

Spatial Analysis and Trend Prediction of UN Climate Change News based on Proximization Theory

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Abstract

Climate change is a major global challenge. The United Nations plays a key role in conveying information on climate change. This study using Piotr Cap's Proximization Theory analyzes UN News samples, focusing on the usage of Proximization Theory and how the United Nations constructs the threat of peripheral entities under the Proximization Theory. The UN's reports predominantly employ spatial proximization, supplemented by temporal proximization, emphasizing climate change's impact on people's lives and urging immediate attention. Spatial proximization highlights the impact of human activities on the environment, urging urgency. Axiological proximization constructs positive and negative values, justifying defensive action. Temporal proximization focuses on imminent dangers, urging immediate response.

Keywords

Climate Change; The United Nations; News Discourse; Proximization Theory.

1. Introduction

Climate change is recognized as a global challenge with effects on various aspects. The UN has played a role in policy development, collaboration, and support. By looking at the UN's climate change news, one can identify ideological principles. The UN uses its reports to communicate info to the public, which present facts and data and also reflect journalists' and media's perspectives. Analyzing this is crucial to understand public sentiment, shape policies, and assess the media's role. This paper analyzes UN climate change news through spatial, temporal, and axiological proximization, exploring how the theory creates a threat sense from peripheral entities. The analysis reveals how the UN uses this theory to convey urgency and risks, shaping perceptions. It also exposes the UN's stance and communication strategies on climate change, providing insights into its impact on public perception and action. This study offers valuable insights for future climate communication strategies.

This study employs Proximization Theory to analyze climate change news in UN reports. A rigorous corpus collection method ensured a diverse selection of 77 articles, totaling 48,182 words, from the Climate and Environment section of UN NEWS (2015-2023). Items meeting criteria are manually annotated, then analyzed using AntConc for frequency distribution. If the distribution frequency is 0.3%, the item occurs 3 times per every thousand words in the corpus. Following the critical frequency threshold of 0.1% as established by Cap (2013). The item should appear at least once in an average of every 1000 words. Items with a distribution frequency below 0.1% will not be analyzed. Hence, only when the occurrences of the lexical and grammatical items in the text are equal to or greater than 49 times, will they be included in the analysis.

2. Literature Review

The Proximization Theory was originally proposed by Polish scholar Piotr Cap, combining cognitive pragmatics and critical discourse analysis, based on the discourse space theory. (Chilton, 2004) introduced the concept of discourse space from a cognitive perspective, providing a framework for the analysis of political discourse. (Cap, 2013) acknowledged Chilton's contributions and analyzed American political discourse, especially President Bush's speeches before and after the Iraq War. Additionally, Cap applied the theory to critical analysis of public discourse, including areas such as medicine, environmental change, and cybersecurity. (Hart, 2010) also utilized the theory to analyze metaphorical interpretations of external threats, further validating the effectiveness and explanatory power of the Proximization Theory.

Domestic studies on Proximization Theory are still nascent. (Wu, 2016) initiated domestic studies on Proximization Theory. (Xie, 2021) and (Wang, 2022) explored eco-critical discourse and stakeholder-interest controversies, respectively. (Zhao, 2020) analyzed President Trump's 2020 State of the Union Address from the perspective of the Proximization Theory. (Niu, 2019) utilized this theory to analyze the legitimacy of political discourse, opening up new avenues for the study of the Proximization Theory. Although there are progresses in climate change news texts from the perspective of the Proximization Theory, there are still unresolved issues and controversies. (Zhang, 2019) discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this theory in discourse analysis, pointing out that the fuzziness of data processing is an obstacle to its development.

In conclusion, despite the lack of domestic promotion, exploring Cap's recent research work and detailing the new research methodologies of CDA will contribute to advancing the development of the Proximization Theory (Wu, 2016). Within the framework of proximization theory, investigations into the "United Nations climate change news discourse" have started to surface. Nevertheless, there remain pressing issues and disputes that require prompt resolution.

