

Study on Approaching Critical Discourse Analysis

-- Taking Biden's 2021 Interim National Security Strategic Guidance as an Example

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Abstract. Taking Biden's Interim National Security Strategic Guidance in 2021 as a case, this paper discusses the legalization of political discourse with the application of Proximity theory. It is found that Biden made full use of the strategy of spatial, temporal and axiological proximity in the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance to legalize the remediation actions of the United States. Specifically, in terms of spatial proximity, Biden explicitly uses two opposing groups, and focuses on understanding the invasion process and influence of external entities on internal entities in discourse space, so that listeners can get intuitive feelings to ban the legitimacy of the other party's encroachment. Secondly, in the strategy of temporal proximity, Biden adopted the concept of "coming to the present" and presupposed the threat of external entities to the future, so as to legalize his defense measures. On the axiological proximity, Biden's government highlights its positive attitude towards external threats, emphasizes its defense of national interests, and strives to enhance the legitimacy of its own actions, so as to create a positive image, provide legal basis for the implementation of its various policies and measures, and thus implement its own foreign policy more easily.

Keywords: Interim National Security Strategic Guidance; Biden; Proximity theory; Legalization.

1. Introduction

Closely related to political language, political discourse expresses ideas and spreads political ideology by constructing a certain discourse space at the cognitive level, and finally achieves the purpose of convincing others (van Dijk, 1997). As an important branch of critical discourse analysis, political discourse analysis takes political discourse as its research subject, focusing on how to realize political power, power abuse, or domination through political discourse (van Dijk, 1997). Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) mainly studies how the abuse of social power and inequality are implemented, reproduced, legalized, and resisted through texts and discourses in the social and political context, aiming at interpreting, revealing, and finally challenging social inequality (van Dijk, 1997). In the development of CDA, different approaches have been proposed to analyze critical discourse, such as Halliday's (2000) Systemic Functional Grammar, Fairclough's (1992) Three-dimensional Model, the Discourse-historical approach of Wodak (2001), and so on.

Cap (2008) further put forward the proximity theory based on Chilton's (2004) discourse space theory, emphasizing the dynamic change process of discourse entities and events in three cognitive levels of spatial, temporal and axiological Proximity, as well as the quantitative analysis of language factors in speech act construction, which has a good explanatory effect on how to legalize political discourse and provides a new method for critical cognitive analysis of political discourse. At present, the Proximity theory is applied to critical discourse analysis, in order to tap the speaker's potential ideology and discourse strategies. For example, Cap (2008) analyzed the discourse related to America's participation in the Iraq War, and preliminarily verified the effectiveness of the Proximity theory. Wu Jianguo and Niu Zhenjun (2018), based on the Proximity theory and van Dijk's social cognitive model, analyzed the discourse features and legalization strategies of Biden's immigrant discourse.

The Interim National Security Strategy Guidance of the United States (hereinafter referred to as the Report) is a top-level national strategy regularly submitted to Congress by the executive branch of the U.S. government. It elaborates on the major national security concerns and response plans of the United States and plays an important guiding role in the formulation of U.S. foreign and security policies. The Report not only covers the political, economic, military, diplomatic, and cultural fields

but also serves as a "national declaration" for the United States to flaunt itself, win support, deter opponents, and show good partners. Taking Biden's Interim National Security Strategy Guidance in 2021 as an example, this paper qualitatively analyzes how Biden's government legalized and rationalized its own policies by using the Proximity theory analysis framework. The research results of this paper are conducive to enriching the interpretation category of Proximity theory and providing a reference for the in-depth interpretation and analysis of professional discourse.

2. Literature review

2.1 Proximity theory

Proximity theory mainly explores how to make the outside-the-deictic-center (ODC) of the listener's perceived referential center approach to the inside-the-deictic-center (IDC) and pose a threat from the lexical grammar level, so as to realize the mandatory construal operation mechanism of legalizing the speaker's defensive measures or strengthening the illegality of the other party. Proximity theory is divided into spatial, temporal and axiological proximity theory.

