



Appraisal Attitude in Ilaya Baxter's Novel *The Chameleons Among Us*

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the types of Attitude and the realizations. It applied the Appraisal theory initiated by Martin and White (2005) regarding the types of Attitude contained in the text, the strength of the feelings involved, and ways of assessing that are sourced and aligned with the reader. It was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method and the data are the words, phrases, and clauses of the novel showing Appraisal Attitudes. The results showed that from 419 Sentences and 329 appraising items, dominantly there are 101 Attitudes of Positive Affect and 46 Attitudes of Negative Affect. Then, it is followed by 75 Attitudes of Positive Judgment and 41 Attitudes of Negative Judgment. Lastly, there are 50 Attitudes of Positive Appreciation and 16 Attitudes of Negative Appreciation. Also, it can be concluded that the realizations of Attitude can be shown by the emotions and feelings conveyed by each character in the novel to invite readers to understand the contents of the novel.

Keywords: Appraisal, Attitude, Affect, Judgment, Appreciation, Novel

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menentukan jenis-jenis Sikap dan realisasinya. Penelitian ini menerapkan teori Penilaian yang digagas oleh Martin dan White (2005) mengenai jenis-jenis Sikap yang terdapat dalam teks, kekuatan perasaan yang terlibat, dan cara-cara penilaian yang bersumber dan selaras dengan pembaca. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dan datanya adalah kata-kata, frasa, dan klausa dari novel yang menunjukkan Sikap Penilaian. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dari 419 Kalimat dan 329 item penilaian, yang dominan terdapat 101 Sikap Afek Positif dan 46 Sikap Afek Negatif. Kemudian, diikuti oleh 75 Sikap Penghakiman Positif dan 41 Sikap Penghakiman Negatif. Terakhir, terdapat 50 Sikap Apresiasi Positif dan 16 Sikap Apresiasi Negatif. Selain itu, dapat disimpulkan bahwa perwujudan Sikap dapat ditunjukkan dengan emosi dan perasaan yang disampaikan oleh masing-masing tokoh dalam novel untuk mengajak pembaca memahami isi novel.

Kata Kunci: Penilaian, Sikap, Pengaruh, Penghakiman, Penghargaan, Novel



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1. Introduction

This article examines Ilaya Baxter's novel *The Chameleons Among Us* and how the novel depicts appraisal attitude and how it affects the characters' behavior. Sarah, one of the book's central characters, has a pessimistic view of herself. She feels unworthy and compares herself to others, criticizing herself for not being good enough all the time. Her confidence and self-esteem are impacted by this critical assessment mindset, which causes her to question her value and skills. Sarah consequently finds it difficult to establish lasting relationships and accomplish her objectives. However, Mia, a different persona, has an optimistic outlook on life. She focuses on the positive aspects of people rather than their shortcomings, seeing the best in both herself and them. Mia's optimistic outlook on life encourages her to take chances, go for her goals, and form close relationships with others around her.

Ilaya Baxter is an author and a victim of narcissistic abuse. Her passion is to shed light on this personality disorder in order to help other victims recover their lives. She is a wife, mother, and professional who has a

deep desire to start a movement to spread awareness of narcissistic abuse and make the world a better place. She hopes to spread awareness across many professions to help victims be understood and have more leverage in the legal system globally. Her first novel was published in December 2017 and is a fictional story depicting life with a narcissist. Ilaya's dream is to help innocent impressionable children have legal their narcissistic parents and to increase awareness among people of all professions. Unfortunately, this is the only one novel that Ilaya's published because she is more active in spread about awareness of narcissistic.

The word of *chameleon* literally is an animal that has the expertise to change its body color according to its environment as in Merriam-Webster (2021). This is interesting to symbolize the character in this novel who often changes his or her beliefs or behavior in order to please other or to succeed; one that is subject to quick or frequent change especially in appearance. Mia's positive perspective enables her to overcome obstacles and disappointments, which leads to personal growth and fulfilment. Selecting this novel to be discussed highlights how important one's opinion of oneself is in influencing relationships and experiences. These viewpoints show how an individual's attitude toward assessment influences their ideas, behaviors, and ultimately the outcomes of their life. These viewpoints show how an individual's attitude toward assessment influences their ideas, behaviors, and ultimately the outcomes of their life (Ajzen, 2005). Another intriguing issue is that Sarah may feel pressure from society to meet unrealistic standards of beauty and success, which could explain her negative self-perception. Mia, on the other hand, might have acquired her optimistic outlook on life through partnerships that affirm her value and promise. The positive and negative perceptions can affect people's attitudes about self-evaluation, and how one's view of oneself may influence their experiences and relationships through the characters of Sarah and Mia. It is a helpful reminder to be aware of the evaluative attitudes and to treat people with kindness, empathy, and optimism (Ayunikmah et al., 2022).

