



SNAP TO READ

ATTITUDINAL LANGUAGES USED IN INDONESIA'S CHILDFREE DISCOURSE: APPRAISAL ANALYSIS

Mudhiah Umamah, Hayatul Cholsy

Universitas Gadjah Mada

mudhiah97@gmail.com, cholsy-h@ugm.ac.id

First received: October 3, 2023

Final proof received: November 10, 2023

Abstract:

The emergence of a modern lifestyle called 'childfree' goes against the traditional principles and culture of Indonesian society. Practically, this paradigm has led to both positive and negative views from the society. This study aims to identify the attitudinal languages towards childfree discourse through analysing the appraising items as language evaluation. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. Data collection was carried out by corpus analysis with the help of the UAM Corpus tool. A total of 30 childfree articles on the internet were manually annotated based on Martin and White's (2005) appraisal scheme. Data analysis will be carried out descriptively by interpreting the annotation results on the corpus tool. The annotation results show that 458 lexical choices are categorised into attitude with 306 appreciations, 105 affects, and 47 judgements. From the total number of attitudes, 304 items showed negative attitudes, 135 positive attitudes, and 19 neutral attitudes. Overall, the appraising items on the 30 childfree discourses in Indonesia were varied. Some discourses have many positive evaluations. However, discourses that construct childfree as negative are more common. The authors also tend to avoid subjectivity by presenting sources of language evaluations from outside of the author.

Keywords: *Attitudinal Language, Appraisal Studies, Childfree Discourse, Indonesian Online Media*

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of a modern lifestyle called 'childfree' contradicts the traditional principles and culture of Indonesian society. Practically, this paradigm leads to both positive and negative views from society (Prasetya & Sadewo, 2022). The term 'childfree' is defined as a couple's will not to have children in a marriage (Haganta et al., 2022). This is triggered by several factors such as the inability of the couple in terms of economics, psychology, and purely a mutual choice or decision (Tunggono, 2021). It is also different from 'childless', but both come from the same root word, 'childlessness'. Childlessness refers to the economic or biological reasons for the inability to have children (Agrillo & Nelini, 2008). Practically, both terms are used together or interchangeably in some studies and refer to the definition of "couples who voluntarily choose to live without children" (Devellis & Acker, 1984; Jamison et al., 1979; Pelton & Hertlein, 2011; Rowland, 1982).

Childfree is not a new phenomenon that has become a viral issue in recent years. It has long been practised in Indonesia. In the 1970s, some people in other countries have chosen to live without raising their children. The term 'childfree' was first used in 1972 by a social organisation consisting of childless couples in Italy (Agrillo & Nelini, 2008). In addition, Rowland (1982) argues that this term may have been known and practised in other countries such as New Zealand, Canada and America. In Indonesia, the issue was widely discussed around 2021 after news emerged about a Youtuber, Gita Savitri and her husband, who stated that they chose to live without having children (Haganta et al., 2022). The next news reported that an influencer, Cinta Laura, had planned to live without children to minimise and reduce overpopulation on the scale of human growth (Cornellia et al., 2022).

Childfree is widely discussed on social media (Prasetya & Sadewo, 2022), for example several online sites that post many articles containing certain discourse topics via the internet. Discourse is a text

in the form of thoughts or ideas from someone (the author). The text does not only consist of a series of words, clauses, sentences that forms a paragraph, but also as a source of meaning (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). As a communication tool, the author tries to convey messages and share his/her views on a phenomenon through the language used. The author will use language to influence the reader to have the same view. This usually happens when the author uses positive words to form a positive image or meaning related to the topic discussed in the text discourse (Iswandi et al., 2021). On the other hand, the authors tend to choose negatively charged words to form a negative image in accordance with the attitudes and messages they want to convey to the readers.

As an alternative to interacting with the readers, the texts have the interpersonal function. Based on the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), interpersonal functions relate to language practices with the aim of influencing the attitudes and views of others. This interpersonal function is massively found through language use with interpersonal meaning content. Interpersonal meaning can be identified through the use of lexical or linguistic features that indicate appraisal or evaluation of a phenomenon or topic discussed in a discourse (O'Halloran, 2004). The language use serves to evaluate something or someone through lexical choices. In the field of linguistics, this can be studied using the theory of appraisal proposed by Martin and White (2005). Martin & White (2005) state that appraisal analysis is a development of systemic functional linguistic theory that focus on the identification of interpersonal meaning through the determination of positive and negative word meanings (Martin & White, 2005; Qiao & Jiang, 2022).

