

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
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**NGUYỄN ĐÀO BÍCH TY**

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO APPRECIATION  
USED IN BOOK REVIEWS IN ENGLISH**

**Field : THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
Code : 60.22.02.01**

**MASTER THESIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND HUMANITIES  
(SUMMARY)**

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Supervisor: **NGŨ THIÊN HÙNG, Ph.D.**

Examiner 1: Trần Quang Hải, Ph.D

Examiner 2: Nguyễn Ngoạn, Ph.D

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. RATIONALE**

In the modern world, there is a wealth of leisure activities to choose from. You can watch television, listen to music, go to an art gallery or, of course, read a book. Today, more books of every kind are sold than ever before. Books are not only a cheap way to get information and entertainment but also a wonderful source of knowledge. Besides, reading a book is the quickest, most flexible way of acquiring knowledge on our own. Imagine, you have found a good book, you might say: “It is so good I can’t put it down.” However, not all books belong to this class. Therefore, Book Reviews can help to lead the readers to an easier approach and a better access to good books. Firstly, a Book Review most often involves creating new and original information about a text and answering one’s own questions about it. This is the one most important thing the writer wants the reader to know. Most reviewers will address this directly because it is often the key to understanding what the book is really all about. Secondly, in most Book Reviews, reviewers will come right out and say whether they think the books is good or not, or what parts were better than others.

There is no doubt that, media have a huge impact on people’s perceptions of the world around them, thus, what the readers read in Book Reviews influences their judgment. Because of the importance of evaluation, researchers have tried to describe and explain it from different perspectives and with different methods. Among all these efforts, the appraisal theory which is developed in the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics has been readily applied to a variety of mass media genres in recent years.

The Appraisal theory first proposed by Martin in the early 1990s, is a theoretical system which is supposed to describe and explain the usage of language. By using this theory, language is used to express attitude, affect, judgement and appreciation, especially in Book Reviews, it can realize empathy, interaction with the reader and finally come to the purpose of persuasion. According to this theory, the appraisal system can be divided into three sub-systems, that is, attitude, engagement, and graduation.

Appreciation is one of three types of attitude under the Appraisal framework proposed by Martin and his group of researchers. Appreciation is the way to express the attitude. It values the aesthetic with the positive or negative assessments of the form, appearance, construction, presentation or impact of objects and entities. Moreover, the category of appreciation includes the evaluation of objects, products and human behavior by reference to aesthetic principles and other systems of social value. It is concerned with composition, structure or form, with the question of how well the parts of the entity under evaluation fit together.

Through communication, speakers / writers can use appreciation to show their positive or negative comments in Book Reviews to listeners / readers. This makes listeners / readers interested in his / her topic. Some examples of Appreciation are provided by the following book reviews (Appreciation elements are underlined and bold) :

- *Not only is it **relevant** for marketing executives, it would also be a **good basic text** for any Internet advertising course and a **good adjunct** to any Internet marketing course.*

- *By showing librarians and other educators how to integrate American Sign Language into their lapsit, preschool storytime, and 'tween/teen programs, this text **will benefit** not only the hearing children that constitute the majority of patrons, but also help hearing*

*impaired and deaf children feel welcome and appreciated in the library.*

All the about examples, the questions are: Which type of appreciation is used more often to achieve the persuasion function of book reviews? And how are they deployed? How can we recognize the appreciation in terms of syntactic and semantic features in book reviews? For the reasons above, I would like to conduct a study with the title: “*An Investigation into Appreciation Used in Book Reviews in English*”. This study was carried out in hope of making useful knowledge of using appreciation of Attitude within Appraisal theory and valuable contribution to English learning and teaching.

## **1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **1.2.1. Aims**

This study aims to examine the appreciation in book reviews in English in terms of syntactic, semantic features in order to raise the awareness of appraisal language resources to the Vietnamese learners of English. Moreover, this paper also helps the Vietnamese learners of English know how to use evaluative language effectively in writing Book Reviews.

### **1.2.2. Objectives**

This research paper is intended to aim at the following objectives:

- To examine the syntactic, and semantic features of Appreciation used in Book Reviews in English
- To suggest some implications to the English teaching and learning, especially for learners who would like to write better Book Reviews.

