A Study of Attitude in Art Criticism

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Abstract: Functional linguistic research focuses on the dimension of "implementation," with research on "instance" and "individuation" being relatively scarce. However, Appraisal Theory provides a comprehensive method for realizing "instance" and "individuation". Appraisal Theory, as a type of empirical research method with strong capabilities in both operation and application, is heavily involved in a variety of fields such as literature, art, philosophy, news, and law. Overall, research in the arts is deficient.

This study employs Appraisal Theory as a framework for analyzing the discourse of art criticism from the perspective of the attitude system, analyzing 83 art critiques chosen for their semantic meaning of emotion and valuation endowed by the writers in critical language. It performs identification, analysis, and classification on corpus resources in order to investigate the application of Appraisal theory in art criticism and summarize representation and feature of these attitudinal resources used. The author concludes that the attitudinal resources all involve affect, judgment, and appreciation, but are distributed unevenly.The feature demonstrates that more appreciation than affect and judgement is involved, more positive meaning than negative meaning is conveyed, and an explicit rather than implicit method is used. According to this study, the attitudinal resources effectively contribute to the establishment of relationships among the writer, artworks, and the potential reader, and they function well in appraisal by establishing a "resonance" relationship between the artwork and the potential reader within person.

Keywords: Appraisal Theory, art criticism, discourse analysis, interpersonal relationship

1. Introduction

Appraisal Theory, as a new branch developed in the study of interpersonal function in metafunction within Systemic Functional Linguistic, is an ideal analytical framework to analyze the language of evaluation. This system can help us to find out how a text's proposals and propositions are positioned interpersonally between the writer and the reader. Appraisal system is concerned with linguistic resources by which the writer or speaker can express their attitudes, get involved in propositions, and grade the assessment of meaning.

There are three sub-systems under the Appraisal system, Attitude, Engagement and Graduation, which interact and supplement each other as a whole. On the one hand, Appraisal Theory is a great comprehensive category on the types of evaluation, and on the other hand, it can function as an applicable tool in analysis. Therefore, it can be applied to do research on various discourses to get the evaluative meanings and discover the interpersonal relationship encoded in the text, which further exploits the understanding of texts and establishes an inner relationship between the writer and the reader. In art criticism, this sort of analysis makes the reader get closer to the emotion, intention and realm of the works and its creator by reading between the lines to get the evaluative resources.

Appraisal Theory is widely applied in the analysis of discourse ranging from written corpus like government reports, journals, advertising, law regulations, literature or film reviews to spoken ones like addresses and speeches. However, the research on art criticism is comparatively rare. Art criticism, as a newly developed field, makes it easy for non-professional audience to appreciate artworks with the help of critics' comments on artworks from a professional perspective. It offers a different way for artists to express opinions changing from visible form to readable one. Besides, language as a tool of communication functions well in appreciation of art between the artists and the audience. As comprehensive representatives of people's affection, social reflection and artistic value, artworks are interpreted by art critics in their evaluative critiques which can be analyzed and evaluated in the appraisal system, especially the system of attitude. Therefore, Appraisal Theory can be appropriately applied in the art criticism and this study has great significance of expanding the application of Appraisal Theory further and digging ways of appreciation on artworks.

The focus of this thesis is mainly on giving a description of the attitudinal resources and meanings in art discourse in art criticism from the perspective of attitude in Appraisal Theory. And the ultimate purpose of the research is to present the features of appraisal resources, specifically attitudinal resources, represented in art criticism, appreciate the critical discourse on art works from the perspective of Appraisal Theory. This should be of great help to evaluate the value and significance of artworks, exhibitions or other art forms, to reflect the social reality of certain period of time in a specific area, and have an insight into art.

The focal point of this study is on the research on features of attitudinal resources in art criticism and the interpersonal relationship between the writer and the potential reader. Thus, based on the instance analysis and statistic analysis, two questions centered on the focus of the research, anticipating effective and corresponding answers to solve problems in art criticism in a certain sense are put forward.