In appraisal theory, the lexical choices contain meanings that represent the author's attitude such as acknowledging, answering, ignoring, challenging, rejecting, deflecting, anticipating, or

accommodating the reader in relation to the issue under discussion (Martin & White, 2005). There are three domains to evaluate the language used: attitude, engagement, and graduation. The attitude domain relates to someone's feelings which include three elements; affect, judgement, and appreciation (Martin & White, 2005; Qiao & Jiang, 2022). Engagement and graduation/lexical intensity are used to analyse lexical choice at the dialogical attitude level (Qiao & Jiang, 2022). This paper focuses on analysing the attitudinal language of public evaluations derived from 30 articles on childfree whether they are blaming (negative view) or praising (positive view). The attitude domain as the first consideration part of the theory is believed to be a direct and fundamental way to express evaluations (Martin & White, 2005; Mayo & Taboada, 2017).

The affect category of the attitude domain relates to the meaning dimension which includes emotions. The judgement category involves the evaluation of a person's character/behaviour. The appreciation category involves evaluating things and natural phenomena. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) limit the source of evaluation to distinguish three systems of attitude evaluation. The source of affect relates to conscious (concrete) participants such as individuals, groups of people, and institutions, for instances: *merasa terbebani* (feeling burdened), *sulit* (difficult), *kelelahan* (exhausted), *kekhawatiran* (worried), *frustasi* (frustrated), *sakit hati* (hurt), etc. The source of judgement is the behaviour of the participants such as the use of some lexical choices that are *berlawanan dengan kodrat* (against nature), *tidak bisa menyalahkan* (cannot blame), *konsisten* (consistent), *dianggap sebagai tantangan terhadap peran alamiah perempuan* (considered as a challenge to the natural role of women), etc. Appreciation, on the other hand, targets things that are concrete or abstract, material or semiotic such as *ramai* (crowded), *menjadi kontroversi* (controversial), *erat* (close), *tren* (trending), *meningkat* (increasing), *populer* (popular),

kompleks (complex), etc. In analysing the attitude domain, the lexical choices for evaluating or judging found contain positive and negative meanings that are displayed both explicitly (inscribed) and implicitly (invoked).

As one of the popular discourses, the outstanding discourse related to childfree has been studied by many researchers in recent years. In other countries, current issues related to childfree studies are associated with environmental issues such as climate change by Helm, et al. (2021), ideological dilemmas in living without children from a psychological perspective by Nakkerud (2021) and Nakkerud (2023). In Indonesia, childfree has been studied from several perspectives, such as religion, science, and ecological crisis by Haganta, et al. (2022), student perspective by Ramadhani & Tsabitah (2022), applied philosophy by Cornellia, et al. (2022), human rights and maqashid al-syariah by Indah & Zuhdi (2022). Overall, the studies on childfree have been viewed from a particular perspective. Furthermore, this paper will empirically analyse language use in evaluating the issue of childfree in Indonesia in terms of its lexical choices. By applying the appraisal theory proposed by Martin and White (2005), especially in the attitude domain. The analyses on attitude serves to help the authors to align the readers who will be more likely to accept their own self-evaluations (Liu, 2023). This paper aims to identify the language of attitude towards childfree issues through the analysis of appraisal items as language evaluation.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. This study uses a corpus of childfree discourse collected from Indonesia various online sites. The childfree corpus consists of 30 articles with 25,528 tokens. Data collection is carried by manual annotation techniques with the help of UAM Corpus Tool version 3.3. In the annotation process,

the appraising items will be examined. The appraising items used in childfree discourse are identified by analysing the entire clauses of each text. The appraising items contain lexical resources that express attitude systems including emotion/feeling (affect), norm or sanction (judgement), and aesthetics (appreciation). The identified lexical choices including words and phrases will be mapped and categorised based on the attitude system schema proposed by Martin and White's (2005) appraisal theory including polarity - positive and negative - and realisation – inscribed or invoked -. The categorisation of the data will be presented in diagram form to show the frequency and distribution of lexical attitude in the discourse. Data analysis is provided by explaining and interpreting the data findings displayed in the diagram.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Through the annotation system, 458 lexical choices as appraising items are identified into the attitude domain. The appreciation category shows the highest number with 306 assessment items. Affect came second with 105 lexical choices. A total of 47 items were categorised into judgement. Overall, the judgement items in the attitude domain are dominated by the negative items. 135 items have positive meanings and 304 items have negative meanings, while the other 19 items are indicated as neutral. The context given in the text determines the polarity of the words. Figure 1 displays the results of the attitude resource categories in the discourse.