## **1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In order to achieve the aims mentioned above, this study tries to seek the information for the following questions:

1) What are the syntactic features of appreciation used in Book Reviews in English?

2) What are the semantic features of appreciation in English Book Reviews in view of appraisal?

3) What are the semantic features of appreciation in English Book Reviews in view of speech acts?

#### **1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

Within the basic framework of Appraisal theory, this study conducts an evaluation analysis of 134 Book Reviews collected from the official review websites, aiming at revealing the features of Appreciation used in Book Reviews in English. Basically, a descriptive framework of the syntax of Appreciation has been adopted to analyze evaluation at the sentential level. In addition, the examination of the semantics of Appreciation was done with a look into the semantic categories in appraisal terms such as reaction, composition and valuation.

#### **1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

With the aim to analyze the syntactic and semantic features of appreciation in English book reviews, the present study is expected to provide Vietnamese learners with pragmatics knowledge and use appreciation effectively in communication.

In addition, the findings of the study will help the readers/learners not only recognize the role of evaluative language but also understand more Book Reviews in English and writers' ideas. It is hoped to contribute some knowledge to teaching and learning English to Vietnamese learners as well as writing Book Reviews.

#### **1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

This thesis consists of 5 chapters:

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Chapter 3: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Chapter 4: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Chapter 5: CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

## **CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **2.2.1. Text**

Holliday and Hasan (1976, p.1) stated definition of Text which reads as follows: *“The word Text is used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken, or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole.”*

#### **2.2.2. Introduction of Appraisal theory**

##### ***a. Appraisal***

Appraisal framework is known as a particular approach to exploring, describing and explaining the way language is used to evaluate, to adopt stances, to construct textual personas and to manage interpersonal positionings and relationships.

##### ***b. Attitude***

According to Martin & White (2005, p.35) attitude is concerned with *“our feelings, including emotional reactions, judgements of behaviour and evaluation of things”*. Attitude itself divides into three sub-systems

- ***Affect***: the characterisation of phenomena by reference to emotion (e.g. shining with joy, nasty, sad, positive (about a person), happy)

- **Judgement:** the evaluation of human behaviour with respect to social norms (e.g. right, wrong, ethical, responsible, etc.)
- **Appreciation:** the evaluation of objects and products (rather than human behaviour) by reference to aesthetic principles and other systems of social value (e.g. beautiful, unattractive, yummy, simple, lovely, dramatic, etc.)

### ***c. Appreciation and Related Concepts***

Appreciation is the system by which evaluations are made of products and processes. It encompasses values which fall under the general heading of aesthetics, as well as a non-aesthetic category of ‘social valuation’ which includes meanings such as significant and harmful.

Following Rothery and Stenglin, scholars-Martin & White (2005) have argued that Appreciation is sub-classified as Reaction, Composition and Valuation. These categories can be further sub-classified with Impact and Quality as more delicate realisations of Reaction, and Balance and Complexity as more delicate realisations of Composition.

## **2.2.3. Speech Acts**

### ***a. Definition of Speech Acts***

According to Searle (1969), the speech act is the basic unit of language used to express meaning, an utterance that expresses an intention.

### ***b. Austin’s Speech Acts Theory***

Austin (1962) established that whenever we say something, three simultaneous acts are performed:

- Locutionary Act
- Illocutionary Act
- Perlocutionary Act

### ***c. Searle’s Speech Acts Theory***

According to Searle (1975), the illocutionary act is classified

into five categories of communicative functions. These are:

- Representatives or Assertives
- Directives
- Commissives
- Expressives
- Declaratives

#### **2.2.4. Definitions of Book Review**

According to *Wikipedia* :

*A book review is a form of literary criticism in which a book is analyzed based on content, style, and merit. A book review can be a primary source opinion piece, summary review or scholarly review. Books can be reviewed for printed periodicals, magazines and newspapers, as school work, or for book web sites on the Internet. A book review's length may vary from a single paragraph to a substantial essay. Such a review may evaluate the book on the basis of personal taste. Reviewers may use the occasion of a book review for a display of learning or to promulgate their own ideas on the topic of a fiction or non-fiction work.*

### **2.3. SUMMARY**

In summary, this chapter has reviewed the previous studies as well as theories relevant to this study. The focus of the study is on the appreciation used in Book Reviews in English on the commercial and non-commercial review websites.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

With this plan, the qualitative and quantitative approaches were combined to analyze the data. On the one hand, the qualitative

approach was applied in describing and analyzing data to find out the syntactic and semantic features of Appreciation in Book Reviews in English. On the other hand, the quantitative approach is used to determine the occurrence, the percentage of categories of the Appreciation in the collected data.

