Exploring BRICS Stance of Future Cooperation in *CROSS TALK* 2018: Appraisal System

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ABSTRACT

While much work has been done on media discourses, relatively little has focused on panel interview discourses. Panel interview, a new form of news interview, is comprised of opposed interviewees who informallydebate the issue. Focusing on the CROSS TALK 2018 oral discourse, this article compares the linguistic features of stance of each countries (BRICS) by adopting Martin and White's appraisal system. The study finds that although each country has their own opinions and attitudes toward BRICS bloc, they all express positive attitude to BRICS future whether it is short-term, mid- term or long-term. In addition, each country is willing to dialogue with each other in BRICS bloc affairs except discussion on domestic issues.

Keywords: *Appraisal system, BRICS bloc, panel interview, CROSS TALK 2018*

INTRODUCTION

BRICS bloc itself had a long history of controversy and doubt since establishment, and *CROSS TALK*, a political debate program, produced by China Global Television Network (CGTN) provides audiences a platform to know BRICS bloc. 2018 was a tough year for many countries and institutions including BRICS where people worry about future due to Trump Administration's assault on basic principles of the very liberal trading order by imposing tariffs, resorting to protectionist practices and challenging the WTO as the central pillar of the global trading system. Thus, the present study focuses on the detailed analysis of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) stance of future cooperation in *CROSS TALK*.

In applied linguistics, a variety of frameworks concerned with use of language resources have been developed to account for how stance is presented in discourse (e.g., Hyland, 2005; White, 2005). Although much more researches have been done on the analysis of stance in media discourse, most of them are analyzed under framework of pragmatics (e.g., Charles, 2004; Ran& Yang, 2017) rather than framework of appraisal.Thus, this research will focus on interviewees opinions towards BRICS bloc future cooperation and explore their stance by evaluating linguistic resources under framework of appraisal system to find out what are the linguistic features of stance about future found within the interview of the 5 interviewees on the 2018 *CROSS TALK*? And whether BRICS countries align with each other towards BRICS bloc future?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Stance has become increasingly an important locus for research within the functional, pragmatic,cognitive, sociolinguistic and interactional paradigms in recent years.Stance is something speakers take toward various objects, people,concepts, ideas and so forth based on their knowledge state, personal belief, identity, sociocultural norms, among variousother factors (Iwasaki, 2015). Broadly speaking, stance refers to speakers' attempts to build relations with their audience via the articulation of their position, as achieved through the careful selection of linguistic resources (Englebretson, 2007) and numerous taxonomies of stance features have arisen in the applied linguistics literature to account for stance.

Hyland (2005) identified a range of metadiscursive features that writers employ to project their stance in text while presupposing dialogic engagement of stance between writer and addressee. Hunston and Thompson (2000) instead frame matters in terms of 'evaluation', encompassing the speaker or writers' attitude

towards, viewpoint on, or feelings about the entities or propositions that he or she is talking about, reflecting the 'value system' of that person and their community while constructing and maintaining relations between the author and audience. Conrad and Biber (2000) coin this practice as 'stance', using corpora to determine the range of stance expressions that convey the attitude of a speaker about certain information, its veracity, how they obtained access to the information, and 'what perspective they are taking' (Biber, 2006). There is also the notion of attitudinal stance, considered as a form of appraisal (Martin & White, 2005), where certain lexical components convey a writers' attitude towards the values presented in their discourse, including any epistemic or effective stance. Discourse with explicitly expressed attitude is said to be of higher subjectivity, while discourse with relatively implicit stance is said to be less subjective, or of higher objectivity (Traugott, 1995). This area of stance research has resulted in Appraisal System (Martin & White, 2005), which is a comprehensive framework through which researchers seek to determine how linguistic resources are employed, or manipulated, as language users evaluate the concepts or stances they refer to when constructing their texts. Thus, Appraisal system is the suitable framework to be adopted to study stance.

In terms of studies on the language features of stance in news interviews, conversation analysis (CA) considers news interviews as a version of institutional interaction i.e. as type of interaction whose turn-taking system differs from ordinary or everyday talk-in-interaction. It approaches news interviews "as a form of spoken interaction and thus examines the recurrent communicative practices that constitute it" (Clayman, 1988, p. 474). Haddington (2004) combined conversation analysis and theory of stance (stance-taking triangle) to look at how co-participants construct and display their stances. Ran (2017) combined with the intersubjectivity of the participants in the news interview to analyze the verbal communication process from the standpoint of stance-establishing and stance-negotiating. These studies have analyzed linguistic resources of stance in media discourse from pragmatics perspective. Thus, this paper with adoption of Appraisal System from systemic functional linguistic to find out linguistic resources of stance in media discourse can fulfill the research gap.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Appraisal theory works within the framework of Halliday's systemic functional linguistics (SFL), and is the result of research overa period of about 15 years undertaken by a group of researchers led byJ. R. Martin. The notion of appraisal involves 'resources formodalising, amplifying, reacting emotionally (affect), judging morally(judgement) and evaluating aesthetically (appreciation)' (Martin,1994). In SFL terms, the appraisal system realizes tenor at the level of discourse semantics (Martin & White, 2005) and is constituted by threesemantic categories: Attitude, Engagement, and Graduation, with furthersub-divisions as described in figure 1.
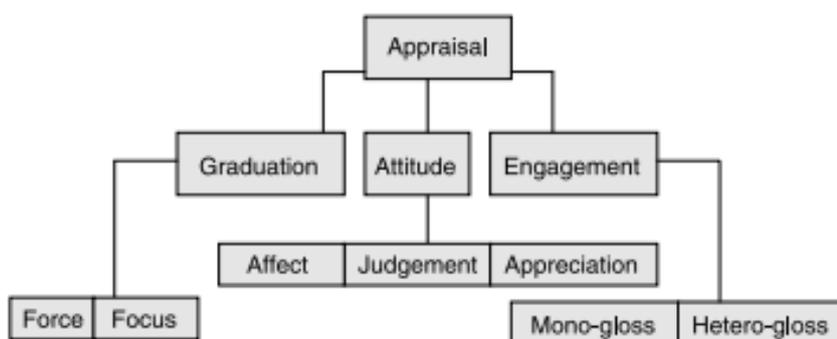

Figure1. *Framework of Appraisal System*

As shown in the above figure, appraisal contains three systems: Engagement, Attitude and Graduation. Eachsystem also can be sub-divided. Engagement has been elaborated in connection with Bahktin's notions of heteroglossia and intertextuality (Martin & White, 2005) and is subdivided into heteroglossic options and monoglossic options corresponding to the choice between the 'bare' declarative and all otherchoices. Heteroglossic options can be further divided into contract or expand.

