Critical Discourse Analysis of the Constructions of China Daily in Terms of Sino-Japanese Communication Issues
ABSTRACT

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The Sino-Japanese relationship occupies the top diplomatic priority in modern history for the Chinese government. The bilateral communication, including the communication of political issues between China and Japan has always been the focus of the Chinese media. China Daily, the largest English language publication plays a particularly important role in establishing national identity as one of the most important websites which clearly expresses and propagates the national agenda. Since media representations and discourse can shape ideology, on the basis of reviewing the previous researches and theories of media representations and critical discourse analysis, this research examines how China Daily constructs discourse regarding Sino-Japanese communication issues on its website. The research methods of this study are quantitative method and critical discourse analysis (CDA). The linguistic study in media discourse is generally concerned with the reproduction of ideology in language use, which is also one of the goals of CDA. The starting point of this research is that the propaganda and dissemination for relevant Japanese news in China can be better understood in the context of Chinese foreign policy news. Studying propaganda as a narrative form and strategic research rather than prejudiced and distorted investigation allows us to delve further into the process of transforming incidents into politically powerful symbols.

Keywords: China Daily, Sino-Japanese Relationship, Critical Discourse Analysis, National Identity, Conflict Discourse, Normalizing Discourse
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Introduction

In the age of globalization, the national image exerts profound influence in many fields such as international politics, international economy and international relations. The news media as a communication platform is crucial to constructing and shaping the country’s image (Wei, 2012).

The key is whether the media will be easily manipulated by the political authority to try to create or directly incite nationalist enthusiasm in order to further its own agenda and interest. The systematic guidance of the Chinese media on public awareness is well established with ample evidence. A particular newsworthy event can be of perfect political significance, both positive and negative, when operating within the needs and boundaries of mainstream ideology. The overall impact of the media on the formation and integration of national identity is clear and inclusive. The relationship between media and nationalism in China’s public cognition is intricate.

This study is a discourse analysis of media representation regarding the communication issues of Chinese and Japanese relationship on the China Daily website in the Chinese media context. The daily communication and political conflicts between China and Japan have been the concerned topic of the Chinese media. With the continuous development and progress of social media, the very influential media agencies in China have also started to develop from traditional media to mass social media. For the purpose of this study, the media agency I chose is China Daily. This study analyzes media representation of media agency for Sino-Japanese communication issues on Chinese social media platform and focuses on China Daily’s discourse for Sino-Japanese communication issues.

Background and Status Quo of the Chinese Media Establishment

Mass media is not only an important channel for Chinese citizens’ political information, but also an important tool for government political control. The state’s control of television news is most obvious. Together with broadcasts and Chinese official newspapers, the widespread dissemination of these traditional media means that they are still an important channel for political information, especially on sensitive foreign policy issues (Denemark & Chubb, 2015). It is worth noting that with the continuous development of the Internet, certain news channels are theoretically less regulated by Party propaganda agencies, while official forms of news are less. However, it must admit that the Chinese government has become less direct in its control of media ideological and communicational processes since the 1990s, the Chinese
media still plays an important role in spreading political information (Denemark & Chubb, 2015).

The Chinese government has a long history of tight control of traditional media and new media in order to avoid possible subversion of its authority, which often includes rigorous media monitoring and survey, the use of firewalls, the shutting down of publications or websites, the imprisonment of dissident journalists, bloggers and editors who are deemed to be in violation of the law. Meanwhile, the growth of the Internet has greatly contributed to the development of the economy, leading to the growing demand for more freedom of the Internet. This push for more freedom is a good indication of measurement of the government's control of the media. China's constitution gives its citizens freedom of speech and press, but in reality, due to the opaque supervision of the media, the Chinese government can suppress news coverage on the ground of national security or state secrecy. Issued by the government in May 2010, the first white paper on the Internet emphasized on the concept of "Internet sovereignty", and demanded that all Internet users, including foreign organizations and individuals, abide by Chinese laws and regulations (Xu & Albert, 2017). In February 2016, Xi Jinping, the Chinese President, announced a new media policy for the party and the state news coverage: "All the work by the party's media must reflect the will of the party, the party's authority, and maintaining the party's solidarity" (Xu & Albert, 2017). An article in China Daily highlighted Mr. Xi's policies, noting that "the Chinese media are critical to political stability." The French-based watchdog group Reporters Without Borders ranked 180 countries in its 2016 world index of press freedom and ranked China 176 (Xu & Albert, 2017). Chinese media often use their own monitors to guarantee the political acceptability of their content. The communist party's propaganda department and the government's Bureau of Internet Affairs distribute censorship guidelines to well-known editors and media reporters weekly. The Chinese government has deployed numerous ways to examine the Internet. "Great Wall of Fire Prevention" is the center of government censorship and surveillance, which includes bandwidth throttling, keyword filtering, and blocking access to certain websites. According to Reporters Without Borders, firewalls use deep inspection techniques to prevent keyword-based access (Xu & Albert, 2017).