### **3.2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In order to carry out the research to achieve this aim, a combination of several research methods was employed in this paper. They were: descriptive method, together with qualitative and quantitative approaches.

### **3.3. DATA COLLECTION**

In this study, 134 product descriptions of book reviews in English with the average from 150 to approximately 400 words are carefully collected from the Internet within 10 years (1/2005 – 1/2015).

#### **3.3.1. Sampling of Study**

Appreciation found out in book reviews in English can be a simple complex or compound sentence with the function that fits the working definition of the study. Specifically, the language resource for evaluation can be a single word, a phrase that functions as the linguistic markers for this particular appraisal function.

#### **3.3.2. Population of Study**

Within the basic framework of Appraisal theory, this study conducts an evaluation analysis of 134 book reviews, aiming at revealing the evaluative features of this genre as well as establishing a comprehensive model of evaluation analysis.

### **3.4. DATA ANALYSIS**

After collecting the reliable samples, we began to analyze the data on the basis of the following points:

- Syntactic features of appreciation such as complex noun phrases or clauses are frequently used in book reviews in view of

Quirk (1985).

- Semantic features of appreciation in view of appraisal categories and speech acts.

- The results of the analysis are then presented in mainly qualitative manner.

### **3.5. RESEARCH PROCEDURE**

To carry out the present study, the steps involved are:

- Discussing with the supervisor to orientate the problem relating to choosing the topic.

- Identifying the Appreciation in book reviews.

- Finding out the syntactic features of the samples and classifying them into groups.

- Examining the semantic features of Appreciation in book reviews.

- Discussing the results.

- Suggesting some implication for the EFL language teaching and learning.

### **3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

In this study, Investigation into Appreciation in book reviews in English was carried out on the basis of the theoretical background from reliable publications of famous linguists.

### **3.7. SUMMARY**

Chapter 3 of this paper presents methodology and the ways the samples were collected. Furthermore, analyzing data reliability and validity of the thesis are also mentioned in this chapter.

## CHAPTER 4

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF APPRECIATION USED IN ENGLISH BOOK REVIEWS

In this study, the researcher only tends to analyze the language resources of evaluation in terms of structure of phrases and sentences.

In the corpus of samples of Appreciation used in English book reviews, the structures ranging from phrase to sentence are presented their syntactic characteristics and behaviors.

##### 4.1.1. Appreciation in Form of Noun Phrase

The structure of complex NPs in the examples mentioned above is illustrated in Table 4.1.

*Table 4.1. Appreciation in the structure of complex NPs*

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT			
<i>Determiner</i>	<i>Premodifiers</i>	<i>Head Noun</i>	<i>Postmodifiers</i>
an	engaging	study	of the mental lexicon
a	detailed and up to date	review	of the framework of phrases
a	profound	effect	on European and American linguistics
	valuable	insights	for primery teachers, trainners, LA Avisors, and Headteachers
a	wide	range	of case studies
a	state-of-the-art	account	of contemporary applied linguistics
<b>Appreciation</b>		<b>Things Appreciated</b>	
APPRAISAL ELEMENT			

##### 4.1.2. Appreciation in Form of Verb phrase

Although a verb phrase is the most central and indispensable

part of the clause, it occupied the smallest rate of Appreciation in EBRs. The writers prefer using the verbs in forms: “WILL + BARE INFINITIVE”. Here are some typical examples:

*Table 4.2. Appreciation in the Structure of Verb Phrase*

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT		
<i>Noun Phrase</i>	<i>WILL+BARE INFINITIVE</i>	<i>Noun phrase / Prepositional phrase or Clause</i>
This original work	will interest	students and scholars in many fields...
This book	will appeal to	linguists of all theoretical persuasions at graduate level and above.
This text	will benefit	not only the hearing children that constitute the majority of patrons..
<b>Thing appreciated</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>	
APPRAISAL ELEMENT		

