

**AN APPRAISAL ANALYSIS ON EXPRESSIONS OF ATTITUDE IN  
STUDENTS' ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS**

**THESIS**

Presented to

State Islamic University of Syekh Wasil Kediri

In Partial Fulfilment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Sarjana in English Department



**By:**

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STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SYEKH WASIL KEDIRI**

**2026**

**TITLE PAGE**

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I hereby declare that the thesis and the work presented in it are my own and it has been generated by me as the result of my own original research. It does not incorporate any materials previously written or published by another person except those indicated in quotations and references. No portion of this work has been submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university or institution of higher education. Due to this fact, I am the only person responsible for the thesis if there is any objection or claim from others.

This thesis is to fulfill the requirement for the degree of Sarjana (S1) in English Study Program, State Islamic University of Syekh Wasil Kediri.

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*Assamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

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Setelah diperbaiki materi dan penyusunannya, sesuai dengan beberapa petunjuk dan tuntunan yang telah diberikan dalam sidang munaqosah yang dilaksanakan pada tanggal 18 Mei 2026, kami dapat menerima dan menyetujui hasil perbaikannya.

Demikian mohon maklum atas kesediaan Ibu kami ucapkan banyak terimakasih.

*Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

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RATIFICATION SHEET

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STUDENTS' ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to the strong girl who has completed this research. Thank you for your perseverance, patience and lifelong commitment of learning.

Furthermore, it is dedicated to both of my loved parents and my annoying sister.

Thanks a lot for your support, time, and patience.

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This thesis, entitled *An Appraisal Analysis on Expressions of Attitude in Students' Argumentative Essays*, is compiled to fulfil part of the requirements for the Degree of Sarjana in English Department. Therefore, the researcher would like to sincerely express the deepest gratitude to all those who have provided guidance, support, and encouragement throughout this academic process, especially to:

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2. Prof. Dr. Hj. Munifah, M.Pd., as the Dean of Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, UIN Syekh Wasil Kediri.
3. Burhanudin Syaifullah, M.Ed., Ph.D., as the Head of the English Department, UIN Syekh Wasil.
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6. All my friends at English Department who have struggled to pursue knowledge together.

The writer acknowledges the possibility of shortcomings in this study. Therefore, the writer welcomes feedback or suggestions for further improvement. It is hoped that this thesis will contribute meaningful insights and serve as a valuable resource. May Allah SWT, the Almighty, always bless all of us.

Kediri, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

The writer,

Tika Wulansari

## **MOTTO**

Simplicity is the ultimate of sophistication.

~ Leonardo da Vinci

## ABSTRACT

**Wulansari, Tika. (2026).** An Appraisal Analysis on Expressions of Attitude in Students' Argumentative Essays. Thesis. Department of English Language Education, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, State Islamic University of Syekh Wasil Kediri. Advisors: (I) Bahruddin, S.S., M.Pd., and (II) Eni Prasetiyowati, M.Pd.

**Keywords:** Appraisal, Expressions of Attitude, Argumentative Essay

Developing arguments requires the ability to present idea and engage the readers through coherent reasoning and persuasive language. This is particularly significant at a tertiary level, where students are expected to produce argumentative essay that reflect critical thinking. Many students struggle to construct well-developed arguments as they lack of practice strategically to construct strong arguments. Teacher can examine students' competence in developing arguments by understanding how the students used evaluative language. Therefore, this study investigates the expressions of attitude, one of appraisal subsystems, to facilitate a more nuanced analysis of how interpersonal meanings in EFL students' argumentative essays.

The researcher conducted a qualitative content analysis to focus on how the students used evaluative language to convey arguments in the essays. Through purposive sampling, ten argumentative essays were selected from undergraduate students of the English Department at UIN Syekh Wasil Kediri. To analyse the data, this study employed Appraisal theory proposed by Martin and White (2005) which classifies appraisal into three types: attitude, judgement, and appreciation. However, this present study focuses on the attitude subsystem. This approach enables a systematic interpretation to examine the pattern of students' essays and allow more in-depth analysis.

The findings reveal a total of 293 expressions of attitude, demonstrating that appreciation is the most dominant subsystem of attitude, with 165 occurrences (56.3%). In contrast, judgement and affect appeared less frequently, with 91 (31.1%) and 37 occurrences (12.6%), indicating that students prioritized to evaluate value of phenomena rather than to express emotional feelings. The prominent finding of this study implies that the students primarily employed evaluative reasoning to construct their arguments which is in line with the core of argumentative essay. However, the high frequency of word repetition suggests that students need to incorporate a wider variety of evaluative language. Therefore, this research suggests the educators to demonstrate teaching attitudinal words usage in writing an essay to strengthen their skill in developing arguments.

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