

A Critical Discourse Analysis of Chinese and American News Reports on the Hong Kong Riot

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Abstract

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an effective way to explore the hidden ideology in news reports. Based on Fairclough's three-dimensional discourse analysis model, CDA was carried out from three dimensions of text, discourse practice and social practice. In this paper, four reports on the Hong Kong riot are selected from Xinhua News Agency and the New York Times respectively as the research objects. The result of this study shows that Chinese and American reports are similar in text and discourse practice, but the attitudes and public opinions conveyed by the authors are different. To be precise, the Chinese media hold a firm position on the issue of Hong Kong's internal affairs and create an image of a responsible country. However, the American media focused on human rights of Hong Kong rioters, trying to lead the public opinion. This study can be helpful deepening the understandings on the reasons why two media make different reports on the Hong Kong riots from different perspectives and eventually to able to promote the development of critical discourse analysis. For the former, it is because there are huge differences in social practice, which is the result of various factors such as the media social environment, ideology and power of the two countries.

Keywords

Critical Discourse Analysis; news reports; three-dimensional discourse analysis model.

1. Introduction

Critical discourse analysis is a type of interdisciplinary research perspective, which originated from the critical trend of thought in linguistics and social science theories in the 1970s. It helps establish the role of language in the construction of social power relations. The purpose of critical discourse analysis is to reveal hegemonic discourse and ideology that cause inequality, injustice and oppression, so as to improve people's pragmatic awareness and promote the realization of social equity, justice and democracy.

As an important carrier of mass media, the physical newspapers and the electronic newspapers are regularly distributed to the public mainly by publishing news and commentary on current affairs, and have the function of reflecting and guiding public opinion. Objectivity is considered as the standard in journalism, but as Lance (2016) has mentioned, this professional standard exactly creates the illusion of independence and objectivity, and people still take it for granted that news is the best way to present the facts. News, as a mass discourse, is influenced by the social background of news and the value orientation of news reporters, which means news inevitably has a powerful invisible force, which reflects the interests of the controlling class. Because the ideologies of the journalists and social backgrounds of the events are inevitably transferred to readers. Considering the previous studies on Contrastive analysis of News reports between Chinese and American media, there are six great differences. To be specific, different number and genre of contribution, resources, themes, contents, reporting style as well as the attitudes.

In this paper, the reports on the Hong Kong riot that began in March 2019 are selected as the research objects, and the Hong Kong riot is divided into four stages, namely the amendment of the fugitive's ordinance, the anti-amendment demonstration, the postponement of the amendment and the riot. Corresponding to these four stages, four reports were selected from Xinhua News Agency and the New York Times respectively. Based on Fairclough's three-dimensional discourse analysis model, critical discourse analysis was carried out from the three dimensions of text, discourse practice and social practice. In terms of text, this paper analyzes the similarities and differences between Chinese and American news reports in terms of language features from the two aspects of word characteristics in selected news reports. In terms of discourse practice, this paper analyzes the sources and reporting modes of selected American news reports, and analyzes how Chinese and American news reports embed their ideologies. In the aspect of social practice, this paper analyzes the system and social and cultural context of China and the United States, so as to further uncover the relationship between language, ideology and power.

2. Theoretical Framework

Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model made a great contribution to the development of CDA. He has been devoted to the study of CDA since the early 1980s and has made a great of contribution by critically absorbing other people's theories in linguistic and sociological fields. On the basis of Halliday's Systemic Functional Theory and contemporary western social science thought, a discourse analysis model was formed by analyzing the discourse in order to study the relationship between language, power and ideology. He regarded the discourse as a unity composed of text, discourse practice and social practice, which named Three-Dimensional Model, and it can be divided into three steps in critical discourse analysis: description, interpretation and explanation (Fairclough, 1992). The three-dimensional conception of discourse is represented diagrammatically in Figure 1. These three steps are described in detail in the following part.

