CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the study

Hong Kong is a part of China country. Based on the article of New York Times titled China Resumes Control of Hong Kong, Concluding 156 Years of British Rule (1997), Hong Kong was a colony of the United Kingdom, ruled by a governor appointed by the monarchy of the United Kingdom, for 156 years from 1841 until 1997, when it was returned to Chinese sovereignty, except for four years of Japanese occupation during WWII. China agreed to accept some conditions, as is stipulated in the Sino-British Joint Declaration, such as the drafting and adoption of Hong Kong's "mini-constitution" Basic Law before its return. The Hong Kong Basic Law ensured that Hong Kong will retain its capitalist economic system and own currency (the Hong Kong Dollar), legal system, legislative system, and people's rights and freedom as a special administrative region (SAR) of China for fifty years. This arrangement has permissible port to operate as its own entity underneath the name "Hong Kong, China" in several international settings. It additionally sets China and Hong Kong have its own governmental system, legal, economic and financial affairs, including trade relations with foreign countries, all of which are independent from those of Mainland China and set to expire in 2047.

Based on the article of BBC News by Hughes (2019), on February 2019, Hong Kong government proposed The Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal

Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019. That was proposed in response to the 2018 murder of Poon Hiu-wing by her Hong Kong boyfriend Chan Tong-kai during their holiday in Taiwan. The man fled Taiwan and returned to Hong Kong last year. Taiwanese officials sought help from Hong Kong authorities to extradite the man, but since there is no extradition law with Taiwan, the Hong Kong government proposed an amendment to Fugitive Offendres Ordinance and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance to establish a mechanism for case-by-case transfers of fugitives, on the order of the Chief Executive, to any jurisdiction would be mainland China. People in Hong Kong worried that the Extradition Bill would subject Hong Kong residents and visitors to the mainland Chinese jurisdiction, undermining the autonomy of the region and its civil liberties. In 4th June 2019, more than 120 thousands students, staff, alumnus, and also student's parents of 185 schools signed the Anti-Extradition Bill petition.

Starting from June 2019, many Hong Kong people marched to the government headquarters to protest against the Bill. An estimated one million of Hong Kong people joined the demonstration. Days later the protests keep going and and the riots happened between the protesters and Hong Kong Police. Many people injured during the protests. On June 15th, Carrie Lam as the Hong Kong leader issued a dramatic reversal, Ms. Lam delayed the extradition bill. The following day, an estimated two million people marched again to the streets demanded the bill should be withdrawn completely and asked for Ms. Lam's resignation due to the fact that the chief executive, is currently elected by a 1,200-member election committee who are mostly pro-Beijing body chosen by just 6% of eligible voters.

Not all the the Legislative Council which is 70 members of the territory's lawmaking body, are directly chosen by Hong Kong's voters. Most seats not directly elected are occupied by pro-Beijing lawmakers. It leds the protests become worse and the worst violence Hong Kong can be seen for days. As the protests continued, the extradition bill is withdrawn.

On September 4th, Ms. Carrie Lam announced that the controversial extradition bill would be withdrawned but the protesters thought that it was too late. Over the weeks, the demands of the protest even added. It become five demands of the protests. All of the protests in Hong Kong affected its economy and tourism. 2019 Hong Kong protests also become interesting worldwide common issues. Several countries also gave reaction regarding the protests, such as Japan, USA, UK, and North Korea. The leader of those countries gave their reaction towards the issue because the 2019 Hong Kong Protests become bigger and seems unstopable. The issues had been heavily discussed in many international mass media.

The protests dragged out reactions from several countries. This leads Hong Kong Protests became worldwide common issue and was written by the international mass media. The news coverage regarding Hong Kong protests become the focus on this study. This study compares the online press coverage of the six countries include Hong Kong by examining articles from the popular newspaper of those countries. The press media which will be discussed in this study are Asia Times (Hong Kong), The Japan Times (Japan), Global Times (China), The New York Times (USA), and the BBC News (United Kingdom), and NK News (North Korea). From using the six different news media from different countries

which five of them was not Hong Kong, the study intend to analyze the position of the journalists of those media regarding Hong Kong Protests.