Attitude is concerned with mapping feelings, with the three sub-systems of Affect, Judgement and Appreciation. Affect system characterizes phenomena by reference toemotion. Moreover, Affect includes not only 'authorial AFFECT but also emotionalresponses attributed to other social actors' (White, 2001a). Judgement system deals with attitudes towards behavior. Judgement is subdivided in two broad categories: judgements of socialesteem (normality, capacity, tenacity) and judgements of social sanction (veracity, propriety). These can be positive or negative judgementsand were developed in analogyto modality (Martin & White, 2005). Appreciation system includes resources used to evaluate things, things we make and performances we give, and natural phenomena.

Graduation is system of meanings concerned with up-scaling and down-scaling. It might be said that attitude and engagement are domains of graduation which differ according to the nature of meanings being scaled (Martin &White, 2005). According to scalability of intensity or amount, and that of prototypicality and the preciseness, graduation system has two sub-categories: Force andFocus.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The annotation procedure is described as follows. Because CGTN has not given official

transcript, YOUTUBE transcript tool was adopted to generate transcript and then several students proficient in English cross-check correctness of the transcript. *CROSS TALK* 2018 panel discussion has discussed several topics, one of which is about BRICS bloc future. According to interviewers' questions and interviewees responses, topic about BRICS bloc future include 3 parts: the future of BRICS (considered as long-term), prospects on the next decade of BRICS (considered as mid-term), and expectation on the forthcoming summit (considered as short-term). Divided interviewees' responses towards the above 3 parts in accordance with their countries after selection on responses and combined responses toward different parts if the response is given by the same speaker. Ensured the above corpus and converted into plain text format before being added to UAM Corpus Tool (Version 3.3p) for annotation. The text sizes and number of annotated items per text are shown in Table 1. To produce a common ground for the sake of comparing texts of different sizes (as text of China, Russia and South Africa is considerably shorter than the other two countries), the raw frequency counts for annotations are normalized to a value per 1000 words in UAM.

Table1. *Corpus word counts and annotated features*

Topic about BRICS bloc future	Country of speaker	Word count	Number of annotated items (raw/normalized per 1000 words)
Part1- the future of BRICS (long term)	Brazil	335	26 (129.35)
	India	174	44 (116.09)
Part2- prospects on the next decade of BRICS (mid-term)	Brazil	198	31 (135.7)
	China	58	8 (129.3)
Part3- expectation on the forthcoming summit (short term)	Brazil	36	6 (153.85)
	India	178	15 (74.26)
	Russia	141	26 (167.74)
	South Africa	234	19 (72.8)

Author performed a detailed reading of each line of the transcriptabout BRICS future and annotated texts according to the top three levels of the Appraisal framework, namely Engagement, Attitude and Graduation. Upon completing annotation, authorcross-checked with other coders to ensure accuracy of annotation to a great extent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 2, 3 and 4 describe the distribution of the interviewee' use of Appraisal resources in their responses toward questions about BRICS bloc future. In terms of overall frequency, these

responses include more Engagement and Graduation resources than Attitude resources.

As interviewees are intended to dialogue with other participants in panel interview, heavy reliance on engagement resources can be considered as the preferred technique among the interviewees. According to White (2001 a), attitude and engagement are domains of graduation so that large uses of graduation resources is reasonable. However, use of attitude resources is quite lower than the other two resources. The reasons will be discussed in the following parts.
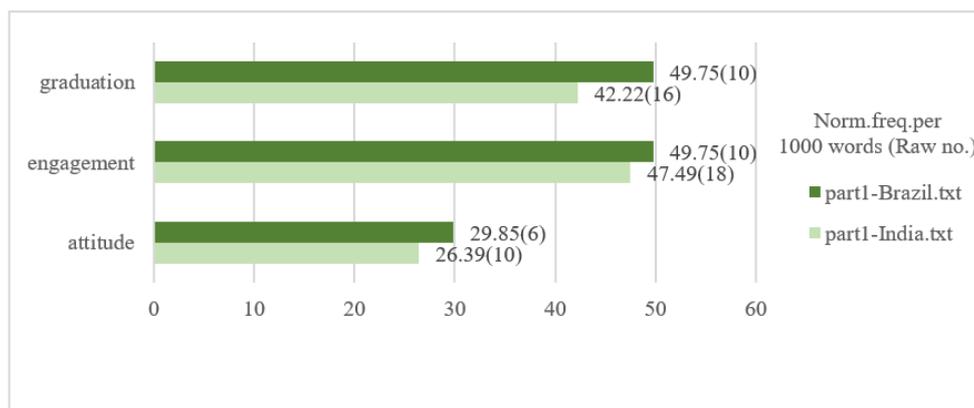
Figure2. *The use of appraisal resources in responses towards long-term development of BRICS*

Note: number without brackets is normalized frequency per 1000 words. Number with brackets is raw annotated number.
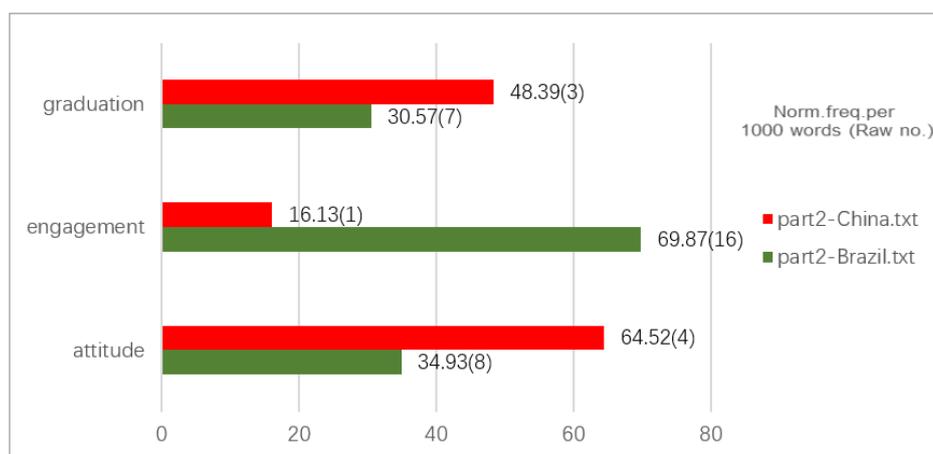