The Proximity theory calls the threats from the marginal entities of discourse space the outside-deictic-center (ODC), which can cross the discourse space to invade the inside-deictic-center (IDC), that is, the speaker and the addressee. The threats here have three properties: spatial, temporal, and axiological, which are embodied as "Spatial-Temporal-Axiological Analytical Model (STA)". Spatial Proximity refers to the intrusion of ODC into IDC in physical space, so IDC should take effective measures to deal with it. Temporal Proximity refers to the invasion of IDC on the timeline, especially in the past and future, creating an urgent atmosphere, so IDC should immediately respond and take preventive measures to eliminate it. The approach of value will approach IDC and ODC, forming ideological conflict, which is likely to evolve into concrete conflict, thus damaging IDC.

2.2 Empirical research on Proximity theory

The empirical research of Proximity theory is mainly divided into two types: contrastive discourse and non-contrastive discourse. Types of comparison are mainly divided into those between different countries (e.g., Zhang Hui, Yan Bing, 2019; Li Yongzhong, Pan Fei, 2021; Zhang Yanmin, Zhang Hui, 2020), Comparison of Discourse in Different Stages in the Same Country (e.g., Liu Wenyu, Xu Boshu, 2018; Zheng Shilin, 2021; Xing, Lu Chen, 2019), as well as the original text and translation (e.g., Cao Jianmin, 2021; Li Yi, 2016; Li Tingting, 2020) and so on.

Li and Pan (2021), taking the news reports of the Chinese and British on January 24th, 2020 on the epidemic situation control in Wuhan as the corpus, based on the Proximity theory, analyzed the discourse strategies adopted by the Chinese and British epidemic reports from three dimensions: spatial, temporal and axiological proximity, and constructed an approach model to make a cognitive comparative analysis of the two reports. Liu and Xu (2018) applied Chilton's discourse space theory and Cap's Proximity theory, taking three National Security Strategy of the United States of America released by three American presidents as the research objects, and analyzed the discourse space constructed by the reports and their positioning for China. It is found that the positioning of "China" in the report has changed obviously, from "partner" to "national security threat". The study also further analyzes the use of the approach strategy in the report of Biden Administration in 2017. Based on the Proximity theory, Zhang (2016) analyzed the speech delivered by the Australian Foreign Minister in the general debate of the 70th United Nations General Assembly from the perspective of critical cognitive linguistics, and explored how political leaders constructed discourse space, applied discourse strategies, and shaped and enhanced national image, on the basis of discussing the construction mode and effective strategies of discourse system with Chinese characteristics.

To sum up, the Proximity theory has a relatively complete theoretical framework and systematic analytical methods. Under the big environment of anti-globalization tide, rising

unilateralism, and Covid-19 sweeping the world, the Proximity theory research not only exists in comprehensive fields such as trade dispute discourse, public health discourse, environmental protection discourse, classroom teaching discourse, etc. but also changes from single to multiple comparisons, making the analysis more diverse. However, at present, there is little research on the application of the Proximity theory to the analysis of American National Security Strategic Guidance. Therefore, in order to explore how the U.S. government flaunts itself, seeks support, deters its opponents, and shows good partners, this paper selects the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance published by Biden as the research object and analyzes how the Biden government adopts the approach discourse strategy to legalize its political discourse by using the Proximity theory analysis framework.

3. Research corpus

The National Security Strategy of the United States of America is the top-level national strategy of the United States. It is submitted to Congress by the U.S. government. It mainly judges the current international security environment, especially the security threats faced by the United States, and expounds the overall goals and macro policies of the U.S. government in internal affairs, foreign affairs, and defense. The report submitted by President Biden in 2021 is 23 pages long, with about 10,000 words, which preliminarily outlines the national security strategy of Biden's government. Biden's "Interim National Security Strategic Guidance" clearly points out that the United States is facing complex international security challenges, including challenges in non-traditional security areas, such as climate change and the epidemic of infectious diseases, as well as strategic competition among big countries in traditional security areas, such as global powers China and Russia and regional powers Iran, and challenges in political thoughts and practice, such as populism, nationalism, nativism and democratic decline. From the failure of the U.S. response to the COVID-19 epidemic to the riots on Capitol Hill caused by the presidential election crisis, from the ideological point of view, the "universal values" dominated by the U.S. with "democracy, freedom, and human rights" as its core content suffered a complete rout, which not only made the U.S. nervous but also made the U.S. depressed. Against this background, Biden's administration regards defending the foundation of American power, promoting favorable international power distribution, and maintaining a stable and open international system as its core national interests. Different from the previous two administrations in defining national interests, Biden's administration reduced national interests to three aspects, namely, defending the foundation of American power, promoting favorable international power distribution, and maintaining a stable and open international system as the core national interests, among which safeguarding American security and maintaining American power are the primary national interests. This shows that the U.S. strategic focus is first to restore national power and domestic order. The reason for this is directly related to the realistic predicament and lack of ability that the United States is facing. It has important research value for us to understand and grasp the thoughts and ideas of policymakers of this government. As for whether what the report says will become a policy, it is influenced by many factors, including the degree of implementation in the process of its policy, and the willingness and strength of each specific work department to absorb and implement it. However, the Biden administration's first Interim National Security Strategy of the United States of America reflects some important policy thoughts and ideas of the Democratic Party's founding faction, so it deserves enough attention and research.