#### 4.1.3. Appreciation in Form of Adjective phrase

*Table 4.3. Appreciation in the Structure of Adjective Phrase*

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT		
<i>Adverb</i>	<i>Adjective</i>	<i>Preposition Phrase or To Infinitive</i>
	timely and full	of good ideas.
sufficiently	comprehensive and detailed	to serve as a reference work for scholars...
	suitable	for researchers and postgraduate students in all fields...
widely	applicable	for ESL/EFL language education courses around the world.
extremely	important	to develop your ability to converse, to discuss, to argue...
	indispensable	to those teaching in higher education and wishing to develop corpus...
also	appropriate	for instructors teaching undergraduate and graduate courses...
	complex and unpredictable	
<b>Appreciation</b>		<b>Thing appreciated</b>
APPRAISAL ELEMENT		

#### 4.1.4. Appreciation in Form of Adverb phrase

Table 4.4. Appreciation in the Structure of Adverb Phrase

<i>STRUCTURAL ELEMENT</i>		
<i>Noun Phrase</i>	<i>Verb Phrase</i>	<i>Adverb Phrase</i>
her book	will appeal	widely to semanticists in linguistics and philosophy...
This book	explains	in clear language what needs to be done...
The book	is written	in an accessible style with clear descriptions of technical terms...
Language Curriculum Design	is	widely applicable for ESL/EFL language education courses...
<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>	
<b>APPRAISAL ELEMENT</b>		

#### 4.1.5. Appreciation in Form of Prepositional Phrase

Table 4.5. Appreciation in the Structure of Prepositional Phrase

<i>STRUCTURAL ELEMENT</i>		
<i>Noun Phrase</i>	<i>Verb Phrase</i>	<i>Noun Phrase/ Prepositional Phrase</i>
The book	should be	of great interest to scholars of all discipline working
The volume	will be	of interest to graduate students and researchers in the fields...
these books	seek to explain	complicated issues in an accessible way.
The contributions to this volume	offer	a broad range of novel insights about data-based or data-driven approaches...
<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>
<b>APPRAISAL ELEMENT</b>		

Generally speaking, with 375 occurrences found in the book review corpus, these phrases are distributed in different proportion in English book reviews. Following is the illustrated table:

*Table 4.7. Distribution of Appreciation Used in EBRs in the Structure of Phrasal Types*

<b>PhraseTypes</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Rate (%)</b>
Noun phrase	181	36.7
Verb phrase	21	4.2
Adjective phrase	236	47.7
Adverb phrase	33	6.7
Prepositional phrase	24	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### **4.1.6. Sentence Structures Containing Appreciation Commonly Used in EBRs**

Appreciation in EBRs is expressed in the structure: S + V + C<sub>APPRECIATION</sub>

*Table 4.8. Appreciation in the Structure: S + V + C<sub>APPRECIATION</sub>*

<b>STRUCTURAL ELEMENT</b>		
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Link Verb</i>	<i>Subject Complement</i>
The book	is	a balanced combination of philosophical, linguistic, logical and mathematical argumentation.
This book	is	a comprehensive, practical guide to field linguistics.
This new book for teacher	is	timely and full of good ideas.
This usage	is	counter-intuitive and difficult for non native speakers.
<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>
<b>APPRAISAL ELEMENT</b>		

Appreciation in EBRs also found in the structure:

$S + V + C_{S_{APPRECIATION}} + A$

Table 4.9. *Appreciation in the Structure:  $S + V + C_{S_{APPRECIATION}} + A_{APPRECIATION}$*

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT			
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Subject Complement</i>	<i>Adjunct</i>
these books	seek to explain	complicated issues	in an accessible way.
<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>
APPRAISAL ELEMENT			

The other structure expressing appreciation in EBRs is:  $S + V + O_{APPRECIATION}$ .