Previous studies have deeply analyzed media performance and news methods. (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013) proposed a framework to analyze sensationalized news headlines, emphasizing the packaging of information to enhance attractiveness and relevance. (Shim, 2014) investigated the increasing popularity of narrative news in US trade journals, challenging the traditional model of fair news reporting. (Breese, 2015) studied the impact of emerging technologies on news broadcasters, emphasizing the variability and unpredictability of the future of the news industry. (Yazgan, 2017) conducted a critical analysis of online news coverage of Danish gang wars, revealing discriminatory and exclusionary aspects that may exacerbate racial discrimination.

Recently, Chinese scholars have shown increasing interest in news discourse analysis. (Yang, 2022) analyzed texts on "social wealth gap" from cultural and societal perspectives, providing a compelling case for contemporary news discourse research. In contrast, (Wu, 2023) analyzed timely news features with news discourse theory, offering a new perspective. As research deepens, scholars recognize the limitations of single disciplinary perspectives. Therefore, interdisciplinary studies have become mainstream. Since 2019, more scholars have employed the Proximization Theory for news discourse analysis.

3. Proximization Theory

Discourse space theory (Chilton, 2004) suggests that individuals spatially organize entities in discourse relative to the speaker's location. This theory emphasizes determining entity positions based on space, time, and modality (Liu, 2019). It offers a visual model showcasing

human cognitive representation in time, space, and modality dimensions. (Cap, 2008) extended this with proximization concepts - temporal, spatial, and axiological.

Cap (2013) views Proximization Theory as a coercive interpretive operation, aiming to evoke a sense of impending external threat and to legitimize preventative measures. It alerts speakers and listeners to the dangers of distant events or ideologies as they approach, enabling the speaker to counteract foreign influences and rationalize decisions (Zhang, 2019). It is based on the division and opposition between the entities inside the deictic center (IDC) and the entities outside the deictic center (ODC) in the discourse space. By projecting events and states that are distant in terms of physics and time (including distant hostile ideologies) into the physical and psychological spaces of the speaker and the listener, it makes both parties realize that external threats are approaching. The speaker may employ various strategies to underscore that remote entities are progressively encroaching upon the geographical and ideological realms of both parties. However, the primary objective remains the legitimization of one’s proposed actions and policies, thereby reducing the growing impact of foreign entities on oneself (Yao, 2021).