In this study, Appraisal theory has been used to examine attitudes in *The Chameleons Among Us*. It became an interesting topic to analyze because it alludes expression of emotion and feelings of a person which is in discourse analysis there is appraisal that can be applied when analyzing a text with use phrase or clause that contained in the novel. To be more specific and suitable with the title of this research, the researchers used attitude to analyze the clause and phrase which is part of Appraisal theory. In accordance with the theory of Martin and White (2005) regarding appraisal-attitude which states three parts of attitude, namely affect, judgment, and appreciation, these three things can be seen in the novel *The Chameleons Among Us* because their contents are related to the three parts so that they can be analyzed. based on the Appraisal Attitude theory. In addition, quite a number of previous research has used an appraisal framework to analyze novels, such as "The Great Gatsby" (Hadidi & Parvin-L, 2015), "Tess of the D'urbervilles" (Zhang & Zhejiang, 2020), and "A Thousand Splendid Suns" (Shang, 2008) to explore characters' personalities and evaluative language. The theory has also been used to the analysis of apocalyptic fiction (Kareem & Farhan, 2022) and translated works. The frequency of attitude types in narrative texts was found through analysis of English textbooks (Magfiroh et al., 2021).

1.1 The concept of Appraisal Attitude

Appraisal is a part of interpersonal metafunctions that aim to evaluate Attitudes negotiated in the text by involving feelings and appreciation in the form of values between speakers and interlocutors or writers and readers that realize variations in social interactions of texts or spoken and written discourse. Martin & White (2005) state that appraisal regionalized into three domain which are (1) Attitude is concerned with our feelings, including emotional reactions, judgments of behavior and evaluation of things, (2) Engagement, deals with sourcing attitudes and the play of voices around opinions in discourse, and (3) Graduation, attends to grading phenomena whereby feelings are amplified and categories blurred and is concerned with gradability.

This research only focuses on Appraisal Attitude because the content of the novel contains the feelings of the characters, how the characters express emotions to animate the nature of the characters and how the character's assessment of the other characters in the novel. Martin & Rose (2007) state that Attitudes have to do with evaluating things, people's, character and their feelings. Such as evaluations can be more or less intense, that is they may be more or less amplified. The attitude may be the writer's own or it may be attributed to some other source.

Martin & White (2005) divided attitude itself into three regions of feeling. They are (1) Affect, deals with resources for construing emotional reactions, (2) Judgment, concerned with resources for assessing behavior

according to various normative principles, and (3) Appreciation, looks at resources for construing the value of things, including natural phenomena and semiosis (as either product or process).

From explanation above, the researchers only focuses on two problems such as the types Appraisal Attitude (namely Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation) and the realization that influenced on society. The problems are formulated such as follows: What kinds of Appraisal attitudes are presented in the novel *The Chameleons Among Us*? And How the Appraisal attitudes are realized in the novel *The Chameleons Among Us*?

Everyone has a difference in attitude which can mean positive and negative. So that through this research it is hoped that it can give influence and increase knowledge to the readers about how the attitudes are portrayed and analyzed that may be related to the real life of society regarding the types of Attitude and the realizations.

2. Methods

In this study, the research design is phenomenological research. According to Creswell (2014) phenomenological research is a qualitative strategy in which the researcher identifies the essence of human experiences about a phenomenon as described by participants in a study. In order to obtain a real picture of the Appraisal-attitude in the novel *The Chameleons Among Us* by Ilaya Baxter (Baxter, 2017). Miles et al., (2014) state that the goal of qualitative research is to gain a holistic (systemic, encompassing, and integrated) overview of the text under study by investigating the ordinary and/or extraordinary lives of individuals, groups, societies, and organizations through intense and/or prolonged contact with participants in a naturalistic setting; seeks to collect information on local perspectives by means of a procedure that involves paying close attention, understanding with empathy, and suspending or bracketing prejudices regarding the subjects being discussed; most of the analysis is done with words; to describe the ways people in particular settings come to understand, account for, take action, and otherwise manage their day-to-day situations.

2.1 Data Source and Data

The source of the data of this research was the novel by Ilaya Baxter who wrote *The Chameleons Among Us* novel, from chapter 1, 2, and 3 of the novel, while the data of this research were all the words, phrases, or sentences showing the sub-types of appraisal attitudes affect, appreciation and judgement.