4. The research found that

4.1 Spatial Proximity

Spatial Proximity mainly means that the external entity (ODCS, outside-the-deictic-center) of discourse space is forced to be interpreted as the distance between it and the internal entity (IDCs, inside-the-deictic-center) of discourse space, which infringes on the internal center and causes threat

and harm to the internal center (Cap, 2013). The statistics of Spatial Proximity grammar vocabulary items used in Biden's Interim National Security Strategic Guidance are as follows:

Table 1. The Spatial Proximity in Biden's Strategy

category	project
The noun (NPs) is interpreted as IDC.	the United States/ America/Congress/ US Armed Forces/Department of Defense/President Biden/Intelligence Community/White House/federal government/
	Americans/ the American people/ American businesses and consumers/American middle class/American workers and communities/ small and medium-sized businesses/all American companies/infrastructure/American workers and working families/Black and Brown Americans/ We/us/ I
	the world/ the free world/ the West/ the NATO Alliance/ Europe/ European Allies/ European Union/Australia/ Japan/ the Republic of Korea/ Singapore/ Vietnam/ other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states/ Pacific Island states/United Kingdom/ Global Health Security Agenda/ the G-7/the G-20/the United Nations/ World Trade Organization/Mexico/China's neighbors and commercial partners/Taiwan/Paris Climate Accord/international rules
The noun (NPs) is interpreted as ODC.	the previous administration's family separations policy and discriminatory travel ban/
	China/ Russia/ other authoritarian states/ antagonistic authoritarian powers/ anti-democratic forces/ Beijing/ Moscow/North Korea/Afghanistan/ China's leaders/Chinese government's behavior/ nuclear weapons/Iranian nuclear program/nationalists/nativists
	COVID-19/climate change/climate crisis/Pandemic
Displacement verb phrases and direction verb phrases (VPs of motion and directionality) are interpreted as markers that ODC moves to IDC.	challenge/rot/undermine/impose/emanate/cost/threaten/inhibit/mount/check/prevent...from/disrupt/produce/exploit/sow/erode/promote/undercut /inhibit/dominate/be under siege/accelerate /leave/exploit/promote/
Verb phrases (VPs of action) are interpreted as markers that ODC exerts influence on IDC.	cause /contribute to/generate/wrought/pose/
The noun (NPs) indicates ODC's expectation of IDC's influence.	threats/unfair and illegal trade practices/cyber theft/coercive economic practices/ unfair advantages
The noun (NPs) indicates the effect of ODC on IDC.	aggression/nationalism/corruption/inequality/polarization/populism/illiberal threats/infectious diseases /cross-border aggression/income inequality/ fund terrorism/pernicious foreign influence/cyberattacks/disinformation/digital authoritarianism

4.1.1 Noun phrases as discourse space indicating central factors (IDC)

When constructing IDC elements in the report, the report uses a large number of directives America and we and the auxiliary term "U.S. government", claiming that it is more in line with the interests of the American people and trying to enhance Biden's reputation. In political discourse, the positioning of "I" and "the other" is very important. Through the use of "Americans", "we" and "us", it is easy to locate the speaker's spatial position to the reader's spatial position, that is, the indicating center of the whole discourse space draws the speaker Biden and the American people into one range. The plural nouns "consumers" and "workers" refer to the American people through metonymy, and their specific discourse advantage lies in guiding people to believe that the president is giving genuine humanistic care to the people. Among them, the IDC elements are mainly Biden and his government, America, allies, American people, and workers. Biden repeatedly mentioned in the report that the discourse space of the words "we", "Americans" and "our country" includes both the speaker and the listener, so as to remind the listener of the unity of our position and interests, paving the way for the Priority Actions to be proposed later, make it easier for the listener to accept the policy psychologically, and recognize its legitimacy.