Background of China Daily

In the era of globalization, China endeavors to present a positive image of itself to the world (Liu, 2012, 195). China's national image needs to be shaped by itself instead of being built by overseas media, which requires a powerful media to take charge of external publicity for establishing China's international image. Therefore, as Chinese only national English-
language daily newspaper, "China Daily" came into being in the 1980s and played a vital role in shaping China's national image (van Dijk, 2008). It provides services to foreigners in China and to those who want to improve their English, and it is often used as a window to foreigners who wish to learn of Chinese government policies.

China Daily is run by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China and plays an important role in international communication. It is an important bridge for overseas people to understand China and China to understand the world. The electronic edition of China Daily was established in December 1995 as one of the earliest large-scale online newspapers in China (Liu, 2012). The “China Daily” website is the most popular medium with more audiences than the print edition of China Daily. The China Daily website is dedicated to building a bridge to the world understands China and promotes the integration of China and the international community. China Daily is considered to be one of the most authoritative English media in China and it serves as a channel for the import and export of Chinese and international political, economic, social, and cultural information under the context of globalization (Liu, 2012). *Editorials published in China Daily are therefore important discursive practice in China* (Liu, 2012, 196).

On the whole, the reason why "China Daily" was chosen as the target media platform is to value its position in external communications. The main content of this study is the news coverage of Sino-Japanese relations. As a report on international relations, the target media platform must be able to firmly reflect and represent the national interest. As a "state-run" newspaper, China Daily has targeted and publicized the principles and policies of the Chinese Communist Party and the government. In its coverage of international relations, China Daily maintains consistency with the standpoint of party and government and is typical and representative. By studying how “China Daily” conducts its overseas communications, this study intends to find out some of the common issues in China’s media and these experiences can provide a better reference for international communication of Chinese media and find solutions to the problem.

**Background of Sino-Japanese Relationship**

Japan is an important country in China’s foreign relations. As one of China’s neighboring countries, Japan and China have more than two thousand years of friendship (Richard McGregor 2017). However, from late nineteenth century to the first half of the twentieth century, Japan invaded China aggressively and destroyed its relations with China. The Japanese army has committed a series of heinous crimes such as the Nanjing Massacre in
China, which has caused great harm to the Chinese people. Finally, the normalization of Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations was achieved in 1972 (Richard McGregor 2017). The normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan not only ended the state of war between the two countries, but also had a significant impact on the two countries' political, economic and diplomatic relations as well as the peace and stability of Asia and the world. The relationship between China and Japan was very close in the 70s and 80s of last century. However, with the end of the cold war and major changes in the international situation, Japan's China policy has made new adjustments. Despite continuous progress in economic and trade relations, political relations have repeatedly encountered obstacles. China and Japan have suffered a lot of friction due to unresolved historical issues, the Taiwan problem, the Diaoyu Island problem and the East China Sea in 21st Century (Richard McGregor 2017). Nowadays, China is engaged in maritime territorial disputes with Southeast Asian countries and Japan on the delimitation of the South China Sea and the sovereignty of the islands (Yee, 2011). Namely, *the Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, and the Diaoyu/ Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea* (Yee, 2011,167). In order to ensure the right to exploitation of maritime resources and the safety of sea channels, it is very important to control these islands and oceans (Yee, 2011). The recent upgrade of tensions in the East China Sea and South China Sea has again raised the possibility of conflict in the region (Yee, 2011).

**Aim and research questions**

As we entered the modern era, individuals have been dazed by the exponential growth of information. The source of information is the mass media, such as newspapers, radio, television, network and so on. The "pseudo-environment" function of the media refers to the fact that Human beings who live on earth cannot personally feel things far away from them. They can only form their own views through the combination of other people’s reports and their own imagination (Ken’ichi, 2003). Mass media is the channel and main body of public opinion. It has the characteristics of shortcut, extensive and continuity, which has an obvious function of public opinion guidance, and even has a profound impact on the process of political decision making. The relationship between media and politics is inseparable and often affects each other. In the west, the media has been dubbed "the fourth power"(Ken’ichi, 2003). The media should ensure a fair and objective position, and have independence and autonomy. But this is not absolute. In terms of political issues, the government often exerts influence on the media. The media often play the role of the "spokesman" of the government in the face of major events (Ken’ichi, 2003). Especially when it comes to external communication, the media needs to be consistent with the government’s position on issues
concerning the interests of major countries. Diplomatic and international relations, as part of politics, are also interacting with the media. Media reports sometimes affect the process of foreign policy, and the changes in international relations often make the media follow up the latest changes and constantly adjust the way of report.

