representativeness (typicality) in line with the goal of the topic under investigation. For a document to be representative, its material and propositional content must reflect the content of a collection of other documents about the same topic. Considering this view, the researcher sampled all the newspapers that reported the June 3, 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster and skimmed them in order to identify the language of evaluation resources (e.g. it was sad) and the themes the study aimed to analyse (e.g. misery, insecurity, happiness etc.) in the reportage of these papers.

Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework was used in identifying the themes and the language of evaluation resources. After identifying the newspapers whose reportage reflected the language of evaluation and the themes set out in the study's research questions, the researcher then conducted a review of these newspapers too until a point of redundancy was reached where no new or different evaluative elements and themes were found. In the case of this study, what seemed to be the new evaluative elements and themes in all the stories in all the newspapers that reported the disaster were just a repetition of the same or similar evaluative elements and themes identified in both newspapers and stories selected for this study. That is duplications were found in the other newspapers too. Then these samples were subjected to authenticity and credibility simultaneously. That is, whether credible reporters, journalists or editors were behind the newspaper publishing, whether the samples could be traced to genuine and accredited media houses with the right locations etc. The next test the samples were subjected to was meaning. Meaning deals with the significance of the content of a document regarding whether the evidence provided in the document is clear,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

understandable and context based. When the samples were viewed, using these factors, they were verified and confirmed by Ghana Media Ownership Monitor (2019) that, in the category of public and private newspapers, each of these newspapers was produced by a well-established media house with seasoned editors, journalists and news reporters whose reportage were representative of all the newspapers that were perused and considered to have reported the disaster under consideration. The representativeness of the selected newspapers and their stories is evidenced by the duplications, similarities and commonality in all the stories that reported the disaster in the newspapers. Their reportage were also natural, objective and free from both typographical and grammatical errors. Also, they were found to be newspapers whose reportage were not only devoid of distortions but also reflective of firsthand account of the disaster and finally the appropriate emotional appeals being looked for by the current study. Considering all these features, Kridel's (2015) factors and guidelines, purposive sampling technique (as explained in the foregoing paragraphs in this section) was then applied in selecting the two newspapers. Again, this sampling technique was used in selecting the papers, considering the view that language resources in the stories that were in them would satisfy the demands of the research questions set. The choice of the newspapers was also based on their national character. They were newspapers that appeared to have attracted the wider readership than other newspapers in the country at the time.

From these two newspapers, four stories shown in Figure 1, were selected:

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

	The Daily Graphic	*The Chronicle*
Front pages:	Apocalypse in Accra! 150 dead so far in floods; inferno(DG FP)	Over 150 dead (CH FP)
Editorials:	The perennial floods: enough of lip service (DG ED)	Mahama must deal with the Accra Floods once and for all **(**CH ED**)**

Figure 1: Stories Selected and their Respective Codes

These four stories, comprising one front page each and an editorial each were selected from each of the newspapers. They were also subjected to the same process of selection – Kridel's (2015) five (5) factors – representativeness, authenticity, credibility, meaning and purposive sampling technique – as discussed in the foregoing paragraphs. Besides these factors, the selection process of the stories included one other factor, that is the disaster. The stories were selected based on a particular disaster. This disaster was named June 3, Flash/Flood Fire because it occurred on June 3, 2015 very suddenly and continued for a short time. Apart from naming this disaster in the nature of its occurrence, the researcher of this study considered synthesizing the different headlines given to the disaster stories by the different media houses. Some of the headlines read 'flood, fire', and 'Circle disaster'. It was purposely selected, using two key factors. The first of these was the time of occurrence of the disaster and its devastating effects. Thus, it was the most current and the worst disaster that hit the whole nation at the time:

> The flood brought Accra to its knees last Wednesday with unimaginable loss of lives and destruction of properties Hundreds of people lost their lives … a night of torrential rainfall that left several homes in the national capital submerged under water and thousands of residents homeless….' (*The Daily Graphic*, 2015; *The Chronicle*, 2015)

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Based on its unexpected nature and the many devastating effects on both human and economic resource of the national capital, Accra, the researcher hypothesized that a reportage based on such a disaster would move people to emotions. Therefore, it was perceived that the news selected were deeply affecting stories, abounded with linguistic resources that signaled strong emotions. These two factors satisfy one of Kridel's (2015) guidelines for selecting documents: meaning, which says the content of a document to be selected for analysis must have content that must be significant and have either literal, interpretative, or both meanings, that must relate to the context within which the document was created. The reportage on this cyclical disaster was supposedly created to make several emotional appeals for effect. The study therefore purposely selected this disaster for analysis.

Purposive sampling technique was employed alongside Kridel's (2015) guidelines in selecting the four stories too. From the figure 1 above, *The Daily Graphic*, front page is *Apocalypse in Accra! 150 dead so far in floods, inferno*', while *'The perennial floods: enough of lip service* is its editorial. On the other hand, from the *The Chronicle*, *Over 150 Feared Dead* is a front page news and *Mahama must deal with the Accra floods once and for all* is an editorial. The sets of stories selected were first-hand accounts about the events from the respective perspectives of the reporters who were either eyewitnesses themselves or took information from eyewitnesses. In addition, the selection of only four stories from the two newspapers selected was to ensure a thorough study to identify the language resources thereby achieving the objectives set for the work and avoiding analysing similar stories replete with the same linguistic resources. This satisfies Kridel's (2015) factors of authenticity and credibility

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

that mean that a story (document) selected to be analysed with document analysis must be a primary data from a credible source with credible authors and dates (attribution). The source must also be natural, objective, and has a content that is reported, using the right style of language. All these features of the stories met the purposes of selecting the stories so they were purposely selected. Another reason for selecting these stories was in consonance with Morgan's (2022) view that the researcher needs to decide on a sampling technique to construct the corpus that will allow him/her to achieve the goals of the research study. Appiah (2015) aligns himself with Morgan (2022) by saying that the process of data collection is always determined by the research objectives and questions of the study. In the light of these views alongside Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework criteria for identifying the language of evaluation resources and the themes they depict, the researcher skimmed and reviewed the stories for the language of evaluation and the themes set out in the research questions of the study. This feature of the texts also aligns with Kridel's (2015) factor of 'meaning' (clear and understandable literal and interpretive meanings). Furthermore, to find out whether the four stories selected for the study were representative enough of all the front pages and the editorials that contain the language of evaluation being explored in this study, the researcher perused the stories until a point of redundancy or avoidance of duplication (Merrian & Tisdell as cited in Morgan, 2015) was reached.

3.4 Procedure for Data Analysis

This research is mainly qualitative, therefore, document analysis and case study designs, combined with Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal framework were used to analyse the sampled data. Martin and White's (2005)

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Appraisal framework was selected for the study because it reflects the variables which the research questions of this study entail. The framework is an analytical framework situated within the AT and it provides a systematic approach to analysing the evaluative language (linguistic resources used to express evaluation) in discourse. Thus, the framework specifies linguistic resources such as appraisal verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and grammatical structures used to express valuation (Martin and White, 2005; White, 2015). It encompasses attitude, engagement and graduation. The attitude domain (affect, judgment and appreciation) which is the focus of this study has been explained by this framework, making it appropriate for analysing the attitude variables on the front pages and in the editorials selected for this study. The specific procedure is carefully outlined in the following paragraphs.

The first step taken was to number each of the two newspapers selected for the study. *The Daily Graphic* was numbered 1 and *The Chronicle* 2, showing the order in which they are arranged in the study. *The Daily Graphic* comes first, followed by *The Chronicle*. This order was followed in analysing the stories in the newspapers. The front page news and its editorial in the *The Daily Graphic* were then coded as Extract (DG FP) and Extract (DG ED) respectively. Those from *The Chronicle* were also coded Extract (CH FP) and Extract (CH ED) in that order. Refer to each of these stories in appendices A, B, C and D respectively. This way of coding was to ensure easy reference during analysis and discussion in chapter 4.

After the coding of the data, I also coded the paragraphs in each text as PG 1 (paragraph 1) up to the last one. Coding texts into individual paragraphs helped the researcher in perusing the texts to identify the lead, supporting details

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

or purpose, audience, and the tone of the texts, and whether the paragraphs contained fact, an opinion or background of the texts. In addition, I adopted Hyland's (2005b) method of breaking down the text (paragraphs) into distinct or individual sentences by numbering them from sentence one up to the last one in each story. This allowed me to note events very easily and how particular resources (words, phrases, and sentences) were used to signal the attitudes within the sentences in the stories.

The next thing done was to adopt document analysis methodology described in *3.1 Research Design* above in analysing the stories. This study selected Bowen's (2009) document analysis procedure alongside Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal framework to analyse the selected stories. The procedure entails skimming, close reading and then interpreting the text. Another essential component of the procedure is thematic analysis. First, I skimmed the texts and then did a close reading several times. Next, I explored the resources in the texts and the attitudinal meanings they signaled through scanning. I underlined the resources which were used in the stories to enact any form of attitude (affect, judgment and appreciation) in each sentence of the story. A coding scheme based on predetermined themes suggested in Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework and those that emerged iteratively during the analysis process was developed. For example, the attitude examined is made up of affect (e.g. insecurity, dissatisfaction, satisfaction etc.), judgment (e.g. social esteem-nomality, capacity, tenacity and social sanction-veracity and propriety) and appreciation (e.g. reaction, composition and valuation). I then took time to look up the meaning of each lexical item, and examined how each word, phrase, clause and MOOD was used in context. Next, I explored other

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

linguistic devices/ language resources such as metaphors, assumptions and implicature, evoking or ascribing evaluation, and any other thoughts the language resources identified connoted.

Another stage of the analysis concerned the identification of evaluated entities (participants and institutions targeted by the reporters) in the story. This activity enabled me to identify roles constructed for the participants and the source of emotion signalled by the resources. After these thorough readings, I applied the categories proposed by the Appraisal framework by Martin and White (2005). E.g. The appraisal resources used to realise affect (emotional reactions). These meanings were then categorised into themes and coded as AFFECT; those used to assess the wrong or right behaviours of the audience/addressees as JUDGMENT; and finally, those that signalled the evaluation of states of affairs, objects, artifacts, entities, occurrences/happenings as APPRECIATION. Then resources for each of these themes (AFFECT, JUDGMENT, and APPRECIATION) were also tabulated and labelled as figures for easy reference, as in, for instance, *Figure 2*.

Affect (DG FP)		
Appraised item		**Appraised**
	DG FP	
150 dead so far in floods, inferno	misery	deceased
	Affect (CH FP)	
150 feared dead	insecurity	Deceased/victims
	Judgment (DG ED)	
Indiscriminate human activity, official ineptitude	Social sanction (propriety) social esteem (capacity)	People in authority

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Judgment (CH ED)		
Unconcerned	Social sanction	Institution (AMA)
Do not also dispose of polythene bags in a proper way	Social sanction	Buyers(citizens of Ghana)

Figure 2: An example of the coding process

Finally, in pairs, and based on the case study design selected for the study the front pages as well as the editorials from the two newspapers were juxtaposed, and were analysed concurrently. The generalisations that manifested in the exploration of the evaluative language resources were discussed and presented. These served as answers to the research questions of the study.

3.5 Validity, Reliability, and Ethics

Validity, reliability, and ethics are important aspects of research. Paying attention to these three issues make the findings of the study credible. In the rest of the section, I explain how they are considered in the study, commencing with validity.

Validity is defined from different points of view. According to Swanson (2014), validity in statistics means a test that measures what it fully intends to measure. Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2018) also say that validity refers to accuracy and correctness of findings and 'the degree to which the results can be generalised to the wider population, cases, settings, times or situations'. This means validity is the level to which an account precisely represents the social phenomena to which it refers (Prasad, 2019). Validity is sometimes used

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

simultaneously with reliability. In qualitative research, reliability is concerned with consistency (i.e., whether the findings of a study are bound to apply and could be repeated at other times that the study is replicated). It involves the extent to which the findings are neutral or devoid of research bias, motivation, or interest (Prasad, 2019).

To be very sure of establishing and attaining the exact purpose of the writer in each text, the correct register effect in the texts and the accurate realisation of the evaluative language resources, I used a minimum of three (3) days in analysing each text, and one and a half month to complete examining all the texts under investigation. Assistance of two professional proof readers was sought to confirm the findings I had and to modify those they found problematic. They finally made their evidence-based suggestions which I considered earnestly in this study.

Ethical behaviour also refers to a set of moral principles, rules or standards governing a professional's conduct in carrying out research (Padgett, 2012). It is the good personal, professional actions, and activities carried out during research (Fleming & Zegwaard, 2018). In this study, how ethics guided this study is explained below.

In this study, a permission letter (letter of introduction shown in Appendix E) was obtained from the Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and taken to publishers of the selected newspapers in order to seek permission from them to use their published stories as sources of data for the study, and to obtain hard copies of the papers in which the stories were published. This step became the permission given me to use the stories as data.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Besides, the study used non-numeric data (a qualitative data that refers to information that is descriptive in nature and cannot be measured in terms of numbers; a data that provides insight into politics, characteristics, behaviours, opinions, and other non-quantifiable aspects of a subject) which had been published for public consumption so, the data were sourced in the open market.

Data analysis was done in a manner devoid of misinterpretations, misstatements, dishonesty and deceit (Padgett, 2012). Since this study relied on non-numeric data (textual data) (Kang & Hwang, 2021), I did a careful data analysis and interpretation to fairly represent the evidence that the data supported. Two peers and proofreaders were asked to read over the interpretations of the language resources identified in order to avoid misinterpretations, misstatements or over-interpretations of the data. My supervisor offered expert and very helpful pieces of advice, suggestions and ideas to shape the work.

The last ethical issue dealt with in this study was confidentiality and anonymity. These two terms are different in meaning, though they are interrelated concepts. Fleming and Zegward (2018) explain that confidentiality means the identity of the research participant is actually known to the researcher, but the data (the known identities) are kept secret and private while 'anonymity' refers to a situation in which the identity of the research participant is unknown to readers.

In this current study, there is internal confidentiality as the textual analysis involving non-numeric data source makes the research participants identifiable. Consequently, names of reporters of the various stories analysed as

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

well as the photographs accompanying the stories were excluded from this research report. However, the names of the newspapers, those of the media houses that published the stories analysed, and the titles of the stories analysed have all been made known in this study because the non-numeric data used were already in the public domain for public consumption and had made all these identities public. Secondly, though making names public in research seems to contradict a key research ethical conduct, all sources named in this study were appropriately acknowledged. Additionally, the media houses whose publications were selected were informed before collecting and using the textual data that was already in the public domain. With these steps, I avoided disregarding the authority of the media houses and the reporters of the stories and taking them for granted.

3.6 Chapter Summary

The research methodology used in this study has been described. The research design, source of data, data collection, sampling and sampling technique, description of data and procedure for data analysis have all been discussed. The analytical framework as well as ethical consideration has also been discussed. The fourth chapter, however, deals with the analysis and discussion of data.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with the methodology for the study. This chapter, however, provides the analysis and discussion of the data collected, and is guided by the theory in which the study is grounded, the analytical framework and the designs adopted, and the research questions designed. The analysis is in two sections. In the first section, the two front pages are juxtaposed and analysed concurrently for (affect, judgment, and appreciation) respectively. This arrangement of the categories in the analysis is based on the order in which the research questions have been set, and the demands of the research questions. In the second section, on the other hand, the two editorials are also compared for the same attitude as done in section one.

In each of the sections, the analysis is done in parallel and comparative sequences respectively, depending on how the stories paired and being analysed show the attitudinal meanings (i.e. how the language of evaluation is used to realise attitude). This sequence is adopted for the simple reason that each of the stories paired for analysis sometimes show linguistic resources that differ from each other in each of the papers but signal the same region of feeling of attitude. In this case, the organization and presentation of the analysis follows a parallel sequence. This manifests in 4.1.1 in the following paragraphs. But in an instance in which each of the stories paired for analysis employs the same or synonymous linguistic resources to represent the same or different regions of attitude (affect, judgment, or appreciation), then the analysis follows a comparative sequence as

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

seen, for example, in 4.1.2 in the subsequent paragraphs. Finally, a summary of the chapter is provided to end the analysis and discussion.