2.1. Description

The descriptive stage is the first stage of CDA, and it is also the basis of further understanding of social practice and cultural context. It emphasizes the analysis of the linguistic features of the discourse, which is embodied in vocabulary, grammar, and cohesion. Fairclough (Fairclough, 1989) explains these parts in his book *Discourse and Social Change*, "these can be thought as ascending in scale: vocabulary deals mainly with individual words, grammar deals with word combined into clauses and sentences, cohesion deals with how clauses and sentences are linked together." Moreover, because of the great influence of Halliday's system functional grammar on Fairclough's three-dimensional model in descriptive stage, the three meta-functions as a significant part of SFG is considered as a useful analysis tool of CDA, Halliday believes that language is the product of social activities. The meta-functions of language include ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function. These three meta-functions are respectively related to transitivity system, mood system and theme system. The following part will briefly introduce the ideational function which plays an important part in the critical analysis.

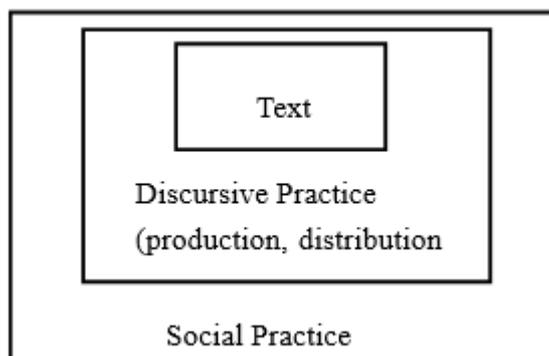


Figure 1. Three-dimensional conception of discourse (Fairclough, 1993: 73)

Ideational function refers to the transmission of new information, conveying to listeners content that they don't know before. Ideational function mainly includes these three crucial components, transitivity, lexical choice and mood. Transitivity is a grammatical system and includes six different processes: material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process and existential process.

In the use of language, people can use these six different processes to illustrate events and express their views. However, in different language circumstance and social environment, people may hold opposite opinions and express different views towards the same event, which indirectly indicates their positions and hidden ideologies. Therefore, it is particularly important to study the transitivity when analyzing news discourse to reveal its hidden ideology.

2.2. Interpretation

The second dimension of the three-dimensional model is the interpretation, in which text is regarded as discursive practice. Discursive practice should be taken into consideration when explore the text. According Fairclough has mentioned in his book *Discourse and Social Change*, text production and text consumption can be achieved by intertextuality and coherence. Intertextuality means the relationship among the present text, the past text and the future text, which can be realized by the method of quotation, allusion and referencing and so on. Therefore, in this process, we can mainly use news source and reporting modes.

News source refers to the formal documents from institutions and organizations or individual statements on the same event are quoted in the news, which aims to show the authenticity, authority and objectivity of the news. These news sources must come from powerful institutions and individuals whose feelings and ideologies are inevitably reflected in reports. Therefore, Folwer (1991) points out that if CL mainly studies the ideology of news discourse, it is necessary to study the relationship between journalists and news sources. According to Professor Xin Bin, he claims that news source can be divided into three types, namely specific source, semi-specific source and unidentified source. Reporting modes refers to the different degrees of the news source. Fairclough states that reporting modes can be divided into three types, namely direct discourse (DD), indirect discourse (ID) and direct discourse slipping (DDS).

2.3. Explanation

The third dimension of the three-dimensional model is the explanation, which is in fact a social analysis concerned with the relation between interaction and social context, in order to find out how the social context influences the production and interpretation of the discourse. "Explanation is concerned with the relationship between interaction and social context with the social determination of the process of production and interpretation, and their social effects" (Fairclough, 1989). In this stage, the analysis should be put into institutional and cultural context to expose the hidden power and ideology.

3. Critical Discourse Analysis of News Reports in the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency

In this part, the news reports on the Hong Kong Riot chosen from Xinhua News Agency and New York Times will be analyzed based on Fairclough's three-dimensional model to reveal the different hidden ideologies.