2.2 Methods of data collection

The researchers applied documentation method in obtaining the data. According to Satori & Komariah (2013), the documentation method is collecting the documents and the data needed in the research problems, and then explored it intensely to support and prove an event. The steps in collecting the data done by the researchers are (1) reading the novel *The Chameleons Among Us* by Ilaya Baxter carefully, (2) understanding the sentences, (3) identifying the words and phrases in the sentences that contain Appraisal Attitude, (4) classifying the types of Attitude, and (5) collecting all the data that contain Appraisal Attitude into the table and finding out the realizations.

2.3 Methods of Data analysis

In analyzing the data, the researchers used data analysis technique proposed by Miles et al., (2014). It consists of Data Condensation, Data Display, and Drawing and Verifying Conclusion. The researchers selected, focused, simplified, abstracted, and transformed the data in Data Condensation. In Data Display, the types of Attitude (Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation) and the realizations found were shown in table. In Drawing and Verifying Conclusion, the researchers made conclusion after completely identifying types of Attitude and to find out the realizations.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Result

The results showed that from 419 Sentences and 329 appraising items, dominantly there are 101 Attitudes of Positive Affect and 46 Attitudes of Negative Affect. Then, it is followed by 75 Attitudes of Positive Judgment

and 41 Attitudes of Negative Judgment. Lastly, there are 50 Attitudes of Positive Appreciation and 16 Attitudes of Negative Appreciation. Also, it can be concluded that the realizations of Attitude can be shown by the emotions and feelings conveyed by each character in the novel to invite readers to understand the contents of the novel. The details of the number of kinds of Attitude are described in the following table.

Table 1. Kinds of Attitude in *The Chameleons Among Us*

No.	Chapter	Attitude					
		Affect		Judgment		Appreciation	
		Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
1.	Chapter 1: The Art of the Cham	30	14	31	13	18	2
2.	Chapter 2: Yoga at Sunrise	36	14	24	18	17	3
3.	Chapter 3: A Scrambled Brain	35	18	20	10	15	11
Total		101	46	75	41	50	16
		147		116		66	

3.2 Discussion

The findings of Attitudes show that there are 46 negative affect and 101 positive affects. Moreover, there are 75 positive and 41 negative judgments, whereas there are 50 positive and 16 negative appreciations in the appreciation.

3.2.1 Affect

The findings show that there are 101 Attitudes of Positive Affect and 46 Attitudes of Negative Affect. The realizations of Affect can be seen from some data examples below.

What have I gotten myself into? This hunk of a man will never like little average• looking me, and besides, these heels are killing me! I **would do** [Positive affect: Inclination/desire] anything to have my sneakers on right now! (**Part 1: The Art of the Charm**)

Sarah shows her desire to wear her sneakers when meeting the man she is dating instead of having to wear heels which makes it very difficult for her because she is not used to using these types of heels. Thus, the word *would do* show how she would do anything for the desire to wear her sneakers with a monologue. This is a positive desire. Sarah really wanted her sneakers to not look awkward when wearing high heels but she had to understand the current situation was formal so she had to wear high heels at her meeting with her mystery date. She walked toward his car **awkwardly** [Negative affect: Insecurity] in her high heels with her long legs just about to buckle with nervousness. (**Part 1: The Art of the Charm**)

Sarah shows an awkward attitude when she is about to meet her mysterious date. Thus, the word *awkwardly* describes how a person meets a stranger for the first time. Sarah's awkwardness shows how uncomfortable she feels when meeting her for the first time and that is a trait of insecurity and this is negative affect: insecurity. "It's been **awesome!** [Positive affect: Satisfaction] I've been coming here for five years, and it's my favorite place in the world. (**Part 2: Yoga at Sunrise**)

Roger is satisfied with the vacation destinations he always goes to with his family and he reacts with the word *awesome*. The word *awesome* shows an expression of satisfaction at their vacation spot in Florida. Even though it's been five years since he's been on vacation there, the place hasn't changed at all and it's still his favorite place in the world and he's satisfied with that. This is positive affect: satisfaction. Roger's reaction indicates how satisfied he is with something and it doesn't disappoint him even though he has visited the place many times.