4.1.0 Affect Resources

In this study, **attitudinal meaning** on the two front pages and in the two editorials selected is analysed. The analysis and discussion in this section answers the research question one, which is re-presented below:

1. How does the language of evaluation manifest affect in the reportage of the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster on the front pages and in the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*?

The research question seeks to ascertain attitude markers that signal various forms of positive and negative affect (**un/happiness, in/security, dis/ inclination and dis/satisfaction)** in the stories selected (Martin & White, 2005).

To answer research question one, I draw on Martin and White's (2005) framework, which describes attitude as one of the interactive domains of appraisal, and which is sub-categorised into affect, appreciation and judgment.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Appraisal Item	Affect	Appraised
A p o c a l y p se	misery	
With unimaginable loss of lives and		
Destruction of properties	misery	Accra
Death toll	misery	
A staggering 107	misery	
Victims were killed	misery	Victims
Many others suffered serious burns	misery	Victims
Many of the victims of the fuel station inferno …… had sought shelter at the Goil fuel station…… to escape the flood waters……..	Surprise	Victims and readership
Badly burnt bodies were scattered	misery	Victims
Rescue teams battled fruitlessly to save lives	frustration	Rescue team
Many of the deceased had sought shelter	Surprise & misery	
Some of those burnt had their intestines gushing out	misery	Bereaved families and readership
While others were headless, with their limbs completely burnt	misery	Bereaved families and readership
A woman with her child lying on her tummy was among those swept away by flood waters	misery	
Many of the burnt bodies can only be identified through DNA	misery	Residents
Distraught	misery	
Whose family members did not return home last	disquiet	Residents
Wednesday		
In a desperate attempt to locate them dead or alive	disquiet	
At various parts of the city all day	Ennui	
The worst catastrophe to have befallen the national capital	misery	
126 soccer fans lost their lives in a stampede	misery	
Two women lost their lives in the same house	misery	
Auntie Ama's body was found		
Auntie Cecilia's is believed to have been swept away by floods	disquiet	
The flood waters ……. trapped their occupants	disquiet	
Ordeal	Misery	
She had been lucky to have been pulled out of the water	pleasure	

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Some volunteers, who tried without success to rescue her mother	misery
Fourteen flood victims were rushed to the Accident Centre	disquiet
With one of them passing away	misery
Three were in critical condition	disquiet
10 of the victims had been brought in with injuries	misery
65 corpses retrieved from the inferno	Pleasure
Others who suffered severe burns	Misery
The Matron of the hospital thanked	
NADMO for the gesture said the donation had come at the right time	Pleasure
The floods adversely affected the operations of the New Times Cooperation	
Rhodaline Oppong and Sherifah Adam report that the heavy downpour did not hinder traders at the Makola Market from their normal trading activities	Surprise
Most of the shops there were opened for business	Surprise
Nothing seemed to have affected business at Makola, compared to the way places such as the Kwame Nkrumah Circle and the Mallam Market had been affected by the floods	Surprise
Meanwhile, the situation boosted the sale of umbrellas and shower caps, with the prices of umbrellas shooting up from GH₵ 5 to GH₵ 10 for the smaller ones, while the bigger sizes cost GH₵ 25, instead of GH₵ 20	Misery
Feast	Cheer
……people in some parts of Weija capitalized on the flooding to catch fish	Pleasure
While some residents lamented the loss of loved ones and property, others took advantage of the floods to harvest large quantities of mudfish that had been washed into the drains	Surprise (misery and pleasure have been juxtaposed)

Figure 3: Affect Resources on The Daily Graphic Front Pages

These are the affect resources to answer research question one.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Appraising Item	Affect	Appraised
150 feared dead	Misery	
Hundreds of people lost their lives	Misery	Victims
Thousands of residents homeless	Misery	
Victims	Misery	
Victims trapped in the blazing fire	Misery/disquiet	
Seriously injured persons were rushed to various hospitals	Misery	
Over hundred bodies had been recovered	Pleasure	
This is a tragedy of gigantic proportions	Misery	
The dead in their double hundreds	Misery	
At least 150 dead bodies were counted	Misery	
150 dead	Misery	
Three days of official state mourning	Misery	
Distraught	Misery & disquiet	
Disaster scene	Misery	
The loss as catastrophic	Misery	
This loss of life is catastrophic, almost unprecedented	Misery/disquiet	
A lot of people have lost their lives	Misery	
I am lost for words to express how I feel	Surprise	
Many of them through the floods	Misery	
Many of them through the fire incidents	Misery	
He praised the various rescue teams	Pleasure	
Consoled the bereaved families	Misery	
I express my condolences to the several who have lost relatives	Misery	
Victims of the flood	Misery	
Who have been complaining of Mahama's Presidential style	displeasure	

Figure 4: Affect Resources on The Chronicle Front Pages

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

4.1.1 Comparison of Affect Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages

The affect variables on Figure 4 are analysed below:

The reporters use mainly three subcategories of affect to present the Flash/Flood fire disaster stories on the front pages of both *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*. These variables are misery (unhappiness), cheer (happiness), and frustration (insecurity). These variables are used to report the negative effects of the disaster, make emotional appeals about the disaster to readers, show the reporter's condemnation for the disaster, and lament the deceased. The first of these variables discussed is ***misery*** *(unhappiness)*, and *The Daily Graphic* front page (Extract 1) is presented and discussed first, followed by that of *The Chronicle* (Extract 2).

Extract 1

Apocalypse in Accra!

- **150 dead so far** in floods, inferno **(Summary – headline)**

Flooding, resulting from torrential rains, brought Accra to its knees last Wednesday night, **with unimaginable loss of lives and destruction of properties** (DG FP) 1

By press time yesterday, **the death toll** had hit a **staggering 107** (DG FP) 2

Seventy – six of the **victims were killed** at a fuel station that exploded in the midst of the rains, while **many others who suffered serious burns** were taken to major hospitals in the city (DG FP) 3

Badly burnt bodies were scattered at what remained of the fuel station as fire and rescue crews battled fruitlessly to save lives (DG FP) 5

Some of **those burnt had their intestines gushing out** while others were **headless, with their limbs completely burnt** (DG FP) 7

A woman with her child lying on her tummy was among those swept by the flood waters (DG FP) 8

Some **distraught** residents of Accra whose family members did not return home last Wednesday went around the hospitals in the city in a desperate attempt to locate them, dead or live (DG FP) 10

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

The boldfaced portions in extract 1 are the affect resources that signal unhappiness (misery). The linguistic resources used are made up of mood types (declarative sentences), phrases, noun group, adverbial clauses and lexical adjectives. In the heading, the first part of the summary, **Apocalypse in Accra!** is a Declarative Mood, a classical allusion, and a metaphor that shows grief and aversion. In the literal sense, 'apocalypse' means *a total and sudden destruction of lives of people in great numbers*. The event (disaster) being described as apocalypse portrays it as a great loss of lives and property. In the second part of the headline of the same Extract 1, the figure **'150'** is purely experiential, but in this disaster (context), 150 innocent people losing their lives for no fault of theirs is considered a great loss.

These two evaluative elements present an emotional subject by which readers are deeply moved. According to Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis, N., & Derveni, E. (2018), any language use that presents an issue to which the reader can get excited is emotive language. Secondly, the reportage is an emotional appeal being made to readership by a reporter from a seasoned media house about the devastating effects of the Flash/Flood fire disaster situation. The reporter, through his/her rhetoric and the eye-witness account, shares the deep emotions that surged in him/her and two emotions which are inherent in the reportage. By this rhetorical means, readers of these extracts are written into the reportage to share in these sad emotions.

This implies that

> **Over 150 feared Dead**, **the death toll had hit a staggering 107, seventy six of the victims were killed, while many others who suffered serious burns, Badly burnt bodies were scattered**, **those burnt had their intestines gushing out**, **headless, with**

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

their limbs completely burnt, A woman with her child lying on her tummy was among those swept by the flood waters, distraught

are tokens of high negative **affect: unhappiness (misery).** All of them are emotive, for each of them provokes very sad reactions and emotions. Readers will therefore be naturally and profoundly moved. All these resources report negative effects (attitude-affect) the disaster had on the helpless ordinary inhabitants of Accra. These effects make emotional appeals that construct the reader's deep emotions of grief and shock triggered by a high death toll, great suffering and loss of property. This finding is confirmed by Painter, C., and Martin, J. R. (1986) who say that newspaper headlines are emotive. It is also noted that the catchy summary used to attract reader's attention introduces the theme of the news stories: 'Grieving the Loss', and to link up the other affect tokens in lines 1 to 8 that support and develop the emotional appeals introduced in the heading (van Dijk, 2005).

Similarly, in the Extract 2 which is *The Chronicle* front page, there are several linguistic resources that realise **misery.** Below is the Extract 2 and the analysis that follows:

Extract 2

Hundreds of people lost their lives in an inferno that gutted a Goil Filling Station at Adabraka near the Kwame Nkrumah Circle Interchange in Accra, on a night of torrential rainfall **that left several homes in the national capital submerged under water and thousands of residents homeless** on Wednesday night (CH FP) 1

The torrential rainfall left **many suburbs in the national capital under several feet of water** (CH FP) 3

Some television and other media houses in Accra were announcing **the dead in their double hundreds** (CH FP) 14

One policeman said at least 150 dead bodies were counted (CH FP) 15

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

A **distraught** President Mahama visited **the disaster scene** yesterday and described the loss **as catastrophic (CH FP)** 19

This loss of life **is catastrophic** (CH FP) 20

In extract 2 quoted above, the resources in bold in lines 1, 3, 14, 15, 19 and 20 respectively, are all instances of high negative affect and present emotional issues that intrinsically trigger great unhappiness (**misery).** The resources are deeply moving. As the resources in the extract 1 in the foregoing paragraphs report the effects of the disaster, the same way these ones highlight the negative effects of the disaster. The negative affect constructs the victims in the extract as distressed and miserable. By these evaluative elements, emotional appeals are made to invite readers to grieve with the helpless disaster victims. The emotional appeals condemn the disaster and lament the death and the loss of the deceased and bereaved.

The second affect variable used pervasively is **cheer** (happiness). This affect is evident in extract 3 (DG FP) only. Below is the illustration:

Extract 3

A resident, Madam Abla Setordzi, who bought a bucketful of the fish, told *The Daily Graphic* that although she was **happy to have bought the fish at a good price**, there was the need for proper drains to be constructed to save the area from perennial flooding (DG FP) **43**

The bizarre disaster, however, turned into a **feast day** for some people, as they prepared the carcasses of animals, especially goats, that died in the floods, reports Phoebe Pappoe (DG FP) **45**

At the low lying areas around the Kasoa Old Barrier at the New Weija, some residents stayed up till the early hours of yesterday and **harvested buckets-full of large mudfish for consumption and for sale** (DG FP) **42**

The resources in bold in line DG FP_{43} and DG FP_{45} are an adjective and a noun group respectively. Both evoke affect. **Harvested** in lines 40 and 42

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

respectively are predicates. The Mental Process **boost** in Line DG FP is an evaluative element that construes economic boom and price hike while the clause in line 40 of extract 3 also signals boost in an economic activity (expansion in trading activities such as sale of items, hike in costs, abundant catch and high demand for items and services). The adjective group, "**happy to have bought the fish at a good price"** in line DG FP_{43} also shows pleasure, an emotion triggered by a moderate cost of fish. The lady thinks the price is desirable. In line DG $FP_{45,}$ the nominal group, **"a feast day for some people"** as they prepared the carcasses of animals and the predicate "**harvested buckets full of large mudfish for consumption and for sale"** constructs a joyous and jolly mood (an emotion triggered by availability of meat). The flood is, therefore, evaluated as desirable regarding the food it puts on the figure for some people (Fairclough, 2003). All these resources together construct the positive affect variable, **cheer** (happiness). This emotional appeal shows the reporter's positive evaluation of the disaster.

The third variable of affect that also abounds in the extracts is **Ennui (dissatisfaction)**. According to Martin and White, (2005), dissatisfaction is a kind of affect that deals with displeasure, ennui, curiosity and feelings of frustration about events and activities in which one engages himself or herself. In the data, declarative mood, few subject adjuncts, and adjuncts are affect resources used to realise the **dissatisfaction**. Samples of these resources are in bold in the extracts 4 (DG FP) and 5 (CH FP) below:

Extract 4

Unfortunately, we hit the first snag at the Accra High School area …. Slowing down traffic **(**DG FP**)**$_{51}$

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

> **As if that was not all,** the real gridlock hit us at the Gold House Traffic Intersection …… **forcing us to make several merry –go- rounds at Pig – farm, Roman Ridge and the Airport Residential Area …** (DG FP)$_{52}$
>
> **….. finally** when he decided to use the rout towards the Tetteh Quarshie Interchange …… **"it took us more than two hours in traffic** (DG FP)$_{53}$

The subject adjuncts **'unfortunately', "As if that was not all"**, the main clause, "**it took us more than two hours in traffic"** and all the resources in bold in lines (DG FP)$_{52}$ (DG FP)$_{53}$ and (CH FP)$_4$ are evaluation of the affective attitude of the reporter (Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973). The high negative affect resources present emotive subjects that trigger sad and regrettable emotions due to obstacles that the reporter and his or her colleagues experienced in the course of their work. All these resources are used to construct the proposition that the flood impeded their movement by causing a heavy and slow traffic along the access route. These attitudinal subjects made the reporter, and the colleagues feel sad, frustrated, disappointed and regretful. The traffic made them to carousel unpleasantly for hours. The emotional appeal made here shows the reporter's dislike for the disaster and its devastating effects.

Similarly, the **dissatisfaction** and **insecurity** variables are found in the front-page story of *The Chronicle*. Below is extract 5 followed by the discussion based on it.

Extract 5

> Eyewitness accounts spoke of victims ***trapped*** in the blazing fire that burned into the night as ***flood waters round the site*** **hampered rescue effort** (CH FP) $_4$
>
> Spokesman for the National Fire Service, Prince Billy Anaglatey spoke of **busy night for the various rescue teams** as dozens of seriously injured persons were rushed to various hospitals in the national capital (CH FP) $_5$
>
> I am **lost for words to express how I feel,** many of them through the floods, many still through the fire incident as a result of the explosion that took place. (CH FP) $_{22}$

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

In line $(CH\ FP)_4$, the Circumstance "**as flood waters around the site",** the noun group, **a busy night** in line $(CH\ FP)_5$, the adjective group: "**lost for words to express how I feel"** also in line $(CH\ FP)_{22}$, as quoted above, and the Material Processes, **trapped and hampered** respectively in line $(CH\ FP)_4$ also construct the feeling of frustration and shock the rescuers went through. These resources provoke the proposition that the rescue team tried hard to save the lives of the victims from the blazing fire but were prevented by the flood waters from achieving this goal. **…a busy night** line $(CH\ FP)_5$ also constructs the rescue effort of the team as very tiring, and this is frustrating. $CH\ FP_{22}$ constructs the president as dumbstruck and dumbfounded. The ennui, displeasure and frustration constructed by the emotional trigger, 'the flood' are all emotive issues presented in the resources. The affect is used to appeal to the emotions of dissatisfaction of the readership about the disaster.

From the analysis, it is obvious that affect is used pervasively to construct the story. The summary (the headline) is used to construct the theme of **grief, despondency, and insecurity.** It is used alongside appreciation to make the heading catchy. This finding agrees with previous literature that newspaper headlines are emotive (Painter, et al., 1986). Then, in the lead, affect is used to deepen the theme. It is used to present the details (main topics) of the summary. This finding also agrees with van Dijk (2008) who posits that headlines and the lead are used to express the theme of newspaper stories. The analysis reveals further that at all stages of the news presentation, affect is used on most occasions to reinforce grief, insecurity and dissatisfaction (Martin & White, 2005). It is also used to present the causes, the nature of disaster, and the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

damages it poses. There are both evoked and explicit forms of affect throughout the text (Thompson, 2016).