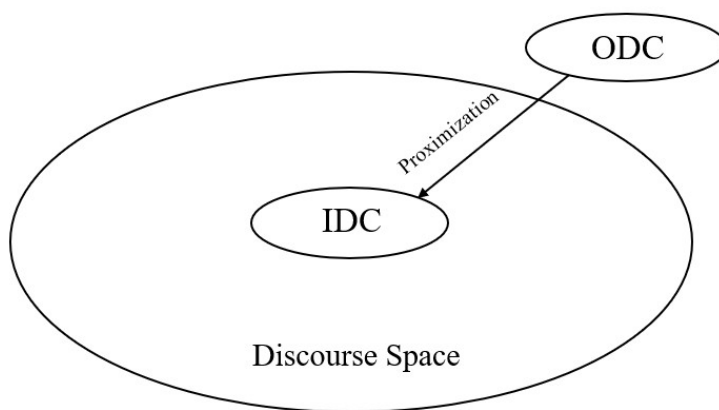


Figure 1. Proximization in Discourse Space

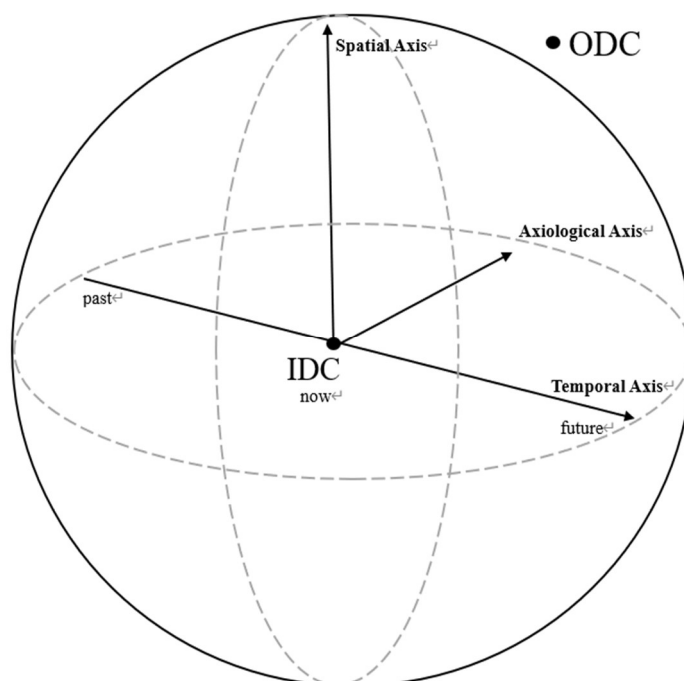


Figure 2. Cap’s STA Model Diagram

Specifically, the Proximization Theory utilizes three distinct frameworks: spatial, temporal, and axiological to categorize items conceptually. It focuses on examining the impact of external entities outside the deictic-center (ODC) on the internal entities inside the deictic-center (IDC) at the lexical-grammatical level, in order to legitimize the discourse and rationalize subsequent actions (Zhang, 2021). The concept of the threat posed by ODCs involves the idea of IDCs being invaded by traversing space. This threat is characterized by its spatial, temporal, and axiological theory, allowing for proximity assessment in three dimensions (Xie, 2021). As a result, (Cap, 2013) introduced the Spatial-Temporal-Axiological proximization model (STA model). STA is a classification system for items within conceptual categories, enabling the exploration of speakers' lexical and grammatical selection strategies from a cognitive STA perspective. It mainly uses to analyze how the speaker maintains the dynamic broad temporal and spatial context.

3.1. Temporal Proximization

Temporal proximization refers to the cognitive process with “now” as the starting point (Cap, 2013). The “past” is focused on in terms of its impact on the current moment, while the “future” is emphasized with regard to dynamics and possibilities for development. Both dimensions work to draw conflict events closer to the “now”, thereby creating a sense of urgency and immediacy (Yao, 2021). It highlights the need for prompt action against ongoing and impending effects of ODCs on IDCs, spanning past, present, and future. (Cap, 2013) identifies five lexical choice categories that effectively operationalize this framework.

- (1) NP construes the actual impact of ODC occurring in different time periods;
- (2) The mixed use of tenses construes the threat extending from the past to the future;
- (3) The nominal phrase construes that the impact of ODC will occur at any time in the future;
- (4) The modal VP construes that the impact of ODC continues from now to the future;
- (5) Through discourse forms including parallel contrasts, it emphasizes that the future is opposite or has an advantage.

3.2. Spatial Proximization

Spatial proximization describes how peripheral entities encroach upon the core, self-referential space of the speaker and their aligned community, rapidly impacting them negatively (Zhang, 2019). Central entities, embodying positive values, are contrasted with the negative, intrusive peripheral ones. It can be further categorized into six grammatical and lexical items (Cap, 2013).

- (1) Noun phrases (NPs) construed as elements inside the deictic center of the DS (IDCs);
- (2) Noun phrases (NPs) construed as elements outside the deictic center of the DS (ODCs);
- (3) Verb phrases (VPs) of motion and directionality construed as makers of movement of ODCs toward the deictic center;
- (4) The action VP is construed as the influence of ODC on IDC;
- (5) The abstract NP is construed as the result of the influence of ODC on IDC;
- (6) The abstract NP is construed as the expectation of the influence of ODC on IDC.

3.3. Axiological Proximization

Axiological Proximization refers to the listener's comprehension of the adversarial relationship between the value systems of central entities and peripheral entities within the discourse space, a process wherein intense ideological conflicts progressively materialize in the physical space of the central entity (Zhang, 2019). Essentially, it denotes the escalating phenomenon of ideological clashes between central and peripheral entities. Over time, such conflicts may evolve into tangible confrontations in reality. This phenomenon primarily manifests through three key aspects (Cap, 2013).

- (1) NP is construed as the positive value of IDC;
- (2) NP is construed as the negative value or ideology of ODC;
- (3) The realization of the negative value of ODC in the space of IDC.

4. Analysis of News Based on Proximization Theory

With the theoretical framework established and data collected, this part mainly focuses on analyzing the application situation of the proximization theory in the UN climate change news reports, and at the same time reveals how the United Nations achieves the effect of manipulation and persuasion by means of threat construal through proximization strategies.