(1) How does the attitude of the critics convey stances to the readers to establish an interpersonal relationship between the critics and the readers on artworks?

(2) How do critics use attitudinal resources to interact with the potential readers?

Based on this previous research, an analysis on a series of corpus about art criticism texts adopted from authentic website is conducted to study the

application of appraisal system in art field and find out the functional features of this sort of corpus. This analysis includes research purpose, research questions, data analysis and specific research procedure to form a systematic insight into art criticism and eventually conclude the results to the questions raised. Several methods including discourse analysis, contrastive analytic approach, quantitative data analysis and qualitative research method are employed together. For the purpose of achieving the aimed objectives and finding the answers to the questions raised, this study conducted the "case and interpretations" principle to analyze the deep implications of Appraisal Theory in resources.

2. Literature Review

Studies on Appraisal Theory abroad

Being aware of lacking enough study on interpersonal function in Halliday's research, Martin (1992) interpreted the interpersonal function from the perspective of exchange structure in his research (Liu, 2010) and founded the Appraisal Theory. He pointed out the importance of evaluation to the construction of sociality (Martin, 2004). Appraisal is related to studies on evaluation in other models in many different kinds of ways. Hunston & Thompson (2000) offered a relevant overview, and made a distinction on opinions about entities and propositions. Opinions about entities, involving positive and negative feeling, are canonically attitudinal, and it can be realized lexically. In concurrent study work, it was proposed that appraisal is probably most closely related to the concept of stance, as developed by Biber and his colleagues in their corpus based quantitative studies (Conrad & Biber, 2000).

Another great achievement of Appraisal Theory is the media text analysis that was undertaken by Iedema &White (1994). In Appraisal and Journalistic discourse, the argumentative or persuasive genres were explored to find out how subjectivity and objectivity are realized in media discourse. White also established the appraisal website - www.grammatics.com/appraisal/ - in 1998. This functioned as a catalytic agent for modern development of Appraisal Theory. In 2005, Martin and White published the book The Language of Evaluation: Appraisal in English. This offers a comprehensive introduction on Appraisal Theory in which interpersonal meaning was explored in written discourses. In 2006, White presents a brand-new framework to explore evaluative aspects and ideological positioning in journalistic discourse.

Bednarek (2006) once studied evaluation in media discourse by analyzing a newspaper corpus composed of 100 news stories. Besides, Rothery and Stenglin (1997; 2000) broadened the research into narrative in secondary school. Then, White (1997; 1998; 2001) applied AT into studies on media discourse, Eggins and Slade (1997) studied the semantics of casual conversation with AT as the theoretical framework, Fuller applied AT into popular science. Coffin (2002) studied writings in secondary school history. At the very beginning, more studies focused on narrative discourse. With further exploration, the research on Appraisal Theory was broadened in a wider range of fields, covering stylistics (Martin, 2000), academic discourse, legal discourse and so on. All the effort done above contributed to the perfection of the Appraisal Theory.

Studies on Appraisal Theory at home

The study on Appraisal Theory in China began in 1990s. Zhang Delu (1998) first introduced Martin's Appraisal Theory at the very beginning. He put forward a more specific category on the base of making contrast proposed on the definition of tenor of discourse. As a newly development branch of Systemic Functional Linguistics, Appraisal Theory is not complete and mature in its theoretical framework, thus although it was introduced by some scholars, the study of Appraisal Theory was not given too much concern in Chinese linguistics. Later on, the study of Appraisal Theory began to be further made since Wang Zhenhua

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(2001) made a more comparative overview of Appraisal Theory covering its background, framework and application, which attracted more people's interest in it and started to raise hot discussion on it. Study of Appraisal Theory really started since then.

Throughout the study of Appraisal Theory in recent 10 years in China, more contributions were mainly made by scholars in two aspects, one was the amendments of making the theory more complete including the theory of Appraisal Theory itself , the Appraisal Theory and other linguistic theories research; and the other was exploration in its wide application of Appraisal Theory in various discourse analysis like journal texts, literary criticism, advertising commercials, foreign language teaching, translation and so on.

