
Evaluation is the broad cover term for the expression of the speaker or writer's attitude or stance towards, a viewpoint on, or feelings about the entities or propositions that he or she is talking about...

According to them, evaluation in discourse performs three functions: (1) it expresses the speaker's or writer's opinion, and in doing so it reflects the value system of that person and their community; (2) it constructs and maintains relations between the speaker or writer and hearer or reader; and (3) it organizes the discourse.

Explaining the "expressing opinion" function, the authors say that every act of evaluation expresses a communal value-system, and every act of evaluation continues to build that value system. In turn that value system is a component of the ideology that lies behind every text. One example given to illustrate "expressing an opinion" within a communal value-system is an excerpt from a text in which a wife describes her husband as a "workaholic," and then attaches negative events in their lives to that evaluation.