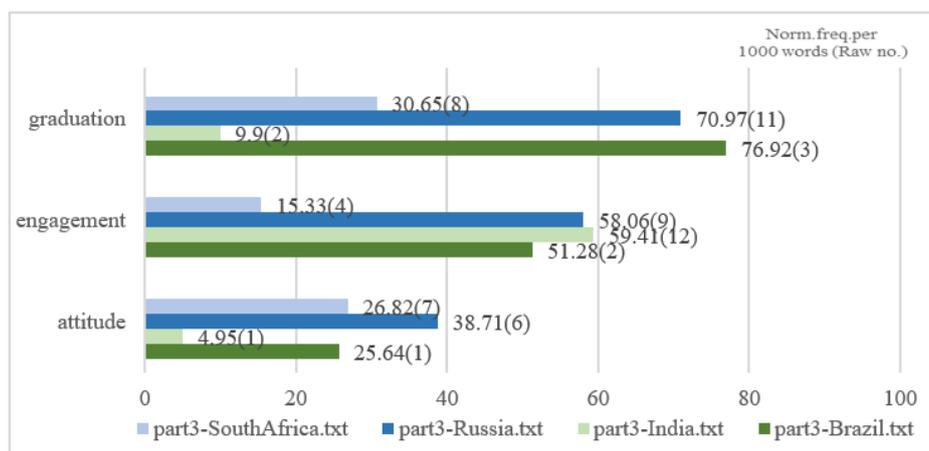**Figure3.** *The use of appraisal resources in responses towards mid-term development of BRICS*

Figure4. *The use of appraisal resources in responses towards short-term development of BRICS*

Engagement

Long-term (part 1 responses)

As figure 5 shown, Rangachari (interviewee from India) employed more mono-glossic resources than Reinaldo Ma (interviewee from Brazil) in responses towards future about BRICS bloc,.Rangachari (India) employed mono-glossic resources to provide information about BRICS past experiences and development of India. For example, "There are a number of decisions that the leaders have taken…" and "India is growing at some rate around 7%...". However, Reinaldo Ma (Brazil) uses bare assertion to express certainty on BRICS future cooperation ("there's definitely a lot of room for us to develop"). According to Martin and White, the precise effects as to dialogistic positioning

associated with the use of bare assertions are complex. Rangachari here provided fact to support his following opinions so that he need to use bare assertion which is usually considered as more authentic to persuade audience while Ma asserted his opinion towards BRICS future cooperation using monoglossic resources to show his belief towards BRICS future.
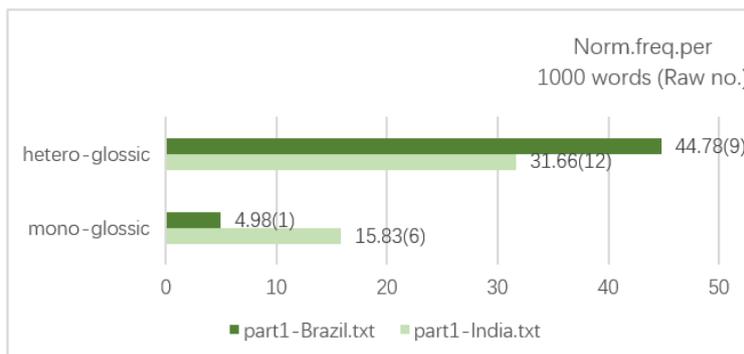

Figure5. *Hetero-glossic and mono-glossic resources in answers towards BRICS long-term future*

Figure 6 and 7 show distribution of hetero-glossic resources in their opinions about BRICS bloc long-term future.Both Rangachari and Ma employed more dialogic-expand resources than dialogic-contract resources. Dialogic- expand resources were employed to put forward their expectations while dialogic-contract resources are used to express their agreement with other intervieweesand justify their opinions by citation of external official statement. Examples in uses of dialogic-contract resources: 1) I do agree with our fellow panelists in South Africa. (Brazil: Ma) 2) the IMF says that we are the fastest growing emerging economy in the world.

(India: Rangachari) Examples in uses of dialogic-expand resources: 1) I think the BRICS block is an extremely coherent block. (Brazil: Ma) 2) So this process of dialogue and coordination can expand further. (India: Rangachari). There is an example of combining dialogic-expand and dialogic-contract resources.Ma from Brazil said "Obviously, the process is not that easy, I think." He showed his concerns about challenges BRICS bloc may meet with in the future but on the same time he expressed his willingness to accept other opinions by stressing 'I think'.
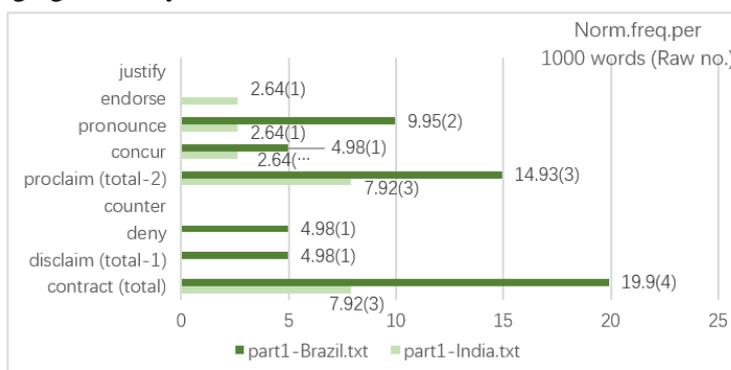