Table 4.10. *Appreciation in the Structure:  $S + V + O_{APPRECIATION}$*

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT		
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>
This book	provides	a detailed and up to date review of the framework of phrases
<i>The Sound Structure of English</i>	provides	a clear introduction to English phonetics and phonology.
This book	offers	a new approach to the representation of meaning of temporally-located utterances and discourses.
<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>
APPRAISAL ELEMENT		

Similarly, from the analysis of the data we easily found the structure  $S + V + O_i + O_d_{APPRECIATION}$  expressing evaluative meaning in EBRs. This is illustrated as follows:

Table 4.11. *Appreciation in the Structure: S + V + Oi +**Od*<sub>APPRECIATION</sub>

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT			
<i>Subject</i>	<i>verb</i>	<i>Indirect Object</i>	<i>Direct Object</i>
This volume	offers	the reader	a state-of-the-art record of new and established research in this area.
Crowley's voice of experience	brings	us	the best practical fieldwork guide to date
<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Relation</b>		<b>Appreciation</b>
APPRAISAL ELEMENT			

Table 4.12. *Appreciation in the Structure S + V + Od +**Co*<sub>APPRECIATION</sub>

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT			
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Object Complement</i>
Applied Linguists working in other subfields	will find	the volume	useful in their own research...
educators	will find	this book	to be a great resources.
<b>Appreciation Carrier</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>
APPRAISAL ELEMENT			

The final structure which we want to mention is the one S + V + *Od*<sub>APPRECIATION</sub> + A employed in EBRs to express evaluation.

Table 4.13. Appreciation in the Structure  $S + V + Od_{APPRECIATION} + A$ 

STRUCTURAL ELEMENT			
Subject	Verb	Object	Adjunct
This guide for teachers and teacher trainees	provides	a wealth of suggestions	for helping learners at all levels of proficiency develop their reading
The present book	offers	fresh insights	into the description of distransitive verb and their complementation
This case study	raises	fundamental questions	about the epistemological status of sociolinguistic theory
<b>Thing Appreciated</b>	<b>Relation</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>	<b>Relation</b>
APPRAISAL ELEMENT			

Interestingly, if we look at the qualitative results shown in Tables from (4.8), (4.9), (4.10), (4.11), (4.12), and (4.13) we discover that the phrases expressing appreciation have different functions as subject complements, direct objects and object complements of clauses.

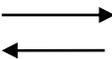
## 4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF APPRECIATION IN EBRs IN VIEW OF APPRAISAL

### 4.2.1. The Reaction Meaning of Appreciation in EBRs

The study further identified two subcategories of reaction in terms of Quality and Impact. While quality focuses on the evaluated entity, impact highlights the evaluator's response.

#### *a. Reaction-Impact*

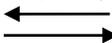
(4.45) *This is an **engaging** study of the mental lexicon - the way in which the form and meaning of words is stored by speakers of specific languages.* [30-R]

Appraiser	Reaction-Impact 	Thing Appraised/ Appraised
(Book Reviewer)	engaging	study of the mental lexicon

### ***b. Reaction-Quality***

While Reaction-Impact highlights the evaluator's response, Reaction-Quality focuses on the evaluated entity.

(4.49) *Clearly and readably written, with each point of the argument illustrated with well-chosen examples, this book **will appeal to** linguists of all theoretical persuasions at graduate level and above.* [48-R]

Thing Appraised/Appreciated	Reaction-Quality 	Relation
This book	appeal	linguists of all ...

## **4.2.2. The Composition Meaning of Appreciation in EBRs**

### ***a. Composition-Balance***

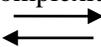
The presentation of composition values of appreciation is well-illustrated in the shortened text (4.50) below, where the make up of between two categories (philosophical linguistic and logical and mathematical argumentation) is presented via adjectival word "balanced".

(4.50) *The book is a **balanced** combination of philosophical, linguistic, **logical** and mathematical argumentation.* [15-C]

Appraiser	Composition-Balance 	Thing Appraised/Appreciated
(Book Reviewer)	balanced logical	Overall target: the book Local target: combination

**b. Composition-Complexity**

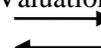
(4.52) *The book is written in an accessible style with **clear** descriptions of technical terms, guides to further reading, and extensive cross-referencing between entries.* [39-C]

Appraiser	Composition-Complexity 	Thing Appraised/Appreciated
(Book Reviewer)	clear	description of technical terms

**4.2.3. The Valuation Meaning of Appreciation in EBRs**

Valuation appreciation is related to cognition and is our considered opinion.