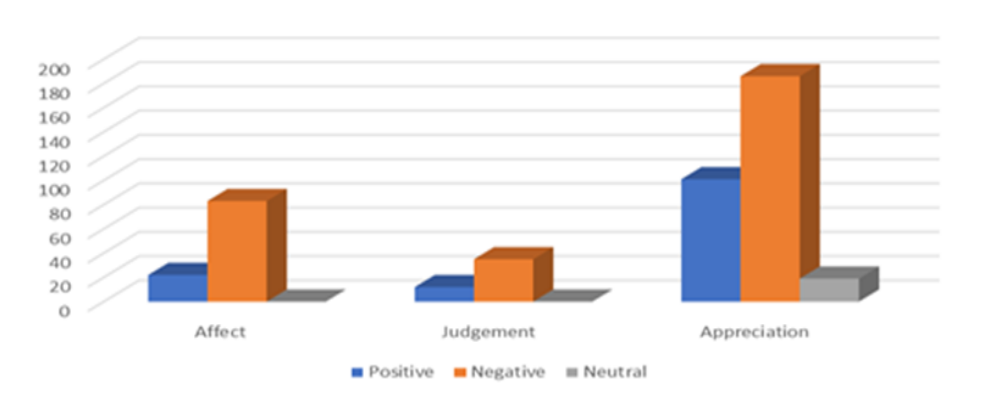


Figure 1. The Results of Attitude Domain Categorisation found in Childfree Discourse

The Attitude towards childfree issues through the analysis of Affect, Judgement, and Appreciation

1 *Affect*

Affect is defined as a dimension of meaning that relates comprehensively to emotions or feelings (Martin and White, 2005). Emotion is an expressive resource that is shown through empirical forms of language use. In this case, emotions come from two sources of evaluators, the author and non-author (informants, researchers, doctors, psychologists, an). Furthermore, the evaluation system in the affect sub-domain found will be classified into twelve types of emotions; cheer, affection, misery, antipathy (un/happiness); inclination, disinclination (dis/inclination); ennui, interest, pleasure, displeasure (dis/satisfaction); and quiet, disquiet, trust, distrust (in/security).

The emotions that appear in the corpus show a tendency for negative rather than positive meanings to be conveyed explicitly. In addition, the corpus shows that the dominant source of emotion to evaluate comes from non-author parties including some experts, the public and the government. In this category, there are 83 lexical items with negative meanings and 22 items with positive meanings as shown in Figure 2.

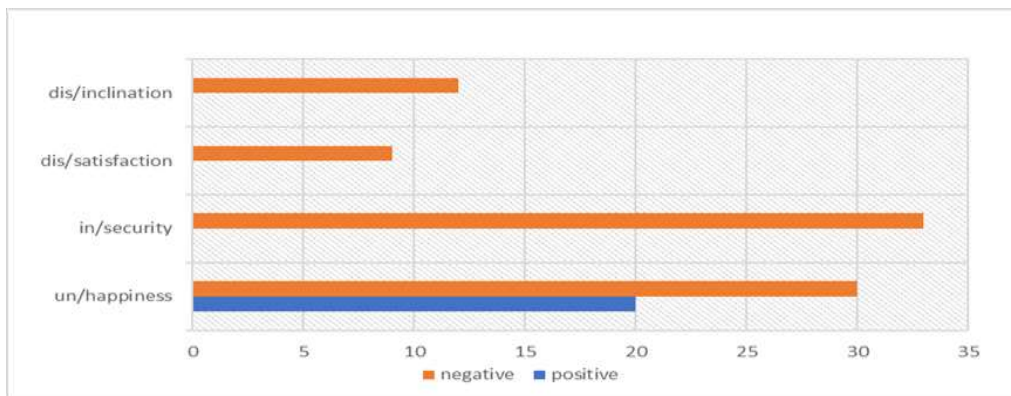


Fig 2. The Result of Affect Annotation

a. *Affect – Un/Happiness*

The sources of Un/happiness aspect include the emotions of misery (25) and cheer (20). Misery relates to emotions that show feelings of unhappiness, sadness, stress, and more. The cheer emotion type shows positive feelings because it is associated with a person's feelings of joy. The misery and cheer emotion types have almost equal shares.

The appraisal items of misery are mostly raised to evaluate the appraised items 'having children' and 'childfree actors'. Here are some examples of misery emotion judgement items in the discourse.

- (1) *ia merasa bahwa beban tanggung jawab moral yang datang dengan membesarkan anak*
- (2) *Tidak ada yang lebih menguras tenaga bagi saya selain berada di sekitar anak-anak*
- (3) *Tapi, terkadang juga menyebabkan kelelahan, kekhawatiran, frustrasi, dan sakit hati bagi orang tua yang merawatnya.*

The words *beban* (burden), *menguras tenaga* (draining), and *kelelahan* (fatigue) in (1), (2), and (3) are the appraising items to evaluate having life with children. These appraising items are identically referred to feelings that cause suffering or unhappiness in

living life.