There is no doubt that bilateral relations between China and Japan occupy an important position in the reports of the mass media of the two countries. The imagined impressions of Chinese and Japanese to each other depend very much on the both countries' national images constructed by media. When reporting on events, news media tends to build the concept of “us” and “them” based on ideology, political and cultural backgrounds and plays an important role in constructing and shaping the national image (Xiang, 2013). Whether it is conflict discourse or normalizing discourse, all the news reports imply the deep problems of national image building and national interests’ maintenance. China and Japan’s mass media, according to the political reality and their foreign policy, influence the direction of public opinion, and finally have a significant impact on the trend and direction of bilateral relations. To summarize, this study is a discourse analysis of media representation about Sino-Japanese relationship issues on China Daily website under the Chinese media context.

The research examines the following questions:

1. How does China Daily represent “us” and “them” in the conflict discourse of China and Japanese relationship and construct national identity through texts on its website?

2. How does China Daily represent “us” and “them” in the normalizing discourse of China and Japanese relationship and construct national identity through texts on its website?

Previous research

Country image in different academic field

According to the focus of academic research, the definition of national image among different disciplines is different. The early definition of national image came from marketing because it involved the impact of the "origin country" on cross-border business and consumption and associated with emotional background and ideas (Nagashima, 1970). *Thus, the “made in” image is the picture, the reputation, the stereotype that businessmen and consumers attach to products of a specific country* (Nagashima, 1970, 68). This image was created by representative factors such as product, ethnic characteristics, economic and political relationship, cultural tradition and historical background (Nagashima, 1970). In subsequent
studies, researchers in the marketing field extended the definition of the country image to broader concepts, linking it to economic and political maturity, historical events and relationships, and to the extent of technical exquisiteness and industrialization (Zhou, Chen & Wu, 2102).

Scholars in the marketing field mainly focus on how the country’s image influences consumers’ perceptions of products and their attitude toward product brands. Before purchasing the product, the consumers may not be able to truly detect the quality of the product; they can only evaluate the product according to its visible attributes, and form a preference or make a choice (Huber & McCann, 1982), which may be that the consumers turn to use the national image to infer the unknown quality of products. Some scholars put forward the hypothesis that the image of the country producing products directly influences consumers’ attitude towards the country’s brand, rather than indirectly influencing consumers’ attitude through product attribute rating (Zhou et al., 2102).

In the field of public relations, some scholars defined the national image as a person’s cognitive representation of a particular country, and one person thinks that it is true to a country and people. This view holds that the image of a country is constructed and impacted by a complicated communication process involving various sources of information. Among these sources, mass media reports of diplomacy often manage which image of a country or culture dominates (Zhou et al., 2102).

The focus of communication scholars on the national image is mainly on how the national image influences people’s attitudes toward particular countries in terms of politics, culture, and history, and how this image influences the decision makers of foreign policy (Zhou et al., 2102). There are a large number of works in international publicity, but there are still few direct studies on image cultivation in the country. Most of the classical studies on international propaganda use different terms (Zhou et al., 2102).

From the perspective of marketing or communication, the concept of country or national image includes at least two common dimensions: cognition and emotion. The cognitive dimension refers to the understanding of a country, while the emotional dimension is the sentiment and feelings of a country. The national image needs to be shaped both internationally and within the country. A country’s international propaganda and public diplomacy target to convince and impact people’s attitude toward this country (Zhou et al., 2102). The national image of other countries are propagated through domestic channels such
as mass media is aimed to influence the domestic audience's attitude towards these countries, including positive and negative influences (Zhou et al., 2004).

**News and national images in communication perspective**

According to the focus of academic research, the definition of a national image varies from discipline to subject (Zhou et al., 2002). Communication scholars' interest in the national image often lies in exploring how this image influences people’s political, cultural, and historical attitude toward a particular country, and how it influences foreign policy makers and is affected by those decision makers (Zhou et al., 2002). National image is a complex product of the historical process, such as a particular country's political and social reality, diplomatic relations, non-governmental exchange, reforms in the field of international political and economic interaction, as well as symbolic representations in the mass media (Peng, 2004).