Since the birth of Appraisal Theory, Chinese scholars have not only studied the theoretical nature, the construction and classification of appraisal system, but also applied this new theory to discourse analysis, English teaching, and translation, etc. Followed by the studies cross the evaluation theory and other areas such as linguistics and literature theory and philosophy of interdisciplinary research, great achievements on Appraisal Theory were obtained.

All in all, many scholars both home and abroad continue making great efforts to enrich the theory and bring it into more practical use in various fields to testify its valuable significance in application. It opens a new and wide window for linguistics to go on exploring what relevant to Appraisal Theory.

3. Research Methods

It is advantageous to deal with relatively small-scale data for the reason that the methodology research can be more convenient and flexible. However, it is far from sufficient to employ one single method to investigate, so the combining of discourse analysis, corpus analysis and categorization method is imperative beyond all question. Quantitative and qualitative methods are mainly employed together

towards the identification of resources and frequency analysis in this research to explore the questions from an overall perspective.

Since art criticism prevailingly features artworks more in it, the focus of the corpus is on objects. Thus, the language used in descriptive statements on construction, scale, color, texture belonging to non-verbal part are much involved than in behavioral statements illustrated with verbal part. The features of appraisal resources are explored in the qualitative study in instances for appraisal evaluating in different attitudinal meanings. And on the other hand, the distribution and frequency of appraisal resources are quantified in subsystems of Appraisal Theory for the purpose of inquiring how the interpersonal relationship is established between the writer and the potential reader.

Corpus selection

A collection of 83 critical articles of artworks are gathered as the corpus basis for this study with 25072 words covering the critiques from Europe to Asia. One objective of this study is to identify and classify the attitudinal resources in subsystems of affect, judgement and appreciation in art criticism. To choose the appropriate corpus to analyze, the authority and credibility of the critiques are taken into great consideration and play important role in evaluation. Therefore, it is more advisable to select critiques written by professional critics who are familiar with both the professional knowledge needed in art and the taste of common readership. The language used in the discourse is authentic, and the structure and the presentation are well organized in unity. These are all beneficial to maintaining the accuracy of the analysis as far as possible. Thus,this is also the principle applied to select these 83 critiques to compose the corpus of this study.

These critiques are downloaded from one website: www.artforum.com. The main reason for collecting corpus from this websites is that this

website assembles a large amount of art critiques published on authoritative Art forums all over the world. For its authority, it helps to gather convincing reviews in a short time and provides a global overview of art criticism. A growing amount of published and available reviews, news, interviews and other materials concerning the art can be searched conveniently.

Artforum, an international monthly magazine specializing in contemporary art, is considered as a decisive voice in art criticism. It is published totally ten times per year from September to May. In addition, it also has a summer issue annually. Founded in 1962 by John P. Irwin, Jr in San Francisco, Artforum features in various forms ranging from articles and reviews of contemporary art to book reviews, columns on cinema and popular culture. It was moved to Los Angeles in 1965 and finally settled in New York in 1967.

The selected artwork and exhibition reviews are relatively formal and canonical. Reviews are chosen with the intention to make the study more authentic and representative so as to conduct a reduplicate study on the corpus.

For the purpose of ensuring the analysis more precise, an professor who studies Appraisal Theory are invited to be involved in the work of analyzing the corpus. The same criteria and principles are required in advance to identify the attitudinal resources and code the corpus with numbers representing the items of three catalogs attached with negative or positive meaning. These forms the base for data analysis. Since the tagging is performed manually and error rate indeed exists in the process of collection for different perspective of understanding the meaning of a same word, especially the implied one. Great effort are also made to search and compare repeatedly on corpus in attempt to reach accuracy. Besides, in order to focus the discussion better and keep consistence in all the texts under the same criteria, the research in the thesis is limited to the artistic forum ignoring other sources.