The source of positive judgement is only found in un/happiness aspect, especially the cheer emotion type. Cheer is the opposite of misery. In this type, the source of appraisal is raised from housewives and childfree actors. As with the previous sources of evaluation, affect tends to be imported from voices outside the author to strengthen the author's message and indirectly lead readers to follow the author's opinion.

(4) orang yang memilih childfree merasa memiliki pernikahan yang lebih bahagia

(5) Keputusan untuk tidak mempunyai anak dapat mencegah stress

There is a lexical addition that shows the level of appraising items in (5). The lexical addition lebih (more) is used to increase the intensity of one's emotions. The word lebih bahagia (happier) is raised by the childfree actor to evaluate life without having children. The intensifier attached to bahagia is used to lower the evaluation toward marriage life with children. In other words, it can also be understood that marriage with children is evaluated as a happy life, but the intensity of happiness is not as much as life without children.

b. Affect – In/security

The sources of negative in/security emotions dominated the appraising items towards childfree life. In this aspect, two types of emotions are found: disquiet (31) and distrust (3). Disquiet emotions are mostly identified from non-author evaluation such as some childfree actors and researchers. The appraising item showing the emotion of disquiet and distrust is to evaluate the appraised item 'having children' which is widely used by childfree actors. The following data are examples of appraising items included in the in/security category:

(6) *Tori sempat menyakiti hati sang ibu yang membuatnya memutuskan tidak memiliki anak karena khawatir anak disakiti oleh anaknya.*

(7) *Kemudian dia menjadi takut tidak bisa menjadi ayah yang baik*

Appraising items showing emotion of disquiet are identified from the words *khawatir* (worry), dan *takut* (fear) that show the feeling of unease felt by childfree actors. Data (6) and (7) are affect conveyed by childfree actors. The presence of any expert voice is intended to reinforce the negative emotions felt by childfree actors. In addition, childfree actors also evaluate the appraised item 'having children' by using the appraising item of disquiet emotion.

(8) *Hal tersebut dapat memicu keraguan dalam diri karena merasa tidak memiliki biaya yang cukup untuk merawat anak*

The emotion of distrust is included in the source of insecurity aspect. Feelings of doubt are directed to childfree actors who do not have the confidence to raise children well. This type of emotion is less if it is compared to disquiet emotion findings. Based on the findings, childfree is referred to a person's insecurity about the life after marriage. The corpus does not show a positive evaluation, so the emotion of quiet and trust as the opposite emotion are also not appeared either from both author and non-author evaluation.

c. *Affect – Dis/Satisfaction*

There are 10 appraising items found to show the emotion of displeasure (negative). Some displeasure emotions come from childfree actors used to evaluate the appraised item 'having children' and 'society's perception'. However, some items of this type of emotion are also elicited by parents towards 'having children'.

(9) *chibi mengaku kesal dengan miskonsepsi khalayak umum*

(10) *mereka juga merasa kepuasan pernikahan menurun ketika*

seorang bayi lahir

The word *kesal* (annoyed) in (9) shows the emotion of displeasure by childfree actors towards society, which generally has a negative evaluation towards childfree actors. The emotion of displeasure is also shown by the phrase *merasa kepuasan pernikahan menurun* (feel that marital satisfaction decreases) in (10). The word *menurun* (decreases), which is to modify or communicate the state of *kepuasan* (satisfaction), shows a negative meaning towards the existence of children. In other words, 'having children' as something that does not give full pleasure or satisfaction.

d. Affect - Dis/inclination

In this aspect, 11 assessment items refer to the emotion of disinclination and are negative evaluations. Negative evaluations are used by childfree actors towards the willingness to have children. Some of the lexical choices used use negation to bring out words with negative meanings.

(11) Salah satunya karena merasa tidak cocok memiliki anak

(12) dari berbagai alasan tersebut juga dapat disimpulkan bahwa mereka yang memilih hidup tanpa anak merasa tidak siap menjadi orang tua

(13) Salah satu alasan orang memilih childfree yaitu tidak mau memikul tanggung jawab

(14) Bagaimana tidak. prinsip childfree sendiri berarti keengganan memiliki anak

The words *cocok* (unsuitable), *tidak siap* (not ready), *tidak mau* (unwillingness), and *keengganan* (reluctance) show feeling of unwillingness toward something. The additional negation in (11), (12), and (13) shows the negative evaluation of the positive form, while the word *keengganan* (reluctance) in (14) which is the noun of the adjective

enggan (reluctant) literally has negative meaning.

