

The Attitude of *The Times* Towards China Based on Corpus

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Corpus is increasingly known as a research tool, and there are more and more research fields using corpus, including some news reporting fields. As the UK's comprehensive national circulation daily and the UK's first mainstream newspaper, *The Times* is known as the "faithful recorder of British society". It has a great impact on the world's politics, economy, and culture. This article intercepts *The Times*' reports on Chinese politics, economy, science and technology, culture, and other aspects. By analyzing the theme of each report in the corpus, the reports can reflect *The Times*' attitude towards Chinese political, economic, cultural, and technological containment.

Keywords: corpus, *The Times*, containment

Corpus

The application field of corpus research methods has the following points:

News Field

With the application of social media and the popularization of smartphones, everyone can be the witnesses and publishers of the incident. Traditional media news reports have no longer existing in originality and exclusiveness. As a recorder and traveler of society, Volkswagen Media, the extensive information dissemination of all audiences, has become increasingly unable to meet the audience's needs for precision information and customized content.

In the era of big data, the most important thing is the openness of data. It is very likely to be monopolized. Public clouds and public databases exist everywhere. The media must not only produce its own data, but also use public data. These public data include not only digital information, but also a large number of text content. To use these public content, you need to have the ability to integrate massive information and the ability to excavate potential information value, and to accurately present the results with visualization tools.

The Field of Historical Materials Retrieval

That is, the data of the original content and historical data of news reports become the core assets of the media. Today, with the increasingly flat news channels, establishing a historical database that is easy to discover and easy to use is one of the core competitiveness of newspapers. In addition, some external data can be collected as the expansion part of the corpus, such as cooperation, purchase, exchange, and capture to obtain the content from other media and the content created by users from the Internet platform, and improve the data storage and retrieval of the corpus. Query and copyright management lay the foundation for further transformation and utilization (Yu & Li, 2014).

Theoretical Foundation—Functional Linguistics and Discourse Analysis Theory

Functional linguistics believes that speakers choose and organize language to achieve communication purposes in information transmission (Cheng & Chen, 2019). Therefore, the analysis of functional linguistics can explain the effect of communication purposes by exploring the construction of discourse. The news is the communication behavior of conveying information from the media to the public. The research of news and discourse is mostly based on functional linguistics as the theoretical basis to analyze the way of spreading discourse. Critical discourse analysis is the most common research path (Gravells, 2017), that is, to reveal the social inequality of the media, such as gender discrimination, racial discrimination, etc., and its social effects (Kress & Hodge, 1979; Fowler, Hodge, Kress, & Trew, 1979). It first systematically introduced news discourse research and gradually became the mainstream framework of news discourse research (Van Dijk, 2008). Reul and other criticisms of the Dutch newspapers have criticized the discourse analysis of the news from 2013 to 2015, revealing that the study of the media as a place of struggle is conducive to people's deeper understanding of the whole process of social debate caused by social debate essence (Reul, Paulussen, & Maesele, 2019). Xu Jingji in the three-dimensional critic analysis framework proposed by Fairclough (2000; 2014) compares and analyzes the fuzzy restrictions in the discourse of China-US diplomatic press conferences, discovers the cultural values, diplomatic concepts, and national positions. From the perspective of criticism to a positive perspective, the "good" phenomenon of social evaluation promoting social equality in news through positive discourse analysis (Martin, 2004).

The "Times"

Research on China in *The Times*

Zhang Yan (2021) in the article from "space" to "time": *The Times*' research on narrative logic (1785-1840) pointed out *The Times* reported on China in modern China. At the beginning of *The Times*, the term "China" was often presented as a fingerprint of geographical coordinates. Such reports were mainly associated with ship news and commodity information. With the increasingly frequent exchanges between China and Britain, some visitors and letters that have been visited by West China have gradually enriched the Westerners' multi-dimensional space for Chinese humanities, geography, and politics. The "Space narrative" in Chinese reports has also gone through the process of "spatial narrative" from point to face and then three-dimensional.

Lin Pan published an article: The paper describes the influence of *The Times* on China's social and cultural media.

Comparison of the news framework of China, the United States, and Britain based on the *People's Daily*, the *New York Times*, and the *Thames Report Reporting* as an example, we discussed three aspects: One is the regional framework of the three newspapers, which are divided into two domestic and international perspectives to analyze; second, the three newspapers' theme frameworks are analyzed as four types of news of current political news, social people's livelihood, financial economy, and lace entertainment news. The third is the political party framework, which divides the news into two types of political parties and non-political party news. The number of domestic news and international news is basically the same as *Thames*.

The Times is also the highest news (59.0%) of social livelihood news, followed by current political news (18.4%), financial and economic news (11.3%), and lace entertainment news (11.3%). There are relatively many news attention points in *The Times*, especially in lace entertainment (Zhou et al., 2008).

