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Nazik Aziz Darweesh
Assistant Lecturer,
Department of English
Language, College of
Education, Sawa University,
Al Muthana, Iraq

The power of words: Understanding emotional expression in discourse analysis

Nazik Aziz Darweesh

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Abstract

The method of this study is the discourse analysis method to explore the linguistic expression of emotions with the aim of uncovering the process by which words elicit emotions and the way emotions are triggered by the recipients. This research is about the oral and written text analysis that is supposed to disclose the patterns of an emotional expression, using the qualitative and quantitative approaches to semantic interpretations of linguistic contexts of emotion usage. The paper explains some forms of discourse, i.e., political discourse, media discourse and everyday discourse, and demonstrates how emotional expressions are deployed in a deliberate attempt to establish identity, convince audiences and frame events. The paper is also concerned with the term of the emotional load of words and how it advocates meaning and interpretation in particular social and cultural context. These findings indicate that the expression of emotions is not a by-product of feelings but a power tool of the linguistic form, which is actively used to produce some effects. The research also emphasises the need to understand the emotional dimension of language to have meaningful and sound discourses interpretations and analysis especially in the multicultural set up.

Keywords: Discourse analysis, emotional expression, linguistic context, political discourse

Introduction

The language is one of the aspects that define human experience. Its work reaches far beyond its delivery of information, it serves a purpose to convey feelings, formation of relationships and their influence (Machová, Kristína, & *et al*, 2023; Livingston & *et al*, 2024) ^[5, 4]. In this respect, the manifestation of emotions turns out to be one of the most significant elements of the linguistic communication process as the use of words is used as an effective means of conveying the feeling and attitude of a human being (Li & *et al*, 2021) ^[3]. Discourse analysis can be considered a useful tool through which we can analyze how these emotions are constructed in a text and depending on different social circumstances (Hidalgo-Tenorio & *et al*, 2022) ^[2]. Current linguistic research has been undergoing an increasing popularity of exploring the emotional roles of the language, and more prominently the shift in the cultural and media contexts that have re-configured the dynamics of communication and power (Wang & *et al*, 2022) ^[7]. Words have ceased to become neutralized as a symbol with the use of that symbol, and have become loaded with affective meaning contributing to framing meaning and to determinate interaction (Davila-Gonzalez & *et al*, 2024) ^[1]. Thus, the investigation of emotional expression mechanisms within a discourse remains crucial in the in-depth comprehension of linguistic messages particularly in political, media, and literary discourse (Trinh Van & *et al*, 2022) ^[6]. It is a linguistic investigation of the application of language in the expression of emotion in different discourses and to focus on the linguistic and semantic features defining the emotions. It also tries to shedding some light on the interaction of language and context with the meaning of the texts and the impact this has on the perception and understanding of the recipient in relation to emotional content of the texts.

Literature Review

The emotional expression problem in the language has received a fair share of attention by the researchers in various fields that include psycholinguistics, artificial intelligence and discourse analysis. The works presented below demonstrate how this field evolved based on numerous points of view that enhance our perception of how human feelings are manifested in language and how these manifestations affect human communication. Livingston *et al*.

Corresponding Author:
Nazik Aziz Darweesh
Assistant Lecturer,
Department of English
Language, College of
Education, Sawa University,
Al Muthana, Iraq

(2024) ^[4] conducted a qualitative study by using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) tool that comprehends the relationship between power and emotional communication and sensitive topics such as gender (Livingston & *et al*, 2024) ^[4]. The findings of their study showed that power structure within professional relations determines how and whether the expression of emotions that specifically focus on the critical role of social context in which the emotional discourse is structured to take place. More technically, Trinh Van *et al.*, (2022) ^[6] addressed the issue of emotion recognition based on emotional speech with the deep neural network. While the study itself dealt in voice, it illustrated how smart systems can effectively identify feelings to high accuracy, proving that form of expression has a traceable, analyzable signature, verbal or written (Trinh Van & *et al*, 2022) ^[6]. Davila-Gonzalez & Martin (202-4) ^[1] reviewed the contemporary notion of the "human digital twin" in the setting of Industry 5.0, discussed the implementation of sophisticated emotional analytics to support worker psychological well-being. The robust nature of the present study shows how sentiment analysis methods can be incorporated into work spaces to generate useful