It can be clearly seen from the Figure 3 that the usage frequency proportion of spatial proximization is quite high, reaching 50%. The usage of temporal proximization is also relatively considerable, nearly half. The proportion of axiological proximization is the smallest, only 9%.

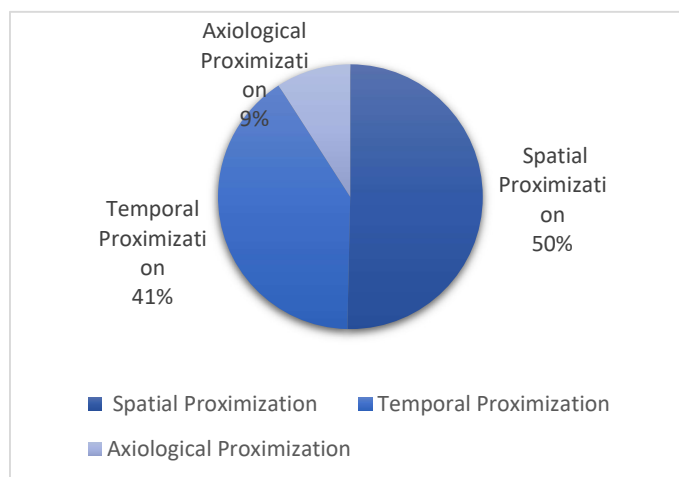


Figure 3. The frequency distribution map of STA

4.1. Spatial Proximization

4.1.1. Identify IDC and ODC

In the analytical framework of proximization theory, identifying IDC and ODC is a critical initial stage, forming the foundation of the following multi-dimensional analysis. By precisely defining IDC and ODC, one can analyze with greater intuition how ODC progresses towards IDC gradually and poses a threat. Simultaneously, this can validate the actions and policies of IDC and mitigate the influence caused by ODC. As Table 1 shows, in the spatial proximization strategy, the nouns identified as IDC include related words such as “people”, “human”, “we”, “us”, “health”, “children”, “future” etc. This type of vocabulary has the largest proportion in the spatial dimension. The nouns recognized as ODC include “climate change”, “climate crisis” etc. “rainfall” and “climate change” has a relatively large proportion.

As previously mentioned, the IDCs are those elements regarded as the “Self” and situated in the deictic center. In general, the IDC group encompasses the speaker, his or her audience, and also the entities that the speaker desires to draw into his or her own side. Through dividing this group, the speaker aims to fulfill his or her goals, that is, to seek support from the IDC group and strive for the legitimization of his or her certain propositions (Li, 2021). So, it is not overly difficult to comprehend why the IDC group is so large, as the speaker attempts to unite as many forces as possible to deal with the peripheral entities.

Table 1. The Key Items of Spatial Proximization

Category	Key items	Frequencies
Noun phrases (NPs) construed as elements inside the deictic center of the DS(IDCs)	people/human/we/us/ health/children/future	29.93%
	word/planet/ environment/ ocean/ sea/ water/glacier/atmosphere	25.28%
	countries/ developed countries/developing countries/low-income countries/ high- income countries/ the G20 countries	8.41%
	alternative energy/green energy/renewable energy/clean energy/renewables	6.08%
	WHO/government/United Nations/	4.99%
	the Paris Agreement agreement/ the climate Agreement /	4.00%
Noun phrases (NPs) construed as elements outside the deictic center of the DS (ODCs)	climate change/climate crisis/global warming/	15.24%
	smog/floods/hurricanes/heatwaves/wildfires /droughts/storm/rainfall	10.63%
	air pollution/plastic pollution/marine pollution/ocean pollution/ carbon pollution	2.12%

Among the IDCs, the category of “word” has the largest proportion, reflecting a strong emphasis on global climate development and a resolute stance in advocating for air pollution prevention and control. Whether in developing or developed countries, urban or rural areas, the living environment of all countries is threatened by air pollution. It is urgently necessary to unite and jointly resist the adverse consequences of climate change (Wang, 2022).

ODC is primarily categorized into four major categories, with climate change, global warming, and natural disasters being the primary culprits responsible for ecological disasters (Zhang, 2021).