In “The Shanghai Image Study of the *New York Times* and *The Times*”, this article revealed that the sources of the two major newspapers have two characteristics. One of them focuses on quoting the views of third-party countries or regions to support the objectivity of reports and increases the credibility of the news; second, among the three sources, the government information source of the two media is significantly at a lower level, and it is more preferred. Quoting the company’s institutions and personal views, the news production in the context of Western cultural context has highlighted individualism. Their report themes focus on Shanghai’s “business” and “culture”. The number of themes of Shanghai reports reflects the *New York Times* and *The Times* more tendency to recognize Shanghai from business and cultural dimensions. The political topics that Western media often emphasize when reporting to China have not occupied an important position in Shanghai reports (Fu & Xu, 2020).

Chinese Image Shaped in the Media

The influence of the media on China’s image is relatively direct, so it is often regarded as the main means of China’s image construction. In fact, the media is the main medium of cognition and views about China and the formation of China at home and abroad.

Xu Minghua (2013) selected Singapore’s “Lianhe Zaobao” as an analysis of the image, analyzing relevant review articles on the 2012 London Olympics, and discussed the methods and characteristics of overseas Chinese media to present the image of China. The author analyzes the elements of the comments, China-related positions, author identity, main issues, and word characteristics of these reports. It is negatively reported that the political issues are negative, because the overseas Chinese have a strong sense of recognition of Chinese traditional culture and a sense of interest in China’s current politics.

Zhao Hong (2014) analyzed data statistics and analysis of the number, issue, publication, source, and reporting tendency to China through the British *Daily Telegraph*, and found that the Chinese image presented by the newspaper was full of vitality. There are various contradictions, a country that combines free and open market economy and strictly controlled political systems. From the perspective of the newspaper, China’s economy has developed rapidly, and its international influence is increasing, but there are many uncertainties in future development. He believes that with the increasingly frequent international exchanges, the image of the people or individuals is reflected at the Western media and the public’s vision at any time. Therefore, people and personal influence are the longest and most basic factor affecting the national image.

Zhang Kun and Chen Yali (2014), taking *The Times* and the *New York Times* reports on the Diaoyu Islands as an example, based on the framework theory, found the British and American newspapers were compared to the British and American newspapers in the report of geopolitical conflict reports. Studies have found that the Chinese image set by *The Times* is a powerful collaborator in a diverse pattern. The newspaper believes that the Chinese economy plays an important image in the global economy, and the *New York Times* describes China as the potential threat of Asia Pacific security. The author pointed out that the reason for this difference lies in the cultural traditions of Britain and the United States. Britain has cultural traditions, such as “balance of balance” and “utilitarian cooperation”, while the United States emphasizes the thorough defending of its “Emperor Power”. They also adopted a quantitative framework analysis and qualitative content analysis method to analyze the report of the Singapore English newspaper *Straits Times* and the Indonesian English newspaper *Jakarta Post* on the South China Sea dispute. The image of “friendly elephant” evolved to “attack giant”.

Zhou Wenping (2009) focused on analyzing the Chinese image built by American movies, pointing out that the image of Chinese movies in traditional American movies has strong oriental colors, mysterious and ancient

Oriental, suffering land, and the world to be saved. These shaped images have been continuously copied and interpreted in the US electricity, forming and strengthening Americans' stereotypes and superiority in China. Under the appearance of "Kung Fu", China is still a distant "other" in American movies (Hu & Li, 2017).

Relevant Reports of *The Times*

The news theme can be found in the characteristics of a given text. Using Antconc3.5.8 to extract the theme of the subject, extract the significant ultra-frequency word in the text, you can form the theme of the text. Frequency is very important for corpus research, and the comparison of corpus related studies often compares the frequency, such as the comparison of vocabulary or phrases inside the corpus, or comparison between two or more corpus. In a corpus-based study, the number of words, phrases, or other language units often appear in two corpuses, and compares the capacity of the two corpuses in two corpuses, whether there is a significant difference in use.

Table 1

Text 1: The Time Is Now to Hold China in Check

11	6	+72.01	0.0227	Congress
14	5	+59.38	0.0189	Barbara
15	5	+59.38	0.0189	China
18	4	+46.82	0.0152	Committee
19	4	+46.82	0.0152	Congressional
21	4	+46.82	0.0152	Price
22	4	+46.82	0.0152	Technology
24	4	+46.82	0.0152	Virginia
26	3	+34.36	0.0114	Comstock
27	3	+34.36	0.0114	House

This text is a report about the *New York Times* in China, selecting the Top 10 meaningful words of the keywords in the text, which are in turn: "congress, Barbara, China, committee, congressional, price, technology, Virginia, Comstock, and house" (see Table 1).

In the text, the keyness and effect of "congress" are respectively "+72.01, 0.0227"; the keyness and effect of "Barbara" are respectively "+59.38, 0.0189"; the keyness and effect of "China" are respectively "+59.38, 0.0189"; the keyness and effect of "price" are respectively "+46.82, 0.0152"; the keyness and effect of "technology" are respectively "+46.82, 0.0152".

The main ideas can be seen from word meaning of the keyword list in the text. Barbara's parliamentary meeting mainly discusses China's economic issues, and they will sanction China's economic prices and technologies, showing the United States' attitude towards China's economy.