3.1. Description of News Reports

In the first stage of three-dimensional model, the linguistic features of the text will be analyzed from the word classification and transitivity aspects.

3.1.1 Classification

The classification system refers to the naming and description of characters and events in discourse, which is mainly reflected in the lexical choice. The headline of a news report reveals and evaluates news content and formulates the overall theme of a text. Considering the crucial functions of headline, we make an analysis of headline from the selected news reports first.

Table 1. Headlines of the Selected Samples from the New York Times

Sample Newspaper	New York Times
Sample 1 (2019.6.19)	Hong Kong Was a Refuge for Mainland Chinese. The Extradition Bill Could Change That.
Sample 2 (2019.8.5)	China Reacts to Trade Tariffs and Hong Kong Protests by Blaming U.S.
Sample 3 (2019.10.21)	'One Country, Two Nationalisms': The Identity Crisis Behind Hong Kong's Turmoil.
Sample 4 (2019.12.3)	China Hits Back at U.S. Over Hong Kong Bill in a Mostly Symbolic Move.

As regards New York Times, we can sense the hostile aggression by using this offensive depiction to interfere in China's internal affairs. First, in sample 3 "Hong Kong's Turmoil" the New York Times characterized the Hong Kong incident as a turmoil, this word means a state of great worry in which everything is confused and nothing is certain in the Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. Here this event is just depicted as a state, the New York Times distort the true situation in definition level. Second, in sample 1, sample 2 and sample 4, the New York Times indirectly discredits China and Chinese people. But the headline "Hong Kong Was a Refuge for Mainland Chinese". "The Extradition Bill Could Change That", the reporter has shifted the original focus and changed the target object into mainland Chinese. The headlines "China Hits Back at U.S. ..." and "...by Blaming U.S", the reporters here regard China as an irresponsible country, which gives the readers an image of stingy and dictatorial Chinese government and leadership.

Table 2. Headlines of the Selected Samples from Xinhua News Agency

Sample Newspaper	Xinhua News Agency
Sample 5 (2019.6.16)	HKSAR chief executive announces suspension of fugitive law amendments, promises to continue explanation
Sample 6 (2019.8.5)	China regrets U.S. decision to label China currency manipulator
Sample 7 (2019.10.20)	Hong Kong police need to use appropriate force in response to violence: HKSAR chief executive
Sample 8 (2019.12.3)	China says relevant U.S. defense act clauses blatantly interfered in its domestic affairs

Here the headlines show that Xinhua News Agency spends much space to depict the development process of law amendments and make clear Chinese stand of the Hong Kong riot. This event is classified as an internal affair of China and not incorporated into the realm of two countries, rather than a confrontation between two countries as the New York Times reported. On the whole, the headlines in the New York Times all give an inequitable description of the bill and are full of sentimental color. Xinhua News Agency mostly uses relatively conservative words, not exaggerating the negative impact of the issue.

3.1.2 Transitivity

As mentioned in part 3, we know transitivity can be divided into six types, it plays a crucial role in transmitting value systems and realizing ideational function in the news discourses. This part will give a further analysis of the transitivity in the chosen news samples. In order to find out the difference of ideology and attitude conveyed in the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency, it is necessary to do a quantitative research on the distribution of process types in selected news samples.

Table 3. The Distribution of Six Processes in every Selected Sample

Samples	Material process	Mental process	Relational process	Behavioral process	Verbal process	Existential process
	No./Per.	No./Per.	No./Per.	No./Per.	No./Per.	No./Per.
Sample 1	18/36%	1/2%	3/6%	2/4%	26/52%	0
Sample 2	23/41.82%	0	3/5.45%	1/1.82%	28/50.91%	0
Sample 3	43/43%	2/2%	14/14%	6/6%	33/33%	2/2%
Sample 4	8/40%	0	3/15%	0	9/45%	0
Sample 5	6/20%	0	0	0	24/80%	0
Sample 6	4/20%	0	3/15%	0	13/65%	0
Sample 7	0	0	0	0	5/100%	0
Sample 8	0	0	1/11.11%	0	8/88.89%	0

Above Table 3 shows the distribution and proportion of each process in both news media. From the angle of horizontal perspective, there is no obvious trend in the statistics. From the angle of longitudinal perspective, the percentage of each process occupies in the whole is roughly resemble from sample 1 to sample 4 in the New York Times, the percentage of verbal process are the most frequently used process in both the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency. Mental process, behavioral process and existential process do not appear from sample 5 to sample 8.