4.1.2 Noun phrases as peripheral factors of discourse space indication

As a unique superpower in the world, the United States enjoys unique geographical advantages and has no direct threats from other countries. However, it has been taking precautions and exaggerating the security threats, economic threats, and military threats it faces, so as to create rivals and imaginary enemies. In the report, there are conflicts with "three forces": first, "revisionism" represented by China and Russia; Second, "authoritarianism" represented by North Korea and Iran; third, "terrorism" represented by Islamic Jihad. Originally, these three forces did not influence each other, and it was difficult to set a single classification standard. Moreover, juxtaposing mainstream world powers like China and Russia with other forces did not conform to international laws. However, these three forces appear side by side in the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance. The only reasonable explanation is that all three forces are threats to the leadership of the United States as the number one country in the world.

4.1.3 The construal of the movement tendency of the peripheral entity to the central entity.

Example "Regional actors like Iran and North Korea continue to pursue game-changing capabilities and technologies while threatening U.S. allies and partners and challenging regional stability."

Example ODC represented by "Iran" and "North Korea" moved to IDC America and its allies. The United States used negative verb phrases to express that Iran and North Korea violated the interests of America's allies and friends, causing panic among allies, and providing justification for their interference in the national security of allies. At the same time, it highlighted the actual harm of ODC elements as "the other" to America and led listeners to think that ODC elements directly harmed the interests of the American people and threatened America's national security.

4.1.4 Behavioral verb phrases, as peripheral entities, affect the construal of central entities.

Example "China's leaders seek unfair advantages, behave aggressively and coercively, and undermine the rules and values at the heart of an open and stable international system."

In the report of the Biden Administration, the positioning of China has moved to the edge of discourse space. China is regarded as a long-term competitor of the United States, and together with Russia and terrorism, it is regarded as the primary threat to the national security of the United States. After positioning China as an external entity on the edge of discourse space, Biden's report further uses the Proximization strategy, showing the dynamic process of the external entity (China) moving to the instruction center through aggressive verbs (seek/behave/underground), creating the dynamic effect that China gradually "infringes" the national interests of the United States, and creating a horror scene where external threats are constantly approaching, so as to realize its protective measures, namely "America takes priority".

4.1.5 Nouns refer to the abstract concept construal of the influence of peripheral entities on central entities.

Example “Anti-democratic forces use misinformation, disinformation, and weaponized corruption to exploit weaknesses and sow division within and among free nations, international rules, and promote alternative models of authoritarian governance.”

In this sentence, "use" indicates that the peripheral entity has threatened the central entity, and emphasizes the urgency of the threat. Nouns such as "division", and "weakness" appearing in this article are interpreted as the harm caused by anti-democratic forces to free countries, which makes it easier for listeners to understand the proximity of external threats, and shows that American opponents are doing or will do some bad things to the United States and the whole world, so as to harm the interests and values of the United States, achieve its ulterior purpose, and legalize the measures to be taken by the Biden administration.

4.1.6 Nouns express the abstract conceptual construal of the influence of peripheral entities on central entities.

Example “America with \$4 billion in assistance over four years, and taking other steps to address the root causes of human insecurity and irregular migration, including poverty, criminal violence, and corruption – problems made exponentially worse by COVID-19 and the deep recession and debt crisis it has wrought throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.”

In this example, the words "COVID-19", "worry", "made" and "deep recession and debt" appeared, which reflected the great destructiveness of the COVID-19 epidemic in peripheral entities, and indicated that external entities had caused harm to American people's security, immigration problems and economy, and produced bad results, which not only undermined people's confidence in the democratic system and economic globalization but also brought pain to American people. Therefore, it is reasonable for the United States to take action to reduce damage and losses, which further enhances the legitimacy of the policy.