On the whole, the corpus in this thesis is globally representative for making evaluation on attitudinal resources in art with the help of multi-dimensional methods used. It is represented in terms of modality, lexicogrammar and rhetorical devices. And it also makes it possible to make a cross-disciplinary study

Table 3.1 Coding Convention of Attitude System

System	Sub-system	Catergory	Coding Number	Polarity
ATTITUDE	Affect	Inclination	1	+ -
		Happiness	2	+ -
		Satisfaction	3	+ -
		Security	4	+ -
	Judgement			+ -
	Social esteem	Normality	5	+ -
		Capacity	6	+ -
		Tenacity	7	+ -
	Social sanction	Veracicty	8	+ -
		Properiety	9	+ -
	Appreciation	Reaction	10	+ -
		Composition	11	+ -
		Valuation	12	+ -

between linguistics and art criticism.

Coding in corpus

Since this study is to investigate how appraisal resources are used in art criticism, specifically the attitudinal resources, it is essential to annotate the corpus with appraisal features. In order to make it easier to mark and classify, these resources are coded with numbers according to Table 3.1. And the negative and positive meanings are coded with the signs of "+" and "-" as well to make it convenient to mark.

As shown in the table, the whole system of attitude is clearly unfolded, and the categories which are involved with attitude system are classified into 12 items with concrete standard (Martin ＆White, 2005).

Analytic procedures

Firstly, the author collects 83 art critiques downloaded from Artforum, an authentic website in art. And the study is carried out based on the analysis of these 83 art critiques as the corpus .

Secondly, to find out how the analysis is to be implemented, the next step is toward how the texts are to be dealt with in terms of their lexico-grammatical resources connected with evaluation. The author and another teacher read through the corpus, identify attitudinal meanings and at the same time classify them into different sort of attitudinal resources, and code the resources with the number and sign of symbol function manually for further work to distinguish. A good deal of cooperative work and meticulous identification is required in the whole process.

Thirdly, the author appends some notes to explain typical examples of these resources according to its evaluation aim, to clarify whether they are adopted to evaluate the artworks or refer to the artist.

Then, the overall frequency will be quantified to show the frequency in distribution of attitudinal resources in critiques in different aspects as well as across different interpersonal functions. The data are shown intuitively and objectively in tables to figure

out the critics' preference in using one or more sorts of attitudinal resources in the process of evaluating elements related to artworks, exhibitions, or artists.

Finally, the author makes a conclusion on these critiques towards the questions aimed to answer based on the analysis of distribution of various attitudinal resources, features and the advantages of this projecting in art criticism.

4. Results and Findings

Description of attitudinal resources

In the field of art criticism, most of the targets are the objectives such as artworks or exhibitions and some are related to the artists themselves. Thus, the distribution of appraisal resources is obviously featured, especially in the system of attitude. Among the three sub-systems - affect, judgement and appreciation, each takes up different proportion. According to the analysis on critiques in this research, all these elements are revealed in lexicology, grammatical pattern and rhetorical device. Although there are different cases in distribution in attitudinal resources, the three subsystems still interlock and interact with each other.

Based on an overview of all the resources coded and classified in each catalog of the system, the detail of distribution and frequency in this study is shown in Table 4.1.

As it is shown in the table, among the 928 appraisal items which contribute to the establishment of interpersonal relationship between the critics and the potential readers in art criticism, there are 56 affective items that take about 6% in frequency. And with 172 items of judgement resources, its frequency accounts for 18.5% of the whole. What's more, the frequency of Appreciation item with 700 resources takes up 75.4%, the highest compared with the other two kinds.