Table 4. The Distribution of Six Processes in all Selected Samples

Six processes	New York Times	Xinhua News Agency
	Per.	Per.
Material process	40.89%	15.625%
Mental process	1.33%	0
Relational process,	10.22%	6.25%
Behavioral process	4.00%	0
Verbal process	42.67%	78.125%
Existential process	0.89%	0

In Table 4, the data shows that there are obvious differences in the percentage of the six processes in the samples from the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency. In the selected

samples, verbal process is the most frequently employed accounting for 42.67% in the New York Times and 78.125% in Xinhua News Agency. The material process is the second most frequently employed, 40.89% in the New York Times and 15.625% in Xinhua News Agency. respectively. Relational process accounts for 10.22% in the New York Times and 6.25% in Xinhua News Agency. The mental process, behavioral process and existential process are accounting for 1.33%, 4.00%, 0.89%, which are the least employed in the New York Times. But these three processes have not been employed in the selected reports from Xinhua News Agency. Due to the topic of the selected news samples is about the Hong Kong riot, reporters pay more attention to the news source and development. Thus, a brief study of these two processes concerning the reports on the Hong Kong riot will be conducted in the following part. The material process contains the actor and the goal. The actor is the executor of the action, and the goal is the receiver of the action. The following Table 5 will give some specific information about the distribution of the actors in the selected reports. Example 1 to 2 are the material process from the New York Times and Example 3 to 4 are from Xinhua News Agency, which can show us a clear view of the hidden ideologies.

Table 5. Examples of Material Process Selected from the New York Times

Sample	Example	Actor	Process	Goal & Circumstance
Sample 1	1	The petition	laid out	a range of concerns commonly cited by human rights groups about China's Communist Party-controlled security apparatus and judicial system, including forced confessions and closed trials.
	2	Ms. Li	was sent	to the hospital on Saturday night suffering from low blood sugar, a fever and dehydration
Sample 2	3	This	turned	the region into a powder keg that one scholar called "one country, two nationalisms" — an allusion to the "one country, two systems" policy that was meant to protect Hong Kong's status within China.
	4	Immigrant families, who	(mostly) speak	Mandarin, rarely mix with Cantonese-speaking natives

In example 1, the Actor is “the petition” which is signed by more than 350 people who describe themselves as recent immigrants from mainland China to Hong Kong. This process tells us that not only Hong Kong people oppose the extradition bill, but also those people who emigrate from the mainland. Thus, a repressive image of Chinese mainland and a helpless image of immigrants appear in the readers' minds. In Example 2, the Actor is Ms. Li who is a university lecturer from Shanghai and participates in the hunger strike, the verb “was sent” indicates that the hardship of the demonstration led her going to the hospital, while she continued to participate in the demonstration despite her illness, which indicates the perseverance of demonstrators' pursuit and brutality of Hong Kong government and Chinese government. Example 3 and 4 of the New York Times describe the negative effects of “One Country, Two Systems.” The actors are “this” which implies the “One Country, Two Systems” policy and immigrant families. Why do Hong Kong generate different nationalism? Why the cohesion and familiarity of the Hong Kong community is declining? It attributes to the mainland immigration and the Chinese government policy.