Example 1: Ahead of global leaders’ arrival in New York for the Climate Action Summit on 23 September, the United Nations deputy chief has launched a comprehensive report on how the world can take swift and meaningful action to slow down climate change.

The “world” emphasizes the need for unified global action against climate change, highlighting its universal impact beyond regional confines. It calls for collective government efforts and coordinated strategies to mitigate effects, reflecting the comprehensive, worldwide response essential for addressing this critical challenge..

Example 2: Against this backdrop, more and more people are being affected by disasters, climate-sensitive diseases and other health conditions. Ahead of global leaders’ arrival in New York for the Climate Action Summit on 23 September, the United Nations deputy chief has launched a comprehensive report on how the world can take swift and meaningful action to slow down climate change.

Disasters, climate-sensitive diseases, and other health concerns are affecting an increasing number of individuals, as illustrated in Example 2. “Against this backdrop” refers to a situation or setting in which many negative repercussions of climate and environmental change worsen, posing additional difficulties to population health. Specifically, it points out that climate change and environmental degradation are an important factor in exacerbating these health problems, and “more and more people” emphasizes the upward trend of the number of affected people, that is, “people” as IDC is being continuously approached and threatened by the external disease ODC.

Example 3: Methane emissions caused by human activity can be reduced by up to 45 per cent this decade, thus helping to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change, according to an UN-backed report published on Thursday.

In Example 3, according to a report released on Thursday supported by the United Nations, achieving a 45% reduction target within the 2020s can be achieved by reducing methane emissions generated by human activities. Such mitigation initiatives will help to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, by the Paris Climate Agreement’s aims. The Paris Agreement intends to improve the global response to the threat of climate change by limiting world average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Therefore, the research underlines the need to lower methane emissions as a vital step to meeting global climate target.

Example 4: This reliance on fossil fuels is described as “short-sighted”, leaving investors and governments exposed to sudden losses, as the price of oil and gas fluctuates, as well as contributing to deteriorating climatic conditions, such as global warming.

Example 4 describes the dependence on fossil fuels as “short-sighted”. This reliance exposes investors and governments to abrupt losses as oil and gas prices change wildly. At the same time, this reliance is one of the causes of deteriorating climate conditions, including the acceleration of the global warming phenomena. In summary, it underlines that continued reliance on fossil fuels not only poses economic dangers, but also has major negative consequences for the ecology and global climate, emphasizing the importance of transitioning to more sustainable energy.

Example 5: The impacts of climate change are already being felt the world over, warning that without a successful legally binding agreement in Paris, it means climate change continue unabated.

The effects of climate change have already been felt all around the planet. At the same time, it is highlighted that if a successful legally binding deal is established in Paris, climate change will continue to worsen unabated. It stresses the gravity of climate change and the critical importance of responding to it.

4.1.2. Behavioral VP as ODC’s Influence

Typical lexical and grammatical items include “threaten”, “lead to”, “impact”, etc. These words in Table 2, as the medium between ODC and the threats it brings, demonstrate the dynamic process and intuitive impact of ODC and the threats it brings attacking and hindering its target IDC. They all highlight the harm of air pollution to the environment and human beings (Wang, 2022). Exploring VP being construed as ODC exerting an influence on IDC under the spatial proximization helps to understand the impacts of climate change more deeply and take corresponding measures to deal with these challenges.

Table 2. The Key Items of Spatial Proximization

Category	Key items	Frequencies
The action VP is construed as the influence of ODC on IDC	affect/impact/cause/lead to/threaten/ suffer/harm/contribute to	7.83%

Example 6: Due to the very long lifetime of CO2 in the atmosphere, the impact of the drop in emissions this year is not expected to lead to a reduction of CO2 atmospheric concentrations which are driving global temperature increases.

Example 6, through the use of “lead to”, the “CO2” is connected with the resulting “driving global temperature increases”, revealing the harm suffered by human beings. In other words, this example presents the typical characteristics of the threat of ODC to IDC, that is, the negative portrayal of this threat, the rapidity of the impact produced by ODC and the wide coverage of the catastrophic consequences of this impact (Cap, 2013).

Example 7: In 2006, she founded Happy Hearts Fund (HHF), whose mission is to rebuild safe, resilient schools in areas impacted by natural disasters.