It can be inferred from the statistic that the three subsystems of attitude are not distributed evenly in these critical texts. This result is closely related to

Table 4.1 Distribution of attitudinal resources

Attitudinal Resources	Number	Percentage(%)
Affect	56	6
Judgement	172	18.5
Appreciation	700	75.4
Total	928	100

the writing feature of art criticism. Affect should be involved with behaviors or states of both the critic when writing and the artist when creating, and what the artworks reflect should be relevant to society which compasses a deal of social judgment. However, as a transmitter, critics are responsible for adopting their stances in between to convey what is in the artworks to the readers, so more appreciation on the artworks is necessary and greatly demanded, while affect is the least involved and judgement is second to appreciation.

Description of positive and negative resources

The utterances used to indicate person, object, action, or even affair are interpreted positively or negatively in general. In classifying positive or negative resources, ethics and culture are essential factors taken into consideration for their great impact on people's judgement. Certain lexis have vague identity between the borders of positiveness and negativeness. Whether they are positive or negative attitude depends on the critics' ethics or the circumstances involved. And on the other hand, the readers may also give interpretation to artworks under the influence of their own ethics or even desire and demand while reading. The following is the distribution of positive and negative resources presented in corpus of this thesis.

From the data collected on the basis of identification and classification in the corpus, we can find out how passive and negative resources are distributed in attitude in this study. On balance, in all three categories of Attitude, the items involving passive resources is 617 in number, which takes up 66.5% of

the total. While the items involving negative resources is 311 in number, which takes up 33.5% of the whole. It is shown that the amount of passive resources is almost double that of negative one. In other words, positive value is the dominant one in evaluation in these critiques.

The features of attitudinal resources distribution have correlation with literary genre. The proportion of the three subsystems is largely dependent on the writer's intention, and the use of resources are serving for purpose. In art criticism, the main goal of the art critic is to examine the details and the values connected with artistic creations. Since it is a complex of analysis, comprehension, interpretation and evaluation in the studies of each field, the role of each attitudinal resource is not always easily distinguishable. The critic should give equal and sufficient consideration to subjective factors like international artistic values acquisition. A critic should often take on the additional role of philosopher or theorist of art. On behalf of the gallery, museum or artist, the critic always has an inclination of articulating a positive voice in evaluation for the purpose of promoting artworks. The critic pays effort to accent the artwork and the artist who creates by analyzing and interpreting, attempting to put it within a wider artistic era or tradition. In this framework, references and comparisons which are made to the antecedent or to modern sanctioned artists perform a function as tool to advance the artist and promote the artworks. For this goal and responsibility of art criticism, passive resources are more appreciated than negative ones on the whole in stance towards the advocating artist or development of art. However, it is not applicable to the mere resources focused on the artworks, for the reason that positiveness or negativeness involved in appreciation serves for the purpose of giving an accurate description on utterance of artworks not for social function of art criticism. This distinction should be taken into consideration.

Table 4.2 Distribution of positive and negative resources

Attitude system	Positive "+"	Percentage in Positive (%)	Negative "-"	Percentage in Negative (%)
Affect	20	3.2	36	11.6
Judgement	104	16.9	68	21.9
Appreciation	493	79.9	207	66.5
Total	617	100	311	100

5. Discussion

Writing feature of art criticism

Two critical activities are recognized, that is, interpretation and evaluation. Once an artwork shows something beyond itself, it may become difficult to determine what it actually refers to. In general, the critic's guidance in these beyond artwork itself may be named interpretation. With the help of interpretation, an artwork can be appreciated and understood well and deeply through reading on criticism written by critics. Based on the appraisal analysis, the work to value an artwork is required. And this process can be considered to be evaluation.

Being expert in art creation, many artists are good at writing as well. So they can have a double identity both as writers and artists in a certain sense. The experience of having received a good education in literature helps the artists greatly to get inspiration for paintings and sculptures. Obviously, they have advantages to write critiques on artworks from a more professional perspective. Therefore, the field of art criticism provides a meeting place for two disciplines-art and language-to coalesce. Aside from this, art criticism makes people who are not expert but greatly interested in art find a more acceptable and easier way to have insight into art through reading.

