Attitude in diplomatic speeches: a pilot study

Mariia Anisimova, Šárka Zikánová

Charles University, Malostranské náměstí 25, 118 00, Prague, Czech Republic

Abstract
This paper presents a pilot study of attitude analysis in diplomatic discourse. The study was conducted by following the Appraisal Theory while annotating attitudinal expressions in the diplomatic speeches of the United Nations Security Council. It is supposed that the Appraisal scheme would unfold new valuable information about the distribution of attitudes in the diplomatic discourse due to the highly specific ranking of different types of opinion representations. The aim of the study is to analyze the application of the theory to real diplomatic data. To be fully comprehensible, these texts, though straightforward on the surface, require additional attention from the reader. The data consist of 20 speeches that were sampled from the UN Security Council Debates dataset and then manually annotated by applying the "attitude" part of the Appraisal theory scheme. The annotation process has shown problematic points regarding the influence of polarity of the actors on expressing attitudes, attitudes implicated in the proper names and phrases, identifying appraisal, as well as the annotator's subjectivity issue. We have concluded that the Appraisal theory annotation scheme is generally well applicable to diplomatic speeches. As for the unclear cases, we have proposed some solutions which could be taken into modification.

Keywords
Diplomatic discourse, Discourse analysis, Appraisal theory, Corpus linguistics

1. Introduction

The United Nations Security Council has proven to be one of the organs of international diplomacy that not only provides a platform for exchanging opinions and discussing the event, but also for taking decisions that help cease and prevent international conflicts. The diplomatic discourse of this organization can give us valuable information on how people exchange opinions while being in a situation where each word can cost not only millions of dollars but can either save or kill people. This context of meetings shape the discourse of the sessions making the speeches highly formalized, structured, and thoroughly prepared.

The aim of this study is to look at how the Appraisal theory can be applied at diplomatic speeches, to get to know the scheme through annotation and to find out specificities of annotating diplomatic speeches following this scheme. It is expected that in case the existing scheme would not cover the research needs in full, it could be edited according to the needs of the study. One of the expected outcomes of this project would be a creation of a high-quality language data that could be used in different projects in computational linguistics.

The presented analysis should be considered as a part of a larger study of defining facts and attitudes in diplomatic speeches. One of the steps is to find an annotation scenario that is the most suitable for the task of defining

attitudes in diplomatic speeches [1]. These attitudes are expected to be found and annotated on the level of single expressions, therefore sentence-level as well as the text-level are not taken into account. In this pilot study we omit analysis of the broader context of the sentence and text and concentrate on the level of single expressions as the Appraisal theory does not offer the solution for this task, therefore it would be developed at the later stages of the research. When the scheme is found and the data is annotated, it should be possible to draw conclusions about the structural, grammatical, lexical, and poetic features of attitudes in diplomatic discourse. The final step is expected to be the creation of a dictionary for diplomatic attitudinal expressions and training a model to automatically detect attitudes in diplomatic discourse.

2. The term of *attitude*

Even though the meaning of the word 'attitude' could be perceived as clear and understandable, it is important to remember that 'attitude' is a polysemic word, and the definition closest to what we refer to in this work is "a mental position or a feeling or emotion with regard to a fact or state" [2]. Expressing attitudes, in general, is perceived as a natural human social behavior crucial for establishing and maintaining cooperation. Attitude in this context could be viewed as a synonym to the term of opinion, which "is a subjective statement as it describes the thinking or the beliefs of a person about a particular thing. Opinion can be defined as a judgment or a belief that lacks absolute conviction, certainty, or optimistic knowledge. It concludes that certain facts, ideas, etc. are likely to be true or are true."[3] In the given context, an

attitude could also be referred to as being "an estimation of the quality or worth of someone or something" [4].

In diplomacy, attitudes can also be viewed from a higher perspective of being markers of a diplomat's position, and therefore, a country's position towards the discussed events. This presented analysis should not be considered to be conducted on this higher level of understanding of diplomatic attitude. We are not describing the position of the speaker as a manifestation of their country's international politics but are interested in local linguistic manifestations that an attitude may take in order to develop linguistic criteria for distinguishing linguistic manifestations of facts and attitudes on a sentence level. We, therefore, perceive attitudes as single expressions rather than a general attitude towards the event discussed.