2. Judgement

Judgement is a domain of meaning that interprets evaluation about another person; their character and behaviour. In overview, judgement with a positive meaning effect is called admiration/admire and is called criticism if the meaning effect is negative (Fitriah, 2019; Martin & White, 2005).

Judgement is based on two social systems: social esteem, and social sanction. The findings of judgements in the childfree corpus show that negative judgements are used more than judgements that have positive values towards the appraised items. The judgement results are shown in figure 3 below.

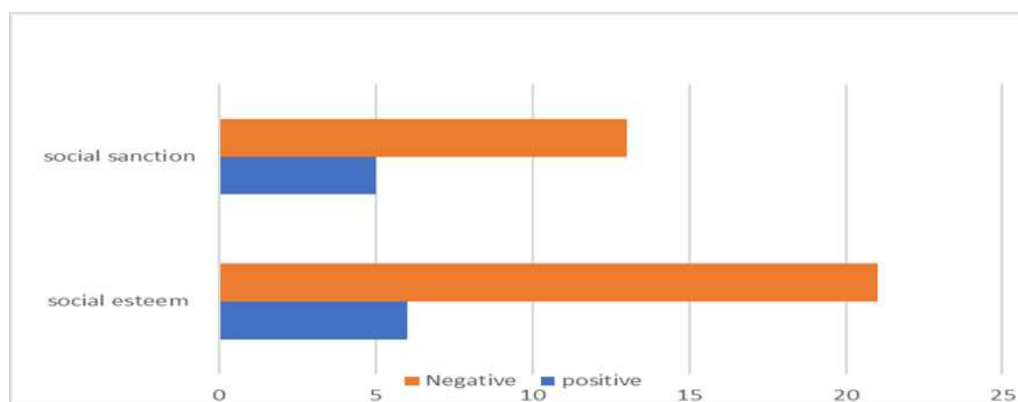


Fig 3. The Result of Judgement Annotation

a. Social Esteem

There are 47 judgements found in this category with a composition of negative meaning polarity of 35 items and positive meaning of 12 items. Judgements in this category are used to evaluate childfree actors.

Judgements based on social esteem can be identified based on three aspects: normality: social esteem based on the normal/abnormal, common/uncommon nature of a person's behaviour; capacity: used to evaluate a person's ability; and tenacity: related to the evaluation of

a person's mental quality. In this case, judgements based on capacity aspect are common. This aspect of judgement is used to provide an evaluation of childfree actors. 18 items are classified as negative judgements that shows the evaluation toward capacity aspect as in the following data example:

(15) Banyak penganut childfree merasa khawatir mereka tidak mampu menjalankan peran sebagai orang tua yang baik

(16) bahwa orang yang memutuskan untuk tidak punya anak hanya menyembunyikan ketidakmampuan mereka untuk bersalin

In data (15) and (16), the words tidak mampu (incapable) and ketidakmampuan (incapability) found literally indicate the capacity judgements. The negated word mampu (capable) and kemampuan (capability) that gets negated 'tidak' as an infix and becomes ke-tidak-mampu-an creates a negative meaning to evaluate childfree actors.

Positive judgements are found in small numbers. In this case, positive judgements are used to evaluate the appraised item 'childfree actors'.

(17) mereka mungkin akan memiliki fleksibilitas dalam memilih karir yang dijalani tanpa terikat dengan tanggung jawab merawat anak

The word fleksibilitas (flexibility) is intended to give positive judgement to childfree actors. It refers to the capacity or ability of childfree actors to pursue careers that are considered to have more time than housewives who have to take care of children every day.

There are 4 data that show judgements based on normality. This normality judgement shows an evaluation of childfree actors.

(18) Sehingga, semakin banyak masyarakat yang terpapar dengan ide-ide dan alternatif baru yang mungkin sudah dianggap normal di negara-negara seperti Amerika, China, Jepang, dan Korea Selatan.

In data (18), the word normal (normal) is used to positively evaluate childfree actors. The source of tpositive judgement comes from non-author evaluation. The adjective normal leads to the socio-cultural acceptance of childfree actors and behaviour. This is different from the use of the words abnormal, strange, or taboo.

Positive judgement is also found in the tenacity aspect. Frequently, the positive judgement in this aspect is used to evaluate women who choose to live childfree.

(19) Dewasa ini, perempuan jauh lebih mandiri dibandingkan kondisi yang dialami di masa lampau.