This text is a political report from the *New York Times*, selecting the top meaningful words of the keywords in the text, which are in turn: "Barbara, technology, committee, congress, price, Virginia, China, Comstock, congressional, crackdown, and legislation" (see Table 2).

In the text, the keyness and effect of "Barbara" are respectively "+63.75, 0.0291"; the keyness and effect of "technology" are respectively "+63.75, 0.0291"; the keyness and effect of "committee, congress, price" are respectively "+50.31, 0.0233"; the keyness and effect of "China, Comstock, congressional, legislation" are respectively "+36.98, 0.0175".

Table 2

Text 2: Former Rep. Sees Great Opportunity for US in China's Tech Crackdown

11	5	+63.75	0.0291	Barbara
13	5	+63.75	0.0291	Technology
15	4	+50.31	0.0233	Committee
20	3	+36.98	0.0175	China
22	3	+36.98	0.0175	Congressional
18	4	+50.31	0.0233	Price
13	5	+63.75	0.0291	Technology
19	4	+50.31	0.0233	Virginia
21	3	+36.98	0.0175	Comstock
25	3	+36.98	0.0175	Legislation

The main idea can be seen from word meaning of the keyword list in the text. Barbara in the United States held a parliament through Congress and conducted a technical blockade of China. It can be seen from the political level that the democracy in the United States is mainly reflected in the democratic parliament of Congress. Most participants and voters are capitalists, safeguarding the interests of capitalists, and showing that the United States has made a political attitude towards the economy to suppress the economy.

Table 3

Text 3: Technology, China, the United States, and 5G: Who Will Get There First?

8	20	+225.32	0.0391	Spectrum
16	10	+109.88	0.0198	Wireless
17	9	+98.41	0.0178	America
19	9	+98.41	0.0178	China
20	8	+86.97	0.0158	Industry
21	7	+75.56	0.0139	Band
26	6	+64.19	0.0119	Deployments
27	6	+64.19	0.0119	National
28	6	+64.19	0.0119	Race
29	6	+64.19	0.0119	Strategy

This text is a report about the *New York Times* in China, selecting the top meaningful words of the keywords in the text, which are in turn: “spectrum, wireless, America, China, industry, band, deployments, national, race, strategy, united, commercial, and create” (see Table 3).

In the text, the keyness and effect of “spectrum” are respectively “+225.32, 0.0391”; the keyness and effect of “wireless” are respectively “+109.88, 0.0198”; the keyness and effect of “industry” are respectively “+86.97, 0.0158”; the keyness and effect of “strategy” are respectively “+64.19, 0.0119”; the keyness and effect of “united” are respectively “+64.19, 0.0119”; the keyness and effect of “commercial” are respectively “+52.86, 0.0099”.

The main idea can be seen from word meaning of the keyword list in the text. The United States’ wireless spectrometer company will conform to Chinese companies’ joint resistance strategies. They will block China’s related industries and show the United States’ economic suppression attitude to China.

This text is the *New York Times* about China and American culture’s related reports on the film and television theater, selecting the top meaningful words of the keywords in the text, which are in turn: “China, Bestar, Shanghai, cinemas, theatres, management, corporation, and experience” (see Table 4).

Table 4

Text 4: IMAX Multi-Theater Deal in China

8	13	+150.34	0.0321	China
11	11	+133.28	0.0272	Bestar
14	9	+102.52	0.0223	Shanghai
15	8	+90.62	0.0199	Cinemas
17	8	+90.62	0.0199	Theatres
19	7	+78.75	0.0174	Management
22	6	+66.92	0.0149	Corporation
23	6	+66.92	0.0149	Experience

In the text, the keyness and effect of “China” are respectively “+150.34, 0.0321”; the keyness and effect of “cinemas” are respectively “+90.62, 0.0199”; the keyness and effect of “theatres” are respectively “+90.62, 0.0199”; the keyness and effect of “corporation” are respectively “+66.92, 0.0149”.

The main idea can be seen from word meaning of the keyword list in the text. The United States conducted a related investigation of the cultural film and television industry theater and theater in Shanghai, China. China and the United States also have cooperation with exchanges and cooperation, management experience, etc., at the cultural level. Sino-US cooperation meets the needs of the people and meets public opinion.

Conclusion

By intercepting politics, economy, science and technology, and cultural levels, *The Times* reported on China, highlighting the status and influence of the United States’ economic trade, technology development, and cultural undertakings. By analyzing the subjective words, it can be found the United States’ attitude towards China. Because of political interests, the United States often adopts political means to curb and suppress Chinese economic trade, technology introduction, and cultural film and television industry exchanges, questioning whether China can play the role of the world’s emerging power in a peaceful development method, expressing the hostility of the United States to China. Although these reports have strengthened the “stereotypes” of the Chinese government and citizens through politics, economy, technology, and culture to varying degrees, the dynamics of China’s diplomacy, the liquidity of international exchanges, and the dynamics of national interests will continuously challenge this “stereotype” (Zhang & Chen, 2014).

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