responses that affect human well-being (Davila-Gonzalez & *et al*, 2024) ^[1]. Machová *et al.* (2023) ^[5] described a different method, which involved written texts analysis in an attempt to detect emotions in machine learning methodologies. Their results indicated that both video and text related features alone can accurately classify emotions by any automated systems thus there is a good correlation between linguistic expressions and one's internal emotions (Machová, Kristína, & *et al*, 2023) ^[5]. Through analyzing these studies, it becomes clear that emotional expression is no longer confined to traditional textual analysis, but rather intersects with artificial intelligence, voice analysis, and social and institutional contexts. This research builds on the findings of these studies to gain a deeper understanding of the role of language as a pivotal tool in conveying emotions within discourse, with a focus on linguistic and interpretive analysis in various textual contexts. Table 1 Compassion between Previous Studies by Methodology and Medium Used.

Table 1: Comparative between Previous Studies

References	Field of Study	Method / Tool Used	Type of Data	Key Findings	Relevance to Current Research
Livingston <i>et al.</i> (2024) ^[4]	Social Psychology - Linguistic Analysis	LIWC (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count)	Workplace communication texts	Power dynamics influence emotional expression patterns	Supports understanding of social influence in emotional discourse
Trinh Van <i>et al.</i> (2022) ^[6]	Artificial Intelligence - Speech Recognition	Deep Neural Networks (DNNs)	Emotional speech data	Emotions can be classified accurately through vocal signals	Highlights the potential of analyzing emotional expression across different modalities
Davila-Gonzalez & Martin (2024) ^[1]	Industry 5.0 - Emotional Well-being	AI-driven emotional analytics and Human Digital Twin	Emotional and behavioral data from work environments	Emotional analysis enhances worker safety and well-being	Demonstrates practical application of emotion analysis in institutional discourse
Machová <i>et al.</i> (2023) ^[5]	Psychology - Text Emotion Detection	Machine learning and text classification	Written texts	Emotions can be reliably identified through linguistic features	Supports the idea that written language carries analyzable emotional cues

Methodology

The analysis of this work is built on comparative methods of analyzing and comprehending the mechanisms of expression in discourse through reviewing, analysing the set of the prior studies on the topic from different perspectives, whether through linguistic analysis, implementation of artificial intelligence, or institutional uses.

Study Type

This research is an analytical theory compiled from a comparison of four recent studies and their findings and trends, in order to draw similarities and differences in the studies' approach to the subject of emotional expression in discourse.

Research Tools

Comparative table was used to examine the selected studies against such several criteria as:

- Study Area
- Tool or Method Used
- Data Type
- Main Results
- Relevance to the Research Topic

4.3 Study Selection Criteria

The studies were selected based on the following criteria.

- To be published between the years (2022-2024) in peer-

reviewed scientific journals

- Undoubtedly oriented on the subject of emotional expression, in the texts or voices
- Applied sound analytical tools (e.g. LIWC, neural networks, or machine learning)
- Represented the different spheres of knowledge (Psychology, artificial intelligence, discourse analysis)

Analysis Steps

Analysis of the results of each study to reflect the mentioned themes.

- Sorting of studies by tool, approach and data type.
- Comparison of the outcomes in order to identify general trends and essential distinctions.
- The comparison of the similarity of the context and method of emotional expression used.
- Conclusions were drawn with the view to developing an integrated analytical framework of emotional expression in discourse.

Results and Discussion

The comparative analysis of the results of the four chosen studies revealed a definite difference of perspectives regarding treatment. The common denominator among them is the emphasis on feelings and the demonstration as the key to human communication which could be followed and studied with the assistance of various tools and techniques.