The word lebih (more) as an attitudinal lexis functions to indicate the level of the adjective mandiri (independent) to evaluate modern women positively. This judgement comes from non-authorial evaluation. The judgement includes the aspect of tenacity because it shows the mental ability of modern women. Childfree actors are often associated with modern people. In other words, the positive judgement refers to modern women who choose childfree lifestyle.

b. Social Sanction

Judgement which is based on social sanctions can be identified from behaviours related to honesty and ethics or politeness (Martin & White, 2005; Septiana & Indah Yulianti, 2021). Social sanction judgement is only found in the aspect of propriety and no veracity is found.

There are 18 appraising items of propriety judgement. 13 items show negative meaning and 5 items show positive meaning. The followings are the sample data that uses negative propriety judgement:

(20) Maka sudah barang tentu dianggap berlawanan dengan kodratnya sebagai wanita

(21) bahwa orang yang memilih untuk tidak memiliki anak secara suka rela (childfree) dinilai lebih negatif oleh masyarakat dari pada yang tidak subur

(22) Meskipun banyak perempuan yang masih saja dipermalukan karena tidak punya anak dan tidak bisa menjadi ibu

(23) Masih ada masyarakat Indonesia yang menganggap childfree adalah hal yang aneh akan menganggapnya sebagai keputusan yang egois.

Judgement items such as berlawanan (opposite), lebih negative (more negative), dipermalukan (humiliated), keputusan yang egois (selfish decisions) are used to give negative judgements to women who decide to live with no children in data (20), (21), (22), and childfree actors in (23). Negative judgements directed to the women illustrate that some childfree discourses in Indonesia intend to blame women who choose to live in childfree even though childfree is a shared choice between couples.

(24) Pada poin ini, kita tidak bisa menyalahkan begitu saja karena kondisi mental seseorang tentu berbeda-beda

(25) Keputusan dan komitmen yang mereka buat, tidaklah pantas untuk dihakimi dan dinilai egois

(26) Childfree bukan keputusan egois

In addition to negative propriety judgements, positive judgements are also found. Some positive judgements are addressed to childfree actors directly in the form of negation tidak bisa (cannot) (24), tidak (in-) (25), and bukan (not) (26). Some discourses show denial of childfree actors who are considered as selfish people. Even so, the findings have small number in the corpus.

3. *Appreciation*

Appreciation refers to appraising items or lexical choices that aim to evaluate something, for instance, things that are performed, natural phenomena, and the value of objects around (how someone appreciates them).

Martin and White (2005) state that this source of evaluation can include three aspects: reaction to something (whether it attracts attention or whether it is pleasant); composition, which relates to perception (views), and valuation, which relates to cognition (considered opinions). The appreciation results are shown in Figure 4.

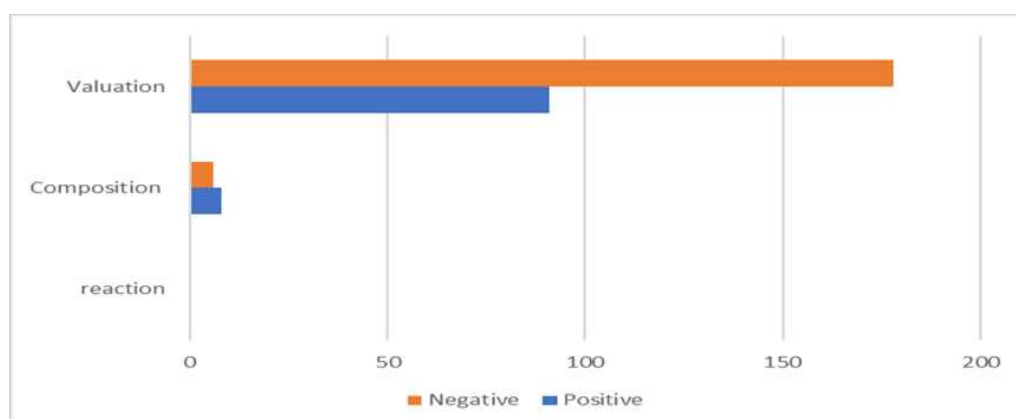


Fig 4. The Result of Appreciation Annotation

a. *Valuation*

The valuation aspect dominates the appreciation domain contained in the corpus both with positive and negative meanings. There are 186 negative and 96 positive valuations. This type of appreciation is often conveyed directly from both authorial and non-authorial evaluation. Based on the corpus, direct negative valuations are often raised from non-authorial evaluation. This valuation category was used to evaluate the items 'having children' and 'childfree phenomenon'. The following is the data with negative appraising items showing the evaluation toward 'having children' used by non-author:

(27) menyusui dan merawat anak merupakan hal yang merepotkan bagi perempuan.