The formal view of identifying attitudes is especially important in our task as it is connected with the natural language processing of diplomatic texts. There are many forms that an attitude can take in diplomatic speeches, among them are adjectives *(a just war, the most difficult decision)*, nouns *(ally)*, verbal constructions *(I am afraid that)*, as well as clauses and phraseologisms *(the rats are abandoning ship)*. There are certain patterns of constructions that repeat in variable forms in every single speech and therefore are identifiable without difficulty (e.g. formal appreciation as in *'let me welcome you to your new position...'*, or *'It is a great pleasure to welcome...'*).

The analysis of attitudes in various fields of study demanded a framework which would define the position of the speaker and their reaction towards the events from multiple viewpoints. One of the solutions to this need is the Appraisal Theory [5]. This approach to analyzing and classifying attitudes views them as being one of the parts of the more global viewpoint of appraisal of the "language of evaluation". The viewpoint of expressed attitudes being resources for evaluation of the 'social intersubjective perspective on evaluation' [6] is adopted in the present paper.

3. The dataset

3.1. The source of data

The data for the current analysis was excerpted from The UN Security Council Debates dataset [7], which contains 65393 speeches in total. The speeches were all held during the meetings of the United Nations Security Council between 1995 and 2007. The dataset contains metadata for a speaker's name, the country they represent, as well as their role in the meeting. The language of the texts in the dataset is English. This means that the speeches are either being added in their original language if the speaker was using English or that an official UN transla-

tion was incorporated. In cases where a speech was held in a language different from English, the respective additional information was added at the beginning of each file. We had a question of whether to focus only on speeches held in English or to analyze official translations as well. From our point of view, official translations could be considered a suitable language material for the research due to the excellent qualification of the UN translation team.

3.2. Creating a corpus and selecting a subset of speeches

After the source data was obtained, a smaller corpus (referred to as "the 100 corpus" later on) of speeches was created. This corpus consists of 100 speeches in total. The speeches were selected according to certain criteria. We have first selected five international military conflicts discussed and debated at the Security Council within the time frame of the UN Security Council Debates dataset. The topics selected are the following: the Palestinian topic (comprising of meeting recordings regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict), the Yugoslavian topic (the discussions and debates regarding the Yugoslav Wars), the Ukrainian topic (referring to meetings regarding the Russo-Ukrainian War), the Georgian topic (debates regarding the 1992–1993 War in Abkhazia, and the 2008 Russo-Georgian War), and the various questions discussed regarding the Iraq War (comprising the Iraqi topic).

The corpus contains 20 speeches from each topic. The speeches were chosen according to certain criteria in order for the dataset to be balanced. The first criterion was the position of the speaker. This means, that for each meeting a cluster of speeches (usually 5 speeches from the same meeting) at least one would be from the country suffering from the military conflict, one - from the invader, the aggressor, or the opponent, two - from the permanent members of the UNSC, and one from a non-permanent member. In certain cases, we have also selected speeches from invited guests, usually experts or politicians. We have also tried to include at least one "supporter" of the invaded country, and one "supporter" of the aggressor or a neutral party. These political criteria served as a mean of selecting the speeches, however, they were not reflected in the metadata of the corpus yet. One of our goals is to investigate various speeches from the linguistic point of view to be able to distinguish the position of the speaker according to their choice of lexicon. The second criterion was the time, when the meeting took place: for each topic we have accomplished to include speeches from various stages of the respective conflicts.

After the corpus was created, a smaller subset of data from the "100 corpus" was selected for the pilot annotation. The subcorpus consists of 20 texts. This subset

of data was not meant to be fully balanced, however, its speeches are generally representable of the topics, speakers, and the time frame of the "100 corpus" as can be seen in Table 1.