Example 7 uses the essential verb “impact” to convey the enormous effects that natural disasters have. This word unmistakably describes an outside, negative force that damages and demands things of the disaster-affected places. In addition, it subtly outlines the origins and goals of the HHF operation, which is to reach out to these impacted communities in an effort to lessen the effects of the disaster and encourage recovery. As a result, “impact” emphasizes the need and urgency of taking decisive action while simultaneously pointing out the problem’s location and actively advancing its solution.

4.1.3. Abstract NP as Result of IDC

It is crucial to investigate the finding that the abstract NP is understood to represent the influence of ODC on IDC (Dong, 2022). These findings also accurately capture the negative consequences that climate change has on a number of fronts. From Table 3, the words like challenge, risk, urgency, and potential appear frequently. Phrases like “disaster” and “disease” eloquently convey the detrimental consequences of climate change on the environment, public health, and numerous other areas (Wang, 2022).

Furthermore, these influence results also accurately capture the urgency and legitimization of the actions and policies people have taken in response to climate change (Mu, 2023).

Table 3. The Key Items of Spatial Proximization

Category	Key items	Frequencies
The abstract NP is construed as the result of the influence of ODC on IDC	Damage/deaths/trouble/disaster/problems disease/respiratory/impact/asthma	8.94%
	catastrophe/war/disaster/ death	4.25%

Example 8: The enormous toll of disease and death revealed by these new data should result in an urgent call to action for the global community, and especially for those in the health sector.

Example 8 “Disease and death” is a particular, urgent problem that has a negative influence on public health worldwide. It highlights the scope and urgency of the issue by virtue of its severity and universality. This term helps readers or the audience realize that disease is a negative force that is encroaching from the periphery. Because of its widespread impact and losses, it causes to human society, relevant departments-especially the health department-must act quickly to stop this negative trend from getting worse.

Overall, these examples use the spatial proximization to demonstrate climate change and environmental issues. By explaining how peripheral threats ODCs approach and affect human society, the environment, and the global (IDC), they emphasize the importance of responding quickly and effectively to these threats. The intricacy of threat dynamics, impact effects, and reactions to difficulties is further illustrated using verbs and abstract nouns, facilitating in-depth awareness of global challenges and debate of response solutions.

4.2. Temporal Proximization

4.2.1. ODC’s Continuous Impact

Temporal proximization takes “Now”, that is, the “now” of the discourse producer as the referential center (Cap, 2013). Centering around “now”, temporal proximization includes two kinds of conceptual shifts, one is the shift from the past to the present, and the other is the shift from the future to the present (Zhang, 2016). By using time reference points, tenses, time markers, and other techniques to make the listener feel as though the event is closer to the present, temporal proximization increases the listener’s awareness of the event’s urgency and

significance. This tactic is typically implemented using the “past-present-future” temporal axis, which emphasizes how previous events have affected the present or how future events could endanger the present. The temporal proximization can be used to highlight the possible hazards that climate change poses to both the present and the future, as well as to encourage people to take more proactive measures to address the issue. Additionally, it might increase the legitimacy of the pertinent policies and behaviors.

By creating several scenarios and possibilities, modal VP can represent the negative consequences of climate change in all respects (Zhang, 2021). The following table 5.5 will show modal verbs used in discourse about climate change. The most frequently used modal verbs are “could”, “can”, “would”, and “will”. Modal verbs can be used to describe the potential negative effects of climate change on ecosystems, agriculture, water supplies, etc. Would, will, could, and can are examples of modal verbs that suggest the effects of ODC can go on forever.

Table 4. The Key Items of Temporal Proximization

Category	Key items	Frequencies
The modal VP construes that the impact of ODC continues from now to the future	could/can/would/will	19.23%

Example 9: The study gives the example of Dhaka, Bangladesh, where under a scenario of very high emissions by 2100, additional deaths due to climate change could rise to nearly twice the country’s current annual death rate from all cancers, and 10 times its annual road traffic fatalities.