Another finding the analysis reveals is the linguistic resources used to signal attitude (affect). Transitivity, grammatical/lexical metaphor, mood (declarative), subject adjuncts, clauses and adjectives are the key linguistic resources used to realise the various forms of affect. Another common linguistic feature in the news is voice. Active voice is used pervasively to realise the affect (variables). The voice depicts several actions in the story and consequently presents the story live and affecting to readers (van Dijk, 2008)

4.1.2 Comparison of Affect Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials

In the previous paragraphs (4.1.1), the front pages were analysed for affect. Similarly, in this section (4.1.2), few explicit linguistic resources that signal two distinct affect variables (insecurity and unhappiness) in the editorials will be examined. Since most of the instances that signal affect in the two editorials are very similar, the two newspapers are synthesised and analysed simultaneously. Below is a pair of extracts (6 and 7) that display the linguistic resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* editorials respectively:

Extract 6

The perennial **floods:** enough of lip service (DG ED) Heading

Once again the rains have set in and the country has been exposed over its unpreparedness for natural **disasters** (DG ED)$_1$

A look through the Jubilee Ghana Book compiled and published by the Graphic Communications Group Limited in 2007 to mark the country's Golden Jubilee reveals that this avoidable **calamity** has been recurring consistently over the years (DG ED)$_4$.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Extract 7

Mahama must deal with the Accra Floods [negative affect: **insecurity**] once and for all (CH ED) Heading

Another area worth tackling, in the fight against the perennial **flooding [negative affect: insecurity]** of Accra, is the popular Sodom and Gomorrah slum, which has become an albatross on our neck (CH ED)[9]

The lexical nouns in bold in both Extracts 6 and 7 above are samples of the affect resources in the editorials.

All the expressions, though ostensibly used to report the disaster as natural, are attitudinal in their contexts. Both *flood* and *flooding* refer to a similar concept. Thus, one of the denotative meanings of *floods* and *flooding*, refers to "*an area of land that is usually dry but covered with water after heavy rain or after a river or lake flows over its banks"* (Collins Cobuild Advanced Learners English Dictionary, 2006). Similarly, *disaster* and *calamity*, which are also similar in meaning have one of their experiential meanings as *a bad accident such as flood, storm or earthquake that claims a lot of lives* (Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's English Dictionary, 2006: pp. 193-398). Considering the concepts (negative socioeconomic effects) implied in their definitions, it can be concluded that the evaluative lexical nouns in both editorials are used to construe loss of life, livelihood, property, and great suffering. Their use in this way in these editorials, therefore, presents an attitudinal subject that moves readers to emotions of insecurity, fear, worry, and disquiet. Both the reporter and readers of the story are profoundly moved. The emotional appeal has been used to achieve two linguistic effects: to present the disaster as natural and to provide the fertile premises for the argument in the editorials.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

In addition to the affective lexical nouns analysed in the foregoing paragraph, there are clauses, lexical verbs or processes, phrases and lexical adjectives that signal unhappiness in the two editorials. The affect in this section is used to report the effects of the disaster and make appeals. The expressions that construct these resources are displayed in Extracts 8 and 9 (*The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*) respectively below:

Extract 8

Reports available indicate that **more than 150 people have so far lost their lives ……. with countless others rendered homeless and properties running into billions of Ghana cedis destroyed** (DG ED)$_3$

We of *The Daily Graphic* are saddened by the events and pray that the Maker will keep **the souls of those who lost their lives** (DG ED)$_{15}$

We also wish to extend our **condolences** to the **bereaved** families (DG ED)$_{16}$

To those who **suffered various degrees of injury**, we wish them a speedy recovery (DG ED)$_{17}$

Extract 9

Whatever happened in Accra last Wednesday, **which led to the death of over 150 innocent people and still counting** (CH ED)$_8$

These are **people who were victims of war** (CH ED)$_{20}$

The government cannot afford to look at the huge resettlement package…. **when Ghanaians are dying each passing year** (CH ED)$_{23}$

The boldfaced portions in the extracts are the resources that signal the unhappiness in the two editorials.

In (DG ED)$_3$ the resource "**that's more than 150 people have so far lost their lives with countless others rendered homeless and properties running into billions of Ghana cedis destroyed"** is a that-nominal clause while "**the souls of those who lost their lives"** (DG ED)$_{15}$ is a noun phrase.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Similarly, in line $(CH\ ED)_8$, the expression "**which led to the death of over 150 innocent people and still counting"** is a sentential relative clause while "**people who were victims of war" (**$CH\ ED)_{20}$ is a noun phrase and **"when Ghanaians are dying each passing year"** $(CH\ ED)_{23}$ is an adverbial clause or Circumstance. In the first place, each of them is used to report similar facts about the disaster. That is, the disaster has left devastating effects on its victims. Secondly, the facts they present provoke the recognition that a staggering number of innocent people lost their lives, countless others lost their homes, properties and livelihood due to the disaster while those who survived became bereaved. These facts present an emotional subject that automatically makes the reporter, the readers, and the bereaved sad. This triggers negative emotions (misery-unhappiness). By triggering this emotion, the evaluative expressions have become emotional appeals used by the reporter to narrate the helpless, sorrowful and suffering victims of the disaster. With this appeal, readers are invited to grieve for the dead. The affect appeal is used to condemn the disaster event, highlight the unfortunate bitter experiences the disaster brought to the ordinary Ghanaian, and to sympathise with these victims.

Additionally, there is also a set of evaluative expressions in the report which is used to report death that resulted from the disaster and also to signal misery (unhappiness) and to provoke affection for the ordinary Ghanaian. These expressions are also found in extract 8 above. In lines $(DG\ ED)_{15}$ and $(DG\ ED)_{17}$ respectively, the expressions, **saddened** and **suffered** *various degrees of injury* are both passive mental emotive verbs (processes) while **condolences** and **bereaved** in line $(DG\ ED)_{16}$ are a lexical **noun** and an **adjective**

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

respectively. **Saddened** and **condolences** construct the reporter as sympathetic while **bereaved** constructs 'family' as people who are grieving the loss of their loved ones. So, the evaluative resources construe death, pain and sympathy. These expressions are used to construct the proposition that the newspaper workers from Graphic Corporation were very sad and disappointed to witness the disaster and its accompanying suffering, loss of lives and property and grief. This is misery (unhappiness). The resources also construct that argument to remind the victims that the newspaper is deeply concerned about their plight or the poor ordinary Ghanaian.

The analysis has revealed that lexical nouns, lexical adjectives, noun phrases and noun clauses, relative adverbial clauses are deployed to signal affect in the editorials of both *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*. The affect signal is used to report facts, that is, the kind of disaster that happened and its effects on the nation. Thus, a severe flooding caused serious economic loss and loss of many lives in Ghana. Affect is also employed to make emotional appeals to readers to grieve with the bereaved and sympathise with their bereaved. Finally, the affects (emotional appeals) are used to premise the arguments in the editorials.

The analysis has revealed that lexical nouns, noun phrases, relative and adverbial clauses are used to realise affect. The affect was used to report the fact that the disaster was a natural disaster that had negative effects on the nation. This is flooding which caused loss of livelihood, life and property. The affect was also used as emotional appeals to create premises on which the arguments in the editorials are grounded. Judgment resources are analysed in the next section.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

4.2.0 Judgment Resources

In the previous paragraphs (4.1.1 and 4.1.2), affect resources were analysed. In this section (4.1.3), judgment resources are analysed. In both data sets, the reporters sum up their impressions about participants in the stories and this answers research question two which is also re-presented below:

2. How does the language of evaluation manifest judgment in the reportage of the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster on the front pages and in the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*?

Like the research question one in 4.1.1, this research question is also aimed at identifying language resources that signal positive and negative impressions and assessments about behaviours on the front pages of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*.

4.2.1 Comparison of Judgement Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages

According to Martin and White (2005) and Thompson (2016) judgment, another subcategory of attitude, refers to meanings or evaluations that construe our attitudes to people and the way they behave. Judgment here refers to resources that are used to realise the good or bad, right or wrong, moral or immoral behaviors of people in relation to the ethics of the Ghanaian society. This evaluation manifests either explicitly or sometimes implicity. Refer to explanation of implicit judgment in the discussion following Extract 11. It is divided into two broad areas: social esteem (normality, capacity and tenacity) and social sanction (veracity and propriety). Below is Figure 5 showing the judgment resources in both *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* front pages

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

DG FP	CH FP
Brave	Gallantry, praised,

Figure 5: Judgement Resources on The Daily Graphic and The Chronicle Front Pages

In both extracts (9 and 10), judgment is realised both explicitly and implicitly (Martin & White, 2005; Thompson, 2016). The two stories are analysed simultaneously below:

> Some **brave (**positive **tenacity)** youth used ropes to pull people and animals out of the ravaging waters DG FP_{16},
>
> AND
>
> He **praised (positive tenacity)** the various rescue teams for their **gallantry (**positive **tenacity)** and consoled the bereaved families CH FP_{23}

The Judgment resources in both extracts are explicit. The resources ***brave (tenacity)*** and ***gallantry (tenacity)*** respectively are an adjective and a noun used to show the reporter and the president's strong approval of the appraised. Both expressions are similar in meaning; they refer to courage or heroism. With the resources, **brave** and **gallantry,** the youth and the rescue team separately are evaluated as heroes and for that matter could be depended on in times of emergency. The verb **praised** constructs the president's admiration and approval of the rescue team for the team's courage. By this appraisal, the president used the expression to construct the rescue team as tireless in the rescue and therefore deserved to be rewarded. This evaluation reinforces the strong feelings of approval and admiration for the youth and the team respectively. This finding disagrees with the claim of Liu (2018) that Batman and his Labor Party are incapable to face and address challenges of governance when given political power.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Moreover, in Extracts 11 and 12 from The Daily Graphic and The Chronicle respectively, there are implicit (invoked) evaluation about the behaviour of participants (Thompson, 2016). Below are lines 29 and 31 (all from *The Daily Graphic*) showing implicit evaluation.

Extract 11

The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) presented 100 blankets, 100 body bags and 200 cups to the hospital to cater for the victims (DG FP)$_{29}$ **(positive propriety)**

The Matron of the hospital, Colonel Mercy Yelbert, **thanked** NADMO for the gesture and said the donation had come at the right time. DG FP$_{31}$ **(positive propriety)**

In consonance with Thompson (2016) who indicate that evoked appraisal involves using evaluative resources, none of whose individual lexical items is explicitly evaluative yet implicitly evoke evaluation about an entity or state, the reporters in lines (DG FP)$_{29}$ and $_{31}$ implicitly pass judgment on the behaviour of participants.

In line (DG FP)$_{29,}$ the reporter ascribes evoked positive **propriety** to the Actor (The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO). The Material Process, **presented**, the Goal, **(100 blankets, 100 body bags and 200 cups to the hospital')** and the Circumstance, **to cater for the victims** provoke and ascribe positive attributes of 'being caring', 'kindness' and 'sympathy' to the Actor. Thus, the Actor is **praised** for a good behaviour. It is the Material Process and the Declarative Mood that present this emotive issue. Another instance of positive **propriety** is found in line (DG FP)$_{31}$. The Verbal Process, **thanked** does not only construct the satisfaction the Sayer (Colonel Yelbert) expresses about the gift, but also invokes and implies a demonstration of a moral behaviour

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

(gratefulness- **propriety**). The Sayer is constructed as **grateful** as he acknowledges the good done by the Target. It is expected that the individual in society show gratitude for a good gesture and this is what the Sayer has measured up to. This evaluative language also shows the reporter's approval of Colonel Yelbert.

Similar instances of judgment resources in extract 12, have been used to assess behaviour of participants there are judgment resources. Below are key examples from the extract:

Extract 12

Education Minister, Prof. Jane Naana Opoku Agyeman, issued a directive to teachers in areas affected by flood to let children stay at home until there was a change in the weather while they kept sharp eyes on those who managed to be in the classroom (CH FP) 35

We know that some children got to school early so we are kindly requesting teachers to keep an eye on those who are already in school till the weather lets up so that they can return home safely (CH FP) 36

Each of the two lines in bold, as a unit, serves as the invoked resource. Lines (CH FP)35 and 36 respectively implicitly construct the Education Minister, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang as **caring and dutiful (positive propriety)**. The reporter uses the Declarative Moods which contain Verbal and Mental Processes respectively to construct Prof. Naana's identity as an education minister who owes school children a **duty to their welfare**. The resource is used to praise her for discharging her duty, as expected of an education minister.

The evoked judgment has been used to approve NADMO, Colonel Yelbert, and the Minister and to reinforce the admiration of the readership for them. This finding contrasts the findings of Liu (2018) that lexical metaphors in

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

the editorials of *The Australian* are used mainly to provoke negative values of the Labor Party and its members to disaffiliate readers of the paper from the party.

The analysis so far reveals lexical adjectives, lexical nouns, and mood type (Declarative Mood) that are used to judge the behaviour of public officers in Ghana. The resources are also used to state the contributions made by both public and philanthropists in tackling disaster related problems in Ghana. Finally, explicit and implicit linguistic resources are used to construct participants' behaviour in the front pages of both *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle***.**

4.2.2 Comparison of Judgement Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials

Like the front pages that contain instances of judgment resources, editorials are also replete with language resources that evaluate the behaviours of Ghanaians in the disaster. The evaluations are both explicit and implicit. Below is Figure 6 showing the key resources.

DG ED	**CH ED**
Indiscriminate human activity, official ineptitude, wanton disposal of solid and liquid waste to drains by the citizenry and…. connivance, shirk, unconcerned, tacit approval, corrupt, allow themselves to be corrupted by others. Evoked (unfaithfulness)	evoked (buyers are immoral) unconcerned, has failed

Figure 6: Judgment Resources in The Daily Graphic and The Chronicle Editorials

Figure 6 shows nine (9) explicit judgment resources and three (3) evoked ones in *The Daily Graphic* editorial and two explicit and one (1) evoked judgment resources in *The Chronicle* editorials.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

The first extract analysed below is *The Daily Graphic* editorial (Extract 13) and the resources that signal judgment in the extract are in bold.

Extract 13

> The causes of these floods have been traced to **indiscriminate human activities (**negative **propriety)** and **official ineptitude (**negative **capacity)** towards ensuring that the proper actions are taken for the benefit of the country (DG ED) 5
>
> It is not a secret that officials entrusted with the responsibility for ensuring that basic laws and regulations are obeyed also **shirk (**negative **tenacity)** those responsibilities (DG ED) 7
>
> **People build in water courses** (negative **propriety**), with officials looking on **unconcerned** (negative propriety) and when they show concern, it is through their **tacit approval** (negative **veracity**) (DG ED)8
>
> The only underlying factor that *The Daily Graphic* can point to as being responsible for this state of affairs is simply the fact that most of these officials are either **corrupt** (negative **propriety)** themselves or allow themselves to be **corrupted** (negative **propriety**) by others (DG ED)9

In line (DG ED)$_5$ above, the resources, **indiscriminate** and **ineptitude** evaluate the behaviour or actions of Ghanaians as thoughtless, and this is traced to official incompetence. Consequently, the resources construct Ghanaians as careless, insensitive and evil or malevolent. In the same line 5, with the resource **official ineptitude,** government officials are construed as incompetent in tackling the country's problems. On the other hand, in line (DG ED)$_7$, with the evaluative resource, **shirk,** government officials are constructed as disloyal. In line (DG ED)$_8$, the resource, **tacit approval** show that they are immoral, indifferent, insensitive and unjust while in lines (DG ED)$_9$ and $_{10}$, **corrupt** and **corrupted** construct these officials as dishonest, unjust and trustworthy.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

In line $(DG\ ED)_{13}$, however, assessment of behaviour is evoked. None of the individual lexis is explicitly evaluative (Thompson, 2016). Below is an example:

> Anytime such disasters occur, politicians and top officials promise that will be the end **but it has never been so** (DG ED) 13

In the line (DG ED) 13 above, the contrast shown in the coordinate clause, **but it has never been so** provokes a negative behaviour and attributes negative **veracity** to politicians and top government officials. It means they never keep their promises and are, therefore, deceitful, and unfaithful. These findings match with that of Liu (2018) who claim that lexical metaphors provoke negative judgment of the Labor Party and the sitting Member of Parliament, Batman. On the other hand, the findings contradict with Torto (2016) who established that judgment resources are used to praise celebrities in Beauty Contests/Shows.

In the same way, in extract 14, explicit and implicit judgment are used as seen below.