Speech id	Year	Topic	Country
3487_14	1995	Yugoslavia	-
3487_2	1995	Yugoslavia	Bosnia and Herzegovina
3487_16	1995	Yugoslavia	Italy
3487_6	1995	Yugoslavia	Turkey
3487_4	1995	Yugoslavia	Croatia
3680_8	1996	Georgia	China
3680_9	1996	Georgia	United Kingdom
4204_26	2000	Palestine	China
4204_18	2000	Palestine	Ukraine
4204_24	2000	Palestine	United Kingdom
4204_4	2000	Palestine	Pakistan
4204_2	2000	Palestine	Palestine
4701_8	2003	Iraq	Russian Federation
4841_65	2003	Palestine	Lebanon
5951_6	2008	Georgia	United Kingdom
5951_7	2008	Georgia	France
5951_4	2008	Georgia	Georgia
5951_15	2008	Georgia	Russian Federation
7498_22	2015	Ukraine	Ukraine
7498_40	2015	Ukraine	Russian Federation

Table 1
Distribution of the annotated speeches in terms of time, topic, and the speaker

The created sub-dataset has a size of 16540 tokens. The volume of the data analyzed was enough to draw preliminary conclusions on the adaptation of the annotation scenario, however, the statistics of the conducted analysis could only be viewed as preliminary.

4. The Appraisal Theory

There are various ways of analyzing attitudes and it is crucial to compare them in application on the chosen type of data to truly visualize the difference between approaches and to be able to develop or adapt the most applicable annotation scheme. For this introductory analysis, it was decided to apply the Appraisal Theory by Martin and White [5] as it is in many cases the initial one. The theory views appraisal as 'the language of evaluation', as 'meanings in context and towards rhetorical effects rather than towards grammatical forms', and, therefore, focuses on analyzing such meanings as positivity/negativity, meanings by which intensity and directness are strengthened or weakened, as well as meanings of engagement. The Appraisal Theory scheme may be seen in Figure 1.

The authors [5] propose to analyze appraisal in three interactional domains: engagement, attitude, and graduation. "Attitude is concerned with our feelings, including
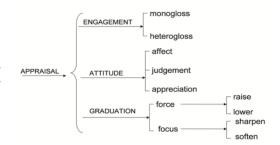

Figure 1: An overview of appraisal resources [6]

emotional reactions, judgments of behavior and evaluation of things. Engagement deals with sourcing attitudes and the play of voices around opinions in discourse. Graduation attends to grading phenomena whereby feelings are amplified and categories blurred" [5]. Each dimension is then subdivided into different fields. In the current study, we have focused only on one dimension of the Appraisal theory, namely on analyzing attitudes in diplomatic speeches. This category is divided into three subfields: affect (e.g. "We are hopeful"), judgment (e.g. "Your talented management"), and appreciation (e.g. "A disastrous event"). In this scheme affect refers to formulating emotional reactions, the category of judgment refers to assessing attitudes towards behavior, and the category of appreciation deals with construing the semiotic and natural phenomena.

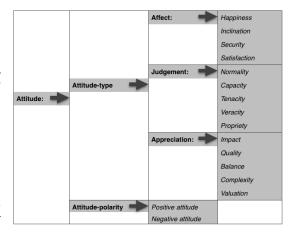The scheme of attitude analysis is presented in the Figure 2.

Figure 2: Attitude only analysis scheme [5]

Here, the categories of affect, judgment, and appreciation are further subdivided according to the Martin and White theory [5]. Each category is then assigned a

positive or negative polarity. The presented scheme is a reduced version of the full attitude analysis scheme developed by Martin and White [5]. The subset of speeches was annotated in *attitude-type* and *polarity*, while the categories of *appraiser*, *appraised* as well as the category of *explicitness* were omitted in the present study.

5. Annotating attitudes

5.1. Doccano annotation tool

The selected speeches were annotated using the doccano annotation wool. Doccano is an open source text annotation tool [8]. It provides the features necessary for the current project, such as sequence labeling and collaborative annotation. It also provides some feedback on statistics of the annotations, as well as the auto-labeling feature which is considered for further annotation.