Based on aesthetic theory, art criticism talks and writes about art in language which help readers to appreciate and understand artworks, events or exhibitions. In addition to the aesthetic evaluation given by the artist, extra meanings and significance are also put in them according to the critics' aesthetic knowledge , values or even individual opinions. In art criticism, three major questions are generally asked (Anderson, 2015): (a) What's this? (b)What does it mean? (c)What's the significance? Therefore, art criticism covers three processes accordingly, description, interpretation and evaluation

Interpersonal relationship

As to the three catalogs in appreciation, reaction is involved with affection; composition is relevant to perception; and valuation is associated with cognition (Martin, 2005). Among the three branches of appreciation system, the degree of objectivity is neither evenly same. On balance, resources of reaction is comparatively more subjective than those of composition and valuation. Reaction refers to the attracting degree to readers and the impact on readers' feelings, which are more focused on personal responses. This accounts for the phenomenon that the reaction resources in appreciation together with resources in affect are conducive to the construction of interpersonal relationship in achieving emotional resonance.

In addition to subjectivity and objectivity discussed above, there is another aspect the critics could not neglect in the process of conveying stances to the readers. That is the use of passive and negative attitudinal resources in these critiques. Art criticism functions as a dialogue between the writer and the potential reader, therefore, either the passive attitude or the negative attitude of the writer would be conveyed to the reader, which is certain to have great impact on the reader's attitude or judgement on artworks as

well. Passive attitudinal resources can be of help for the advocation of artworks, while negative one can rouse query and aversion which may lead the potential reader to a tendentious way to appreciate artworks. On the one hand, the writer gives critical comments on the work with his reaction and comprehension to show the authority tendency of criticism. On the other hand, to avoid extreme subjectivity, the writer needs to be as much objective as he can to show respect to the artwork and reader for variety of opinions revealed. It is of necessity to consider the personal subjectivity showing critical understanding and the commonly accepted objectivity to maintain space for further insight. Thus, we need to strike a balance between the two poles through handling the three attitudinal resources appropriately. As the data show, less resources of affect and judgement are available, but more resources of appreciation are used to be in accord with its intention.

Although the interpersonal relationship is established in art criticism by the writer, information feedback or responses of the reader can not be given synchronously. The writer plays the dominant role in the establishment of interpersonal relationship. Their attitude or stance is conveyed in the process of establishing interpersonal relationship with interpersonal meaning. Interpersonal acts can elicit response from others, so interpersonal meaning in art criticism can evoke person's emotional resonance on artwork with the writer. Therefore, dominance and affiliation are both realized in art criticism. The writer who behaves dominantly can evoke submissiveness in people he interacts with and here the people who submits is the potential reader. As a one-way process of critical writing, the dominant role of the writer is obvious in interpersonal relationship through interpreting artworks or artist in his perspective and viewpoint. On the contrary, the potential reader seems to be passive in response or even evoked in submissiveness.

Writer-reader interactions in art criticism

Roughly speaking, interpersonal relationship refers to a sort of association between people based on inference, affection, solidarity or other social commitment. It is a product of social interaction and certainly be influenced by social or cultural context. In society, interpersonal relationship is regulated by law, custom or agreement in the social background. Human beings are social in nature and this is also one significant feature distinguished from other creatures. This kind of inherent motivation to interact with others can be examined in multiple perspectives. For its social property, studies of interpersonal relationship are involved with disciplines like sociology, psychology, anthropology and so on. It is closely related to linguistics as well for the interpersonal function of language. Interpersonal relationship is related to social exchange in which individuals engage in relations can be rewarding in exchange. On the other hand, relationships are important for people to develop sense of self and influence people's emotions or behaviors in interacting with others. In this process, individuals can be named relational self. Therefore, interactions can be presented in interpersonal social exchange and within-person improvement.