> Unfortunately, the AMA sat down **unconcerned (**negative **propriety)** when people started joining the initial group that sought refuge at the place, as a result of the Nanumba – Kokomba war in the early 20s **(**CH ED**) 25**

The resource in bold (**unconcerned**) is an implicit judgment resource that evaluates the Actor (AMA) with a negative value. The evaluation, which involves lexical metaphor, refers to authorities working at the AMA (an Entity or an Institution) as human beings. AMA in this context is an agent that could have stopped people from seeking refuge at the settlement. With this evaluation, AMA has been personified by being given the features of a human being who is assigned the task to restrict people (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Liu, 2018) from settling at unauthorised places. But the authorities shirk responsibility or remain

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

lackadaisical. The assessment constructs AMA as apathetic, insensitive, and lackadaisical. This evaluation has also distanced both putative readership and the reporter from the AMA. Find lines below:

> Buyers of these items **do not also dispose off these polythene bags in a proper way (**negative **propriety) (**CH ED**)** [6]
>
> But due to human settlement in the area, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) **has failed** (negative **tenacity)** to dredge the Korle Lagoon wider, to be able to accommodate more of the waters from the tributaries of the Odaw river **(**CH ED) 14

The reporter implicitly and explicitly ascribes negative values to buyers of the polythene bags and the AMA respectively. The buyers are construed as bad and immoral in terms of discarding the refuse while the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, AMA is construed as weak (lacks much power and influence) to tackle both the settlement and the flooding problem. These resources show disapproval of the actions and inactions of the buyers and the AMA respectively. With this evaluation, readers are appealed to dissociate themselves with these participants in the story.

In each of the extracts (13 and 14), the reporter uses the judgment resources to disapprove of and criticize wrong behaviour of some Ghanaians and government officials whose behaviours fail to measure up to the ethics of the Ghanaian society. This assessment is used to whip up the negative emotions or feelings of readers about the weaknesses of these Ghanaians and government officials regarding the disaster. In the next section (4.1.5), I explore appreciation resources.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

4.3.0 Appreciation Resources

In the preceding section of this chapter, the stories were analysed for affect and judgment. This part of the study is analysed for appreciation resources. The front pages are examined first followed by the editorials. Below is research question three:

3. How does the language of evaluation manifest appreciation in the reportage of the 2015 Flash/Flood fire disaster on the front pages and in the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*?

This question also looks for resources that construct evaluation of aesthetics of things, states of affairs, and processes.

4.3.1 Comparison of Appreciation Resources on *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Front Pages

The news stories are saturated with appreciation meanings right from the catchy headlines through the lead, the main body and to the conclusion. Martin and White (2005) claim that appreciation which is also a subcategory of attitude refers to "meanings construing our evaluations of things, especially things we make and performances we give, and also natural phenomena". Appreciation, like judgment in 4.1.3, has also been divided into three areas. One of these is 'reaction' which deals with resources that are emotive. The second is 'composition' which also has to do with our perception or views of order, and the last one is 'valuation' that relates to cognition or considered opinions about things.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Appreciation	
Extract 15 (DG FP)	**Extract 16 (CH FP)**
Floods, inferno, torrential, flooding, exploded, major, overflowing, uncovered, national, stadium, stampede, Accra Sports, smashed, destroying, were not spared, had overflowed, slowing down, real gridlock, ravaging, disastrous, catastrophic, almost unprecedented, bad	inferno, gutted, torrential, national, heavy, loud, gutted, blazing, empty, indoors, lets up, in intensity, suffered, political amnesia, new, latest, drastic

Figure 7: Appreciation Resources on The Daily Graphic and The Chronicle Front Pages

The reporters of the front pages copiously used various forms of appreciation, most of which are composition and valuation, to assess facilities for combating the disaster in the country. Both front pages of *The Daily Graphic* (DG FP) and *The Chronicle* (CH FP) are analysed simultaneously since they share resources signalling the same valuation. Some major instances of these resources from each of the newspapers are quoted, juxtaposed and discussed concurrently below:

Extract 15

150 dead so far in **floods, inferno [appreciation: composition]**

Flooding,[appreciation: composition] resulting from **torrential** [valuation] rains, brought Accra to its knees last Wednesday night, with unimaginable loss of lives and destruction of properties. DG FP_1

Seventy-six of the victims were killed at a fuel station that **exploded [appreciation: composition]** in the midst of the rains, while many others who suffered serious burns were taken to **major [appreciation: composition]** hospitals in the city. DG FP_3

Many of the victims of the filling station inferno were among others who had sought shelter at the GOIL fuel station near the GCB Towers at the Kwame Nkrumah Circle to escape the flood waters spreading out from the **overflowing [appreciation: composition]** Odaw River and **Uncovered [appreciation: composition]** drains. DG FP_4

Last Wednesday night's incident is considered the worst **[appreciation: composition]** catastrophe to have befallen the **national [appreciation: composition]** capital since the May 9, 2001 **Stadium [appreciation: composition]** Disaster when 126 soccer fans lost

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

their lives in a **stampede [appreciation: composition]** at the **Accra Sports [appreciation: composition]** Stadium DG FP_{12}

Many of those vehicles had their windscreens and windows **smashed [appreciation: composition]** DG FP_{18}

The floods adversely affected the operations of the News Times Corporation, **destroying [appreciation: composition]** documents and computers in the Editorial, Accounts and Marketing units of the corporation DG FP_{32}

The managing director's office and the company's boardroom **were not spared [appreciation: composition]** DG FP_{34}

Unfortunately, we hit the first snag at Accra High School area where a drain ***had*** **overflowed [appreciation: composition]** its banks onto the road, **slowing down [appreciation: composition]** traffic DG FP_{51}

"As if that was not all, the **real gridlock [appreciation: composition]** hit us at the Gold House Traffic Intersection towards Dzorwulu, forcing us to make several merry-go-rounds at Pig-farm, Roman Ridge and the Airport Residential Area just to make a quick journey," he said DG FP_{52}

Extract 16

Hundreds of people lost their lives in an **inferno [appreciation: composition]** that **gutted [appreciation: composition]** a Goil filling station at Adabraka, near the Kwame Nkrumah Circle Interchange in Accra, on a night of **torrential [appreciation: valuation]** rainfall that left several homes in the **national [appreciation: composition]** capital submerged under water and thousands of residents homeless on Wednesday night. CH FP_1

Most of the victims were reportedly seeking shelter at the station, following a **heavy [appreciation: valuation]** downpour that lasted for more than six hours, when a **loud [appreciation: composition]** noise of explosion was heard followed by wildfire which **gutted [appreciation: composition]** the station and nearby resident homes. CH FP_2

Eyewitness accounts spoke of victims **trapped [appreciation: composition]** in the **blazing [appreciation: composition]** fire that burned into the night as flood waters around the site **hampered [appreciation: composition]** rescue effort. CH FP_4

Meanwhile, schools in Accra were **empty [appreciation: composition]** yesterday as many parents kept their children **indoors [appreciation: composition]** CH FP_{34}

"We know that some children got to school early and so we are kindly requesting teachers to keep an eye on those who are already in school till the weather **lets up [appreciation: composition]** so they can return home safely. CH FP_{36}

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

The weather forecaster says that the rains are on their way **in intensity [appreciation: composition]** from Benin towards Ghana. CH FP_{42}

The expressions in bold in both extracts 15 and 16 are the appreciation resources under consideration.

The expressions, "**exploded, destroying, were not spared, had overflowed, slowing down**" are all Material Processes in extract DG FP while **gutted, hampered** and **let's up** are also Material Processes in extract CH FP. **Exploded** in line (DG FP)3 refers to the violent and abrupt destruction of the Goil Fuel Station while **gutted** in both (CH FP) lines 1 and 2 also shows how both the inside and the outside of the GOIL fuel station were seriously and completely destroyed by the fire. Both processes which are **negative appreciation: composition** highlight the seriously damaged state of the GOIL fuel station. Similarly, the processes, **destroying** and **were not spared** (all in Lines $(DG\ FP)_{32}$ and $_{33}$) are **negative appreciation: composition**, which also show the seriously damaged state of facilities, documents, and properties of The News-Times Corporation.

Again, in line $(DG\ FP)_{51,}$ the Material Process *had* **overflowed** refers to the state of a drain in the city of Accra. Thus, there is a spillage from the drain and the spillover from this drain is the cause of the traffic jam signalled by the Material Progressive Process **slowing down** in line $(DG\ FP)_{51}$. The Material Process *had* **overflowed** and **slowing down** are low negative **appreciation: composition** that construct the drain as being too narrow and inappropriate to hold the large volume of water draining through it. The drain with its banks is construed as flawed and disorganised. This appreciation resource coupled with the Passive Material Process, **slowing down** in line (DG

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

FP) $_{51}$ constructs the traffic jam encountered by the reporter as boring and frustrating. This expression again refers to the flawed drain overflowing with water as the cause of the traffic jam.

This section of the analysis reveals that material processes and adjectives are used to create a picture of the messy and disorganised state of Accra. They (the processes) are also used to assess facilities in the city of Accra. These findings agree with those of Thompson (2016) that appreciation resources are realised by processes. They also align with the claim that imagery is used to access facilities at football stadiums across Europe (Young, 1986). It is also concluded that Accra is disorganised, flawed and has inadequate facilities to combat disasters and to support good and comfortable living.

Another set of appreciation resources that abound in the extracts (15 and 16) are lexical attributes or adjectives, predicative complements and phrasal verbs (processes). Linguistic resources such as *torrential, major, overflowing, uncovered, worst, national stadium, smashed* (in lines (DG FP) $_{1}$, $_{2}$, $_{3}$, $_{12}$ and $_{18}$ respectively) and *torrential, national, heavy, loud, blazing, empty, indoors, let's up, and intensity* in lines (CH FP) $_{1}$, $_{2}$, $_{3}$, $_{4}$, $_{36}$ and $_{42}$ respectively are sample expressions used to construct the natural phenomena, situations and institutions in the capital, Accra.

In both extracts, **torrential** is a positive **appreciation: valuation** that constructs the author's opinion about the severity and volume of the downpour. By characterising the rainfall as being "torrential" means describing it as a downpour that could easily cause the disaster that occurred. This resource combines with the attribute, *heavy* in line (CH FP)$_{2}$, a positive **appreciation:**

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

valuation to signal deluge. Other appreciation resources used to signal rainfall as a natural phenomenon are **Worst** and **intensity**. **Worst** is an inscribed **negative appreciation: valuation** that evaluates the disaster's 'catastrophe' as relatively most unfavorable, dangerous and ruinous in the history of Ghana and in Accra at the time. The negative appreciation, **worst** renders the text dialogic as it compares and contrasts the disaster under consideration with those that the nation ever experienced. Besides the adjectives, the Circumstance **in intensity** in line $(CH\ FP)_{42}$ is also used to signal the continuity in the rainfall pattern. With this resource, residents' expectation for more heavy rains and their fear for being traumatised by flooding again is also constructed.

Connected to the appreciation resources that signal the phenomenon (rainfall) is the Process, (phrasal verb) ***let's up*** in line $(CH\ FP)_{36}$ which is a negative **appreciation: composition** that also signals severe converse weather conditions that must be improved to lessen the fears of residents of Accra. All these resources (let's up, torrential, heavy, worst, intensity) construct bad weather as the cause of the disaster.

Other resources assessing facilities are lexical adjectives such as **overflowing** and **uncovered** in line $(DG\ FP)_4$. **Overflowing** and **uncovered** refer to the spillage from the Odaw river and drains respectively. Each of them is a negative **appreciation: composition** that constructs the Odaw river and its banks, and the drains as flawed, disorganised and inadequate to fight the disaster. Both evaluative couplings negatively evaluate the landscape of Accra. They construct the drains as ill constructed, and the Odaw river being too

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

shallow and narrow to contain large volumes of water. This implies that Accra is not ready for combating natural disasters.

Some of these resources are also used to assess both the effect of the downpour and the flood on entities and people, and how violent the flood was. Lines $(DG\ FP)_{18}$ and $(CH\ FP)_{34}$ respectively below signal these meanings:

> Many of those vehicles had their windscreens and Windows **smashed (appreciation: composition) (**DG $FP)_{18}$
>
> Meanwhile schools in Accra were **empty (appreciation: composition)** yesterday as many parents kept their children **indoors (appreciation: composition)** $(CH\ FP)_{34}$

The object complement, ***smashed*** which describes the damage caused to the state and the shape of some vehicle windscreens and windows affected by the disaster is a **negative appreciation: composition.** Consequently, this evaluates the extent of damage suffered in the various parts of some vehicles affected by the flood. The appreciation constructs these objects as amorphous while **empty** and **indoors** both of which are also **negative appreciation: composition** realise 'schools' and 'pupils' as unoccupied and restricted respectively**. Empty** in line $(CH\ FP)_{34}$ above also constructs the state of 'schools' as irregular (i.e. the schools do not conform to expectations that they should be full with pupils). Pupils' presence at a place of academic work makes the place a school, but, in this case, the school is empty, meaning it is construed by this resource as inactive, as the pupils were limited to their homes. In addition, in line $(DG\ FP)_{21}$:

> Staff of the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital helped **in tidying up** the Accident centre, and the Children's Block which were all left **flooded,** reports Erasmus Solomon. **(**DG FP_{21})

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

The Attribute **flooded** and the Circumstance, **in tidying up** are negative appreciations respectively. They are also used to assess the state of Korle-Bu premises. ***Flooded,*** a **negative evaluation (appreciation: composition)** shows the compound of Korle-Bu as inundated with water. It therefore constructs the situation at the Korle-Bu premises at that time as disorganised and unsuitable for work. The evaluation couples up with the Circumstance, ***in tidying up***, another **negative appreciation**: **composition** which is also in the same line $(DG\ FP)_{21}$. **To tidy up** literally means to make a room, place, or a house neatly arranged or clean. Describing the 'Accident Centre' and the 'Children's Block' as being in a state that needs to be tidied up indirectly evaluates the two places as messy with water and refuse, and disorganised. The two negative appreciation elements evaluate the state of Korle-Bu premises as undesirable (Fairclough, 2003).

Conversely, some of the resources are also used to present the positive characteristics of the facilities. In line $(DG\ FP)_3$ quoted above, the adjective, **major,** for example, is a positive **appreciation: valuation** that refers to 'hospitals' and construes hospitals in Accra as those that are comparatively large and well-resourced enough to provide the needed medical care to meet medical needs of the seriously injured victims rushed there. These hospitals are perceived as effective, worthwhile and suitable. Other sample appreciation resources in the extracts are **national** (DG FP $_{12}$ & CH FP $_1$), **official** (CH FP $_{37}$), and **Recovery** (DG FP$_{11}$**). These have** positive appreciation (composition) meanings: **'National'** and **'official'** describe 'capital' as an entity having a different status from regions and districts in Ghana. The resource, 'national' constructs 'capital' as well equipped, resourced and with opportunities, and as

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

a result, better placed, ranked and more advantageous than all others. On the other hand, **official,** a positive **appreciation: valuation** realises 'release' as an authoritative and reliable communiqué among press releases in the country.

The analysis so far reveals that adjectives are used to realise the deplorable states of basic facilities in the country, specifically Accra. Some are also employed to present vivid descriptions of the natural phenomenon (natural disasters, fire outbreak, flooding, downpour and overflow of rivers) and its causes in the capital, Accra. Others also construe the positive features of some facilities in the national capital. The proposition in the front pages is that Accra is not adequately resourced to combat natural disasters like this.

In the previous paragraphs, composition and valuation- appreciation meanings that are used to assess facilities, situations and the effects of the disaster were discussed. In the following paragraphs, another form of appreciation, 'reaction', and few composition and valuation appreciation meanings are explored in the two extracts. Below are the resources:

Extract 17

Some brave youth used ropes to pull people and animals out of the **ravaging [appreciation: reaction]** waters **(**DG FP)$_{16}$

She said the intended opening of the spill ways of the Weija Dam would be **disastrous [appreciation: reaction]** if proper drains were not constructed in the area **(**DG FP**)**$_{44}$

Extract 18

This loss of life is **catastrophic [appreciation: reaction],** almost **unprecedented [appreciation: valuation]** (CH FP)$_{20}$

The **bad [appreciation: reaction]** is that the weather would not let up any time soon (CH FP)$_{40}$

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

In lines (DG FP)$_{16}$ and $_{44}$ respectively, **ravaging** and **disastrous** are both high negative appreciation resources (**quality**), referring to 'waters' and 'the intended opening of the Weija Dam'. Literally, **ravaging** constructs 'waters' as ruinously destructive, wasteful and harmful while **disastrous** also describes 'intention' as calamitous. The two negative appreciation couplings construct a reaction of fear, repulsion, repugnance and despondency in the reporters and this reaction is triggered by the water and the intention.