5.2. The annotation process

For the purposes of annotating diplomatic attitudes, a set of tags directly following "Attitude" part of the simplified Appraisal scheme 2 was manually created in the annotation tool [8]. For the purposes of this study, each subcategory of the affect, judgement, and appreciation was selected. Each tag was then assigned either *positive or* negative value, thus making the total amount of tags - 28. The list of tags could be found in Figure 3.

After the set of tags was created and tested, the annotation process began. The annotator's task was to empirically analyze each speech sentence by sentence and assign the suitable attitude tags to the text spans according to the description of each category [5]. The spans of text selected varied from a single token (e.g. in case of a verb conveying the attitude of judgement) up to a whole clause (e.g. in case of metaphors conveying an attitude). In the next phase of marking attitudes in texts, parallel annotation will be performed, with the evaluation of inter-annotator agreement. A GitHub repository was created [9] to store and share the annotated dataset. As of now, the 20 annotated speeches are available. The remaining part of the "100 dataset", as well as the explicit and detailed annotation instructions should be expected to appear in the repository of the project later on.

6. Pilot annotation outcomes

6.1. General overview

During the annotation process, we have found and annotated 429 instances of attitudes. The annotation process has revealed some statistical prevalence of some cate-
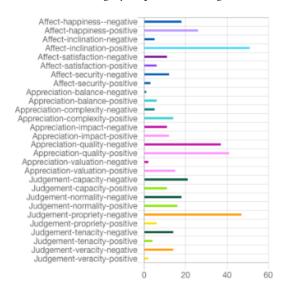
gories and sub-categories over the other as could be seen in Table 2.

	Affect	Judgement	Appreciation	Total
Positive	86	39	88	213
Negative	46	114	56	216
Total	132	153	144	429

Table 2
General overview of the annotation outcomes

The overall overview of the categorical distribution within the annotated speeches has revealed that even though the diplomatic speeches have shown to be rich in attitudes (with an average of 21.5 attitudes per speech), the overall polarity of the dataset could not be defined as the total number of positive and negative attitudes is very close (213 positive attitudes and 216 negative attitudes). We could also say that the three different subcategories are represented relatively equally throughout the annotated data.

However, when we take into account each category separately, it becomes clear that the category of Affect was found to be positive almost twice as many times as it was found negative. Whereas the category of Judgement has shown to be represented mostly negatively (114 negative instances annotated compared to the 39 positive instances), the category of Appreciation was found to have a prevalence towards being positive (88 positive instances as opposed to 56 negative instances found). Let us look at each category, as presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Distribution of attitude-types throughout the annotated speeches

When we look closer at the distribution of the annotated instances of the category of Affect in Table 3, we

can observe that the most frequent category is the category of positive inclination (subcategory of Affect). It occurs 51 times throughout the dataset and the reason for that is that this category was selected to annotate such protocol expressions as "Let me welcome you, Sir...", "We are happy to reiterate our ...", "We would like to thank you...", "I wish to congratulate you...", etc. These messages of support towards the procedural events of the organization are present in each speech. Even though they are so frequently encountered in the speeches, they are, however, not the true attitudes we were aiming to find as they do not convey the true emotion of the speaker, and are just there to keep the structure of a speech, and to fulfil the text genre expectations 3.

The second most frequent category is the subcategory of Judgement, namely negative propriety. We consider this category to represent the most common content attitude of the annotated data. This tag could be described as the judgement of the incorrectness of someone's actions or behaviour in a direct or an indirect way. Some of the examples from the annotated data include: "thoroughly inadequate response", "this approach is counter-productive and harmful", "Despite a clear call, the Committee (...) has resorted to an even stricter implementation of the sanctions".

As the categories of the positive and negative quality (subcategories of Appreciation) were annotated almost the same number of times (37 and 41 occurrences respectively), they could be considered equally important for the diplomatic discourse of the UNSC. The category of quality represents the expression of an attitude towards the characteristics of the object or phenomena discussed and could very frequently be observed as a collocation of an adjective and a noun as in "a friendly and allied country", "just and able peace", "a friendly neighbouring state", etc.