Figure6. *Distribution of dialogic-contract resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*
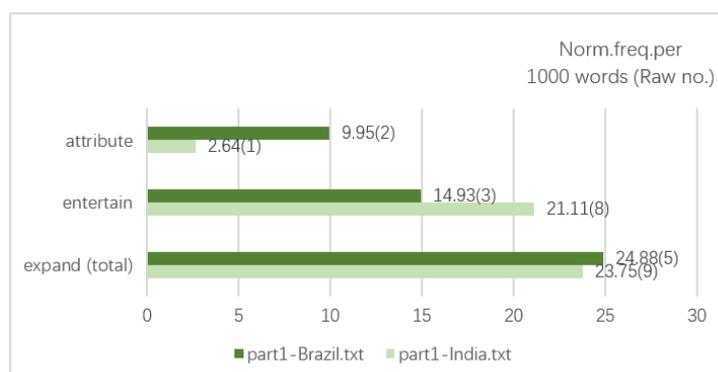

Figure7. *Distribution of dialogic-expandresources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*

From the above analysis, we can find that both countries were willing to dialogue with others when expressing their opinions about BRICS bloc future. However, India speaker employed more dialogue-contract resources and bare assertions to provide information about India and support his opinions, which implies that India would prefer not to dialogue with others about India domestic issues. Unlike India, Brazil speaker used more dialogue-expand resources such as 'I think' to express his opinions, which implies that Brazil might have less power in BRICS bloc.

Mid-term (part 2 responses)

As figure 8 shown, Reinaldo Ma (interviewee from Brazil) employed more enagement resources in answers towards the next decade about BRICS bloc.Ma (Brazil) employed mono-glossic resources to talk about current situation of BRICS bloc. For example, "We are talking about the forth industrial revolution…" and "It's a creative word, it's a creative acronym and nothing will block us into expanding that…". Ma usedmonoglossic resources to assert his observatizon of current BRICS bloc which is considered as facts in his opinion.
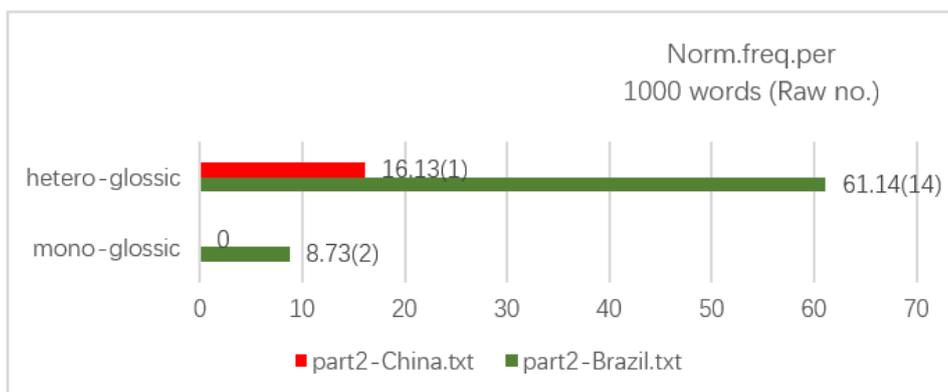

Figure8. *Hetero-glossic and mono-glossic resources in answers towards BRICS mid-term future*

Figure 9 and 10 show distribution of hetero-glossic resources in their opinions about BRICS bloc mid-term future. Both Zhao and Ma employed more dialogic-expand resources than dialogic-contract resources. Dialogic- expand resources were employed to put forward their opinions toward next decadeBRICS cooperation while dialogic-contract resources are used to express their expectationof BRICS next golden decade.

Examples in uses of dialogic-contract resources: 1) I do believe that it's gonna be a golden ten years… (Brazil: Ma). Examples in uses of dialogic-expand resources: 1) I think the last 10-year was the golden ten years (China:Zhao). 2) we can see developing on trade and a lot of cooperation in terms of technology (Brazil: Ma).

There is an example of combining dialogic-expand and dialogic-contract resources. Ma from Brazil said "I do believe that we could, we do can expand that and it's not the point." He showed his beliefs about BRICS bloc and he put forward opposed opinions that expanding name of BRICS is not the point but rather expanding benefit brought by expansion of BRICS bloc.
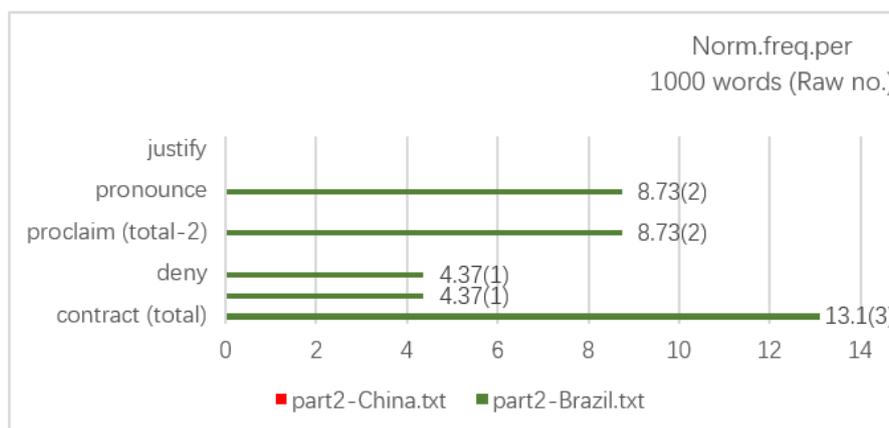

Figure9. *Distribution of dialogic-contract resources in opinions toward mid-term BRICS bloc*
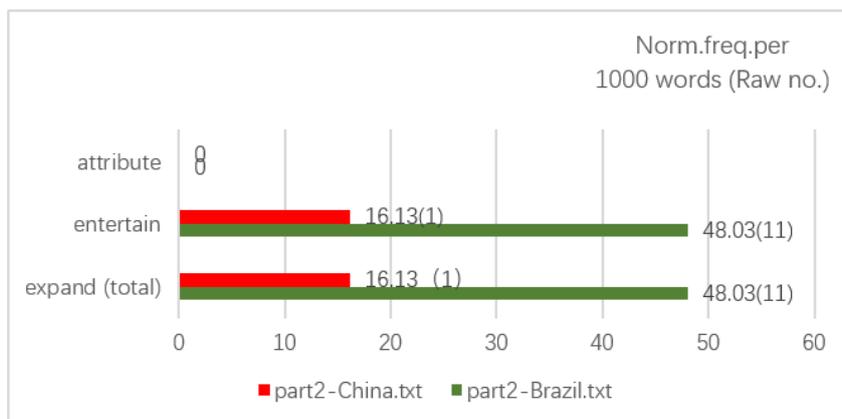
Figure10. *Distribution of dialogic-expand resources in opinions toward mid-term BRICS bloc*

From the above analysis, we can find that both countries were willing to dialogue with others when expressing their expectation about BRICS bloc next decade. Brazil speaker used more dialogic-expand resources than dialogic-contract resources to express his willingness to dialogue and cooperate with other countries. However, due to limited engagement resourcesof China speakers, we cannot judge implication of China.