Sarah suddenly felt very **inferior** [Negative affect: Insecurity]. She considered herself pretty, but she wouldn't classify herself as a hot babe like Michelle was. (**Part 2: Yoga at Sunrise**)

Sarah shows how she feels compared to Michelle, she feels beautiful but not comparable to Michelle. The word *inferior* shows that he feels insecure about the difference between his body and Michelle. This is negative

affect: insecurity. If a person compares himself to others, he may feel insecure and will feel insecure. Sarah also feels rivaled by Michelle because of her ideal body shape and is very liked by men and it makes her feel insecurity about her appearance and also feelings of jealousy because Roger also likes Michelle's appearance. "I thought you'd agree with me," Roger said with a **satisfied [Positive affect: Satisfaction]** look on his face. "Come here. Let me give you a hug." **(Part 3: A Scrambled Brain)**

Roger put on an expression that showed how satisfied he was that Sarah had kept his word. The word *satisfied* implies an expression from Roger where he feels satisfied because Sarah obeys where one's feelings can be seen from the look on one's face. This is positive affect: Satisfaction. The author also describes the look on Roger's face that looks very satisfied because he already expected that Sarah would follow his wishes. Sarah took a few sips and thought, What is with Roger **forcing [Negative affect: Disinclination]** me to drink coffee? This stuff sucks. **(Part 3: A Scrambled Brain)**

Sarah didn't like coffee and Roger seemed to force her to drink his coffee and it irritated Sarah because Roger didn't hear and think about the words that she didn't like coffee. The word *forcing* implies negative affect, namely disinclination because if someone feels a forced situation, it will make them less willing to do it. It's the same with Sarah who doesn't want to drink coffee but is forced to drink coffee because of coercion from Roger which makes her think whether Roger actually doesn't listen to Sarah's words.

3.2.2 Judgment

There are 75 Attitudes of Positive Judgment and 41 Attitudes of Negative Judgment. The realizations of Judgment can be seen from some data examples below.

Sarah smiled but was sure it looked **timid [Negative judgment: social esteem: tenacity]**, since she felt herself about to stumble walking toward him. **(Part 1: The Art of the Charm)**

The author describes Sarah's character on her first encounter with feeling self-embarrassed in front of Roger. The word *timid* is negative judgment: social esteem: tenacity, because the word *timid* itself refers to a critical judgment that comes from Sarah herself who smiled awkwardly because it was their first meeting because she felt that she would stumble while walking toward him.

Luckily [Positive judgment: social esteem: normality], at that moment their appetizers arrived. **(Part 1: The Art of the Charm)**

The word *luckily* is a positive judgment: social esteem: normality to describe how Sarah feels lucky because their appetizers saved her from awkwardness because everyone will feel awkward when meeting other people for the first time. It is indicated as normality of judgment. This happens in our daily life, if we meet for the first time then the awkward feeling will always be there because we are still judging the character of the person. Sarah could **hardly [Negative judgment: social esteem: capacity]** breathe due to the 100 percent humidity and one hundred ten-degree weather. **(Part 2: Yoga at Sunrise)**

Sarah was criticizing the weather and humidity once she got to Florida and it was making it hard for her to breathe because the weather was too extreme for her. This is negative judgment: social esteem: capacity. The word *hardly* shows negative judgment: social esteem: capacity indicates Sarah's difficulty to breathe normally due to the extreme weather and she is still adapting to get used to being in such hot and humid weather. Sarah doesn't judge the whole of Florida, it's just that the weather and humidity in the country makes it hard to breathe because it's the first time she's been there.

"It's great to have the feedback from him! He truly is a nice guy. You're a **lucky [Positive judgment: social esteem: normality]** girl, Sarah!" Michelle said. **(Part 2: Yoga at Sunrise)**

Michelle was amazed at Sarah for having managed to get Roger, she herself also liked Roger and even did various ways to get Roger to be attracted to her but what could Roger just fall for Sarah's charm and Michelle felt that Sarah was the luckiest woman. The word *lucky* shows how Michelle feels that she is amazed even though she can't have Roger, it doesn't make her jealous instead she tells Sarah that she is very lucky. This is positive judgment: social esteem: normality.

"You force coffee on me and you made me go water skiing when I **clearly [Positive judgment: social esteem: tenacity]** said no! I'm leaving." **(Part 3: A Scrambled Brain)**

Sarah explained to Roger that she had refused to drink coffee and even brought up how Roger forced her to go water skiing which she didn't want. This is positive judgment: social esteem: tenacity. The word *clearly* is a positive judgment because it shows how Sarah feels that Roger is too pushy to just follow her wishes without accepting Sarah's opinion first. He just wanted Roger to understand what he wanted and what he didn't. She went back to the living room and **lied** [Negative judgment: Social sanction: veracity], not wanting to upset him. (Part 3: A Scrambled Brain)

Sarah lies to Roger about her liking the gift Roger gave her. This is negative judgment: social sanction: veracity. The word *lied* shows veracity which is related to morality. Lied is an example of how Sarah is not honest with herself, she just does not want to hurt Roger. However, this attitude is negative, lies are contrary to morality. A person who lies will be hard to believe and once someone lies, they will continue to lie.