Looking at each of the categories' polarities individually in Table 3, Table 4, and Table 5, we can also observe certain differences and tendencies of how sentiment polarities are distributed throughout the different attitude subtypes.

Affect				
	happiness	inclination	satisfaction	security
Positive	26	51	6	3
Negative	18	5	11	12

Table 3
Distribution of the subcategories of Attitude withing the annotated speeches

It is evident that polarity difference could be most prominently visible at the polarity distribution of the Judgement category presented in Table 4. Here, in every subcategory the negative judgement prevails over the positive judgement. The difference in the amount of

Judgement				
	normality	capacity	tenacity	propriety	veracity
Positive	16	11	4	6	2
Negative	18	21	14	47	14

Table 4
Distribution of the subcategories of Judgement withing the annotated speeches

Appreciation				
	impact	quality	balance	complexity	valuation
Positive	12	41	6	14	15
Negative	11	37	1	5	2

Table 5
Distribution of the subcategories of Appreciation withing the annotated speeches

positive and negative judgmental entities observes varies from 1.1 times for the category of normality to 7.8 times for the category of propriety. Such a prominent tendency to a negative sentiment within this category could be explained by the nature of the data and the features of the specific speeches selected for the dataset. The United Nations Security Council is primarily the organization to present, discuss, and - wherever possible - to resolve the international conflicts by means of diplomacy and negotiations. This also means that the speakers, especially the ones directly or indirectly involved, would do their best to persuade the listeners and support their international partners by reflecting on the agenda in particular ways. The speeches of the diplomats and representatives should reflect this purpose. This is why we suggest that the negative, judgemental discourse is dominant.

The attitude type of Appreciation show the opposite polarity of attitudes as shown in Table 5. Here, the positive sentiment is more dominant, even though often there are many instances of annotated negativity as in impact-negative (11 instances, e.g. *counter-productive consequences), and quality-negative (37 instances, e.g.* ultra-nationalist credentials).

The third category, the category of Affect, presented in Table 3, has shown two categories to convey mainly positive polarity (happiness and inclination), and two - to convey the prevailing negative polarity (categories of satisfaction and security). This peculiarity could be connected to the two features observed in the diplomatic speeches analyzed:

1. The need for suitable rhetorical devices for expressing the formal attitudes serving protocol needs; this feature is being served by the positive categories of happiness and inclination.

2. The nature of the diplomatic speeches with an urge to express the lack of satisfaction in a situation under discussion, in the opponents actions or intentions etc.,

and insecurity with regard to the past, present, or future turn of events.

6.2. Pilot annotation outcomes: clear cases of annotation

Annotating the data with the Appraisal theory annotation scheme has shown good results in various cases. The majority of attitudinal expressions were easily classifiable. Of course, not all of the data could have been evaluated undoubtedly, however, there are lexical expressions that are clear in the annotation.

Some of the examples of clear attitudinal lexemes and expressions in the annotated data include evaluative adjectives (as in the following example: "The representatives of Brazil, Djibouti, New Zealand, Pakistan and Spain all, in an *excellent* [appreciation - quality - positive] manner, contributed their talents to the conduct of the business in the Council"), some of the action nouns (as in the example: "which define *abuse* [judgment - propriety - negative] of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations"), as well as verbs and adverbs in cases where they express appraisal, as could be seen in the following examples from the annotated data:

(1)"This would certainly *hamper* [affect - security - negative] the work of the Co-Chairmen";

(2) "The Security Council for its part has *ignored* [judgement - propriety - negative] the request of the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia";

(3) "My delegation categorically *rejects* [affect - inclination - negative] the untrue and malicious allegations made by certain delegations";

(4) "My delegation wishes to reiterate the urgent need to strengthen the monitoring team so that it would be able to discharge its duties more *effectively* [judgement - capacity - negative]".