4.2 Temporal Proximization

Table 2. The Temporal Proximization in Biden’s Strategy

category	project
Use the discourse forms of various styles to construct the threat of past events to the future.	has rapidly become more assertive/have invested heavily in efforts meant to check U. S, strengths and prevent us from defending our interests and allies around the world
Using nominalized phrases, the influence of preset ODC will occur at any time in the future.	unfair and illegal trade practices, cyber theft, and coercive economic practices/
Using modal verb phrases, constructing ODC has a lasting impact on present and future.	can threaten our people and our economy
By using comparative sentences, the construction is opposite or has advantages.	will experience increasing weather extremes and environmental stress in the years ahead. But, if we fail to act now, we will miss our last opportunity to avert the most dire consequences of climate change for the health of our people, our economy, our security, and our planet.
The noun phrase containing non-limiting description is interpreted as ODC actually influencing behavior in an alternative time frame.	In recent years/In the coming months/ In the years ahead/ 75,30, or even four years ago/

Temporal Proximity is the speaker's forced construal of the event frame in the time dimension with "present" as the reference point; Based on the occurrence of past crises or the expectation of future crises, it is urgent to highlight threats and resist them. We should immediately respond to them and take measures to prevent them (Zhang Hui, Yan Bing, 2019). On the time axis, the present tense is the inner center of discourse space, while the past tense and the future tense are at both ends of the time axis and are the outer centers. The longer the time interval, the farther away it is from the indicated center. Temporal Proximity means the threat of the past or the future, extending to the present and constantly approaching the present (Cap, 2013). The vocabulary items of Temporal Proximity grammar in the corpus are shown in Table 2.

4.2.1 Use the simple past tense and the present perfect tense to construct the threat or influence of past events on the future.

Example "China, in particular, has rapidly become more assertive. Both Beijing and Moscow have invested heavily in efforts meant to check U.S., strengths and prevent us from defending our interests and allies around the world."

Example reflects the Biden administration's inherent closed cognition of China: China is threatening the interests of the United States as always. Then, the use of the present perfect tense, such as "have invested heavily in efforts to check U.S., strengths ...", creates a tense situation in which China and Russia actively compete with the United States in military affairs, and China is continuing its established policies or behaviors, realizing the discourse transfer from "future" to "present", which has found a basis for the legalization of American policy formulation. Describe the present perfect tense, repeatedly emphasizing that China is constantly developing and expanding its own strength, and approaching the events that have not happened at the end of the timeline to the events that are currently going on, thus creating a trend that this "threat" of China is constantly approaching the indication center (American audience). Through this strategy, we can strengthen the urgency for the United States to adopt the corresponding boycott measures, and find a reasonable basis for it, so as to legalize its policy of resisting China.

4.2.2 Using nominalized phrases, the influence of preset ODC will occur at any time in the future.

Nominalization phrases, by "transforming processes and activities into states and objects, and concrete things into abstract things, blur the agent, time and process of actions", presuppose that ODC's influence on the future may occur at any time, causing the listener's panic and enhancing the urgency of eliminating threats. "

Example "We will confront unfair and illegal trade practices, cyber theft, and coercive economic practices that hurt American workers, undercut our advanced and emerging technologies, and seek to erode our strategic advantage and national competitiveness."

In the sentence, the words "unfair and illegal trade practices", "cyber theft" and "coercive economic practices" obscure the specific time point of these events, which makes it easy for the audience to associate the current turbulent economic situation with these words, arouses the audience's disgust and fear and unconsciously associates the current situation in the United States with competition and threats. This time-approaching strategy makes good use of people's fear and convinces the American public of the necessity of strengthening the national power, thus cleverly legalizing Biden's government's policies.

4.2.3 Use modal verb phrases to construct ODC to have a lasting impact on the present and the future.

Modal verbs in Table 2 all indicate the influence of ODC on future persistence and are used to enhance the listener's fear. As in example :

Example "When we strengthen health systems around the world, we reduce the risk of future pandemics that can threaten our people and our economy."