Similarly, in lines (CH FP)$_{20}$ and $_{40}$ respectively, the appreciation expressions, **catastrophic, almost unprecedented** and **bad** are also high negative evaluations. **Catastrophic** literally describes the 'loss' as huge and ruinously disastrous and almost **unprecedented** also constructs the 'loss' as one that seems to be the first of its kind and the most severe of all at the time. These two appreciation resources combine to construct the 'loss' as dreadful and astounding. Again, the 'loss' is construed as a situation in which one shall be dumbstruck and dumbfounded. Similarly, the appreciation resource, **bad (**appreciation**: composition)** as in the line (CH FP)$_{40}$: The **bad** news is that the weather will not let up anytime soon is also a low negative appreciation: reaction (**quality**) that describes the 'news' literally as unpleasant and harmful. In the same line (CH FP)$_{40}$, the *that*-nominal clause with its adverbials, **that the weather will not let up anytime soon** complements the 'news' and consequently emphasises the evaluation that the news is unpleasant and harmful. With this evaluation, the 'news' is construed as adverse and undesirable. It also constructs authorial dislike for the news. This evaluative element also combines with **catastrophic** and *almost* **unprecedented** to

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

construct authorial reaction of fear, surprise, repulsion, repugnance and despondency.

Another noticeable meaning the appreciation resources realise in the text is distancing. These appreciation resources manifest copiously in extract 19 only. Below is the discussion on this:

Extract 19

Many Ghanaians believe that the pulling down of houses in waterways in the country has always **suffered (appreciation reaction)** from **selective (appreciation evaluation) political amnesia (appreciation composition)** and that is nothing **new (appreciation evaluation)** was going to come out of the **latest (appreciation composition)** presidential promises. (CH FP) 33

In line (CH FP)$_{33}$ quoted above, the Mental Cognitive (Emotive) process, ***has* suffered** refers to the 'process of pulling down buildings in water ways'. It provokes a negative appreciation**: reaction** about the action of pulling down buildings. The expression **suffered** is an instance of Lexical Metaphor. One of its denotative meanings is *undergoing a bad experience mentally/having an unpleasant or difficult experience* (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, p. 1660) . It also refers to *a situation in which a person experiences an ill-health*. In this news story, it is used to describe Grammatical Metaphor: 'that the pulling down of houses in waterways in this country' as if this were a human being having a bad mental experience/mental illness. The Grammatical Metaphor, 'pulling down of houses in waterways in this country' is construed as unbalanced or an ineffective policy. The negative evaluation is strengthened by another Lexical Metaphor, **amnesia (**appreciation**: composition)**. **Amnesia** literally means 'memory loss'. The expression, **amnesia** is also a high negative evaluative element that refers to 'pulling down of houses in water ways in this

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

country' as though it were sick in mind (as a person experiencing sickness with memory loss or affected with insanity). The evaluation constructs the proposition that the measure to pull down houses in water ways in the country is completely ignored and forgotten about by politicians. The policy is construed as a failure. This is because of the fact that politicians are biased and nepotic in carrying out the measures. This assessment (being biased and nepotic) is evident in the high **negative appreciation: valuation resource selective** that describes and constructs 'political amnesia' as unfairly discriminating.

Appreciation expressions such as **suffered, selective** and **amnesia** are coupled with resources like **new** and **latest,** which are all found in the same line (CH FP)$_{33}$. These two adjectives and the coordinate clause, **and that nothing new was going to come out of the latest presidential promise** provoke a negative evaluation. They construe the government's actions as deceptive, ineffective, fruitless, bias, political and worthless. The appreciation is used to construct authorial distance and also distance putative readers of the news from what is considered as an ineffective governance. This finding aligns with Liu (2018), who establishes a negative image of 'Labor Party' and invites the readers to distance themselves from the party.

Besides the authorial and reader distance created in the preceding paragraph, Extract 20 has signaled presidential commitment of President Mahama to governance. Below are the lines showing the resources:

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Extract 20

He said his administration would initiate **drastic (appreciation: composition**) measures to reduce the impact of floods and fires similar to what brought disasters to many homes in Accra on Wednesday (CH FP) 26

Often when the measures are **drastic (appreciation: composition)** you have a lot of sympathy and pressure not to take these measures (CH FP) 28

The resource, **drastic** in lines (CH FP)26 and 28 respectively is a high positive **appreciation: composition** that describes 'measures' literally as *rigorous, strict, harsh and sudden. It also describes the measures as that which has a far-reaching effect*. **Drastic** in this news story, therefore, constructs 'measures' as rigorous, harsh and sudden activities and efforts to address the impacts of any subsequent floods and fire disasters in Ghana. With this evaluation, the measures the government wants to initiate are described as very effective, harsh, strict and difficult to be flouted by citizens or left on the shelf by the President himself. **Drastic,** therefore, constructs the president's strong commitment to putting in place effective plans towards tackling the conflagration and the problem of floods in the country.

This commitment construed in lines (CH FP)26 and 28 above is strengthened in another *positive* **appreciation: valuation** in line (CH FP)30 **necessary to take such measures to save everybody** of the same extract 20 quoted above. This Predicative Complement (adjective phrase) **necessary to take such measures to save everybody** reiterates the president's strong disposition (desire) towards taking the measures and the passionate appeal to the public to accept his proposal.

The analysis has revealed that several adjectives, processes (verbs), few circumstances and nouns are used to realise appreciation meanings.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Secondly, all the three forms of appreciation meanings (composition, valuation and reaction) are used to assess the rain as a natural phenomenon which is powerful, severe, and harmful enough, and as a result, caused the bizarre disaster that destroyed lives and property. Finally, apart from using the appreciation resources to assess facilities available for fighting fire and flood disasters, causes and effects of flood and fire disasters in the country. The emotive appraisal resources in both newspapers are manipulated to appeal to the thinking of well-meaning Ghanaians about the disaster, and call for a healthier, collective social actions in fighting these disasters in the national capital In the privately-owned newspapers, appreciation resources are used to describe government actions and resultantly dissociate readers from the government.

4.3.2 Comparison of Appreciation Resources in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* Editorials

In the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* (DG ED) and *The Chronicle* CH ED**),** both the appreciation resources and the various themes signaled by these resources are explored. The causes of the disaster, strategies to combat the disasters, challenges the nation faces in combating disasters, and views of reports about the affairs in the country are analysed. The resources employed to realise the themes in the two extracts are quoted, juxtaposed and discussed simultaneously below. Extract DG ED whose appreciation resources are displayed in figure 8 below is discussed first.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

DG ED	CH ED
Perennial, enough of lip service, exposed, its unpreparedness, torrential, induced, avoidable, recurring, wanton, solid and liquid, improper	Polythene, clean, were not as choked as we are experiencing, paper, bio- degradable, non- bio-degradable, hackeneyed, proper, littering of our streets and gutters, blocking of water courses, subsequent flooding of Accra, ecological, stalled, buffer, soaks, *has failed* to dredge, wider, continuous

Figure 8: Appreciation Resources in The Daily Graphic and The Chronicle Editorials

Extract 21

The **perennial [appreciation: composition]** floods: **enough of lip service [appreciation: reaction] (Heading)**

Once again the rains have set in and the country has been **exposed [appreciation: reaction]** over **its unpreparedness [appreciation: composition]** for **natural [appreciation: valuation]** disasters (DG ED)$_1$

A few hours of **torrential [appreciation: reaction]** rains last Wednesday brought the country, perhaps its **worst [appreciation: valuation]** disaster since independence (DG ED)$_2$

Reports available indicate that more than 150 people have so far lost their lives through floods and their **induced [appreciation: composition]** inferno with countless others rendered homeless and properties running into billions of Ghana cedis destroyed (DG ED)$_3$

A look through the Jubilee Ghana Book compiled and published by the Graphic Communications Group Limited in 2007 to mark the country's Golden Jubilee reveals that this **avoidable [composition]** calamity has been **recurring [appreciation: composition]** consistently over the years (DG ED)$_4$

The **wanton [appreciation: reaction]** disposal of **solid and liquid [appreciation: composition]** waste into drains by the citizenry and the **improper [appreciation: reaction]** demarcation of land for residential accommodation which in most cases is either done without permit or with official connivance are **avoidable [appreciation: composition] (**DG ED**)**$_6$

The expressions in bold are the appreciation resources.

In the headline of the editorial (extract 21) lines (DG ED) $_1$ and $_2$, the appreciation resources such as **perennial, natural** and **torrential** signal the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

valuation that the disaster is natural but not man-made. **Perennial** in this story is a **positive appreciation: composition** that constructs the proposition that flooding in the country is cyclical while **natural,** a **positive appreciation: valuation** in line $(DG\ ED)_1$ in the same extract DG ED literally describes the 'disaster' as that which evolves from nature; unaffected by any human technology, effort or design. By this evaluation, 'disaster' is construed as a hazard (caused by nature), not by man. **Perennial** and **natural** are combined with **torrential** in line $(DG\ ED)_2$ to describe the 'rain' as natural and a downpour. In this story, the three evaluative elements covertly characterise the disaster as a hazard (caused by nature).

Conversely, appreciation expressions such as **exposed** and **its unpreparedness** in line $(DG\ ED)_1$, **induced** in line $(DG\ ED)_3$, **avoidable** in line $(DG\ ED)_4$, **wanton and improper** both of which are in line $(DG\ ED)_6$, **water and tacit** in line 8 strongly signal the valuation that the disaster has been allowed to occur through human activities. **Exposed** and **its unpreparedness** which are a Passive Material Process and a Nominal respectively are **negative appreciations: composition** that describe 'the country' in the plain sense as *not being ready to deal with natural disasters*. Thus, describing the country in this way, 'the country' (Ghana) is constructed as a nation that lacks the basic facilities, the proper layout and the needed managerial attention to combat the natural disaster that recurs yearly. **Induced** in line (DG ED)3 and **avoidable** in line (DG ED)4 are also negative **appreciation: valuation** and **composition** respectively. They confirm the view that the Flash Flood/Fire disaster is not spontaneous; rather, it is caused by man. It was human activities that paved

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

way for the disaster to occur. Similarly, **wanton** and **improper** in line (DG ED)$_6$ are both high negative **appreciation: reaction**. They also construct the disposal of solid and liquid waste as uncontrolled, senseless and very bad. **Demarcation of land** provokes the evaluation of inappropriate human activities that grease the wheels of the disaster. The use of all these appreciation resources this way constructs the proposition that these activities are the cause of the disaster. It is concluded then that *The Daily Graphic* editorial employs the appreciation resources to trace the causes of the disaster to both nature and man. This finding aligns with that of Bromhead (2021) and Chmutina & Meding (2019) that while some disasters are caused by human activities, others are natural.

Unlike *The Daily Graphic* editorial that uses appreciation resources to trace the causes of the disaster to both natural and human activities, *The Chronicle* editorial employs the appreciation meanings to blame the cause of the disaster solely on human activities. The appreciation resources trace this blame to two related human activities, that is, negative attitude and flawed facilities. The linguistic resources highlighting the causes are displayed in Extract 22 below:

Extract 22

Since the **paper [appreciation: composition]** bags, which were in circulation were **biodegradable** and **eco-friendly [appreciation: valuation]**, it did not give the country much to worry about (CH ED)$_3$

Unfortunately, the usage of polythene bags does not provide this comfort because of their **non-biodegradable [appreciation: composition]** nature (CH ED)$_4$

This has resulted in the **littering of our streets and gutters [appreciation: composition]** with these **non-biodegradable[appreciation: valuation]** products, resulting in the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

> **blocking of water courses [appreciation: composition]** and **the subsequent flooding of Accra [appreciation: composition]** anytime it rains heavily. (CH ED)$_7$

The resources marked in bold are the appreciation meanings in the extract.

The newspaper employs contrast to juxtapose two differing entities and situations to establish the causes of the disaster. Resources such as **paper [appreciation: composition] bio-degradable** and **eco-friendly [appreciation: valuation]** both of which are in line (CH ED)$_3$ have established human activities as the cause of the disaster. **Paper,** a positive [**appreciation: composition]** signals the composition of the 'bag'. The resources show that the bag is made from paper and can decompose easily due to its make-up. The nature of this type of bag (paper bag) is construed as desirable and helpful. This evaluation is reinforced by the resources: **bio-degradable and eco-friendly [valuation]** in the same line (CH ED)$_3$. These adjectives together show that they easily decompose in the environment, and are, therefore, considered desirable, helpful, and worthwhile**.** It is this quality of the bags that makes Accra, other towns and cities **clean [appreciation: reaction],** thus neat before the advent of polythene bags. However, in line (CH ED)$_4$, the lexical adjectives, **non-biodegradable [appreciation: composition]** which contrasts sharply with **biodegradable** in line (CH ED)$_3$ refers to the characteristics of polythene bags. Thus, this kind of bag does not decompose easily in the environment, neither is it easily absorbed into the soil by micro-organisms in the soil. The polythene bag is, therefore, evaluated as undesirable. This evaluation is combined with the Material Process **does not provide this comfort [appreciation: reaction]** in line (CH ED)$_4$ to construct a negative evaluation –the adverse effect of the use of polythene bags. This Material Process

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

constructs the proposition that polythene bags provide discomfort and they are also environmentally unfriendly. With these evaluative elements, the streets, the gutters, waterways and the whole landscape of Accra are construed as messy, flawed and disorganised due to the excessive and indiscriminate use of polythene bags in the country. This is the reason for which the editorial claims in lines (CH ED)$_{1, 2, 3}$ and $_{7}$ respectively that it is the polythene bag that makes Accra and other towns and cities messy, chockes gutters, block water courses, and cause flooding in Accra. Therefore, the evaluation constructs the use of polythene bag as a human activity that causes the disaster in the country. This finding agrees with Bromhead's (2021) view that human activities are responsible for disasters.

Secondly, *The Chronicle* Editorial deploys another set of appreciation resources to assess a similar human activity as the cause of the disaster. The lines below show this:

> The Korle **ecological [appreciation: composition]** project has **stalled [appreciation: composition]** over the years because of the presence of Sodom and Gomorrah at old Fadama (CH ED)$_{10}$
>
> The Lagoon, therefore, becomes a **buffer[appreciation: valuation]** and **soaks [appreciation: valuation]** the water and gradually releases it into the sea (CH ED)$_{13}$
>
> But due to the human settlement in the area, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has failed **to dredge [appreciation: composition]** the Korle Lagoon **wider [appreciation: composition]**, to be able to accommodate more of the waters from the tributaries of the Odaw river (CH ED)$_{14}$

The appreciation resource, **buffer** in line (CH ED)$_{13}$ above is a positive Predicative Complement **appreciation: valuation** used as a lexical metaphor. Literally, a **buffer** is *someone or something that protects one thing or a person from being harmed by another* (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

2003). The lagoon, being described as a 'buffer' takes these protective functions with which it constructs the lagoon as a helpful, effective, and worthwhile entity that provides solution to the flooding in Accra. It prevents excess water from the Odaw River from flooding the dry land of Accra. The Material Process, **soaks** in the same line (CH ED)$_{13}$ also constructs the effective role (solution) played by the lagoon in preventing flooding. With this positive appreciation, the lagoon is construed as a helpful and timely solution in preventing flooding in Accra. These positive evaluations invite readers to appreciate the Korle Lagoon. Conversely, the Material Process, *has* **stalled [negative appreciation: composition]** in line (CH ED)$_{10}$, *has failed* **to dredge [negative appreciation: composition]** and the object complement, **wider [negative appreciation: composition]** both in line (CH ED)$_{14}$ have all been used to assess the negative state of the Korle Lagoon. They show that the lagoon is flawed, ineffective and too narrow to accommodate the spillage from the Odaw River as per the expectation about it.