Table 6. Examples of Material Process Selected from Xinhua News Agency

Sample	Example	Actor	Process	Goal & Circumstance
Sample 5	9	The bill	tabled	by the HKSAR government at the LegCo in April, aims to deal with a murder case that happened in China's Taiwan but involves a Hong Kong suspect who has returned to Hong Kong, and to fill loopholes in HKSAR's existing legal framework concerning mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.
	10	The HKSAR government	has been trying to	To deal with the Taiwan murder case, (the HKSAR government) (has been trying to) get the bill passed ahead of the LegCo summer recess in July.
Sample 6	11	The U.S. Treasury designation	was seen	by analysts as a new excuse for more protectionist measures.
	12	Chinese companies	have halted	purchases of U.S. farm produce after the U.S. decided to impose additional 10-percent tariffs on 300 billion U.S. dollars worth of Chinese imports, as the U.S. move seriously violated the consensus reached by the two heads of state in Osaka.

Example 9 and 10 of Xinhua News Agency describe the reason of amending the extradition bill, the actors are “the bill” and “the HKSAR government”, and the verb “has been trying to” means make efforts to do something with difficulties, which shows that mending the legislation is faced with impediment. It was also directly explained that the extradition bill aims to resolve homicides in Taiwan and to fill loopholes in HKSAR’s existing legal framework. In the example 11, the actor is “the U.S. Treasury designation”, and the verb is “was seen”. This example shows that the U.S. Treasury designation disrupt international trade rules and order by using labeling China a currency manipulator. In the example 12, the actor is “Chinese companies”, the verb is “have halted”, Chinese companies suffer great losses in the trade war, and hen stop exporting goods to the United States in face of high tariffs. Because it was the U.S. that violated the consensus reached by the two heads of state first, Chinese companies just act accordingly.

The verbal process is the process of saying. It is made up of three participants: sayer, receiver and verbiage. The reporters will quote others' comments or information to support their own ideas or refute other people’s opinion by choosing the sayer and the verbiage. Thus, exploring the sayer and the verbiage is a good way of uncovering the hidden ideologies. According to Table 4.2, it is clear that verbal process occupies the largest percentage in the news selected from the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency, which also plays a prominent role in the six processes. It occupies 42.67% in the New York Times' chosen samples and 78.125% in Xinhua News Agency's chosen samples. In the samples from the New York Times, sayer mainly includes two parts: anti-government protesters and China-related.

Certainly, the New York Times should represent American interests. Therefore, the ideas and attitudes which the journalists represent towards the event may reflect American stance and attitude. As shown in the examples above, the sayers are employed in the New York Times such as “publisher”, “technician” and “spokeswoman” and so on, which are not specific. Though they from different fields, they have something in common, that is, they are all opposing or unwilling to amend the extradition bill. However, in the examples from Xinhua News Agency, the sayers used in the news reports are specific and authoritative. They can definitely represent the nation's and government's stance toward the event.

From the analysis of examples, it can be summarized that both news media aim to make the news more objective. But ideologies are inevitably hidden in news reports. When the two news media concerning with the Hong Kong riot, China claims that the Hong Kong event is the

internal affair of China and hopes the U.S. not interfere in its internal affairs. However, the U.S. avoids showing their certain attitudes towards the Hong Kong riot by only combining the reactions from Hong Kong protesters and China.

3.2. Interpretation of News Reports

According to Fairclough's definition, discursive practice of the production, distribution and consumption of the news reports will be studied by analyzing intertextuality in interpretation. intertextuality means that "basically the property texts have of being full of snatches of other text, which may be explicitly demarcated or merged in, and which the text may assimilate, contradict, ironically echo, and so forth" (Fairclough, 1992). The journalists inevitably quotes others' remarks or points in their reports in order to support or justify their own viewpoints. In the analysis of news reports, two main tools news in analyzing intertextuality are source and reporting modes. Thus, a contrastive discourse analysis of the news reports on the Hong Kong riot will be studied from news source and reporting modes at this stage.

News source reflects the different values and ideologies, according to the linguist Zhang Jian (1993), there are three ways of providing the news source: specified source, semi-specified source and unidentified source. Based on this classification, the distribution of the news source in the two news media is shown in Table 7.