Example 9 uses the word “could” to denote potential or capability. It communicates an unclear but plausible future situation when used in conditional phrases. Accordingly, by 2100, the increased number of Dakin-related deaths caused on by climate change “may possibly” rise to twice the nation’s present yearly cancer mortality rate and ten times the rate of fatal traffic accidents under the high-emission case. This expression makes readers feel that the potential impact of climate change is not unachievable but rather is getting closer to reality over time, which encourages them to take action now. It does this by not only assuming the outcome at a specific future point but also by emphasizing the possibility of this outcome occurring.

4.2.2. Impact from Past to Future

The past tense and present perfect tense are used to indicate that something has happened or that something has a negative effect on the present (Pan, 2017). The general past tense and present perfect tense are combined to show how past threats continue into the future. Contrast sentence patterns are also used to highlight positive or negative event processes that occur from the present to the future. These examples illustrate the comparison of tenses and syntactic structures. The use of the perfect tense has revealed that ODC is diachronic and has a propensity to evolve into the future, instilling in the public a sense of urgency and compelling them to take appropriate action (Mu, 2023). Table 5 will present the analyzing results.

Table 5. The Key Items of Temporal Proximization

Category	Key items	Frequencies
The mixed use of tenses construes the threat extending from the past to the future	was/did have/has done	28.73%

Example 10: The Earth’s average temperature has already risen beyond 1°C above the pre-industrial period, which spans 1850-1900, while the last five years have been the warmest on record.

In Example 10 focuses the reader’s attention on a fact that has occurred and continues to this day. Use the present perfect tense to convey the state that climate change has occurred and will continue all the time, highlighting the historical nature and continuity (Zhang, 2021). This kind of expression makes a direct comparison between the past (1850-1900 before industrialization) and the present, showing that climate change is a cumulative process spanning a long-time scale, and emphasizes the significant difference between the current state and the past baseline. This comparison enhances the sense of urgency in terms of time.

The temporal proximization stresses the fluidity of time and the urgency of event development by establishing a continuous time axis that runs from the past to the present and then to the future (Zhang, 2019). Modal verbs like “could” and “can”, as well as “would” and “will”, play an important role in the statement, indicating that the impact of ODC may continue endlessly, providing a sense of approach and ambiguity. The report uses the word “could” to indicate that by 2100, Dakar may experience a significant rise in mortality as a result of climate change. This type of communication not only brings the distant future scenario closer to the reader’s current cognition, but it also conveys a prospective and real sense of crisis via the conditional sentence pattern, emphasizing the importance of countermeasures now.

Meanwhile, by comparing the data or situations at different time points, such as the mention in Example 8 that the average earth temperature has already increased by more than 1°C compared to before industrialization, combined with the use of the simple past tense and the present perfect tense, the strategy of temporal proximization effectively shows the evolution process and continuous impact of the problem. This strategy, by showing the comparison between the past and the present, as well as the possible aggravated situation in the future, not only reveals the historical trajectory of climate change, but also highlights the potentially catastrophic changes that may occur in the future, thus enhancing the persuasive power of the information and promoting the understanding of the importance of current actions.

4.3. Axiological Proximization

4.3.1. Positive IDC

Axiological proximization distinguishes positive IDC values from negative ODC values. The contradictions and conflicts between the values or ideologies of both sides continue to escalate, generating a confrontation of opposing values. This conflict drives people to understand that it is time to take efforts to defend the positive aspects, eliminate the bad threats, and expel unfavorable ideologies. (Yao, 2021).

Terms in Table 6 such as “health,” “sustainable development,” “policies,” and “guidance” that represent the positive qualities of IDC. It is evident from the relationship between these positive value words and climate change that the latter has had negative effects on the former’s health and the latter’s economy. For instance, it has made it more difficult to develop a green economy and to respond to the phenomenon by creating barriers to response and solution-making.

Table 6. The Key Items of Axiological Proximization

Category	Key items	Frequencies
NP is construed as the positive value of IDC	policies/guidance	11.48%
	health/sustainable development	5.29%

Example 11: The Conference seeks to achieve the targets laid out under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, including galvanizing action on ocean-related issues such as protecting coral reefs, reducing plastic pollution, and addressing the impact of climate change. The idea of sustainable development has been formulated as a central objective of positive values, with the intention of directing and uniting global community consensus and action. Sustainable development aims to protect natural ecosystems, maintain biodiversity, and provide stable ecological services for humans. The sustainable development goals pertaining to the ocean are the subject of this passage’s “Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.” By describing concrete strategies such as protecting coral reefs, decreasing plastic pollution, and responding to the implications of climate change, this value aim is concretized.