However, despite the differences in settings and methods used, collectively the studies give the bigger picture of how the emotional content is manifested in speech and communication.

Livingston *et al.* (2024) ^[4] social context about certain power relations in working places is extremely material in the nature of quality and intensity in expressing emotion. The results were that those in positions of power will exhibit lower levels of expression of feelings whereas those who are not powerful will be expressive or even emotional. This reinforces the hypothesis that language is not merely a means of communication, but means of demonstrating social position and mental communication as well (See Figures 1&2).

Conversely, Trinh Van *et al.* (2022) ^[6] documents the capacity of artificial intelligence-deep neural networks (particularly) to perform the task of analyzing emotional vocal expressions with a high level of accuracy. This work demonstrates the enormous potential of voice-following emotions, which opens the way to the perception of the expressive form of emotion as a text, and as sound charged with the sense at the same time. The findings lead to the necessity to develop a set of analysis tools that would unite the voice with one more written language to research the sentiments of people more realistically.

Davila-Gonzalez and Martin (2024) ^[1] broadened the scope of emotion analysis by connecting it with the concept of

digital twins in Industry 5.0 when the person can observe emotions and expression of emotions with the help of virtual models that depict workers. This study provides prospect for sentiment analysis to be utilized as part of organizational strategy to enhance employee wellbeing and psychological wellbeing whereby emotional expression becomes both a communication tool and an indicator that can be used to enhance working environments.

Machová *et al.* (2023) ^[5] showed that automated text analysis applying machine learning techniques allows identifying emotions with linguistic patterns correctly. They discovered that some words and phrases have emotional charges which can be used to label emotions in a written text. This study shows that linguistic elements (for instance, emotional verbs, evaluative adjectives) play crucial roles in uncovering such intentions and emotional trends in texts.

With comparison, it is apparent that all works agree that emotional expression is not random but is modellable and analyzable. However, the differences are in the medium at which it is used (text, audio, digital data) as well as the form (linguistics, machine learning and institutional analysis). Some studies were on individual aspects of emotional expression in individual and some on group or institutional level. The multidimensional approach of the topic makes it more exciting and proposes that emotional discourse is to be examined using a multidimensional approach as shown in Table 2 and 3.