(28) Ada kebebasan-kebebasan yang hilang ini yang bisa jadi pertimbangan kenapa kemudian memilih childfree

The source of valuation type can come from several experts as in (27) and (28). The adjective merepotkan (troublesome) is an evaluation coming from women in Poland which is concluded from the results of research on women who adhere to feminism. Data (28) comes from psychologists' observations and interpretations of childfree actors.

Negative valuations are also aimed to evaluate the childfree lifestyle. Many of the appraising items used are also sourced from non-author. The following data provided below shows negative lexical choices included into this type:

(29) Jelas akan mengancam demografi

(30) Childfree akan memicu berbagai masalah dalam pertumbuhan ekonomi negara yang turut berujung pada ramainya pengangguran

The valuation toward the childfree lifestyle is mostly raised by the government and researchers. The word mengancam (threaten) in (29) is a verb that has a negative meaning because it is associated with something that brings bad things in the future. The verb memicu (trigger) in (30) can be replaced with the verb menyebabkan (cause) or mengakibatkan (effect). In some contexts, the transitive verbs menyebabkan and mengakibatkan have negative prosody (Zhang, 2022). In this case, the word memicu (trigger) has a negative meaning because it refers to the negative words masalah (problem) and pengangguran (unemployment).

b. Composition

In the composition aspect, there are 21 appraising items which are divided into 13 negative and 8 positive items. The Lexical choices in the composition aspect are delivered directly or inscribed and tend to come from non-author evaluation. The following data provided are some negative appraising items that show the negative composition:

31) Istilah childfree belakangan ramai dibicarakan publik karena kontroversi pernyataan selebgram Gitasav.

(32) Pertama, pilihan hidup tanpa anak atau childfree jika dipahami lebih dalam lagi dapat menyebabkan krisis demografi.

(33) kondisi kelompok muda tidak produktif akan berprevalensi terhadap krisis ekonomi

The word kontroversi (controversy) in (31) is found four times. The appraising item is used by the author to evaluate the emergence of the childfree lifestyle in Indonesia. The word kontroversi has a negative meaning because it deals with two camps involved in debates and disagreements that take place over the period of time. In (32) and (33), there is the word krisis (crisis) which refers to an unbalanced calculation or balance scales in terms of demographics and economics. In addition, positive items are used to value 'living childfree'.

The appraising item lebih baik (better) in (34) is used to positively evaluate the mental health of childfree actors. In the linguistic view, the word baik (good) indicates a positive meaning because it is the opposite of buruk (bad). The adjective harmonis (harmonious) in (35) is associated with a positive couple relationship bond.

Childfree and the Calculation of Negative Public Evaluation in Indonesian Online Media

Overall, negativity and positivity occur mostly in appreciation followed by affect and judgement. In other words, judgement has the least frequency of evaluation indicated from the childfree corpus.

Appreciation often dominates attitude domain in the term of language evaluation. Judgement tends to take second place after appreciation in the discourse of comments (Mayo & Taboada, 2017; Ross & Caldwell, 2019; Zulfa & Herliani, 2023). In fact, it is explained that the language of comments is more related with the use of judgement and appreciation as the language of opinion rather than emotional reaction or affect (Cavasso & Taboada, 2021). Definitely, it depends on the content of the comment. The comments on cosmetic advertising products are more often found to use affect (Nur & Hadi, 2016). In the case of comments on political issues, attitude domain evaluation is often found to be judgement.

Significantly, the differences in terms of polarity also occur in each aspect of attitude. In appreciation, negative items occur more than positive items. Negative items on affect tend to be presented more than positive items. It also occurs in the judgement category. The results found that negative evaluation about childfree in all category of attitude domain are more frequently expressed in the corpus.

The occurrence of judgement, which occupies the second position after appreciation in the comment discourse, is because the comments are aimed at a person. In the case of childfree discourse, the frequency of affect that occurs more than judgement shows that the authors emphasize more on explaining the psychological reasons which motivate someone chooses to be childfree rather than showing judgement towards childfree actors.

In general, the negative items presented in the corpus intend to explain the author's attitude towards childfree as a negative phenomenon. Childfree is described by negative psychological states of unease feeling such as disquiet, disinclination, and displeasure towards children, as well as the misery emotion of living a childfree lifestyle. Childfree actors' feelings of worry are not only about having children but also about climate change (Helm et al., 2021). On the other hand,

not all positive items toward 'living with no children' are raised by childfree actors but also housewives. However, the most frequently data finding identifies the author's attitude that tends to view childfree life negatively.