(4.56) *It demonstrates the **value** of drama as a means of achieving education that stimulates creative and critical thinking while also engaging the emotions.* [39-V]

Appraiser	Valuation 	Thing Appraised/Appreciated
(Book Reviewer)	<b>value</b>	drama

In the example (4.56), the reviewer puts emphasis on the value of drama as means of education, but also significant help to teachers teaching thinking and creativity for students.

*Table 4.18. Frequencies of Appreciation Expressions in EBRs*

Categories	Occurrence	Rate (%)
Valuation	239	58.6
Composition	113	27.7
Reaction	56	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 4.3. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF APPRECIATION IN EBRs IN VIEW OF SPEECH ACTS

#### 4.3.1. Illocutionary Force of Appreciation in EBRs

A kind of illocutionary force of appreciation used in EBRs is *representative or assertive*. In appreciation used in EBRs, representatives occur with function as assertions or descriptions via the following example:

(4.69) *The authors **offer clear** critical evaluations of competing formal approaches within theoretical linguistics.* [40-C]

#### 4.3.2. Modifying Illocutionary Force of Appreciation in EBRs

Sometimes, speakers / writers want to emphasize the appreciation to persuade listeners / readers agree with their opinion, their attitude in their reviews. Boosting is one of linguistic devices for modifying illocutionary force realized in EBRs via boosters as modal auxiliaries (*must, will, should*), epistemic lexical verbs (*demonstrate, show, find, point out*), or epistemic adjectives and adverbs (*clearly, very, importantly*). For example:

(4.79) *The application of these technologies is **clearly explained** within the context of planning, negotiation, contracts, compliance, privacy, and network policies.* [12-C]

(4.84) *This book **will be indispensable** to those teaching in higher education and wishing to develop corpus-based approaches, as well as researchers in the field of English Language Teaching.* [182-V]

In the instance (4.84), the writer/speaker also used the appreciation *will be indispensable* to strengthen the value of the book and to make it more attractive in the eyes the reader/listener.

In addition, boosters emphasise the force of propositions and display commitment to statements, thereby asserting the writer's conviction and restricting the negotiating space available to the

reader. Besides, readers accept statements not only because they believe them to represent independent truths or faultless logic, but because they have been persuaded by a writer's systematic appeal to the disciplinary meanings and values that they hold.

*Table 4.19. Semantic Features of Appreciation in EBRs in view of Speech Acts*

<b>Function of Appreciation as Speech Acts</b>	<b>Appreciation Markers</b>	<b>Example of Appreciation as Speech Acts</b>
Illocutionary Force of Appreciation (Representative)	<i>offer clear critical evaluations</i>	The authors <i>offer clear critical evaluations</i> of competing format approaches within theoretical linguistics
Modifying Illocutionary Force (Boosting)	<i>clearly explained</i>	The application of these technologies <i>is clearly explained</i> within the context of planning, negotiation, contracts, compliance, privacy, and network policies.
	<i>will be indispensable</i>	This book <i>will be indispensable</i> to those teaching in higher education and wishing to develop corpus-based approaches, as well as researchers in the field of English Language Teaching.

#### **4.4. SUMMARY**

This chapter summarizes all the findings that appear in the appreciation in book reviews in English in terms of syntactic and semantic features.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

*“An Investigation into Appreciation Used in Book Reviews in English”* is a study of using the evaluative language used in book reviews in English. To achieve these goals, the researcher has employed the appraisal theory. According to this theory, the appraisal system in language can be divided into three subsystems that are, attitude, engagement and graduation and particular focus of this study on *Appreciation* – subsystem of attitude.

The findings presented below are inferred from the analysis of collected data.

Syntactically, Appreciation had the substantial share of all phrase types. The phrases of Appreciation realized in EBRs extend from noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases to prepositional phrases. Adjective phrase has the maximum percentage, noun phrase ranks the second, adverb phrase was found the third in EBRs often followed by verb phrase and prepositional phrase. The quantitative and qualitative results of the corpus confirm that adjective phrase is highly used evaluative resource with a range of adjectives which express strong positive evaluation in EBRs. Especially, adjective phrases used in EBRs have function as attributive or predicative in sentences. Interestingly, *complex noun phrases with of-construction* used more than basic noun phrases are the prevalent structures of noun phrases expressing appreciation.