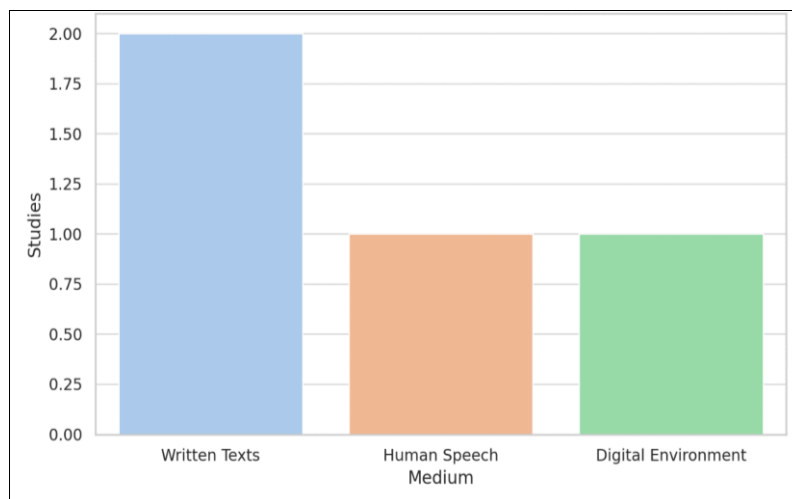


Fig 1: Mediums used in Emotion analysis studies

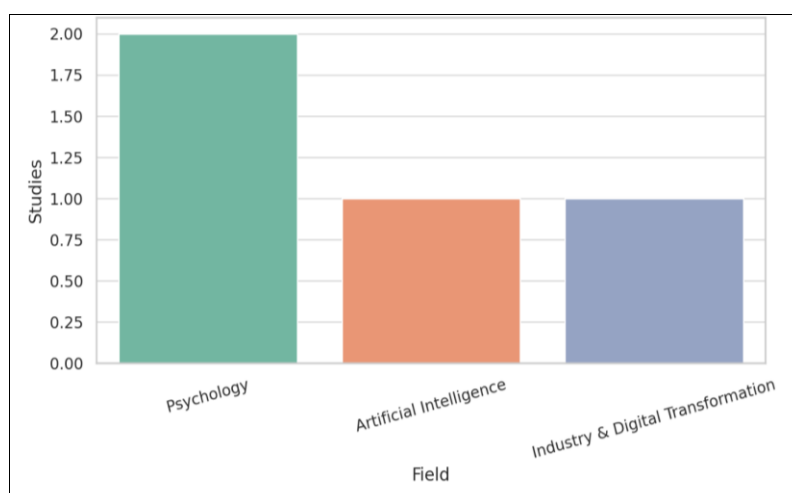


Fig 2: Fields of the reviewed studies

Table 2: Comparative overview of previous studies by methodology and medium used

Study	Methodology	Medium	Technology Used	Field of Study
Livingston <i>et al.</i> (2024) ^[4]	Quantitative Linguistic Analysis (LIWC)	Written Texts	LIWC	Social Psychology
Trinh Van <i>et al.</i> (2022) ^[6]	Deep Learning (DNN)	Human Speech	Neural Networks	Artificial Intelligence
Davila-Gonzalez & Martin (2024) ^[1]	Institutional Emotional Analytics	Work and Behavioral Data	Digital Twin + AI	Industry 5.0
Machová <i>et al.</i> (2023) ^[5]	Machine Learning and Text Classification	Written Texts	Classification Algorithms	Psychology / Text Analysis

Table 3: Points of agreement and differences between the studies

Aspect Compared	Livingston <i>et al.</i>	Trinh Van <i>et al.</i>	Davila-Gonzalez & Martin	Machová <i>et al.</i>
Social Context	✓	✗	✓	✗
Written Text Analysis	✓	✗	✗	✓
Emotional Speech Analysis	✗	✓	✗	✗
Use of Artificial Intelligence	Partial	✓	✓	✓
Workplace Application	✓	✗	✓	✗

Comparison of the four studies shows some significant findings concerning the discussion of emotion in the discourse analysis. On the one hand, the previously mentioned variety of methods, i.e., both certain linguistic techniques and the latest AI tools, such as deep neural networks and machine learning, shows that emotional analysis is becoming increasingly expanded in its applications in both mainstream and state-of-the-art methods. Furthermore, different approaches are used to detect emotions in others, with some concentrating on written documents (Livingston *et al.*, Machová *et al.*) or expressed words (Trinh Van *et al.*), and another way making use of digital actions (Davila-Gonzalez & Martin). Because of this diversity, how data is collected should be carefully chosen for each study's goal and situation. Furthermore, three out of four studies used artificial intelligence somehow, showing that it is becoming a key component in emotional expression research. In particular, research that considered contexts from work and social life (Livingston and Davila-Gonzalez) gave a clearer picture of how emotions appear in daily situations than studies that were limited to building technical models alone. Even so, some shortcomings were recognized, such as the Trinh Van *et al.* study since it did not include texts or the wider society. Generally, the study recommends combining methods and data sources to improve our understanding of emotions in what we say.

Conclusion

Comparative research points out that methods in emotional expression analysis keep developing by linking linguistics with advanced computer systems. A review and comparison of four recent studies reveals that using traditional LIWC tools still helps look at written texts, but newer techniques like data science and analytics within virtual environments are now allowing the field to grow. When we look at each medium, written, spoken, and behavioral, we realize that no one approach alone can express the full range of human emotion. Thinking about emotions in office or other social environments increases the usefulness of emotional data in understanding cases. In the coming years, this area of study will be helped by approaches that link computer technology with humanistic ideas. It is not merely a linguistic issue as far as expressing emotions in discourse is concerned; it also requires a proper interpretation of the very situation on the

ground.

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