Table 7. The Distribution of the News Source in the Two News Media

News Source	New York Times		Xinhua News Agency	
	No.	Per.	No.	Per.
Specified source	76	91.57%	44	95.65%
Semi-specified source	7	8.43%	2	4.35%
Unidentified source	0	0	0	0

From the table 7, it is clear that the specified source is the most frequently used in both news media. The percentage of specified source in the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency account for 91.57% and 95.65% respectively. But there is a big difference between those source providers. In the New York Times, the specified source mainly comes from social elites, about 73.68%. These specific news source can largely capture reader's attention and make them believe that the protest is righteous and Chinese government is tough. As shown in the table above, the semi-specified source account for about 8.43% in the selected samples from the New York Times. The semi-specified source is from the public, including the people from mainland China to Hong Kong, the local people, experts and analysts. While the distribution of semi-specified source in Xinhua News Agency is lower than it in the New York Times, which accounts for 4.35%.

After a comprehensive analysis of news source in the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency, it is clear that the specific source is more reliable than semi-specific source. Both of them are carried with the journalists' ideologies. In general, on the issue of the Hong Kong riot, the New York Times attempts to convince the readers that the Hong Kong riot is just by highlighting the people's remarks and opinions who support the demonstrators while Xinhua News Agency provides more remarks of the HKSAR government to tell readers the current situation of Hong Kong.

3.2.1 Reporting Modes

Reporting mode refers to the types of quoting other people's words. Fairclough (1995) divides the reporting modes into three types: direct speech, indirect speech and slipping. The distribution of reporting modes in the selected samples are presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Distribution of Three Ways of Reporting Modes in the Two News Media

Reporting Modes	New York Times		Xinhua News Agency	
	No.	Per.	No.	Per.
Direct Speech (DD)	45	57.70%	29	59.18%
Indirect Speech (ID)	26	33.33%	14	28.57%
Slipping (DDS)	7	8.97%	6	12.25%

From the table, it shows that the three kinds of reporting modes are all employed in the two media. ID accounts for the largest proportion, then DD is the second largest, DDS takes up the lowest percent. The reasons can be explained from three aspects. Firstly, it is generally known that DD make the news reports objective and reliable. Therefore, these two new media frequently use DD to furthest ensure the objectivity of its news. And, secondly, appropriate use of ID is beneficial for holding the reader's interest. Finally, the use of the slipping is the least with 8.97% in the New York Times and 12.25% in Xinhua News Agency.

DD is most frequently employed in the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency. DD is the most intuitive and convincing way to make the news reports more intuitive and convincing to the readers by using original statements. Although DD is both adopted in the two media, there are still some differences in aims. In the New York Times, DD is used for explaining the righteousness of the Hong Kong riot, the courageousness of the protesters, the weakness of Hong Kong government and the despotism of central government. For instance, in "My relevant colleagues and I have made our best efforts, but I have to admit that our explanation and communication work has not been sufficient or effective." she said. (sample 1), it quotes of HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam. It implies Hong Kong government is a democratic and progressive government.

ID is second frequently used in the New York Times and Xinhua News Agency. Because the journalists want to make the news reports more reliable and hold reader's interest at the same time. The journalists can quote the favorable statements, which also can transfer their views to the readers in the news reports. In the New York Times, the journalist simply sums up spokesperson's condemnation of the United States for interfering in its internal affairs. There is one noteworthy use of DDS in the following example, "unreasonable behavior" refers to the America's action, the journalist adds an extra quotation mark, because in the eyes of journalists, what measures the United States has taken in Hong Kong's new human rights legislation is not an unreasonable behavior. Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said the measures were a response to the "unreasonable behavior" on the part of the United States. She denounced the new human rights legislation as illegal interference into its domestic affairs. (sample 8)

Although DDS takes up the lowest proportion in the two news media, it is no doubt a noteworthy issue. DDS means some statements which are quoted by quotation marks in ID. Thus, Journalists are able to control the readers' comprehension and interpretation of the news by using ID and DDS.