Short-term (part 3 responses)

As figure 11 shown, Reinaldo Ma (interviewee from Brazil), Rangachari (interviewee from India), Kortunov (Russia) and Tembe (South Africa) employed more heteroglossia than monoglossiatowards expectation about the forthcoming summit. Mono-glossic resources are used to talk about principles and aspects of BRICS bloc cooperation and expansion of BRICS bloc. For example, "we all allow bilateral consideration to third country consideration to come in the way of cooperation promises." "We are going a lot of the research and technology exchange" and "It is definitely a very new innovative approach".
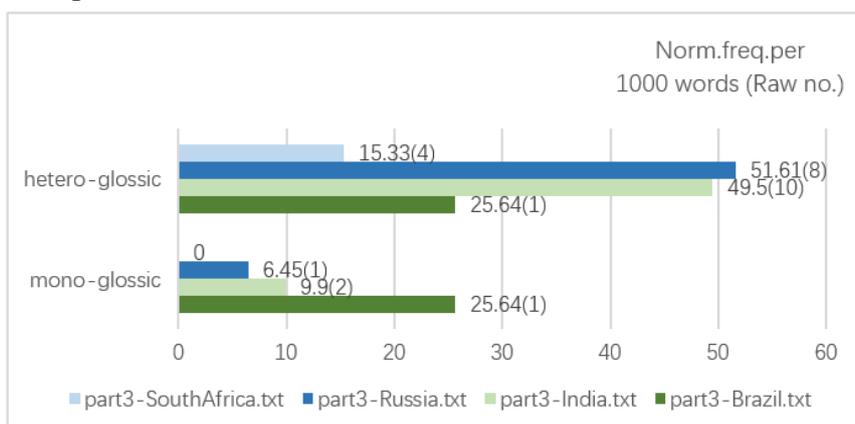

Figure11. *Hetero-glossic and mono-glossic resources in answers towards BRICS short-term future*

Figure 12 and 13 show distribution of hetero-glossic resources in their opinions about BRICS bloc short-term future. All countries employed more dialogic-expand resources than dialogic-contract resources. Only Russia and South Africa employed dialogic-contract resources to put forward opinions different from others. For example, 1) of course, there are many potential success cases. But I am particular interested in the further exploration of the concept (Russia). 2) But what I had a little bit from the past talk, just a little bit, is sound respect (South Africa).

Although four countries employed dialogic-expand resources to express their opinions about the forthcoming summit, purposes of these resources were different. South Africa used more dialogic-expand resources to discuss BRICS and African cooperation. Kortunov from Russia employed many modal verbs and phrases such as 'I think' to discuss the concept of BRICS plus while Rangchari from India used modal verbs to discuss what BRICS can do and benefit in future cooperation. Ma from Brazil put forward his opinions toward BRICS cooperation by phrases 'I think' to convey his willingness to cooperate with other countries.

Examples in uses of dialogic-expand resources: 1)The African outreach dialogue should be

enhanced more. (South Africa: Tembe). 2) We should might generally present an alternative to much more rigid and much more exclusive integration models that we see in the west like the European Union (Kortunov, Russia).3) I would hope that we could do two things (Rangachari, India). 4) I think that there is a further development and further having more cooperation between the countries (Brazil: Ma).
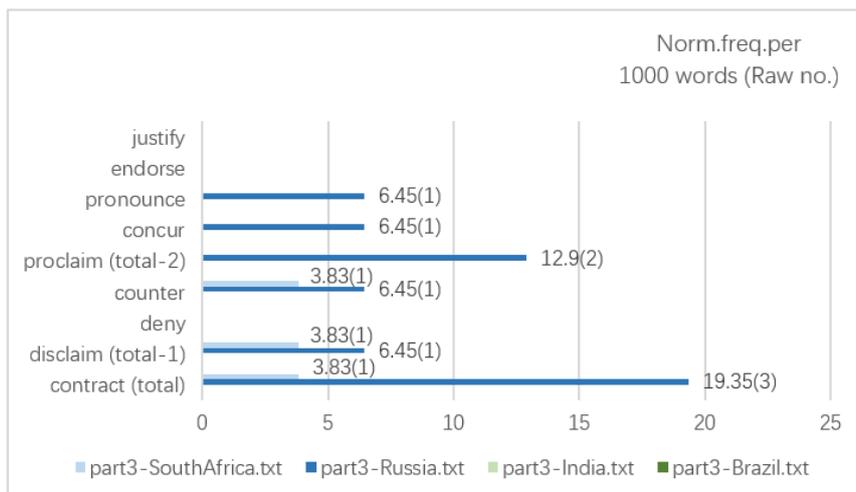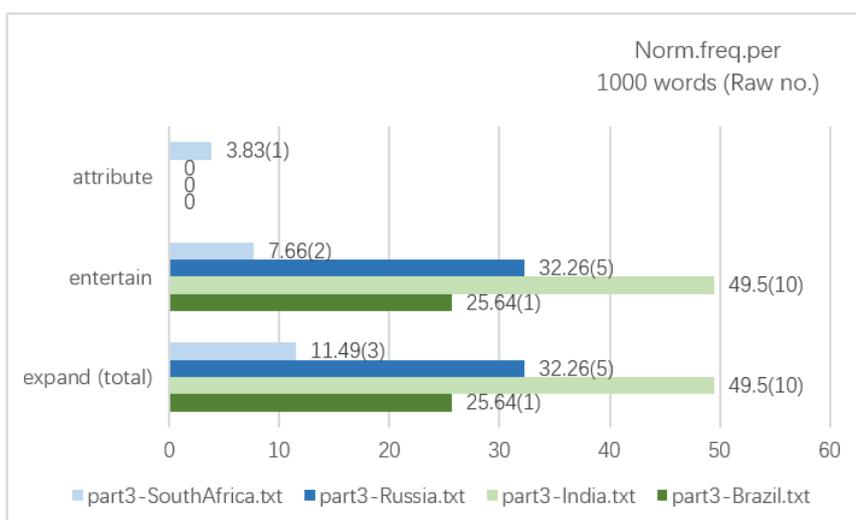