News media is the main source of the images in our mind about the wider world of public affairs. For the majority of citizens, this world is unreachable and unimaginable (Xiang, 2013). Therefore, our understanding of the world is mainly based on what the media has decided to tell us and how to tell us. In other words, the media’s priorities strongly influence the public’s priorities, and prominent elements of the media’s agenda have become prominent in the public mind (Kiousis & McCombs, 2004).

News construction and news framework theory are generally used to examine the impact of media on public attitudes. In addition to news social construction, news reporters often use news frameworks to simplify the narrative process and optimize structure of incidents. Therefore, it exemplifies that news is not a reflection of objective facts but a product created by society (Xiang, 2013).

The news framework is not reflected in public evaluation statements. Instead, it conveys series of images and symbols, events and rituals to the public through the keywords, metaphors, concepts and visual images in the news narrative, makes a nation real and corporeal (Xiang, 2013). The concept of a country is sometimes used only as a symbolic indicator of an "imagined community"(Xiang, 2013).

The researchers (Hyuna & Kimb) found that the more news we received from traditional news media and social media, the more nationalistic attitudes grew (2014). Considering the important role of mainstream Chinese news media in maintaining the status quo of the
communist party of China, nationalism and traditional news media have a positive connection with the support of the official nationalism of the communist party of China. The researchers Hyuna and Kimb (2014), believe that the rise of online nationalism is a unique response to the state-controlled Chinese media system (2014). As a by-product of the emerging web, it cannot fully cater to popular nationalism, and can only partly express and criticize the political field.

News reporting, writing and editing activities or decisions constitute the daily practice of journalism (Cotter, 2011). As part of that, journalists realize they need to provide news coverage in their communities. The result is that news discourse reflects professional and social values. The language of the news product incorporates values within and outside the community. Language is not a topic that is discussed in the dialogue of professional diversity. As an example of news discourse, the role of a summary language is often behind the news and the content of the story.

The researcher (Li) uses Norman Fairclough to analyze Interlanguage Analysis of news discourse in critical discourse analysis (CDA) paradigm, and examines the influence of intertextuality on the construction of national identity discourse in journalism (2009). This paper makes a multidimensional analysis of discourse, style and type in news discourse, providing some insights for the complex process of discourse construction in news media, especially when it comes to problems related to national identity and position (Li, 2009). However, further research in these areas will make CDA a more social and cultural critical language research paradigm (Li, 2009).

National image of China in Japanese media

Since China is a socialist country and it is unique communist models, China has always been the emphasis of international communication research. With the rapid development of Chinese economy and the improvement of its world status, China has become the most frequently studied country in Asian communication studies. In recent years, both Chinese and international communication scholars have conducted in-depth studies on China’s national image (Xiang, 2013).

Some Japanese scholars believe that if the Japanese regard themselves as representative Asians or view Asia as a whole, it is equivalent to accepting Western biased views. This is a very dangerous interpretation. The problems facing Japan are very different from those faced
by other Asian countries, as well as each Asian country has its own characteristics (Hoppens, 2015).

The Chinese media expressed their strong attention and concern about the "anti-Communist ideology" reported by the Japanese media in the 1990s. Japanese scholars portrayed China as a country with brutal dictatorship in coverages, and demonstrated the cruelty and merciless of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) (Hoppens, 2015). In the mid-1990s, as more and more Japanese books and newspapers described the Chinese government was cruel and brutal, as well as widely publicized in the mass media, the Chinese media’s nationalist sentiment increased. The Japanese media's portrayal of China has also received widespread public attention. The coverages of the Japanese media to China in the 1990s awakened China’s nationalism (Hoppens, 2015), which provided an important background for studying the nationalist ideology of the two countries.

The rapid growth of Chinese power has become one of the most important and noteworthy realities in international relations today (Xiang, 2013). With the improvement of China's international standing, research on Chinese national image has become a hot topic in the study of communication science. China is one of the most frequently researched countries in Asian mass communication studies (Xiang, 2013). Research on Chinese images is mainly concentrated in international mainstream newspapers which have extensive and powerful influence.

The media’s description of a foreign country may ultimately lead to people’s prejudice against the country. It has been confirmed that the image of China is often come up with together with despotism, human rights, ethnic and religious minorities through analyzing the social media (Xu, 2018).