In conclusion, the journalists' viewpoints and attitudes are embedded in the news reports no matter which reporting modes they choose. The journalists always stand with their country or government, which is dominated by their country's ideology.

3.3. Explanation of the News Report

After describing and interpreting the news reports, we still need to explain the news reports from the institutional context and cultural context.

3.3.1 Institutional Context

It is generally known that Xinhua News Agency and The New York Times both have important status in China and America, and thus their report will have big effect in their country even in the world.

Xinhua News Agency, founded in 1931, is China's national news agency. Meanwhile, it is a cosmopolitan modern news agency that has Chinese characteristics. Xinhua News Agency is a significant propaganda organ in Chinese Communist Party and still works for it. It has undertaken the mission which the Party and the Chinese have given. It has made an important contribution in China's historical successes. It also owns many honors in the world. In a word, Xinhua News Agency is the biggest news agency in China and can give the timely news information for all newspapers and television stations in China.

The *New York Times*, set up in 1851, is a daily paper published in New York and distributed over the world. It has a fairly high influence, and further, it is the representation of American first-class newspaper and serious journals. For a long time, it possessed well credibility and authority. What's more, it owned the leadership position in both America and the western mainstream media. All in all, the *New York Times* has a profound effect in America and is an inseparable part in Americans' life. And it is also a fine example in the newspaper industry.

To sum up, just because of the reasons, the two publishers will have different perspectives and reports due to their status and powers in their countries. More importantly, they can represent a country and a country's interest. Thus, when they faced with the problem between Hong Kong and China, it is natural that they stood on different sides to treat and analyze the event.

3.3.2 Cultural Context

There are several factors to explain their different attitudes towards the issue between Hong Kong and China from the cultural context. Firstly, from the perspective of history, Hong Kong was ruled by the United Kingdom during 1842-1997. China still paid close attention to Hong Kong and never excluded Hong Kong as a part of China. And due to this event, America think Hong Kong can break away from China and look forward to freedom beyond the situation. Secondly, from the perspective of economy, in the recent years, there has been a trade conflict between China and America, leading to a bad and stalemate relationship between them. So once a conflict occurs between Hong Kong and the mainland, America will seize the opportunity to obtain some benefits and to seize the chance to slander and suppress China's economy. Thirdly, from the perspective of politics, America's hegemony and power politics are widely known over the world, and when the Hong Kong affairs broke out, on the one hand, they meddled China's internal affairs and had a random evaluation and speculation; on the other hand, America took advantage of this point to alienate China and Hong Kong, which shows America's terrible ambition. Lastly, from the perspective of culture, China has a glorious history with five thousand years of wisdom of the Chinese nation. Chinese culture especially emphasizes manners and morality. By contrast, American history is short and Americans advocate individualism and freedom, they also advocate competition. When Chinese government do their utmost to solve the affairs in Hong Kong and enforce China's existing policies and laws, America just entice the Hong Kong people to make a choice and pursue so-called independence and freedom.

4. Conclusion

After a detailed critical analysis of the news reports in the *New York Times* and Xinhua News Agency on the topic of the Hong Kong riot with reference to Fairclough's three-dimensional model, it is found that Chinese and American reports are similar in text and discourse practice, but the attitudes and public opinions conveyed by the authors are different. To be precise, the Chinese media hold a firm position on the issue of Hong Kong's internal affairs and create an image of a responsible country. However, the American media focused on human rights of Hong Kong rioters, trying to lead the public opinion.

The implications of this study can be illustrated as follows. Theoretically, CDA is an effective way in revealing the hidden ideology in the news reports, and Fairclough's three-dimensional model gives a comprehensive framework for CDA, which makes the discourse analysis more systematic and scientific. Practically, it is essential for news readers to establish their critical reading skills, uphold a rational attitude towards news reporting, and make deep reflections on the social issues in the news reports.

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