News media as one of the leading sources of information plays significant role in case of informing people regarding 2019 Hong Kong protests. Local as well as International press did not miss the chance to potray this phenomenon with different designed coverage. A news article is important and valuable, therefore in delivering information, it should be attractive to many citizens in any possible ways. Fowler (1991) stated that news is not a natural phenomenon emerging straight from 'reality' but a 'product'. It means the press as the main producer of news will try their best to provide information. However, this also created complication when the news producers which have their own goal meet the other parties who also have their own goal. In producing the articles, it could be seen how media or press could build or destroy the perspectives by construing the words, choose the main idea of the news, select the other supporting external resources. This happened frequently when the issue become the interest of the world such as 2019 Hong Kong protests. Appraisal theory by Martin&White is applied to analyse the evaluative statements used in the articles which reflect the author's either positive or negative attitude.

Appraisal theory can be used to analyze all the texts of the mass media include newspaper, magazine, and speech. As the extension of the linguistic theories of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Appraisal theory helps to evaluate, appraise, and express feelings towards some issues. White (2002) stated Appraisal is a framework used to describing and explaining the way language is used to evaluate, adopt stances, construct textual personas, and manage

interpersonal positioning and relationship. Additionally, Martin and White (2005) as cited in Oteiza (2017) stated the purpose of developing an appraisal framework was to expand traditional accounts regarding issues of speaker/writer evaluation, certainty, commitment and knowledge, and also to consider how the textual voice positions itself with respect to other voices and other positions in the discourse. Therefore, many researchers are interested to analyse the statements in the mass media using an appraisal theory.

One of the previous researches was conducted by Dong and Lin (2018) titled Attitude in Appraisal Theory: A Comparative Analysis of English Versions of Changgan Xing. This study intends to explore the distribution of appraisal resources in the English versions of Li Bai's poem Changgan Xing. It aims to make a comparative analysis and find out the similarities and differences of the translated poems based on J. R. Martin's Appraisal Theory. Two classical English versions of the Chinese poem, which were translated by Ezra Pound and Xu Yuanchong, have been chosen.

The next research used Appraisal Analysis as the analytical tool was conducted by Jirasataporn (2018) titled Attitudinal Analysis of Appraisal System in American and Chinese Business Articles from TIME Magazine. This study employs White's (1998) and Martin and Rose's (2007) Appraisal System as the analytical tool to reveal how the language is used to serve the ideology which is embedded in business articles related to America and China by comparing the articles written about the two countries and drawn from a mainstream weekly news magazine.

Additionally, research by Chalimah, Djatmika, Santosa, Wiratno (2018) titled Evaluating Attitudes in News Text: Appraisal in Critical Discourse Study. This study contributes in critical discourse study by interpreting the discourse to understand social culture from the linguistic perspectives by analyzing text through systemic functional linguistics: appraisal system. This paper used the news item by Cable News Network (CNN) dated in April in 2018 in the religious case investigated in the aspects of language evaluation. The study focuses on attitude: affect to find out the classification of feeling used in the text to construe the cultural aspect. This paper used Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) which is Appraisal by Martin&White and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) by Van Dijk.

Furthermore, in 2017, research by Mayo and Taboada titled Evaluation in political discourse addressed to women: Appraisal analysis of Cosmopolitan's online coverage of the 2014 US midterm elections analyzed the discourse of the new section of the Cosmopolitan website, together with readers' responses, concentrating on evaluative language. In particular, this research concerned with differences between the editorial position and readers' responses as viewed through the Appraisal framework (Martin & White: 2005), and the role that verbal processes play in the expression of evaluative meanings. The corpus used for the analysis consists of a selection of articles and readers' opinions from CosmoVotes.

Also in 2017, research conducted by Amalia and Hakim titled Appraisal Analysis in Media Conference between the Government of Indonesia and Australia Towards Bilateral Relations Normalization. The research identifies and analyzes the types of appraisal found in the media conference between the Indonesian

government and the Australian government in 2013. The paper used appraisal theory by Martin & White.

Moreover, research by Li (2016) titled An Attitudinal Analysis of English Song Discourse from the Perspective of Appraisal Theory analyzed several English song discourses based on the attitude meaning in the Appraisal Theory by Martin & White. Through analysis of characteristics of the distribution of attitude resources in the English discourse it aims to find language feature in the English song discourse so as to make readers understand the emotion expressed by the author of the song discourse and the importance of the attitude meaning of the appraisal theory in building interpersonal relations between the author of the song discourse and readers.