4.3.2. Negative ODC

Axiological proximization is realized differently from temporal and spatial proximization. Its distinctive feature is that it addresses interactive axiological proximization at the concept or idea level (Zhang, 2016). It focuses on how concepts and ideas from ODCs and IDCs gradually converge and impact each other. In the end, it can result in cooperative ideas or disputes, and it might even start a real-world conflict or coordinated action.

The values of ODC are opposed to those of IDC, thereby leading to conflicts in the physical space. The dual nature of the ideology and physicality of values forces the listener to make inferences that the conflict of ideology which implies that ideological conflicts will ultimately result in material dangers to the country (Pan,2017). Many places in the report have used negative energy noun phrases to construct the negative values that accompany ODC. The results have been presented in Table 7.

Table 7. The Key Items of Axiological Proximization

Category	Key items	Frequencies
NP is construed as the negative value or ideology of ODC	Carbon emissions\Greenhouse gas emissions\Fossil fuel dependency\Climate refugees	6.23%

Example 12: From the Amazon to the Andes and the snowy depths of Patagonia, extreme weather and climate change are causing mega-drought, extreme rainfall, deforestation and glacier melt across the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, according to a UN report published on Friday

In Example 12, In terms of climate, deforestation reduces the forest's ability to absorb carbon dioxide, intensifies the greenhouse gas effect, and leads to increased global climate warming. “Deforestation” is emphasized together with extreme climate events. Such as super droughts, extreme rainfalls and glacier melting, showing its status as a key factor in environmental deterioration and climate change, posing a significant threat to the ecosystem, food safety, public health and economic welfare in Latin America and the Caribbean. By creating a value contrast between the immediate harm deforestation causes to the environment and human well-being, it draws attention to how urgent the problem is. At the same time, it raises public awareness of the detrimental effects of this behavior and increases ecological preservation and sustainable development, which in turn motivates and supports environmental protection initiatives.

5. Conclusion

Based on the above analysis and discussion of the corpus, it can be seen that the United Nations widely adopts the spatial proximization in its news reports on climate change. Spatial proximization emphasizes the current and inevitable impact of human activities on the

environment. Through the strong power of fear, spatial proximization can guide readers to legitimize the preventive actions, policies, measures, values or ideologies of journalists. By using temporal proximization, it attracts people's attention to environmental problems and legitimizes the preventive actions to maintain the environment. In order to generate positive values dominated by IDCs and negative values dominated by ODCs, axiological proximization is mostly helpful. This raises the conflict and gives the go-ahead for any preventative measures. Furthermore, temporal proximization focuses mainly on establishing the ongoing threat and current danger of environmental issues.

These proximization strategies can build discourse legitimacy and look for support for news discourse. It means that quick action is required. More catastrophic consequences will result from ignoring climate change. It will have a profound effect on all aspects of life and worsen inequality and uneven progress. Thus, it is essential to act quickly and decisively to slow down climate change.

Although this study achieved some breakthroughs, it has several limitations in terms of research design and implementation. Firstly, there is no rigidly planned sampling technique used in the selection of research data. Instead, it is largely random, with a restricted total amount. This may limit the universality of the study results and prevent them from completely representing climate change challenges in a broader context. Second, due to the vocabulary and grammatical items included in the data set, it may not adequately reflect climate change issues, and the research may not research deeply enough. Furthermore, the research corpus may only focus on specific regions or time frames, failing to account for variety and dynamic changes on a global scale or over a lengthy period of time. Additionally, the manual classification technique of vocabulary-grammar items and discourse types in the study is not rigorous. Subjective judgments are unavoidable while sticking to the stated theoretical framework, and they may have an impact on the objectivity and consistency of classification. This raises concerns about the accuracy of research findings. As a result, while the study provides useful insights in the current context, the universality and precision of its conclusions require further development through larger-scale, more systematic data collection and analysis, as well as more objective analytical methodologies.

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