The Internet and Chinese Nationalism

The uniqueness of the nationalism of contemporary Chinese consumers is that the Internet enables consumers to express nationalism perspectives and construct the nationalistic discourse (Li, 2009). The Internet is still highly controlled and supervised by Chinese government at this stage, but, Chinese authorities sometime enable tolerate some extreme statements on nationalist websites (Li, 2009). It is crucial for the Internet to spread information, construct national image, produce views and reproduce nationalism in China (Li, 2009). Sometimes Internet users deliberately use the expression of extremism to attract
other's attention. Under certain circumstances, the Internet has amplified Chinese nationalism (Li, 2009).

Taking China's anti-Japanese nationalism as an example, the Internet has promoted the establishment and spread of nationalism in the anti-Japanese activities and organized public for protesting through the Internet as a propaganda platform (Gries, 2004). Sometimes Chinese nationalists publish information through the Internet in the name of national interests and organize public movements (Li, 2009). For example, from 1998 to 2002, Chinese hackers claimed that they acted for China's national interests and launched large-scale attacks on the government websites of the United States, Japan, Taiwan, and NATO (Li, 2009). At that time, there was a conflict between China and these parties. When Japan applied for a permanent UN Security Council seat in 2005, there were thousands of protestors gathered in 17 major Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen to protest against this behavior in Japan (Gries, 2004). The protests were organized mainly through communications equipment such as the Internet and mobile phones (Gries, 2004). In such protests, consumer nationalism has become the core theme of the demonstration. The protesters broke Japanese products, destroyed stores selling Japanese products, and even smashed Japanese-owned vehicles parked on the roadside (Shirk, 2007).

As a collective identification of country and nation, Chinese nationalism often manifests itself as a revolutionary reaction to the contemporary and historical issues between China and other countries (Li, 2009). It is formed by the interaction between China, the international and historical environment. It is worth noting that Japan has always been one of the focuses of Chinese consumer nationalism, which is tendentiously constructed on historical incidents, collective memory and common experience (Li, 2009). For the public, the shared history memory of Chinese being invaded by foreign powers in the past and the common experience of China's challenges in diplomatic affairs in recent years have constructed contemporary Chinese nationalism (Li, 2009). Since the 1990s, the public has linked Japanese products with the nationalist sentiments of Japanese aggression, which has been related with the nationalism manipulated by the Chinese government (Li, 2009).

Knowledge and Knowledge Gaps

There are multiple theoretical methods have been used to study how to construct the media and the ideology of the rights class through news discourse and analyze the discourse construction of national identity and ideology related to social structure and its ruling class.
power (Li, 2009). Other scholars used the agenda setting theory (Kiousis & McCombs, 2004) to explore whether more news the public gets from traditional news media and social media, the nationalist sentiment is higher (Hyuna & Kimb, 2014). The theoretical methods used in these literatures may be different, but they all believe that the country's implicit assumptions are relatively steady which are mutually exclusive along with the national geographical boundaries.

My study is about media representations, discourse study of international communication and state-to-state relations issue on public websites. Hence, it could be positioned in the fields of media representations or discourse, mass media and state-to-state relations issues. Through the literature reviews, I have gained a good understanding of the concepts of nationalism and national identity and became familiar with the theoretical analysis methods of CDA, which is very helpful for further study of my thesis. Through a lot of searching for information, I found that there are few in-depth discourse analyses on Sino-Japanese relations issue in Western literature. The Sino-Japanese issue is a topic of far-reaching implication. However, in my thesis, I will focus on the analysis of the Chinese media representation on the relations between China and Japan, instead of studying the historical issues.

**Theoretical frame and concepts**

**Media Representation Theory**

With the continuous change of language used by the media, it often constitutes different representations of the worlds, social identities and relationships. From this it can be seen that social and discourse practice is very important in the study of media texts, and media reorganization and transform of different discourses will construct different media ideologies.

“The more media representation find itself diffused and spread across different channels and/or media and across different contexts, the more the meaning and value of representation shifts and changes” (Siapera, 2010, P.112).

The aim of this thesis is to analyze and reflect upon different discourses for Sino-Japanese relationship on news coverage of China Daily through the different theories and the concept of representation (this thesis will use the concepts of discourse and “othering”). The analysis is conducted on the text in order to identify patterns and perhaps hidden discourse through the representation. Languages can use the signs to express and symbolize the people, substance and affairs in the “real world”. But they can also use fictional and fantasy things to
describe the events. Language and the real world are not simply completely corresponding to each other. Language, unlike the mirror, cannot directly and accurately reflect the real world. Meaning is produced in language and all kinds of representational systems (Hall, 1997). When people read something, people’s memory and imagination will automatically corresponding reading materials, produce some image to fill in the blank of the thinking. When people looking at the screen, text description, report, imagine of whole process has been completed (Siapera, 2010). The same as critical discourse analysis, semiology begins with language. The different is that discourse analysis focuses on linguistic structures, and semiology focuses on the interaction between words and meanings (Siapera, 2010).