Figure12. *Distribution of dialogic-contract resources in opinions toward short-term BRICS bloc*

Figure13. *Distribution of dialogic-expand resources in opinions toward short-term BRICS bloc*

From the above analysis, we can find that all countries were willing to dialogue with others when expressing their expectation about BRICS bloc forthcoming summit, although their expectations were different.

Graduation

Figure 14, 15 and 16 respectively describe the employment of Graduation resources, Force and Focus, among responses towards BRICS future. The use of Graduation resources within the three parts is also indicative of variance between these countries. In all responses, only India speaker employed focus resources to soften his attitude that BRICS cooperates with other bloc or bodies. For instance, he said "the way in which BRICS would develop the kind of alternatives that the BRICS would place forward to the world at large, the kind of relationships that the BRICS would develop with other bodies" to call on other countries in BRICS to establish cooperated relationship with other communities.

As for force resources, almost all countries speakers employed these resources to raise or lower their attitude except India speaker who adopted much less graduation resources in answers toward expectations on forthcoming summit. According to Martin and White, graduation system is highly corelate with attitude system so that specific analysis and examples of graduation features will be combined with attitude system in the following section.
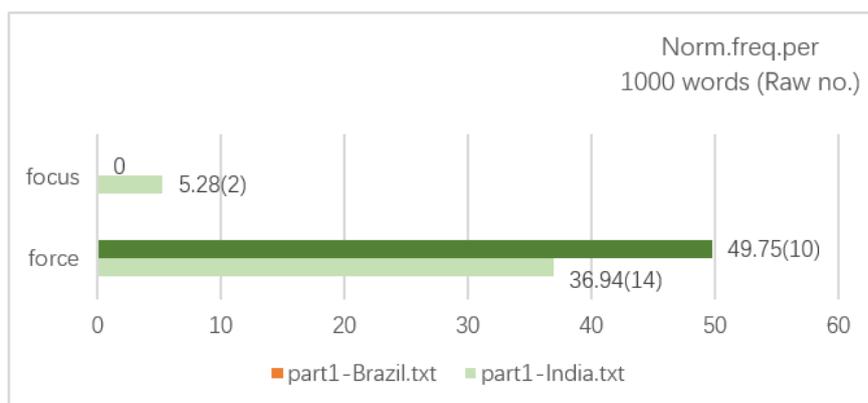
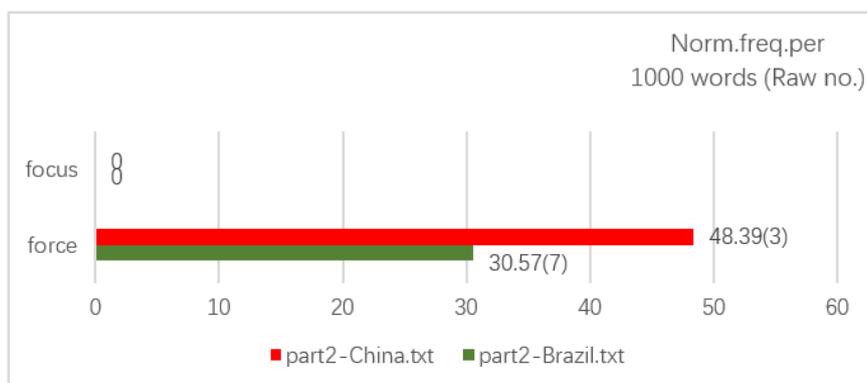**Figure14.** *Graduation resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*

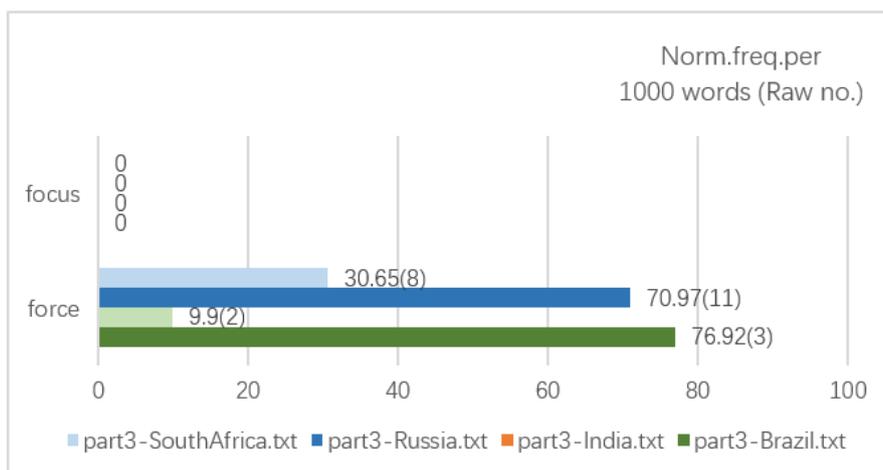**Figure15**. *Graduation resources in opinions toward mid-term BRICS bloc*

Figure16. *Graduation resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*

Attitude

Long-term (part 1 responses)

Figure 27describes the nature of the explicitness of Attitude resources deployed in the answers toward long-term BRICS bloc. It is apparent that the two speakers tried to explicitly express their positive evaluations in their expectation, in order to make their stances clear to the public. In general, explicit attitude can be recognized by graduation resources. Ma from Brazil explicitly appreciated BRICS bloc. For example, "I think the BRICS bloc is an extremely coherent bloc" and "the good opportunity for BRICS to show up its strength". All these directly showed the public the appreciation he wished to express about the BRICS bloc. Rangachari from India explicitly approved what BRICS bloc has done in past years. For instance, "we have come a long way in the course of the last ten years" and "that's one really positive sign that it's the most important course in the last ten years". Explicitness attitude acts as an appeal to connection and solidarity with other

interviewees and potential audience. In addition, both also used invoked explicitness when expressing benefits their own countries gained from BRICS bloc. For example, 1) Part of local institutions to give them local strength, to pursue and push to a lot of projects that Brazil have been needing so eagerly for several years (Brazil: Ma). 2) Equally, there's advantage for the other BRICS countries to take advantage of the Indian market (India: Rangachari).

