



Appraisal

ENGAGEMENT -

Proclamation, Disclaim, Entertainment,
Attribution

Appraisal theory

- + allows us to understand more complex ways in which we express our personal views and react to the views of others (White 2013)
- + has three resources in language: attitude, graduation and engagement
- + gives us the language to consider and answer questions about the intention of the writer/speaker

Engagement

- + the writer either agrees with or distances themselves (in whole or in part) from what is written/spoken
- + can be achieved through the following ways:
 - disclaim
 - proclamation
 - entertainment
 - attribution

(White 2013)

Disclaim

- + the writer does not fully agree with what someone else said or wrote. It can include denials, counter-arguments and concessions:
 - It is alleged that men are apes.
 - I deny that men are apes.
 - I concede that men are apes.
 - This can't be true.

(White 2013)

Proclamation

- + the speaker/writer holds a particular position, and may rule out competing or alternative positions. It can include endorsements of what someone else said:
 - I am compelled to conclude ...
 - I argue/believe ...
 - X has shown / has demonstrated that ...
 - Personally / To my mind / In my opinion ...

(White 2013)

Entertainment

- + where a range of possibilities are acknowledged or entertained. This includes probability and usuality, as well as 'how likely' and 'how obligatory':
 - The report suggest that ...
 - It seems that ...
 - It's possible that Alvin might just sing tonight.

(White 2013)

Attribution

- + reports what someone else said or wrote. The speaker/writer acknowledges that there are alternative positions to their own. These segments can also be disclaimed, proclaimed or entertained:
 - She alleged that ... ['alleged' is also an instance of disclaim]
 - They convincingly showed that research causes cancer in mine. ['showed' reflects proclamation]
 - According to Rowan, comedians should have moles.

(White 2013)

Engagement in academic writing

Examples:

In many parts of Hong Kong the L2 environment in the wider society simply **does not** exist.

Disclaim - deny (introduce an alternative position)

However, when the dialogue was recreated by the students ...

Disclaim - counter (invoking a contrary position)

Engagement in academic writing

Their usefulness in spoken exchanges is **certainly** advantageous to the ESL speaker.

Proclaim - concur (agreement)

I must assert that an awareness of the basic nature and types of discourse markers ...

Proclaim - pronounce
(explicit author intervention)

Eggins (2000) **makes the point** that we do ourselves and the discourse community a great service ...

Proclaim - endorsement
(sourcing external sources as correct, valid)

References

Hong Kong Polytechnic University (n.d.z), 'Attitude', viewed 17 November 2021, <www.engl.polyu.edu.hk/academic_writing/engagement.html>.

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White, PRR 2013, 'Systemic Functional Grammar: Appraisal', *An Introduction to Appraisal*, ASLA.