“(…)discourse is the means by which ideologies and belief systems find their way in people’s consciousness” (Siapera, 2010,119). Siapera (2010) describes the concept of discourse as a language use, interactive communication or media communication, and it is important for individuals to create their views of the world we live in. The theory of “other” can be described as the process of creating the “other” out of a group an individual who does not count into themselves (Orgad, 2012). This symbolic process of “othering” transcends understanding of human being, and denies communication, mutual effect, or transformation (Orgad, 2012). Machin and Mayr suggested that “Pronouns like ‘us’, ‘we’ and ‘them’ are used to align us alongside or against particular ideas” (2012, 84). The text producers can lead us into their ideas and create a collective ‘other’ that is contrary to these common ideas (Machin and Mayr, 2012). As Machin and Mayr mentioned that “this fact can be used by text producers and politicians to make vague statements and conceal power relations”(2012, 84). “We” can mean the “political parties” and can also mean “the people”. But it cannot be denied, that the extensive use of personal pronouns “Your”, “You” and “I” are the type of equal dialogue (Machin and Mayr, 2012).

“The media engage continuously in the representational practice of othering: they hierarchize, exclude, criminalize, hegemonize and marginalize practices and populations that diverge from what, at a specific moment in time, is seen as central, safe, legitimate, normal and conventional” (Orgad, 2012, 112).

If the media representations follow and reproduce the social and cultural world around us, they need to be understandable and must be mobilized in a way that is familiar to us through our involvement in culture (Siapera, 2010). In this study, all the news of China Daily on the Sino-Japanese relations is inevitably certain constructions. This study focuses on analyzing China Daily’s discourse about Sino-Japanese relations because media representations can influence audiences through certain methods.
Nationalism, National Identity and Social Identity

Some scholars are somewhat misleading about the use of the term "nationalism." It seems to always place nationalism on the verge (Billig, 1995). However, there are no ready-made terms describing ideological habits, including habits of practices and beliefs, which reproduce the established state in the form of a nation (Billig, 1995). Nationalism, when it was described, mostly revolved around social movements. It tried to redraw the existing territorial borders, thereby threatening the status quo of existing nations (Billig, 1995). The countries that have been established are those that have confidence in their own continuity, which also provide a continuous background and context for their political discourse and cultural products (Billig, 1995).

An identity is found in the specific habits of social life, which include the habit of thinking and using language. Having a national identity means having a way to talk about the country as well as includes a physical, legal, social, and emotional state. Normally, this identity means being inside a country, which itself is located in the country’s world (Billig, 1995). Moreover, only when people believe that they have a national identity and the world of national homes will be copied (Billig, 1995). Social science has used habits of thinking to make "our" nationalism ignored. Therefore, the secular way of thinking usually leads us to think of “other people” instead of “ourselves” as nationalists and parallel with thinking habits (Billig, 1995). Just as thinking habits go beyond national differences, nationalism as an ideology is also not limited to national boundaries, but its hypothesis has spread internationally (Billig, 1995). If nationalism is considered to construct and sustain the ideology of the nation state, then it has a particular social and historical position (Billig, 1995). Due to there is no nationalism without a nation state, it suggests that nationalism belongs to the era of nation-states. Therefore, nationalism as a way of describing society is a historically particular ideology (Billig, 1995). Nationalism encompasses the mode of thinking of commonsense discourse, which makes this kind of boundedness and monopoly over violence natural to "us" in the world of nation-states. This world, where we live in, is a country with its own official army and a demarcated place (Billig, 1995). "We" can easily accept the natural attributes of "boundary awareness," and believe that the national system has brought order and organization into a disorderly and inefficient chaotic world (Billig, 1995).

Nationalism is often described as a largely controversial concept that indicates the multiple meanings the term may undertake (Huysseune, 2006). Thus, as a political and public expression of national identity, nationalism embodies a theory, cultural conventions and a series of symbols, myths and rituals that can express multiple expectations and knowledge,
and cultural expressions (Huysseune, 2006). National nationalism can be explained by internal political dynamics and external background of economic and political competition. However, nationalism certainly cannot be understood as a concrete political doctrine. Nationalists tend to consider identity in a wider social field. Their national development and national construction programs also refer to the more global situation. Nationalism is often associated with the intention of national modernization, especially those of less-developed countries pursuing more advanced countries economically (Huysseune, 2006).