In interpersonal exchange in language, on the one hand, people express opinions to make others understand and feel what the speaker /writer thinks or feels. On the other hand, certain relationships between the speaker and the listener or the writer and the reader are to be established in discourse texts. In reversal, interpersonal relationship also have impact on people's way of using language. In this thesis, the author makes an analysis on two aspects in the interpersonal relationships: authority and alignment. With more professional knowledge in art, the critics shows a power-based relationship confronted with the potential readers who may lack of certain aesthetic basis and experience. What the writer conveys in criticism has the responsibility to represent an authoritative

commentary on artworks to maintain its dominant power of discourse. While the reader is positioned as a side of submissiveness. This kind of interpersonal relationship is between authority and submissiveness. However, as a bridge between the artwork and the potential reader, the writer must avoid overuse of subjectivity, and the potential reader's reaction is ought to be taken into consideration for the purpose of establishing a solidary relationship. Solidarity refers to closeness and intimacy to some degree interpersonally. It is beneficial to both the writer and the potential reader who share same or similar social background or culture.

6. Conclusion and Implications

With more and more studies on Appraisal Theory, its application in various fields is flourishing with great potential. The present study analyzes artistic texts from the perspective of the Appraisal Theory. It is a quantitative and qualitative study about the application of Appraisal system on art criticism. The study expects to make further study of art criticism in a more detailed and creative way. This new analyzing angle offers the following implications.

Firstly, it offers insights into the teaching and learning of reading and writing of art critiques. In the teaching process, the teacher can guide students to be aware of the contribution of attitudinal resources. The distribution and features of appraisal resources in the texts discovered in the present study help students have a new perspective to appreciate and understand artworks. For instance, the most frequently used positive Appreciation resources can help students grasp the skills to understand further.

Secondly, the present study benefits both artist and appreciators in the exhibition and interpretation of artworks. On the critics' side, they may use proper linguistic strategies rather than deceptive measures to introduce the works. It may also let critics stand on the position of artists and create artworks in a different way. On the readers' side, the author hopes

that the thesis can help arouse readers' interests in understanding messages and intentions conveyed in the artworks to get enjoyment in art with the help of art criticism.

Thirdly, in the process of evaluating, there are many non-typical occasions which we need to be paid more attention to, such as the usage of rhetorical devices. On the one hand, the critic gives vivid description of the details of the artworks itself objectively, on the other hand, he would reinvest life to the object in the artwork to dig the further implied emotion or significance that the artist conveys. In these cases, although the words are used to describe the lifeless matters, they are given life to have certain affect. This should not be ignored.

Fourthly, based on the previous analyzing and exampling, we can figure out that it is confusing at times to classify certain resources explicitly, which may be a barrier in reading art criticism. On the contrary, if the critics become aware of these distinctions, it can also be beneficial to critical writing.

(1) It makes people confused with distinguishing appreciation from affect in some occasions. And it is indeed not easy to judge whether the narration belongs to the range of affect or appreciation , especially when using some emotional verbs in rhetoric.

(2) The reaction in appreciation refers to the response given by the appraiser to the object, and it involves his own affect. So it is of possibility of confusing reaction with affect. The object of the former is related to matters, while the one of the latter is about people's reaction. In order to distinguish them well, we need to figure out the target of appraisal.

(3) Affect, judgment and appreciation are three sub-systems subordinating to the system of attitude. They are interrelated and inalienable in appraisal with distinct feature. Affect is involved with the emoter; judgment is made according to ethics, morality and social criterion on people or people's behaviors; appreciation is about evaluation on text, process,

matter or phenomenon. When dealing with these materials, it is critical to take the context, textual or cultural, into consideration. If we treat a word separately, the attitudinal meaning can be neglected in some cases. Only in the context can it be sensed and figured out.

In the process of analyzing the texts, some of the words can not be classified into a very appropriate category. Take "rigorous plan" for example. It refers to an abstract subject, however, the word "rigorous" also reveals a feeling of attitude. In the art critiques, attitude is represented between the works and the narrators. Affect can be more or less vaguely involved in appreciation, thus it is confusing to classify clearly.

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