Many of such expressions are recurring and some of the attitudinal expressions could be considered as attitudinal patterns of diplomatic speeches of the UNSC as they are found repeatedly in the same structural spots of the speeches. These expressions are connected with the functions that a particular structural entity of a speech is having. Among these we can identify welcoming (as in "I should also like warmly to *welcome* [affect - happiness - positive] The Foreign Minister of Italy …"), congratulating (May I at the outset *congratulate* you [affect - inclination - positive], Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council ...), expressing condolences, concerns ("The Pakistan delegation once again *expresses its deep concern* [judgement - propriety - negative] …"), etc. At this point of the analysis these recurring expressions are mostly found in the beginning and at the end of the texts, as diplomats tend to begin and end their speeches in a more formal way suitable for the occasion and to express their point of view on the discussed events or issues in the middle part of their speeches. These attitudes rarely convey a true attitude towards the discussed problems and mostly constitute of diplomatic cliches. It is a question whether they should be viewed as equal to the attitudes towards the content and topic of a meeting, therefore we have decided to create an additional pair of tags (diplomatic/-content) to assign to all the attitudes found in the corpus in order to be able to distinguish diplomatic cliches and put them aside if needed.

6.3. Pilot annotation outcomes: unclear cases and proposal for their solution

The repeating challenges arisen during the annotation process have provided a foundation for extracting the most prominent features of the diplomatic texts which should be taken into consideration while continuing with the further steps of the analysis.

The first thing to note is that there are empirically distinguishable attitudes among most of the proper names, as well as phrases used in the diplomatic speeches for naming entities connected to the UNSC and describing events. The most obvious, yet prominent example supporting this statement is the name of the organization itself, namely the Security Council. This proper name is inevitably interpreted in the positive sense, explicitly expressing the positive affect of security (according to the scheme of Martin and White [5]) as the adjective "security" could only be interpreted as a trait of an inherently positive entity, therefore labeling the organization name with a very particular positive attitude. It is also the case with some of the other proper names such as the United Nations. There are, however, examples of negative implications in the phrases that are commonly used to refer to the same entities/events by all the UNSC members that share the same worldviews.

Another example of a commonly used name could be Bosnian Crisis when referring to the events of 1995.

A prominent example of such naming is the phrase *so-called Bosnian Serbs* often used at the UNSC by the speakers not accepting the identity of Bosnian Serbs. This example is particularly interesting as it provides us with a clear picture of the positive and negative attitudes distribution among the speakers, namely there are those who call the group of people *Bosnian Serbs* and then there are those who name them *so-called Bosnian Serbs* only thus denying them a right to call themselves a group with a separate identity. The term *Bosnian Serbs* is put under question, as in the given context it slightly depreciates the existence of the nation by the speaker. Here, the propriety of distinguishing Bosnian Serbs is questioned by marking them *so-called*, and, therefore, fake.

It is fair to note, that there are many entities and proper names that occur permanently and definitely prove to be attitudinal expressions. A core part of this group

of expressions consists of proper names containing a certain attitude within them, while the other part shows appraisal in usage of an originally neutral proper name. [cf. *Security Council* vs. *so-called Bosnian Serbs* where the very name *Bosnian Serbs* is being deprecated].

Taking into consideration all of the above, should we annotate the proper names and phrases? These entities are apparently on the other level of attitudinal analysis than we are interested in. Proper names themselves may be designed and perceived as phrases carrying an attitudinal meaning, and they can be analyzed out of the context. Analyzing a speech in this way, however, would lead to marking such countries as the United States of America or the United Arab Emirates as phrases containing positive attitudes even if they are not.

A similar phenomenon could be observed in other firm phrases which are not proper names. Analyzing phrases such as *'peace plan'* or *'so-called Bosnian Serbs'* also does not seem to be straightforward. Annotation of such phrases being attitudinal expressions may hugely depend on the subjective perception of an annotator.

One of the options to resolve this complication could be creating a list of such names and phases and then analyzing and annotating their inner appraisal structure on the level of a lexeme meaning. Items from the list could then be avoided while annotating the speeches, however, we would already know more about their inner semantic structure.