The nation is usually referred to as the "imagined community", that is, a group with a common sense of belonging and obligation (Ha & Jang, 2016). This understanding shows that we can experience the sense of belonging to a country by observing individual's criteria to distinguish "us" from "them". Nationalism exists in public cognition. However, individuals do not always pay attention to their daily affairs, but are aware of nationalist emotions or their physiological dependence on nationality. The existence of nationalism is invisible and requires little cognitive effort in the practice of daily life (Guo, Cheong & Chen, 2007). Embedding the national ideology, culture and social life in the educational system is a set of deep-rooted hegemonic principles, which make people less inquisitive and believe that things should be so.

The pioneering work on nationalism holds that the essence of national identity is how a nation is understood by the Individual (Guo et al., 2007). The studies reveal that the process of understanding is easily affected by the manipulation of the state, thus forcing the public to agree. Where public consistency occurs, it is likely to be a combination of state power to inspire awe and obedience, a pride derived from territorial sovereignty and national blood, lifelong political socialization and the punishment and induction of disgrace to those who are unpatriotic (Guo et al., 2007). These factors constitute the basis of a person’s mediocre sense of belonging, not just a geographical group. More importantly, it is a kind of self-evaluating the way to combat particular others. Any individual's judgment of national relations can produce emotional factors, especially when one personified the country. Therefore, all moral reasons for mother's love can be sublimated to devote for the motherland.

The manifest nationalism will be deeply rooted in the perception of the surface, usually in the form of drama. During the crisis of international conflict, national identity can "wake up" nationalism. To a large extent, the sudden outbreak of nationalism triggered by specific events is often changeable, volatile and transient, which is largely determined by their service value to ideological objectives (Guo et al., 2007). Ethnocentrism is of lasting news value. In any political systems, war or peace, the mass media, regarding it as their fixed mission, is
committed to constantly copying national identity, protecting national interests and encouraging ritual consumption. The significant examples of patriotic discourse are real and easily discoverable (Guo et al., 2007). If the state is virtual and imaginative, the vital role of mass media is to put a lot of energy into filling the imagination with specific materials.

Anderson linked the rise of a nation-state to the importance of printing (Billig, 1995) and he thought that not only language itself but written language created nationalism (Wodak, Wodak & Ruth, 2009). If a nation is an imaginary community and at the same time a psychological structure that contains collective unity and peace, and also contains an imaginary complex of boundary and autonomous elements, thus this image is real (Wodak et al., 2009). Then someone will believe this image and identify it emotionally (Wodak et al., 2009). Each object has its own image, including individuals, organizations, and even the countries have images. These images are crucial because they affect the process of communication with others. This imaginary community enables to connect with those who believe it through the construction and expression in discourse, especially through the narrative of national culture. This also proves that national identity is the product of discourse (Wodak et al., 2009, 22).

The process of national identity is facilitated by emphasizing the “national uniqueness”. By raising the personalization as a precious value in the modern society to the national level, the main representatives of the political system are mostly the coercive behaviors to cover up their homogeneity and eliminate differences which are showed in the word "national" (Wodak et al., 2009). In addition, the uniqueness of the country with its full positive attributes compensates for the unmet need for personal uniqueness (Wodak et al., 2009).

The political mood of identity narrative channels allows them to increase their efforts to modify the balance of power. National identity is a complex of common or similar beliefs or opinions internalised in the course of socialization (Wodak et al., 2009, 28). In summary, the national identity of individuals who belong to a group of nations is particularly reflected in their social practice, especially is discourse practice. The respective national identities are constructed by national, political, institutional and social practice as well as the material and social conditions that individuals receive (Wodak et al., 2009). As a special form of practice in social practice, discourse practice plays a central and crucial role in the construction and expression of national identity (Wodak et al., 2009).
Method (and material)

Since the 1970s, the study of the term "discourse" has been added to various humanities and social science disciplines, including the branch of linguistics applications (Wodak et al., 2009). Due to the wide use of this term, it has been given a variety of meanings, which has also led to a certain degree of semantic ambiguity and vagueness (Wodak et al., 2009). The discourse historical methods discussed always try to put much information as possible into the historical context to think about and embed “events” in the original historical sources. Some surveys showed that specific types of discourse only have been conducted within a certain period of time.

