Abstract

Critical discourse analysis emerges from in 1970s. It focuses on social problems in that year. Later then, the critical discourse analysis is mainly based on Halliday’s systemic functional linguistics that analyzes the possible ideological meaning of some form and structure of the literature discourse. In English language teaching, critical discourse analysis also has its important position. The application of authentic materials, such as newspaper articles and reports, as teaching and learning subjects makes the skill of critical discourse analysis more important to students and teachers. The critical discourse analysis may help the English language learners to create and improve language awareness. And the good language awareness will help learners to master critical discourse analysis better.

This paper will mainly focus on the critical discourse analysis of the news articles and reports about the Diaoyu/Senkaku issues. As the Sino-Japan issues of Diaoyu or Senkaku islands have been a hot topic since 2011. The political news reports and articles published all over the world with the different authors in different nationalities. People pay attention on these issues and look forward to know how the involved countries reflect. The discourse in the news articles and reports shows the particular importance to express and perform the stand of different
countries. Therefore, the news articles about Diaoyu or Senkaku issues would be the valuable material for critical discourse analysis of English news discourse.

This paper uses critical discourse analysis to analyze the news articles and reports about Diaoyu/Senkaku issues. It aims to help English language teachers using critical discourse analysis to create and improve the critical language awareness of students, and how discourse result from the social structure and power relations then serves the different power groups. Through this study, there are two question will be answered. The first one is how does China and Japan discuss the same issue in their news articles and reports in terms of lexis indicating positive and negative attitudes towards the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands dispute? The second one is how does the analysis help the English language teachers and students in teaching and learning when use this kind of text as authentic reading materials?

Through the analysis of articles of Diaoyu/ Senkaku issues from Chinese newspaper the People's Daily and Japanese newspaper the Japan Times, it is clear that these two newspapers, which are published in two different political backgrounds, share some obvious similarities. These similarities include news resources, layout of the printed page, and length of the article and so on. However, the differences are of much more
significance. These differences mainly lay in lexical choice, modality, process types, nominalization and passivization and so on.