In this example, the word "can" changes the impact in the future time frame into an existing state. When the next COVID-19 has not yet broken out in the United States, it is assumed that it may pose a threat at any time, indicating a change from a "safe present" to a "stressful future", causing psychological panic among the listeners; At the same time, Biden promised to curb its impact by strengthening the health system and other measures, which was in line with the psychological expectations of the American people. Through such verbal promises, he provided a credibility guarantee and shaped a positive image of positive response and responsibility.

4.2.4 Using contrastive sentences to construct the future is opposite or advantageous.

Example "The climate crisis has been centuries in the making, and even with aggressive action, the United States and the world will experience increasing weather extremes and environmental stress in the years ahead. But, if we fail to act now, we will miss our last opportunity to avert the directest consequences of climate change for the health of our people, our economy, our security, and our planet."

This example compares the possible coexistence results of different approaches through the subjunctive mood, secretly revealing its own position, that is, criticizing Biden's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement for its pain and threat to the American people, American economy, and security, and even the whole earth, and banning its legality. On the one hand, the listener will consciously compare his mind memory with Biden's suggestions, and make a decision to support Biden's government while feeling the threat brought by the withdrawal from the Paris Agreement to the American people. On the other hand, the discourse statement of subjunctive mood is not the actual situation or state. Biden presents the inference from subjective speculation to the listener, and equates this inference with the positive effect of his environmental protection policy, with the intention of praising his plan and attacking his competitors by innuendo.

4.2.5 Use non-limiting descriptive noun phrases to construct the influence of ODC's act in other time frames.

Example The climate crisis has been centuries in the making, and even with aggressive action, the United States and the world will experience increasing weather extremes and environmental stress in the years ahead."

In this example, the non-limiting descriptive noun phrase "in the years ahead" constructs the influence of the actions of peripheral entities in other time frames, leaving room for the listener's imagination, and approaching reasoning, that is, the climate crisis has caused a wide range of violations and serious consequences. If it is not stopped, this violation may worsen and become the norm, thus agreeing that the U.S. government should take immediate measures to prevent the recurrence of this kind of harm, paving the way for the legalization of the measures to be taken by the Biden government.

4.3 Axiological Proximization theory

Axiological Proximization theory is related to the conflict of values between IDC and ODC. Specifically, Axiological Proximization refers to "the listener's understanding of the hostility between the referential central entity and the external entity in the value system, and its operating mechanism is that the ideological conflict is constantly strengthened, which will lead to physical conflict or personal injury in the future, forcing a high possibility of internal and external conflict" (Zhang & Yan, 2019: 16). "Through the approach of value, the values of external entities are interpreted as constantly invading the scope of central entities (i.e. speakers and listeners), and the conflicts of values are materialized into physical conflicts in reality." (Liu & Xu, 2018: 14) The explicit value noun phrases are frequently used in Biden's energy security speeches, which clearly shows that all social practices that are beneficial to Biden's government and the American people are recognized as positive values, while the characteristics or states of related parties that may be detrimental or harmful to their interests are recognized as negative values. See Table 3 for the statistics of specific vocabulary and grammar items.

Table 3. The Axiological Proximization in Biden's Strategy

category	project
The noun (NPs) is understood as IDC's positive values or ideology.	diversity/dynamic civil society/democratic values/ democracy/freedom/American values/free society/partnership/engagement/human rights/dignity/ gender equality/women's empowerment/peace and security/truth/equality/ independence or judiciary/civil rights and liberties/racial justice/racial equality/human dignity/
The noun (NPs) is interpreted as ODC negative values or ideology.	sexual harassment and assault/economic sanctions borders or walls/nationalism/nativist/anti-democratic forces/corruption/inequality/human insecurity/ aggression/humanitarian crises/authoritarianism/marginalization/terrorist

4.3.1 Noun phrases are used to express the positive values or ideology of the central entity.

Claiming to meet the needs of the audience or emphasizing charismatic leadership is all strategies to gain legitimacy and achieve the purpose of mobilizing the masses for propaganda purposes (Zhang, 2016). "Gender equality", "women's empowerment" and "peace and security" represent Biden's government's positive actions in dealing with problems. All the measures are in line with the values of domestic people's interests, highlighting the maintenance of domestic interests and the ideology of giving priority to the United States. Biden's doing this is undoubtedly to publicize the ruling policy and gain people's support and praise.