Another device for framing an attitude is expressing emotions towards events or entities in particular contexts. An attitudinal expression cannot be evaluated and measured out of the context particularly because contexts can sometimes change the meaning of the expression towards the opposite side. These cases could be described by the following formula: 'x = -', 'x in y = +' as in *exerting pressure* as being inappropriate and having an implicit negative attitude and then *exerting pressure towards terrorists* as being something valuable and good. Such instances are another example of a case where the annotation of the formal description of the scenario is expected to be problematic. This question is also a part of the sentiment analysis approach. To solve it, we need to find a way of capturing the context, and the syntactic frames of the words in an annotation. For example, the way of capturing the possible intensification/diminution of meaning when an adjective is preceded by an adverb like in *a very bright day* or *a tremendously bad decision*. When such cases are identified they could be given more attention, therefore the precision of the annotation could be improved and the time spent could be reduced. The same situation is expected to be encountered with negation elements 'no' and 'not'.

Using rhetorical devices (e.g. metaphors) is among other features of the diplomatic discourse applied for implicit expression of attitude (see Table 6). Here, the speaker (representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina) is comparing the UNSC with *a near-sighted cat* that does not seem to notice violations by the opposite side of the conflict, who are referred to as *rats* giving them a very strong negative appraisal. The speaker then continues developing the thought by metaphorizing the whole UNSC session as being a ship that all of the states are in and which is, therefore, a common good. He encourages everyone to cooperate by *bailing out water, plugging the leaks and keeping the course steady* meaning that everyone should be involved, interested and actively participate in solving the conflict.

Metaphor	Attitude
It is analogous to *allowing the rats to guard the cheese from the mice*	Judgement-tenacity-negative
while *a near-sighted cat* is asked to report as to how much cheese is being taken and who is stealing it.	judgement-capacity-negative
We therefore do not look *to drill holes in the hull of this ship.*	Judgement-propriety-negative
(...) we will look, as any passenger would, *to bale out water*, *plug the leaks* and *keep the course steady.*	Judgement-normality-positive

Table 6
Examples of metaphors expressing attitudes in the speeches of the UNSC

7. Conclusions

This work was aimed at analyzing the application of the Attitude part of the Appraisal theory on diplomatic speeches. In most cases, attitudes are identifiable by the Appraisal theory annotation scheme. These include most of the nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and verbs that convey attitudinal meanings. Some of the lexemes and phrases have been found in multiple texts and are considered to be patterns of expressing attitudes in diplomatic texts. Among these are greetings, welcoming, congratulating, condoling, and farewelling. There are phrases, which almost do not change in form and place they occur in and are applied by the speaker as classical diplomatic devices for structuring the discourse, namely welcoming the Secretary and the guest, expressing excitements or e.g. condolences towards the event under discussion.

The two attitude types most frequently found in the

speeches are as of now considered to be connected to the two features of the analyzed data. The 'Affect-inclination-positive' subcategory is suggested to reflect the most of formal expressions of attitudes following the diplomatic protocol. Whereas the 'Judgement-propriety-negative' is suggested to reflect on the prevailing attitude in the content of the speeches , which could be explained by the cause of the meetings, the events discussed, and the difference in political orientation of the speakers.

Among the cases, that are considered doubtful and therefore could cause impreciseness of the future annotations are:

(1) proper names and attitudinal expressions for naming events or documents of the UNSC (e.g. "peace plan");

(2) identifying intensifiers and syntactic frames causing double meanings depending on the level of a viewpoint (e.g. *exerting pressure in comparison with* exerting pressure towards terrorists), such expressions should be evaluated depending on the broader context. Therefore, we take into account only one layer of meaning. A possible solution would be deframing the context by possibly applying more layers of annotation including POS tags and syntactic roles of lexemes; as well as

(3) identifying appraisal by identifying and decoding rhetorical devices in multi-word expressions such as metaphors (e.g. "rats who are abandoning the ship") which requires taking into account context of the whole text.

The first stage of annotation has provided pilot data for analyzing annotation specificities and challenges. The necessary changes, as well as clarifications to the annotation scenario for the given task, should be considered. E.g., considering broader context of the attitudes, annotating attitudes with additional set of tags, namely 'diplomatic' and 'content' to distinguish between diplomatic cliches and content attitudes, identifying the proper names in order to avoid annotating them as attitude entities, etc.

8. Acknowledgements

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