These diversified phrasal types not only make the writing interesting but also enhance the assessing characteristics of appreciation in EBRs. Significantly, in this study, we have tried to show syntactic function of constituents expressing Appreciation in

the clausal structure. Particularly, the simple sentences with patterns: “*Noun phrase + Link Verb + Noun phrase + Prepositional phrase*” or “*Noun phrase + Link Verb + Adjective phrase + Prepositional phrase*” are found very common in appreciation in EBRs. At the same time, we have also found that there is an uneven distribution of Appreciation in the clausal or nominal structure or utterance in EBRs. In addition, these typical linguistic features serve as a major device for attracting or fascinating of products.

Semantically, appreciation can be examined in terms of appraisal categories and speech acts. In terms of appraisal categories, it can be classified and analyzed in three sub-categories of appreciation meaning: reaction, composition and valuation. In terms of reaction, instances of Appreciation were examined in 2 types: reaction-impact and reaction-quality. In terms of composition, the instances of Appreciation were observed in 2 types: composition-balance and composition-complexity. Furthermore, in terms of speech acts, appreciation was examined and explored with the descriptive and expressive meaning of illocutionary force. Then the use of appreciation can be analyzed with reference to the speakers’/writers’ intention in boosting the illocutionary force. According to the overall picture of the use of appreciation in book reviews in English, valuation was found in the texts most often followed by composition and reaction respectively. Except Reaction, almost every subcategory reveals positive and negative appreciations. It means that positive aesthetic words or expressions are distributed highly. Interestingly, the appreciation valuation plays an important role in the attitude system. In most of samples, it takes more half of the percentages (58.6%).

Pragmatically, using booster “*clearly*” allows writers to express conviction and assert a proposition with confidence,

representing a strong claim about products. Furthermore, in the current study, we found the frequently occurring modal verb “*will*” used to modify statements and emphasizing the justification of the products. Understanding the underlying boosters of appreciation in EBRs would be beneficial for pedagogical goals specifically in the context of English for academic purposes.

## **5.2. IMPLICATIONS**

It is hope that the results of the study can be beneficial, to some extent, to the teaching and learning of English. In this thesis, the findings provide the language learners both syntactic and semantic knowledge of comprehending and using appreciation effectively. Based on the findings from the study, language learners can understand the nature of the appreciation in use. It can help the learners master the different elements in function and distinctive features of appreciation in order to contribute to communicative ability efficiently and valuate the beauty of language with its diversity and variety.

### **For teachers**

The findings may be of some help for the teaching language. Firstly, this thesis will help teachers have knowledge of syntactic and semantic features of appreciation. With the result of the investigation, teachers have an opportunity to explore more phrases or sentences containing appreciation to support their teaching. Secondly, this thesis also provides teachers the knowledge of appreciation in terms of Appraisal theory.

### **For students**

With the findings, the study will provide students with an insight into the linguistic features of appreciation as well as help to raise their awareness of the importance function of evaluative category of appreciation.

Through the result of the study, learners may have knowledge of understanding appreciation that speakers / writers use to express their intention, their opinion, their feeling, their emotion and their attitude when they use appreciation in their reviews. Learners also have to focus on meaning types of appreciation such as reaction, composition, valuation meaning and how to use appreciation with illocutionary force to comprehend and express appreciation effectively. Through the result, learners may also master how to use appreciation in suitable situation or context to get the best benefits in daily communication.

### **5.3. LIMITATIONS**

Firstly, the number of samples collected is over 300 samples which are not enough to reflect the reality of using appreciation in book reviews in English. Secondly, the study can only explore linguistic features of appreciation in terms of syntactic and semantic features while lexical features of appreciation have not been touched upon. Finally, although mitigating of appreciation which also occur in EBRs, they were not taken into consideration in our analyses.

### **5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

This study is only made an analysis of syntactic and semantic features of appreciation in book reviews in English. However, for the sake of making further investigation, I would like to offer some suggestions for further research:

- An Investigation into Stylistic Devices of Appreciation in EBRs.
- An Investigation into Speech Acts used in Appreciation in EBRs.