Figure 18 describes the nature of the polarity of Attitude resources deployed in the answers toward long-term BRICS bloc.In terms of

polarity, two countries speaker tended to express positive attitude towards BRICS future but rather negative attitude towards current problems BRICS bloc met with.

For example, India speaker said "inter-BRICS investment is barely 5% of the individual BRICS countries trade investment with the rest of the world" to point out the problem BRICS bloc needs to deal with. Brazil speaker expressed his concerns about BRICS bloc future by negative attitude such as saying "Obviously, the process is not that easy, I think".
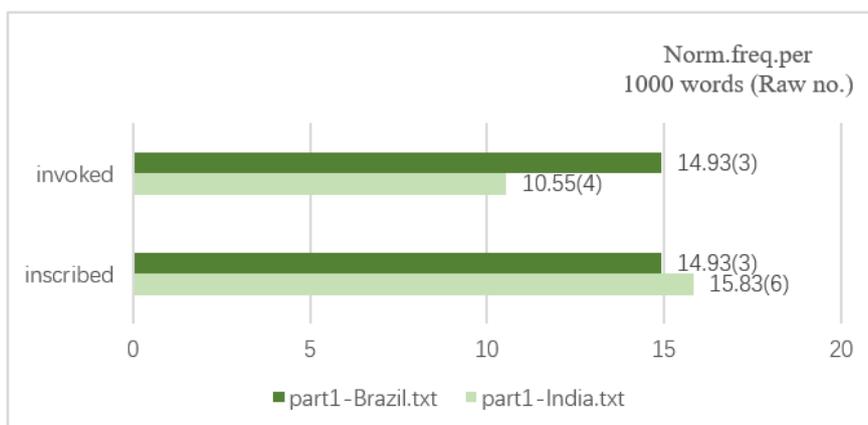

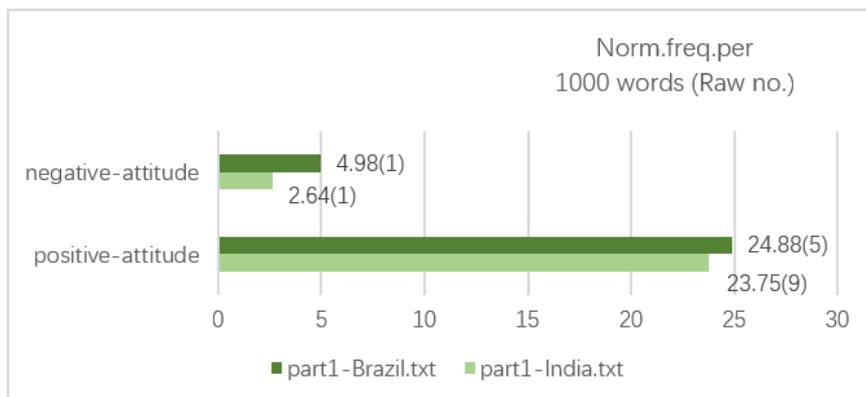**Figure17.** *Explicitness of attitude resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*

Figure18. *Polarity of attitude resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*

Mid-term (part 2 responses)

Figure 19 describes the nature of the explicitness of Attitude resources deployed in the answers toward mid-term BRICS bloc. It is apparent that the two speakers explicitly express their attitude when talking about BRICS bloc next decade. Both Ma from Brazil and Zhao from China used inscribed resource to discuss benefits and potentials of BRICS bloc. For example, "next will be another golden 10-year for the BRICS for development because all of those countries within BRICS are having great potentials for developments" and "I think with the technical cooperation I think all the

countries can benefit from that and we grow to... have a more harmonious growth to our communities and to our people". All these directly showed the public the positive attitudethey wished to express about the BRICS bloc.

Figure 20 describes the nature of the polarity of Attitude resources deployed in the answers toward mid-term BRICS bloc. In terms of polarity, two countries speakersall expressed positive attitude towards BRICS future, implying theirbeliefs towards BRICS bloc development of the next ten years.
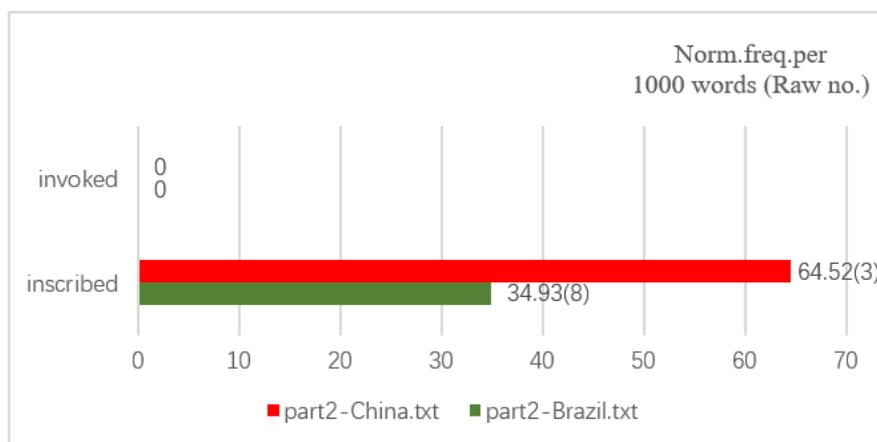
Figure19. *Explicitness of attitude resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*
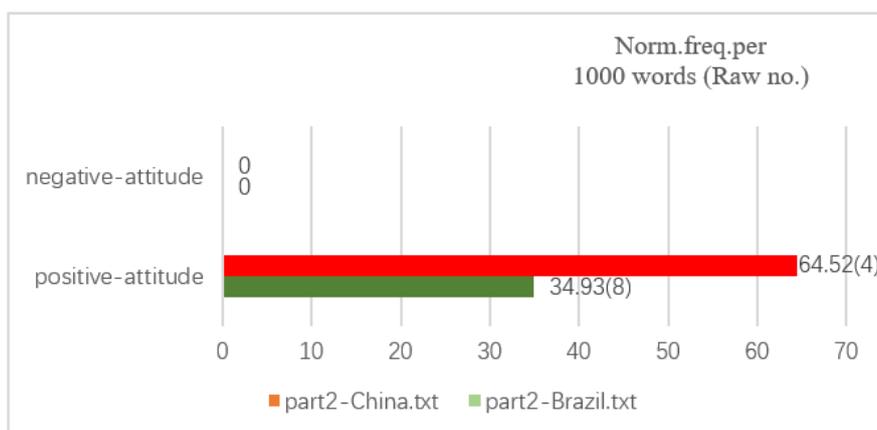