The editorial's view with this assessment is that it is someone's duty to dredge the dam and it is also someone's making that resulted in the project being stalled. Therefore, this flawed state of the Korle Lagoon and which contributes significantly to the flooding and its accompanying fire is traced to a human activity. Additionally, the newspaper traces the flawed and ineffective state of the lagoon to another human activity, (settlement of Sodom and Gomorrah). This assessment is also signaled by the negative appreciation resource in line (CH ED)$_{21}$ quoted below:

> Their **continuous [appreciation: valuation]** stay at the place seems to *have* **outlived [appreciation: valuation]** its **original [valuation]** usefulness (CH ED) $_{21}$

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

The adjective, **continuous** refers to the noun, 'stay at the place' and the Mental Process, *seems to have* **outlived** also refers to the subject, 'stay at the place'. By these attitudinal lexes, staying at the place by the people of Sodom and Gomorrah is construed as being long overdue and untimely. Therefore, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah is constructed as another human cause of the disaster since their stay makes the lagoon that serves as a buffer ineffective. This finding accords with Bromhead's (2001) study that states that human beings are at the centre of disasters.

Lexical adjectives, processes (verbs), lexical nouns and noun phrases manifest profusely in appreciation meanings in both editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*. The resources have also been used to construct the causes of the disaster in the two editorials as natural and human (Bromhead, 2021; Uekusa, 2019). In the editorials of *The Daily Graphic* specifically, the resources such as adjectives, and verbs have also been used to construct the proposition that activities of man such as the use and improper disposal of polythene bags, failure of authorities to provide suitable and effective drains, citing buildings in water ways, improper demarcation of land for residential and commercial accommodation, wrong settlement and negligence are responsible for the flooding (Bromhead, 2021). The appreciation meanings again construct departments in Accra, the principal streets in the city and the traffic jam as messy, unoperational, unmotorable and very bad. Some hospitals in the city are evaluated as spacious and well equipped enough to meet the medical needs of the disaster victims.

Additionally, the resources signal Ghanaians' negative reactions (shock and grief) to the disaster, the state of facilities, and affairs (Martin and White,

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

2005). The appreciation resources have also been used to dissociate both reporters and readers from some of the themes in the reportage.

Similarly, in the editorial of *The Chronicle*, the analysis has shown that lexical adjectives, and very few mental and material processes have been used to realise appreciation meanings. Health facilities in Accra were classified as well equipped and the best in the country. Very few of these adjectives, however, constructed the argument that the capacities of some of these health facilities were overstretched. The gutters were narrow and choked with refuse and the buffer zone, Korle Lagoon, was narrow, shallow and ineffective to soak spillage of flooding. Most of these appreciation resources construe negative evaluations. Other adjectives were also used to construe the state of the fire as a very hot one, and, therefore, had devastating consequences on life and property. Some of the adjectives were used to construct the argument that though the ruling government‘s utterances are rigorous, they do not translate into actions that can solve problems. This set of lexical adjectives couple with mental processes to disapprove government’s actions. The language of evaluation in the two editorials construct the proposition that there is no government policy on disaster management in the national capital, Accra. Also, the media seemed to emphasise government’s attitude of disaster response over preparedness for and mitigation of disasters in Ghana.

4.4 Chapter Summary

This chapter has analysed data collected for the study. The analysis focused on affect, judgment, and appreciation in two front pages and two editorials of *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*. The summary of each

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

resource (affect, judgment and appreciation) has been presented. The next chapter presents the summary of key findings, conclusion, and recommendations.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter is in five sub-sections. The first presents an introduction to the entire research, from statement of the problem to the data analysis in the study. The second section provides the summary of key findings of the study. In the third section, implications are also presented, whilst the fourth and the fifth sections highlight the limitations of the study and recommendations for further research respectively.

5.1 Summary

The aim of this study was to explore language resources used by reporters to construe attitude (affect, judgment and appreciation) in disaster stories in two of the Ghanaian press. In addition, it was to find out the similarities and differences between *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* in terms of their use of the language of evaluation.

The present study is a qualitative document analysis and case study that sought to explore the language of evaluation in disaster stories in some of the Ghanaian print media, using Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory. The work is a document analysis based on two Ghanaian newspapers made up of one government (*The Daily Graphic*) and one privately owned print media (*The Chronicle*). From these two newspapers, four (4) stories comprising two front page and two editorials were considered for the analysis, that is, one front page and an editorial from *The Daily Graphic* and a front-page story and an editorial from *The Chronicle* as well. Purposive sampling technique and document

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

analysis were used to select both papers and the four (4) stories for the study. The newspapers were retrieved from Akatsi College of Education Library, Akatsi, and Ghana National Archives, Accra.

In terms of the use of the language of evaluation in the news, the data set out the results (the attitude resources) in three (3) parts. In the first and the second parts, affect and judgment resources were explored respectively throughout the four stories and in the third part, appreciation meanings were explored to answer the research questions.

5.2 Key Findings

It is evident in the analysis and the discussion that the print media in Ghana use the language of evaluation in reporting disaster stories. Affect, judgment and appreciation meanings are signaled in front page news and editorials of the newspapers. They are signaled by lexical adjectives, adverbs, sentence adverbs, phrases, verbs, clauses, mood and they evoked affect. It has also been established that affect is used to make emotional appeals about the disasters to readers. Different language resources have been used to realise attitudinal meanings. Specifically, the newspapers arouse emotions of insecurity (disquiet and surprise), dissatisfaction (ennui and displeasure) and unhappiness (misery). It is also established that affect is used to organise the front page stories from the headline through the lead to the comments. Few judgment meanings identified in the data are also realised by lexical adjectives, nominalisation, and verbs some of which evoked judgment. Appreciation, on the other hand, is construed in most instances by lexical adjectives and, on few occasions, by transitivity and lexical nouns. The judgment meaning resources

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

are used to disapprove bad behaviours of some citizens, praise the good character displayed by some of them and disapprove government and government officials for corruption, ineptness and lackadaisical behaviour whilst appreciation strategies that are manifest in the data are employed to assess state facilities in the country, phenomenon (disaster) and the effects of the disaster on the people. These resources show that the drains were ineffective, gutters were choked, and improper demarcation of land for both residential and commercial accommodation and flawed buffer zones cause flooding in Accra yearly. Again, the linguistic resources show that Ghanaians are lawless, town planning laws and regulations are not enforced let alone being obeyed. The study also established that disasters are phenomenal though they seem avoidable.

It is obvious to conclude that, though the news stories (front pages) and the editorials all engaged the readership a lot, the news stories focus on the nature of the disaster, the cause and its effect, and therefore, appeal to emotions far more than the editorials have done. The analysis reveal that the editorials, on the other hand, focus intensively on the human cause(s) of the disaster through the use of judgment, appreciation and few affect resources which seek to trace and assign the cause to authorities, some citizens, some service providers and services Ghanaians consume. Thus, in the front page, affect resources are pervasively used whilst the editorials contain more judgment meanings than the front page news do. Two key plausible reasons responsible for this could be traced to the ideology behind each of these newspaper genres and the linguistic resources, style, and structure of each of them. First, the communicative intent of the editorials, an opinion article, is persuasive and its goal is to develop an argument to influence the reader's perception about the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

topic, issue, or even the issue the genre is commenting on in order to sway the readers' opinions to the writer's side. The editorial is, therefore, evaluative and characterised by reader engagement. It is structured such that it raises an argument and evaluates the opinion through frequent use of stance and engagement resources that help in the construction of the argument—the writer's view (Al-Rickaby, 2016; Roberts, 2016). These features have reflected in the editorials of the two papers (*The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle*) as the reasons for the use of the attitudinal meanings to express their opinions and to ground the arguments they raised.

The front-page stories, on the other hand, serve as the introduction to the newspapers as they present stories that grab the readers' attention. They present the days critical stories or most important happenings on the day to the public. This news usually reflects or extends the newspaper's core values. The information here is factual and structured from a catchy headline through the lead to comments (Kim & Chung, 2017; Van Dijk, 2005). It is these features of the front page that call for a factual presentation in an 'unopinionated' language. This study, therefore, concludes that the editorial writers tend to be more expressive of their attitudes to their potential readers than the front-page news reporters, who rather tend to present facts.

From another standpoint, *The Daily Graphic* and *The Chronicle* diverge in few ways. In the news stories *The Daily Graphic* uses affect to appeal to sad and negative emotions, report and comment on the disaster. It also employs attribution to introduce an objective tone and credibility in the reportage. However, *The Chronicle* devotes the first part of its reportage to appealing to sad emotions of the readers, and using the appeal to premise their arguments

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

whilst the second part is used to comment on the President, the Minister of Education, and other government officials. The newspaper does this through attribution, mock encomium (praise which is apparent but only suggests blame), understatement, extensive use of appreciation all of which make the reporter express his or her opinions about government officials. In the case of the editorials, both newspapers are very similar as they all express opinions about the disaster. Regarding material propositions each report, they both report similar issues–attributing the causes of the disaster to ineptness and lackadaisal behaviours of government officials, bad attitude of some citizens and service providers, and some services consumed by citizens of Ghana.

5.3 Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that the Appraisal Framework provides very significant means of analysing the concept of valuation in texts. This work equally proves the Appraisal Framework as an appropriate conceptual model for unpacking evaluations and emotions in both newspapers. This result shows that, in the print media in Ghana, lexical adjectives, adjective groups, phrases, affective processes, declarative, mood type lexical metaphor and evoked evaluation are used profusely to evaluate phenomena, behaviour, entities and people in the disaster stories.

It was also discovered that, in the front pages, affect is used by the reporters to structure the news right from the heading through the lead to commentaries whilst appreciation and judgment meanings are used to assess facilities and performance or conducts respectively.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

In addition, Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal framework recognises that affect is realised as a quality (adjectives), as manner of processes or circumstances (adverbs), as processes (Mental. Behavioral, Sayer) and modal adjuncts, whilst judgment and appreciation meanings are realised mostly by lexical adjectives and adverbs. Thompson (2016) and Fairclough (2004) see evaluation as evoked and as that facet of meaning that deals with value or value assumptions respectively.

Regarding similarities between the newspapers, the study has revealed that reporters of disaster stories in some Ghanaian print media use emotive language to achieve various affective (attitudinal) effects. Firstly, the emotive language is used as a very powerful strategy to elicit value judgments on phenomena (natural but ostensibly avoidable disasters), entities and people. Thus, it is used to approve and disapprove of situations, entities, and behaviour of Ghanaians.

Reporters in some Ghanaian press use the language of evaluation to make both negative and positive emotional appeals to readers about disasters. Various strands of emotions such as unhappiness, dissatisfaction, insecurity, satisfaction and desire (inclination) have been revealed by the study. Thirdly, the language of evaluation is used as a persuasive strategy to woo interlocutors to assess situations, states of affair, and commit themselves to specific claims.

The attitude studied in the stories occurred in a particular order and this has a rhetorical effect. Affect dominates the front pages to show/emphasise emotions, the great loss to the nation, and the papers' sympathy for the disaster victims. This is followed by Appreciation to show the papers' concern of the

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

country's unpreparedness for combating and preventing the occurrence of the perennial disasters. Judgment came last to emphasise the papers' criticism and condemnation for the lackadaisical attitude of some citizens and government officials.

5.4 Recommendations for Further Research

This study offers the following recommendations for further research. This study relies on document analysis and case study designs only. In order to obtain maybe, a more conclusive understanding of the language of evaluation (attitude) that the stories reflect, the research should be replicated, using multimodal analysis as the photographs accompanying the stories are replete with enough non-linguistic resources of evaluation to confirm findings obtained through qualitative document analysis and case study.

The present research relied on a purposive sample and Kridel's (2015) guidelines for sourcing data in the top newspapers selected; only two top front pages and their editorials were analysed, not all the front page disaster stories and their editorials. Additionally, only newspapers regarded as the most widely read newspapers were analysed in this current study. Therefore, the representativeness of the disaster, the newspapers, the front pages and their editorials should be expanded in similar studies in future. Other sampling techniques broader in scope than the one employed in this study should be used to collect data in future studies.

Another limitation of this study is that the language of evaluation involves attitude, stance and engagement meanings, all of which abound in the front pages and in their editorials. But the present study focused on analysing

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

attitude meaning only, leaving out stance and engagement resources that are equally necessary components of the language of evaluation. This study recommends that these language features should also be explored. It would be helpful if future studies examining the language of evaluation in these stories and in these newspapers include stance and engagement markers to aid readers to have a better understanding of stance and engagement regarding how the content (subject matter) of the print media is shaped and presented to the public.

The current study is limited to the exploration of the language of evaluation in disaster stories situated in Ghanaian cultural setting. Future studies could explore cross cultural disaster stories of two English speaking West African countries to ascertain cross-cultural differences and similarities in the use of the language of evaluation.

5.5 Recommendations for Policy

There should be a disaster management policy fir the national capital, Accra. This policy should regulate mode of waste disposal, and conduct of both government officials and citizens, regarding use of land and siting buildings in the national capital. NADMO should also be tasked to engage in activities of preventing disasters rather than being active during and after disasters.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

REFERENCES

Adjei, A. A. (2020). Style in the Print Media: Perspectives from the Editorials of a Ghanaian Newspaper. *Namibian Journal for Research, Science and Technology*, *2*(1), 63-76.

Adjei, A. A., & Opoku, K. (2017). The expansion relations of clause complexing (CC) in the editorials of *The Daily Graphic*. *Journal of Literature, Languages and Linguistics*, *30*, 12-26.

Afful, I. (2014). An Analysis of Titles of Feature Articles in Two Selected Ghanaian Newspapers. *English for Specific Purposes World ER -*, *15*. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316923996.

Afful, J. B. A. (2017). A linguistic analysis of conference paper titles in applied linguistics. International Journal of Foreign Language Teaching and Research, 5(18), 11-25.

Afful, J. B. A., & Twumasi, R. A. (2022). The language of evaluation in academic writing research in Ghana, 2000-2020: A synthesis. *International Journal of Research*, *11*(4), 103-123.

Ağçam, R. (2015). Author stance in academic writing: a corpus-based study on epistemic verbs. *Journal of Teaching English for Specific and Academic Purposes*, *3*(1), 9-20.

Ajayi, V. O. (2023). A review on primary sources of data and secondary sources of data. *European Journal of Education*, *2*(3). https://doi.org/19810.21091/ejedu.2023.Vol2.Issue.3.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Alharbi, A. (2014). Risk communication discourse: A content analysis of some Australian media coverage of cyclones in Queensland, Australia in 2011. *Uluslararası İNsan Bilimleri Dergisi*, *11*(1), 1019–1036. https://doi.org/10.14687/ijhs.v11i1.2803.

Alharbi, A. M. (2014). Risk communication discourse: A content analysis of some Australian media coverage of cyclones in Queensland, Australia in 2011. *International Journal of Human Sciences*, *11*(1), 1019-1036. doi:10.14687/ijhs.v11i1.2803

Al-Rickaby, A. K. (2016). A critical discourse analysis of stance and engagement markers in English and Arabic newspaper opinion articles in 2016. *University of Babylon of Humanities*, *28*(4), 182-194.

Amedahe, F. K., & Asamoah-Gyimah, K. (2013). Introduction to measurement and evaluation. Cape Coast: CCE Publications.

Appiah, E. Y. (2015). *Language, power and ideology: A critical discourse analysis of Jerry John Rawlings' June 4 speeches* (Master's thesis). University of Cape Coast. Retrieved from University of Cape Coast.

Arai, K. (2013). How to transmit disaster information effectively: A linguistic perspective on Japan's tsunami warnings and evacuation instructions. *International journal of disaster risk science*, *4*, 150-158.

Ayikpa, G. (2015). *Framing the Accra floods: How the Daily Graphic and the Daily Guide newspapers covered the flooding in Accra.* http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh/handle/123456789/21715.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Barnes, M. D., Hanson, C. L., Novilla, L. M., Meacham, A. T., McIntyre, E., & Erickson, B. C. (2008). Analysis of media agenda setting during and after Hurricane Katrina: Implications for emergency preparedness, disaster response, and disaster policy. *American journal of public health*, *98*(4), 604-610.

Barnhurst, K. G., & Nerone, J. (2002). The form of News: thoughts on the Newspaper as environment. In *Proceedings of the Media Ecology Association, v3. Third Annual Convention, Marymount Manhattan College* (pp. 21-23).