Affect is also used to describe the negative medical, psychological and social consequences of living childfree. However, from all of the affect presented, many affect evaluations are presented from the author's external voice (non-authorial evaluation). This is known from the occurrence of evaluation within clause patterns such as *dia menjadi takut* (she became scared), *Chibi mengaku kesal* (Chibi admitted to being upset), *mereka juga merasa kepuasan menurun* (they also felt satisfaction decreases).

The authors tend to use the third person to show affect evaluation that refer to childfree actors, the government, family, and society. It is indicated that the author's attitude intends to disengage from all negative evaluation that are raised in an unbalanced manner among the appraisers. It can also be understood that the authors raise the other opinions to strengthen the author's personal evaluation without presenting their voice within the text obviously and directly (Septiana & Indah Yulianti, 2021). Mostly, affect can be found from the author when the discourse describes the author's personal experience (Djatkika, 2022). Some affects from non-author's voice are raised to strengthen the author's opinion to have an impact or influence on readers (Liu, 2023) including showing condolences in natural disaster news (Prastikawati, 2021).

Apart from being a personal issue, childfree can intersect with social issues, causing heated debates in the media. The discussion of childfree involves pro and contra groups, the government, and researchers in the fields of health and psychology. Childfree can also be categorised as a cultural problem because it contradicts the family ideals of Indonesian society. Many negative judgements show the

evaluation of social esteem or social environment appreciation. The author shows a lot of negativities in the capacity aspect. This explains that childfree actors are considered as people who do not have the ability to become parents and carry out the nature of women, minorities, The results of the evaluation toward tenacity aspect are almost not found. This indicates that the authors do not related childfree with a person's tenacity or independence.

In the term of judgement based on social sanction, childfree has a lot of negativities on propriety aspect. The authors intend to illustrate that childfree is judged as something that is not appropriate according to the cultural norms of Indonesian society. Tunggono (2021) also said that childfree is often looked down upon by mostly Indonesian societies. Childfree is considered as a life way violating the 'standard' of life determined by social society. Violation of the 'standard' that has been recognised by some people will be considered strange or anomalous as a social consequence (Tunggono, 2021).

The authors do not bring up veracity aspect in the whole corpus. This is because the issue of childfree has more to relate with the socio-culture of Indonesian society, including something that is appropriate or inappropriate based on the unwritten norms applied and believed by the society. The social sanctions that emerge will be different in the case of political discourse. The judgements of political discourse will emphasise the judgement of veracity such honesty as it is related to one's leadership. In the political discourse, which is identical to image competition between political opponents, many veracity judgements will appear (Ross & Caldwell, 2019).

In various discourses, appreciation always has the highest frequency. In this case, valuation and negative composition are found in equal amounts. Negativity, which has a much greater number of frequencies than positivity, explains that the authors respond to childfree as something that is not useful or has no value. The authors consider that childfree as an alternative choice for modern people who do not want to lose their freedom. The authors also

have view that childfree has the potential to cause damage to people's personal health and the environment. Several parties are presented in the whole corpus to influence the reader's view cognitively.

Negative composition is used to provide an explanation of the potential threats that childfree will provide through the economic and demographic crisis. Both are the threats to human survival that are associated with childfree life. This contradicts the positive composition that depicts the harmonious life of childfree families. This further strengthens the author's attitude that demonstrate childfree as an advantage for some people. In the appreciation aspect, no reaction is found. Generally, reaction type is found in tourism texts (Iswandi et al., 2021). In the term of appreciation, reaction type shows an enthusiasm and interest (Martin & White, 2005). Reaction is related to desiderative or desire. The authors do not present appreciation of reaction. This explains that childfree is not a desire but an alternative choice to still have freedom of life after marriage.

CONCLUSION

The childfree lifestyle is considered as a modern family lifestyle that tends to minimise the hassle of having children. In Indonesia, all life is mostly shaped by the social environment including standardised life cycles. With standardisation, Indonesians cannot ignore the emergence of childfree lifestyle, even though childfree is not completely rejected or accepted. The use of appraisal theory in this study can show appraisal calculations related to the issue of childfree in articles outstanding in Indonesian society which the results show that Indonesian society and the government do not have the readiness to accept a childfree lifestyle. The strong culture and ideal family principles make childfree unjustified even though childfree actors are increasing these recent years.

Based on the calculation of the appraising items used to evaluate, it can be indicated that it represents the general view of the

Indonesian people regarding a sensitive issue. In this case, the attitude of the author of the article within the language used is something that cannot be ignored and needs to be considered to avoid subjectivity and validate the general view of an issue raised. This research will be more completed and comprehensive if it can include engagement domain variables that show the position of the author in raising a discourse that is sensitive to a particular culture.

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