In 2016, a research conducted by Bartley and Castro titled Evaluation and Attitude towards Homosexuality in the Irish Context: A Corpus-assisted Discourse Analysis of Appraisal Patterns in 2008 Newspaper Articles. This research evaluates the discourse of newspaper. This research is designed to offer insights into how evaluative language may reflect the mentality of Irish society in relation to the LGBT community. Martin & White's appraisal theory is highly relevant and applicable for this purpose, as it covers the idea of social esteem, social sanction, personal attitude and appreciation, which can be powerful indicators of a society's take on current affairs.

Other than Bartley and Castro, in 2016, Sabao conducted research about objectivity in hard news reports titled Arguments for an appraisal linguistic

discourse approach to the analysis of 'objectivity' in 'hard' news reports. This research departs from a journalistic to a linguistic discourse approach, presenting evidence that the linguistic discourse analytical framework of Appraisal Theory provides alternative ways of analysing 'objectivity' and ideological bias in 'hard' news report. This article comparatively analyses two news reports in two Zimbabwean newspapers on the death of retired General, Solomon Mujuru.

In 2015, Zhang conducted research titled Comparative Study on the Appraisal Resources of China Daily's Disaster News. This research compared the appraisal resources of the 1998 Shangyi earthquake reports and the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake reports collected from China Daily, examining whether there's improvement in disaster reporting. It finds that great changes have taken place over the ten years.

Based on the previous research, many issues on text can be analyzed using Appraisal Theory by Martin & White. Knowing the fact appraisal theory has become the common analytical tool to know the position of the text on the mass media, this research will focus on the study of how the textual voice positions itself with respect to other voices and other positions in the news discourse. Therefore, the researcher choose six news articles from different countries exclude Hong Kong which contained the issues about 2019 Hong Kong Protests as the corpus to know how those newspaper positioned itself. The research will be analyzed using Appraisal Theory by Martin & White.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the research questions are formulated as follow:

1. What are the pattern of Appraisal items in articles of six international press such as Asia Times, The Japan Times, Global Times, The New York Times, BBC News, and NK News regarding 2019 Hong Kong Protests?

2. Based on the appraising items, how do the journalists from those media take position in 2019 Hong Kong Protests?

1.3   Objectives of the study

Following the formulation of the Research Question, the objectives of the study are presented below:

1. To analyze the pattern of Appraisal items in articles of six international press such as Asia Times, The Japan Times, Global Times, The New York Times, BBC News, and NK News regarding 2019 Hong Kong Protests.

2. To find out how the journalists from those media take position in 2019 Hong Kong Protests.

1.4   Scope of the study

The study limits on the analysis of six online news articles where all of them are taken from different news media, such as Asia Times, The Japan Times, Global

Times, The New York Times, BBC News, and NK news. The online news articles which have been choosen as the corpus of this study are follows: 1. **Hong Kong reaches a protest point of no return** (July 29th 2019), 2. **Tens of thousand of protesters flood Hong Kong streets in 'peaceful' march** (August 18th 2019), 3. **Violence leaves over 100 injured, 2 in critical condition in 18th week of HK riots** (October 1st 2019), 4. **Hong Kong March: Vast Protest of Extradition Bill Shows Fear of Eroding Freedoms** (June 9th 2019), 5. **Hong Kong protest: 'Nearly two million' join demonstration** (17th June 2019), 6. **"Add oil" North Korean perspectives on protests in Hong Kong** (September 16th 2019).

The researcher sees that the Appraisal Theory is sufficient enough to be used as the main tool to analyze the issue in this study. It is because through the appraisal theory, we may see how the textual voice positions itself with respect to other voices and other positions in the discourse (Martin & White: 2005). This study only focuses on how Appraisal perspective evaluates the protests in five different media; to see how is the pattern occurs.

1.5   Significance of the study

The researcher expects to enhance the readers' knowledge regarding the issue, particularly towards how mass media takes position in certain issues. Moreover, this research also expects the reader could raise their awareness of language used by the author in his/her news article, how the news article constructs the language to depict certain event and therefore, influences the reader. By

knowing each of Appraisal theory systems and sub-systems as well as understanding their own characteristics, the researcher concurs that it will be easier for us to spot the way one author's emotions or values influences the objectivity within his/her writings. On top of that, the insight of the Appraisal theory to the readers and more importantly to the researcher herself becomes the expectation from the outcome of this research.