Figure20. *Polarity of attitude resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*

Short-term (part 3 responses)

Figure 21 describes the nature of the explicitness of Attitude resources deployed in the answers toward short-term BRICS bloc. Only Russia and South Africa speakers used invoked resources to express their attitudes. South Africa speakers indirectly expressed her attitude when discussing about benefits African as an entity can gain from BRICS forthcoming summit. For example, "That is to empower the region, and eventually the continent" and "Africa is ready to jump right straight into the 4th industrial revolution whereby you no longer have this centralized conveyor belt, cycle in-depth industrial revolution type of production". Speaker from Russia used a proverb to indirectly express his attitudes toward exclusive integration model like EU.

Figure 22 describes the polarity of Attitude resources deployed in the answers toward BRICS bloc forthcoming summit. Also, speaker from Russia and South Africa expressednegative attitude respectively towards other integration models and development of Africa. For example, Ruissa speaker said "We should might

generally present an alternative to much more rigid and much more exclusive integration models that we see in the west like the European Union. And if indeed, you know, this concept gets more beef from the bones" to point out BRICS bloc needs to find out another flexible integration model. South Africa speaker judgeddevelopment of Africa in negative way, saying that "Because Africa is at the lower way it is in terms of development". In addition, speakers from four countries expressed their positive attitudes toward the forthcoming summit, benefits their countries can gain from BRICS cooperation and BRICS bloc future. For example, 1) That is to empower the region, and eventually the continent. And that will also help with the things, like the contingence reserve plan, to be able to be extended to other members of the African continent (South Africa: Temble). 2) I would hope that we could do two things (India: Rangachari). 3) I mean the concept of BRICS plus. I think this is an extremely interesting approach (Russia: Kortunov). 4) there is a further development and further having more cooperation between the countries (Brazil: Ma).
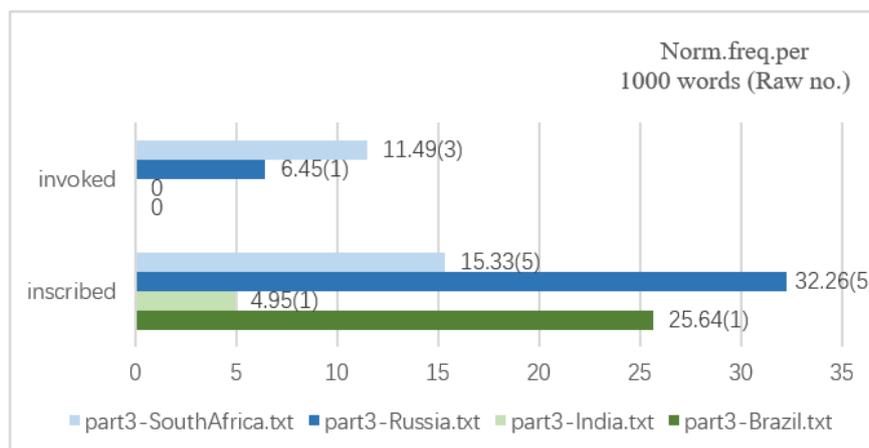
Figure21. *Explicitness of attitude resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*
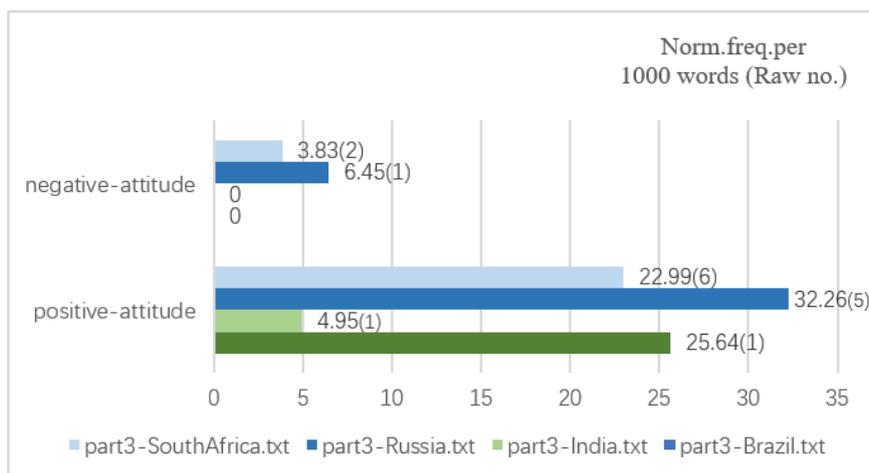

Figure22. *Polarity of attitude resources in opinions toward long-term BRICS bloc*

CONCLUSION

The study attempts to analyze stance of each country toward BRICS future from their responses to the host in *CROSS TALK* 2018. Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa are positive about the forthcoming summit while interviewees from India and Brazil showed their concerns about current problems BRICS blocs has faced with. Different from India and Brazil, speaker from Russia used negative attitude to express his disapproval of current integration model such as EU and expect BRICS to create an innovative integration model. In addition, all countries used dialogic-expand resources when discussing about BRICS bloc future but when referring to domestic issues, they preferred dialogic-contract resources or bare assertions.

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