3.2.3 Appreciation

There are 50 Attitudes of Positive Appreciation and 16 Attitudes of Negative Appreciation. The realizations of Appreciation can be seen from some data examples below.

As Roger spoke, Sarah was **mesmerized** [Positive appreciation: Reaction] by his thick salt-and-pepper hair. (Part 1: The Art of the Charm)

The author use mesmerized as the reaction of Sarah when Roger speaks and she feels focused on his appearance. The word *mesmerized* shows positive reaction of appreciation. Sarah gave appreciation to Roger's appearance as she looked at the whole appearance and focused on his thick salt and pepper hair. The author describes how Sarah greatly admired Roger at their first meeting because of his appearance that met his standards.

"Well, that does sound **amazing** [Positive appreciation: Reaction]. Let me think about it." (Part 1: The Art of the Charm)

The author use amazing as the reaction from Sarah when Roger offered her to take a vacation with him. The word *amazing* shows positive reaction of appreciation. Sarah was attracted by the lure of a pleasant vacation experience if she went with Roger to Florida and reacted to appreciate the experience Roger shared while on vacation in Florida. With this extraordinary promise, Sarah felt compelled to rethink her vacation schedule with her friends.

The house Roger rented was right on the ocean, and Sarah could only imagine how **beautiful** [Positive appreciation: Reaction] the sunsets would be. (Part 2: Yoga at Sunrise)

The author uses beautiful as the reaction when Sarah imagines how the sunsets would be. The word *beautiful* shows positive reaction of appreciation. Sarah gave appreciation about the sunset that looks beautiful seeing the house rented by Roger is close to the sea and of course the sunset near the sea always looks beautiful.

Sarah was excited to see Roger, but she felt **jealousy** [Negative appreciation: Reaction] come over her. She found it odd that he was talking about other women and reluctantly said, "Sure, I cannot wait to meet her as well." (Part 2: Yoga at Sunrise)

The author shows how Sarah expresses her feelings through jealousy. The word *jealousy* show negative reaction of appreciation. It is imply that Sarah gets jealous when Roger talks about other women and she finds it odd how Roger is so excited to talk about other women especially when he says that directly to Sarah. So the expression Sarah gave was jealousy towards the woman.

Sarah rushed over to his house to greet him when he arrived. "Hey, there, **handsome!** [Positive appreciation: Reaction]." (Part 3: A Scrambled Brain)

The author uses handsome as the reaction of Sarah when he sees Roger after a long time. The word *handsome* shows positive reaction of appreciation. It is implying that Sarah was very happy to meet Roger after a long time because of her busy life and seeing Roger's handsome face already pleased her so she reacted by calling him handsome.

"Well, that is my favorite color. But putting yarn around it will look kind of **tacky** [Negative appreciation: Reaction], won't it? (Part 3: A Scrambled Brain)

The author uses tacky as the reaction of Sarah to express her opinion on thread- wrapped rings. The word *tacky*

show negative reaction of appreciation. It shows that she feels very tacky to wear a ring that doesn't fit her finger and it makes the ring look really tacky. It was a negative reaction and the ring wouldn't look good if it was loose but since it was Roger's family ring, Sarah couldn't change the ring as she wanted because it was a family heirloom.

4. Conclusion

Having answered the problems of the study and from the findings of the research, it is concluded that the three kinds of Attitude were found in Ilaya Baxter's novel *The Chameleons Among Us* and its realization into positive and negative. From 419 Sentences and 329 appraising items, dominantly there are 101 Attitudes of Positive Affect and 46 Attitudes of Negative Affect. Then, it is followed by 75 Attitudes of Positive Judgment and 41 Attitudes of Negative Judgment. Lastly, there are 50 Attitudes of Positive Appreciation and 16 Attitudes of Negative Appreciation.

The attitude was realized through the dominant positive Affect and followed by Judgment and Appreciation in the three chapters of the novel. Therefore, the appearance positive Affect in the novel builds the emotions and feelings through each character that exists in the novel. Additionally, the appearance of positive Affect is the main Attitude of the novel to show the readers how the nature and behavior of the characters in the novel by looking at the emotions and feelings that are conveyed directly or indirectly which is based on author experience because this novel inspired from the author's experience.

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