Barnhurst, K. G., & Nerone, J. (2002, June). The form of news: Thoughts on the newspaper as environment. In *Proceedings of the Media Ecology Association, v3. Third Annual Convention, Marymount Manhattan College* (pp. 21-23).

Bell, A. (1991). *The language of news media*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell.

Bell, P. (2001). Content analysis of visual images. In T. Van Leeuwen & C. Jewitt (Eds.), Handbook of visual analysis (pp. 10–34). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Berg, B. L. (2004). *Qualitative research methods for the social sciences* (5th ed.). USA: Pearson Education Ltd. Retrieved from https://books.google.com.gh/books?id=6E_gjwEACAAJ

Bisilki, A. K., & Bisilki, I. (2017). Evaluative speech acts of Ghanaian graduate students: a case study of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. *Contemporary Journal of African Studies*, *5*(1), 87-112.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Bohensky, E. L., & Leitch, A. M. (2014). Framing the flood: a media analysis of themes of resilience in the 2011 Brisbane flood. *Regional Environmental Change*, *14*, 475-488.

Bonini, A. (2009). *The distinction between news and reportage in the Brazilian journalistic context: A matter of degree.* Fort Collins, Colorado: The WAC Clearinghouse.

Boukes, M., & Boomgaarden, H. G. (2015). Soft news with hard consequences? Introducing a nuanced measure of soft versus hard news exposure and its relationship with political cynicism. *Communication Research*, *42*(5), 701-731.

Bowen, G. A. (2009). Document Analysis as a Qualitative Research Method *Qualitative Research Journal*, *9*(2), 27-40

Bromhead, H. (2021). Disaster linguistics, climate change semantics and public discourse studies: a semantically-enhanced discourse study of 2011 Queensland Floods. *Language Sciences*, *85*, 101381.

Chmutina, K., & Von Meding, J. (2019). A dilemma of language: "Natural disasters" in academic literature. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Science*, *10*, 283-292.

Chmutina, K., Von Meding, J., Sadler, N., & Abukhalaf, A. H. I. (2021). How the English language dominates disaster research and practice. *E-International Relations, ISSN*, 2053-8626.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Cohen, L., Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2018). Research methods in education (8th ed.). London: Routledge. Retrieved from https://doi.org//10.4324/9780203224342

Collins Cobuild English Dictionary for advanced learners. (2006). In *Collins Cobuild English Dictionary for advanced learners* (pp. 69–70). https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA50756873.

Creswell, J. (2003). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approaches (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

Dawson, H. C. & Phelan, M. (2016). Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics (12th ed.). Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

Drid, T. (2019). *The study of news: A discourse perspective*. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3339929826

Fairclough, N. (2003). *Analysing discourse: Textual analysis for social research*. London: Routledge.

Fleming, J. & Zegward, K. E. (2018). Methodologies, methods and ethical considerations for conducting research work-integrated learning. *International Journal of Work- Integrated Learning*. Special Issue, 2018, *19*(3), 205-213.

Fosu, M. (2016). A linguistic description of the language of Ghanaian newspapers: Implications for the readeability. Comprehensibility and Information Function of the Ghanaian Press. *Ghana Journal of Linguistics* *5*(1), 1-36. Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/gjl.v5i1.62

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Fryer, D. L. (2007). *Multidimensional genre-based discourse analysis of a corpus of English-language medical research articles*. https://www.duo.uio.no/bitstream/10852/25523/2/DanielxFryerxMasterxThesis.pdf.

Gakpe, B. K., & Mahama, P. Y. (2014). Reportage of stories on fire outbreaks in Ghana: an analysis of the Daily Graphic and the Chronicle. Reportage, 24, 1-12.

GhanaWeb (2018). 'Ghana media measurement report: Top tv, radio, and print outlets in 2017'. Retrieved from https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Ghana-Media-Measurement-Report-Top-TV-Radio-andPrint-outlets-in-2017-620455?gallery=1

Ghavamnia, M., & Dastjerdi, H. V. (2012). Evaluation in media discourse: Contrasts among journalists in reporting an event. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences, 70*, 447-457.

Guest, G., Namey, E. E., & Mitchell, M. L. (2013). *Collecting qualitative data: A field manual for applied research*. Sage.

Halliday, M.A., & Hasan, R. (1989). Language, Context, and Text: Aspects of Language in a Social-Semiotic Perspective.

Harling, K. (2012). An overview of case study. *Available at SSRN 2141476*.

Hasan, Sabir & Birot, Rasul & Rasul, Sabir. (2021). Evaluation in Media Reporting: A Comparative Analysis in BBC, CNN and Aljazeera Reports. 10.13140/RG.2.2.12306.99529.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Hodkinson, P., & Hodkinson, H. (2001). The strengths and limitations of case study research. In *learning and skills development agency conference at Cambridge* (Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 5-7). Leeds, UK: University of Leeds.

Hohulin, E. L. (2001). Discourse analysis: a manual for a linguistic-translation workshop. *Unpublished ms*.

Holliman, R., (2004). An introduction to communicating science. The Open University.

Hox, J. J., & Boeije, H. R. (2005). Data collection, primary vs. secondary. *Encyclopedia of social measurement*, *1*(1), 593-599.

Hutleng, J.L. (1973). The Opinion Function. USA: Harper & Row, Publishers.

Hyland, K. (2004). Disciplinary discourses: Social interaction in academic writing. Harlow: Longman.

Hyland, K. (2005b). Stance and engagement: A model of interaction in academic discourse. *Discourse studies*, *7*(2), 173-192.

Hyland, K. (2009). Academic discourse: English in a global context. A&C Black.

JUNE 3RD DISASTER. (2015). Ghana National Fire Service. Retrieved from http://gnfs.gov.gh/article/june-3rd-disaster.

Kang, E., & Hwang, H. (2021). *Ethical conducts in qualitative research methodology: Participant observation and interview process*. Retrieved from https://acoms.kisti.re.kr/JRPE

Kim, Y. S., & Chung, D. S. (2017). Anatomy of Front Pages: Comparison Between The New York Times and Other U.S. Major Metropolitan

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Newspapers. *International Journal of Communication*, *11*, 1-22. Retrieved from ijoc.org.

Kridel, C. (2015). The biographical and documentary milieu. In M. F. He, B. D. Schultz, & W. H. Schubert (Eds.), The Sage guide to curriculum in education (pp. 311-318). Sage.

Kyei, E., & Afful, J. B. A. (2021). Schematic structure of letters of recommendation written by lecturers of a public university in Ghana. *Iranian Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, *10*(2), 37-54.

Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors we live by*. London: University of Chicago Press Ltd.

Lavid, J., Arus J., & Moraton, L. (2012). Genre realised in theme: The case of news reports and commentaries. *Open Edition Journals*. Retrieved from http://journalsoperation.org /discourse/8623

Leech, G. & Short, M. (2007). Style in fiction: a linguistic introduction introduction to English fictional prose. London: Pearson Education Limited.

Lehman–Wilzig, S. N., & Seletzky, M. (2010). *Hard news, soft news, 'general' news: The necessity and utility of an intermediate classification*. *SAGE*. Retrieved from http://www.sageepub.co.uk/journals

Li, Y., Rao, G., Zhang, J., & Li, J. (2020). Conceptualizing national emergency language competence. *Multilingua*, *39*(5), 617-623.

Liu, F. (2018). Lexical metaphor as affiliate bond in newspaper editorials: A systemic functional linguistics perspective. *Functional Linguistics*, *5*(2). Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1186/s40554-018-0054-z

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. (2003). In *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (p. 1660). Retrieved from https://www.ldoceonline.com/

Macagno, F., & Walton, D. (2010). What we hide in words: Emotive words and persuasive definitions. *Journal of Pragmatics*, *42*(7), 1997-2013.

MacDougall, C. D. (1973). *Principles of editorial writing*. W. C. Brown Co. Publishers.

Martin, J. R., & White, P. R. R. (2005). *The language of evaluation: Appraisal in English*. Retrieved from http://community.hciresearch.org/sites/community.hciresearch.org/files/LanguageofEvaluationBook.pdf.

Media Foundation for West Africa/Media Ownership Monitor Ghana (2019). '*The Chronicle*'. *Reporters without borders.* Retrieved from info@mfwa.org

Morgan, H. (2022). Conducting a qualitative document analysis. *The Qualitative Report*. https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2022.5044.

Musa, A. (2014). Hedging in academic writing: A pragmatic analysis of English and Chemistry masters' theses in a Ghanaian university. *English for Specific Purposes*, *42*(15), 1-26.

Ngcamu, B.S., & Binza, S.M. (2015). Media framing of natural disasters in KwaZulu-Natal province: impact of contingency plans. *Journal of Governance and Regulation, 4*, 110-117.

Ngidi, M. (2014). Inter-race soccer and the 1960 riots in Durban, South Africa. *Historia*, *59*(2), 326-343.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Ngula, R. S. (2017). Epistemic modal verbs in research articles written by Ghanaian and international scholars: A corpus-based study of three disciplines.

Nyarko, J. (2016). *Newspaper review show in the broadcast media space in Ghana: An exploratory qualitative study*. *SAGE*. Retrieved from https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/pam/open-access-at-sage

O'Keeffe, A. (2001) "Media & Discourse Analysis", in Gee, J & Handford M. (eds), The Routledge Handbook of Discourse Analysis. London: Routledge, p441-454

Owusu, W. Y. (2012). *The Ghanaian media landscape: How unethical practices of journalists undermine progress*. London: Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Padget, D. K. (2012). Qualitative and mixed methods in public health. *SAGE Research Methods*. Retrieved from https://dx.doi.org//10.4135/9781483384511

Painter, C., & Martin, J. R. (1986). Writing to mean: Teaching genres across the curriculum. *Applied Linguistics Association of Australia (Occasional Papers 9)*.

Pascual, M., & Unger, L. (2010). Appraisal in the research genres: An analysis of grant proposals by Argentinean researchers. *Revista Signos*, *43*(73). https://doi.org/10.4067/s0718-09342010000200004.

Patterson, T. E. (2000). Doing well and doing good. *Available at SSRN 257395*.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Prasad, K. D. (2019). *Restating validity and reliability in qualitative studies*. Retrieved from www.academia.edu

Punch, K. F., & Oancea, A. E. (2014). Introduction to research methods in education. London : SAGE Publications Ltd.

Puspita, D., & Pranoto, B. E. (2021). The attitude of Japanese newspapers in narrating disaster events: Appraisal in critical discourse study. *Studies in English Language and Education, 8*(2), 796-817.

Quirk, R., & Greenbaum, S. (1973). *A university grammar of English*. UK: Longman.

Roberts, J. (2016). *Writing for strategic communication industries*. Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University.

Shepherd, J., & Van Vuuren, K. (2014). The Brisbane flood: CALD gatekeepers' risk communication role. *Disaster Prevention and Management*, *23*(4), 469–483. https://doi.org/10.1108/dpm-08-2013-0133.

Singh, M. (2015). *The bombing of Air India flight 182: Demanding justice, public inquiries, and acts of citizenship*. https://summit.sfu.ca/system/files/iritems1/15624/etd9185_MSingh.pdf.

Sobeng, E. (2016). Evaluative Language in the Comments of Judges of TV Reality Shows: The Case of "Ghana's Most Beautiful. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research.*

Starman, A. (2013). The case study as a type of qualitative research. Journal of Contemporary Educational Studies, 1, 28-43.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Swales, J. M. (1990). *Genre analysis: English in academic and research settings*. Cambridge University Press.

Swanson, E. (2014). Validity, reliability, and the questionable role of psychometrics in plastic surgery. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Global Open*, *2*(6).

Tajvidi, G., & Arjani, S. H. (2017). Appraisal Theory in Translation Studies: An Introduction and Review of Studies of Evaluation in Translation. *Journal of Research in Applied*, *8*(2), 3–30. https://doi.org/10.22055/rals.2017.13089.

Talbot, M. (2007). *Media discourse representation and interaction*. 22 George Square, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press Ltd.

Tanikawa, M. (2017). What is news? What is the newspaper? The physical, functional and stylistic transformation of print newspapers, 1988-2013. *International Journal of Communication*, 11, 3519-3540. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net/publication/327176409

Thompson, G. (2001). Interaction in academic writing: Learning to argue with the reader. *Applied linguistics*, *22*(1), 58-78.

Thompson, G. (2016). *Appraising glances: Evaluating Martin's model of appraisal*. London: Routledge.

Torto, R.T. (2016). An analysis of descriptive features in the English used in an advertising text. International Journal of Language and Culture, 4(2), 47-55 https://doi.org/10.15640/ijlc.v4n2a4.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Tsitsanoudis-Mallidis, N., & Derveni, E. (2018). Emotive language: linguistic depictions of the three year-old drowned refugee boy in the Greek journalistic discourse. *Interface-Journal of European Languages and Literatures*, *6*(1). https://doi.org/10.6667/interface.6.2018.52.

Uekusa, S. (2019). Disaster linguicism: Linguistic minorities in disasters. *Language in Society*, *48*(3), 353-375.

Ugwu, C. N., & Eze, V. H. (2023). Qualitative research. *IDOSR of Computer and Applied Science*, *8*(1), 20-35.

Van Dijk, T. A. (2005). Text and context: Explorations in the semantics and pragmatics of discourse. Discourse Studies Reader Series. Academic Press.

Van Dijk, T. A. (2008). Discourse and power. Palgrave Macmillan.

Wei, Y., Wherrity, M., & Zhang, Y. (2015). An analysis of current research on the appraisal theory. *Linguistics and Literature Studies, 3*(5), 235–239. https://doi.org/10.13189/lls.2015.030506.

White, P. R. (2015). Appraisal theory. *The international encyclopedia of language and social interaction*, *3*, 1-7.

Wiredu, J. F. (2017). *Organised English structure with answer: A self-study and practice book for students of Training Colleges, the Poly-technics and the Universities.* Accra, Ghana: Academic Publications (Ghana) Limited.

Young, K. (1986). The killing field: Themes in mass media responses to the Heysel Stadium riot. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport, 21*(2-3), 253-266. doi:10.1177/101269028602100213.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

Zhang, X. (2015). Comparative study on the appraisal resources of China Daily's disaster news. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, *5*(10), 2118.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

APPENDIX A

Apocalypse in Accra! (DG FP)

- 150 dead so far in floods, inferno

1. Flooding, resulting from torrential rains, brought Accra to its knees last Wednesday night, with unimaginable loss of lives and destruction of properties.

2. By press time yesterday, the death toll had hit a staggering 107.

3. Seventy-six of the victims were killed at a fuel station that exploded in the midst of the rains, while many others who suffered serious burns were taken to major hospitals in the city.

4. Many of victims of the filling station inferno were among others who had sought shelter at the GOIL fuel station near the GCB Towers at the Kwame Nkrumah Circle to escape the flood waters spreading out from the overflowing Odaw River and Uncovered drains.

5. Badly burnt bodies were scattered at what remained of the fuel station as fire and rescue crews battled fruitlessly to save lives.

6. Many of the deceased had sought shelter at the filling station, when an accompanying lightning was said to have struck a house causing an explosion.

7. Some of those burnt had their intestines gushing out, while others were headless, with their limbs completely burnt.

8. A woman with her child lying on her tummy was among those swept away by flood waters.

9. Experts say many of the burnt bodies can only be identified through DNA.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

10. Some distraught residents of Accra whose family members did not return home last Wednesday went round the hospitals in the city in a desperate attempt to locate them, dead or alive.

11. Recovery tams continued their search for bodies at various parts of the city all day yesterday.

12. Last Wednesday night's incident is considered the worst catastrophe to have befallen the national capital since the May 9, 2001 Stadium Disaster when 126 soccer fans lost their lives in a stampede at the Accra Sports Stadium.

13. Musah Yahaya Jafaru reports that two women lost their lives in the same house at Nima, following flooding at Nima last Wednesday night.