Example "By bolstering and defending our unparalleled network of allies and partners, and making smart defense investments, we will also deter Chinese aggression and counter threats to our collective security, prosperity, and democratic way of life."

In the Axiological Proximization strategy of Biden's government, national security is given priority, which can arouse people's desire to protect their homeland and win public support for the policies formulated by the US government. In addition, the appearance of national security, prosperity, democracy, etc. proves that the U.S. discusses the legitimacy of its own behavior from many angles, and emphasizes its consistent style of putting American interests first. Similarly, the use of the word "defense" positions itself as the "attacked party" and weakens the "aggressive behavior" adopted by the United States in practice. IDC's positive values focus on building its own interests and the ideology of "America first".

4.3.2. Noun phrases are used to express the negative values or ideologies of peripheral entities.

As shown in Table 3, "sexual harassment and assault", "anti-democratic forces" and "inequality", etc., the use of such words as monopoly, anti-democratic regime, inequality, etc., depicts for us an image of a competitor who opposes American values and is full of threats in the political, economic and military fields. They increase the factors of world peace and instability, and construct the negative values and ideology of the outer space.

Example "In the Middle East, we will right-size our military presence to the level required to disrupt international terrorist networks, deter Iranian aggression, and protect other vital U.S. interests."

Example The value of peripheral space is expressed through two nominalized phrases in a linear arrangement: "terrorist networks" and "aggregation". It is believed that the United States, the "dictatorship" of Iran, not only spreads terror and threatens neighboring countries, but also pursues the development of weapons of mass destruction, posing a great threat to regional and even world peace and stability. In transnational threat organizations, they are constantly challenging us and increasing social instability. These two forces threaten the interests of the United States in terms of strategy, local interests, and security, respectively, which increases the fear of listeners and emphasizes the urgency and importance of taking actions to contain and limit these forces.

From the above analysis, we can see that Biden flexibly used three approaches, namely, Spatial Proximization, time approach, and Axiological Proximization, in the Interim National Security

Strategic Guidance many times, and built a passive, peace-loving and responsible image of a big country for the United States, thus making the following priority actions more legitimate.

5. Conclusion

Based on the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance of President Biden of the United States in 2021, this paper takes the Proximity theory as the research framework and analyzes it from three angles: Spatial, Temporal, and Axiological Proximity. Through STA approach model analysis, it is found that, in terms of Spatial Proximity, Biden's government has positioned countries with conflicts of interest with the United States, such as China and Russia, as negative external entities, and has made the distant Sino-Russian building in physical space become an imminent threat, which makes the audience feel fear, and then seeks audience support for its own counter-measures. In order to draw allies away from China and Russia, Biden pulled allies into IDC. In terms of Temporal Proximity, Biden's government mainly uses the concept transfer from the past to the present, emphasizing the past invasion of external subjects and continuing to this day. About Axiological Proximity, Biden's government mainly uses internal and external ideological confrontation means, emphasizing that the intensification of conflicts will eventually turn into physical conflicts between the two sides, thus arousing the American audience's sense of imminence from external threats, thus seeking legal support for the US to take preventive and confrontational measures in the economic and military fields. From the above analysis of Proximity theory, it can be seen that, on the whole, Biden's government basically follows the tradition of political security construction. By flexibly selecting vocabulary and grammar project resources with different Proximity strategies, Biden has successfully shaped the image of a passive, peace-loving, and responsible big country provided a legal basis for the implementation of its various policies and measures and won the support and trust of the public. Through the analysis of the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance, we can see that the Proximity theory and STA model have powerful explanatory power for critical discourse analysis, providing a brand-new research method and perspective for CDA research, and making great contributions to the spread, development, and progress of CDA. However, this paper does not make a quantitative analysis of the corpus, collect the strategic security reports of many countries, build a corpus, and compare the reports of different leaders, so as to achieve a more comprehensive view of the problem from a historical perspective. Moreover, there are still some defects in the Proximity theory that need to be solved urgently, such as how to propose a universal discourse space to deal with the deictic center and deictic periphery of different scopes of discourse. Therefore, the Proximity theory and STA model need further study.

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