14. While Auntie Ama's body was found, Auntie Cecilia's is believed to have been swept away by the floods.

15. The flood waters, which overflowed the Nima main drain, entered nearby houses and trapped their occupants.

16. Some brave youth used ropes to pull people and animals out of the ravaging waters.

17. The pressure of the water carried several vehicles away, including trucks and cars into the Nima drain.

18. Many of those vehicles had their windscreens and windows smashed.

19. Narrating her ordeal to *The Daily Graphic* Mabel, a daughter of Auntie Cecilia's said she was in the room with her mother when the rain started.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

20. She said the water carried them outside and that she had been lucky to have been pulled out of the water by some volunteers, who tried without success to rescue her mother. Korle-Bu

21. Staff of the Korle-Bu Teaching helped in tidying up the Accident Center and the Children's Block which were all left flooded, reports Erasmus Solomon.

22. Fourteen flood victims were rushed to the Accident Centre, with one of them passing away, while three were in critical condition.

23. According to Dr. Kwesi Nsaful, a senior resident doctor at the Accident Centre, 10 of the victims had been brought in with injuries from the Goil Fuel Station inferno.

24. He said the remaining victims would be discharged, as their injuries were not critical. 37 Military Hospital

25. Emmanuel Quaye reports from the 37 Military Hospital that 65 corpses retrieved from the inferno at the Goil Filling Station were deposited at that hospital.

26. They are made up of 47 males and 18 females.

27. Others who suffered severe burns during the accident have been admitted at the Tamakloe Surgical Ward of the hospital.

28. According to Major Evelyn Asamoah, the Deputy Director of Public Relations in charge of Protocol, and some families who visited the hospital to look for their relatives.

29. The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) presented 100 blankets, 100 body bags and 200 cups to the hospital to cater for the victims.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

30. The Director of Logistics at NADMO, Mr. Theophilus Lamptey, said the organisation had already made similar donations to other hospitals handling victims of the flood disaster, with more donations on the way.

31. The Matron of the hospital, Colonel Mercy Yelbert, thanked NADMO for the gesture and said the donation had come at the right time.

32. The floods adversely affected the operations of the New Times Corporation, destroying documents and computers in the Editorial, Accounts and Marketing units of the corporation.

33. The managing director's office and the company's boardroom were not spared.

34. When *The Daily Graphic* visited the corporation, staff were seen scooping water from their offices. Makola

35. Rhodaline Oppong and Sherifah Adam report that the heavy downpour did not hinder traders at the Makola Market from their normal trading activities.

36. Most of the shops there were opened for business, except for those women who sell on the pavements.

37. Those who had shops found a way of protecting their wares from the rain by using polythene bags to cover them.

38. Nothing seemed to affected business at Makola, compared to the way places such as the Kwame Nkrumah Circle and the Mallam Market had been affected by the floods.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

39. Meanwhile, the situation boosted the sale of umbrellas and shower caps, with the prices of umbrellas shooting up from GH₵5 to GH10 for the smaller ones, while the bigger sizes cost GH25, instead of GH20

40. K.K Inkoom reports that some people in some parts of Weija capitalized on the flooding to catch fish.

41. While some residents lamented the loss of loved ones and property, others took advantage of the floods to harvest large quantities of mudfish that had been washed into the drains.

42. At the low lying areas around the Kasoa Old Barrier at the New Weija, some residents stayed up till the early hours of yesterday and harvested buckets-full of large mudfish for consumption and for sale.

43. A resident, Madam Abla Setordji, who bought a bucket full of the fish, told *The Daily Graphic* that although she was happy to have bought the fish at a good price, there was the need for proper drains to be constructed to save the area from perennial flooding .

44. She said the intended opening of the spillways of the Weija Dam would be disastrous if proper drains were not constructed in the area.

45. The bizarre disaster, however, turned into a feast day for some people, as they prepaed the carcasses of animals, especially goats, that died in the floods, reports Phoebe Pappoe.

46. As of 9 am some suspected drug addicts around the Kwame Nkrumah Circle were seriously preparing dishes with mutton when *The Daily Graphic* when *The Daily Graphic* chanced on them. Ordeal

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

47. Meanwhile, the Editor of *The Daily Graphic*, Mr. Ransford Tetteh, has recounted the ordeal he and some colleagues went through yesterday while they were on their way home after work.

48. He said after the paper had gone to bed, he set off for home at 9:30pm by using the Graphic Road to join the Kojo Thompson Road to link the Circle Achimota Road.

49. Mr. Tetteh explained that just before the Circle Overhead, firefighters asked commuters not to use that route.

50. We were left with no option but to turn back towards the Kanda Highway to link the Obasanjo Highway to the George Bush Highway, Achimota to Dome.

51. Unfortunately, we hit the first snag at the Accra High School area where a drain had overflowed its banks onto the road, slowing down traffic.

52. As if that was not all, the real gridlock hit us at the Gold House Traffic Intersection towards Dzorwulu, forcing us to make several merry-go-rounds at Pig-farm, Roman Ridge and the Airport Residential Area just to make a quick journey," he said.

53. According to Mr. Tetteh, finally when he decided to use the route towards the Tetteh Quarshie Interchange through the Airport Residential Area to use the GIMPA Road to Dome, "it took us more than two hours in traffic.

54. Many in *The Daily Graphic* production team got home late.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

55. Reporters such as Doreen Andoh and Emelia Ennin Abbey made it home at 4 am, while Fiifi Mensah, Debrah Fynn and Salome Donkor got home after 1 am.

56. Graphic designers who were on duty, such as Shirley Boye, Ebenezer Nyarko and Mrs. Shirley Baiden, made it home late, while proofreaders such as Agyei Asiedu and Stephen Bio got home after 2 am.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

APPENDIX B

OVER 150 FEARED DEAD (*THE CHRONICLE* - CH FP)

1. Hundreds of people lost their lives in an inferno that gutted a Goil filling station at Adabraka, near the Kwame Nkrumah Circle Interchange in Accra on a night of torrential rainfall that left several homes in the national capital submerged under water and thousands of residents homeless on Wednesday night.

2. Most of the victims were reportedly seeking shelter at the station, following a heavy downpour that lasted for more than six hours, when a loud noise of explosion was heard followed by wild fire which gutted the station and nearby residential homes.

3. The torrential rainfall left many suburbs in the national capital under several feet of water.

4. Eyewitness accounts spoke of victims trapped in the blazing fire that burned into the night s flood waters round the site hampered rescue effort.

5. A spokesman for the National Fire Service, Prince Billy Anaglate spoke of a busy night for the various rescue teams as dozens of seriously injured persons were rushed to various hospitals in the national capital.

6. Most of the dead were deposited at the 37 Military Hospital and Police Hospital morgue.

7. Unofficial information reaching *The Chronicle* said both morgues were virtually full, following the night's explosion.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

8. There have not been any identification at the time of going to press last night.

9. Director of Police Public Relations, Superintendent Cephas Arthur told *The Chronicle* that over hundred bodies had been recovered yesterday.

10. "We are not finished yet.

11. It looks like more bodies would be recovered.

12. This is a tragedy of gigantic proportions," he said in a telephone interview.

13. Other sources though, put the figure much higher.

14. Some television and other media houses in Accra, were announcing the dead in their double hundreds.

15. One policeman said at least 150 dead bodies were counted.

16. President John Dramani Mahama confirmed the 150 dead in a television broadcast after a national security meeting and announced three days of official state mourning.

17. Superintendent Arthur said at that stage in the operations yesterday, it would be difficult to put a figure on the exact number of losses.

18. The police and other security operators were still at work and that it will take at least on more day for the picture to be clearer, Superintendent Arthur explained.

19. A distraught President Mahama visited the disaster scene yesterday and described the loss as catastrophic.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

20. This loss of life is catastrophic, almost unprecedented.

21. A lot of people have lost their lives

22. I am lost for words to express how I feel, many of them through the floods, many still through the fire incident as a result of the explosion that took place."

23. He praised the various rescue teams for their gallantry and consoled the bereaved families.

24. "I express my condolence to the several who have lost families through the fire out break and victims of the flood.

25. We will do the clean-up and bring life to as normal as possible," the Head of state stated.

26. He said his administration would initiate drastic measures to reduce the impact of floods and fires similar to what brought disaster to many homes in Accra on Wednesday.

27. We have to take some measures to avoid this in the future.

28. Often when these measures are drastic, you have a lot of sympathy and pressure not to take these measures.

29. But I think the time has come for us to get houses out of the waterways.

30. The public should understand that it is necessary to take such measures to save everybody else', the Head of State said.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

31. His words though might be of little comfort to the bereaved families and ordinary Ghanaians, who have been complaining of Mahama's Presidential style of all promises and scanty solution to problems.

32. Observers believe that the proliferation of fuel stations in city centers, could have the blessing of the powers that be who might be profiting from funding of the ruling party and other political activities.

33. Many Ghanaians believe that the pulling down of houses in waterways in this country has always suffered from selective political amnesia and that nothing new was going to come out of the latest presidential promises.

34. Meanwhile, schools in Accra were empty yesterday as many parents kept their children indoors.

35. Education Minister Prof. Jane Naana Opoku Agyeman issued a directive to teachers in area affected by flood to let children stay at home until there was a change in the weather while they kept sharp eyes on those who managed to be in the classroom.

36. "We know that some children get to school early and so we are kindly requesting teachers to keep an eye on those who are already in school till the weather lets up so that they can return home safely.

37. Meanwhile, they can give them some safety tips," she said in an official release in Accra.

38. "We are also advising those at home to adhere to NADMO (National Disaster Management Organisation) advice to stay at home and skip school for the day.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

39. We will monitor the situation from day to day," she said.

40. The bad news is that the weather would not let up any time soon.

41. According to the Meteorological Service, more rains with thunderstorms would be experienced in the coming days.

42. The weather forecasters say the rains are on its way in intensity from Benin towards Ghana.

43. Director General of the Ghana Meteorological service, group captain Komla told an Accra radio station yesterday that the rainfall pattern will continue in its intensity for the next couple of days at least.

44. "It is expected that the southern part of the country will definitely experience some more runs," he said.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

APPENDIX C

The perennial floods: enough of lip service (Daily Graphic Editorial-DG ED)

1. Once again the rains have set in and the country has been exposed over its unpreparedness for natural disasters

2. A few hours of torrential rains last Wednesday brought the country, perhaps its worst disaster since independence

3. Reports available indicate that more than 150 people have so far lost their lives through floods and their induced inferno with countless others rendered homeless and properties running into billions of Ghana cedis destroyed.

4. A look through the Jubilee Ghana Book compiled and published by the Graphic Communications Group Limited in 2007 to mark the country's Golden Jubilee reveals that this avoidable calamity has been recurring consistently over the years.

5. The causes of these floods have been traced to indiscriminate human activities and official ineptitude towards ensuring that the proper actions are taken for the benefit of the Country.

6. The wanton disposal of solid and liquid waste into drains by the citizenry and the improper demarcation of land for residential accommodation which in most cases is either done without permit or with official connivance are avoidable.

7. It is not a secret that officials entrusted with the responsibility for ensuring that basic laws and regulations are obeyed also shirk those responsibilities.

8. People build in water courses, with officials looking on unconcerned and when they show concern, it is through their tacit approval.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

9. The only underlying factor that *The Daily Graphic* can point to as being responsible for this state of affairs is simply the fact that most of these officials are either corrupt themselves or allow themselves to be corrupted by others.

10. For how on earth do they superintend over our nice laws but the country still experiences avoidable disasters as happened at various places in the capital, especially at the Goil Filling Station at the Kwame Nkrumah Circle of all places, on Wednesday night.

11. *The Daily Graphic* is of the belief that never again should this sad incident happen in this dear country of ours and, therefore, urges the authorities to be up and doing.

12. After all, that is all leadership is about to take hard, difficult and even sometimes unpopular decisions for the good of society.

13. Anytime such disasters occur, politicians and top officials promise that will be the end but it has never been so.

14. We, therefore take the President by his word this time round that the contributory factors to these disasters would be tackled head on to forestall this vicious circle of disaster on Ghanaians.

15. We of *The Daily Graphic* are saddened by the events and pray that the Maker will keep the souls of those who lost their lives.

16. We also wish to extend our condolences to the bereaved families.

17. To those who suffered various degrees of injury, we wish them a speedy recovery.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

APPENDIX D

The Chronicle Editorial (CH ED) - Mahama must deal with the Accra Floods once & for all)

1. Before the advent of polythene bags in Ghana, Accra and other towns and cities used to be clean.

2. The gutters were not as choked as we are experiencing nowadays.

3. Since the paper bags, which were in circulation were biodegradable and eco-friendly, it did not give the country much to worry about.

4. Unfortunately, the usage of polythene bags does not provide this comfort because of their biodegradable nature.

5. It has hackneyed in Ghana for table top traders and supermarket operators to parcel every little item purchased with polythene bags in a proper way.

6. Buyers of these items do not also dispose of these polythene bags in a proper way.

7. This has resulted in the littering of our streets and gutters with these non-biodegradable products, resulting in the blocking of water courses and the subsequent flooding of Accra anytime it rains heavily.

8. What happened in Accra last Wednesday, which led to the death of over 150 innocent people and still counting could have been avoided if these polythene bags were properly disposed of, instead of throwing them into storm drains.

9. Another area worth tackling, in the fight against the perennial flooding of Accra, is the popular Sodom and Gomorrah slum, which has become an albatross on our neck.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

10. The korle ecological project has stalled over the years because of the presence of Sodom and Gomorrah at old Fadama.

11. Nature has made it such that the Korle Lagoon serves as a buffer between the Accra flood waters and the sea.

12. Whenever it rains, water moving into the Lagoon increases; and at the same time the sea level also rises.

13. The Lagoon, therefore, becomes a buffer and soaks the water and gradually releases it into the sea.

14. But due to the human settlement in the area, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has failed to dredge the Korle Lagoon wider, to be able to accommodate more of the waters from the tributaries of the Odaw river.

15. *The Chronicle* thinks there are two main causes of flooding I Accra.

16. The paper is, therefore calling on the government to muster courage to ban all polythene products in the country.

17. The state must instead encourage the use of paper products.

18. *The Chronicle* is aware that the imposition of such a ban will result in protests from manufacturers of the products and those who depend on it for their survival, but the larger interest must always be taken into consideration.

19. The case of Sodom and Gomorrah is a dicey one, because any attempt to forcibly eject the settlers would result in a human catastrophe.

20. These are people who were victims of war and were settled at the place by the government.

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

21. Their continuous stay at the place seems to have outlived its original usefulness.

22. *The Chronicle* is, therefore, suggesting to the Mahama Government to start negotiations with our development partners for the possibility of securing a loan, no matter how huge it is, to resettle the people of Sodom and Gomorrah once and for all.

23. The government cannot afford to look at the huge resettlement package and close her eyes to taking a decision once and for all, when Ghanaians are dying each passing year, as a result of the perennial floods.

24. The people of Fadama, near Abeka, who used to live at the Sodom and Gomorrah area or Fadama, were resettled at their current place because the government at the time realized that their occupation of the place posed a danger to themselves and other residents of Accra.

25. Unfortunately, the AMA sat down unconcerned when people started joining the initial group that sought refuge at the place, as a result of the Nanumba-Kokomba war in the early 90s.

26. *The Chronicle,* therefore, thinks the state has a responsibility to the rest of the people, no matter how huge it will cost the nation.

27. Since human life is irreplaceable, the problem of floods in Accra must be tackled from the root and to relieve Ghanaians from the pains of losing loved ones every year

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library

© University of Cape Coast https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/xmlui

APPENDIX E

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

TELEPHONE: +233-3321- 30942, EXT. 230

FAX: +233- 3321- 32485

Email: englishdepartments53@gmail.com

University of Cape Coast
Cape Coast. Ghana

Your Ref:

Our Ref: ED/P/5/17

18th November, 2019

The Editor
The New Crusading Guide
Cantoments- Accra

Dear Sir,

INTRODUCTORY LETTER- MR. PAUL TSEWOO

This is to introduce to you Mr. Mark Paul Tsewoo, an M.A Top-Up (M.Phil) student with registration number AR/ENH/18/0002 in the Department of English, University of Cape Coast. He is conducting a research titled: ***Exploring Language of Evaluation in the Disaster Stories of Ghanaian News Papers.***

We would be very grateful if could assist him with the necessary data he requires and any further assistance. We assure you that this process is for purely academic purposes.

We count on your usual cooperation.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Kwabena S.Sarfo Kantankah
Head of Department

Digitized by Sam Jonah Library