Social roles form the object of cognition, knowledge and social context through discourse. At the same time, social roles are also related with the identity and interactive relationships of different social organizations and people who interacting with them (Wodak et al., 2009). In addition, discourse behaviors are constructed by social in many ways. They are not only responsible for the production and construction of specific social conditions, but also contribute to the legalization of the social status quo. The use of discourse behaviors can maintain and reproduce the status quo, as well as they can also transform and even destroy the status quo (Wodak et al., 2009).

At the societal level, language can be expressed through the context of various dialogues. Discourse practice can influence the construction of groups and help to create or hide the interactions of power and domination between social groups and classes, ethnic and religious, political and cultural, majority and minority groups (Wodak et al., 2009).

Methodologies -- Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

This detailed analysis allows us to more accurately show how the speaker and the author use language to create meaning, to convince people to consider events in a particular way, and sometimes even seek their hidden intentions of communication (Machin & Mayr, 2012). CDA is often used to analyze news texts, political speeches, advertisements, school books, etc. and CDA method pays more attention to issues of power, hegemony and ideology. The CDA approach can make the multilevel analysis to text and link the text with wider social practices (Lawless & Chen, 2016). The CDA theory means I need contextualize and provide a discussion about factors that can influence the discourses, the “reality” that both audiences and journalism are embedded in that is the historical, economic, political and social context surrounding the conflict between China-Japan and also the context of Chinese journalism.
Two reasons motivate me to use the CDA method; one is that CDA focuses on power and ideology. My research focuses on media representation and media discourse in Chinese context, the power and ideology are related to my research, making CDA an appropriate methodology. The other reason is that being ‘critical’ is central to CDA, which means I can study the themes through critical thinking and perspective. CDA usually refers to few texts, and is based on the interest of the researchers; CDA can be selective and not objective completely. However, CDA is favorable for researchers, because it certainly increases the researcher’s ability to depict text and record how they communicate with society (Machin & Mayr, 2012). It encourages researchers to help understand problems or societies. In addition, this is vital for language research or social learning, because it is a key step to pursue a critical challenge to the unbalanced power relations in our society. In short, CDA is an important method for my study.

The core of Critical Discourse Analysis is true daily communication in institutions, media, politics, or other places, rather than example sentences or sample texts built in the minds of linguists (Wodak et al., 2009). Critical Discourse Analysis uses written and oral discourse as a form of social practice, assuming the interactional relationship between specific discourse behavior and its context, institutions, and social structure. The context, institutions, and the social environment construct and influence discourse, which in turn affects social and political realities. In other words, discourse constitutes social practice and is at the same time constituted by it (Wodak et al., 2009,8).

The purpose of Critical Discourse Analysis is to reveal the infiltration of ideology and the often ambiguous power structure (Wodak et al., 2009). Explain the discourse strategies used by the authorities for political control and domination. Compared with other types of discourse analysis, Critical Discourse Analysis does not assume that social positions can be analyzed objectively and neutrally. In fact, practitioners of Critical Discourse Analysis believe that this may eventually lead to the maintenance of social injustice (Wodak et al., 2009). The purpose of Critical Discourse Analysis is to conduct discourse intervention in specific social and political practice.

The dual task of Critical Discourse Analysis is to reveal the interrelation between linguistic approaches, forms and structures, and specific discourse practices, as well as the mutual relationship between transparent discourse behavior and political structures (Wodak et al., 2009). Critical Discourse Analysis can also include parsing linguistic relationships between specific language subsystems and social structures, and exploring specific social meanings and functions transmitted by specific language expressions (Wodak et al., 2009).
Material

My thesis will focus on critical discourse analysis of China Daily’s discourse on Sino-Japanese relations. In my study, the "How to Do Critical Discourse Analysis" of David Machin and Andrea Mayr will be the methodological guidance of my thesis. I will use CDA tools such as lexical choice, presupposition and metaphor etc. to analyze the empirical cases of China Daily’s discourse. One of the most basic language analysis in CDA is vocabulary analysis and Lexical choice is a basic vocabulary analysis method. The concept of lexical field can be used to express the undefined meanings in texts, and how these words can be applied to different utterances and associations between foreground and background (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Nominalization refers to the use of nouns to replace the structure of a verb to hide the act or agent of a text (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Nominalization and presupposition are two hidden language strategies that are used to convince the audience without mentioning something publicly (Machin & Mayr, 2012).

In order to accomplish the goal of the thesis and solve the research problem, in this study, all the news articles including editorials published in China Daily in 2018 are considered. There is a special column in China Daily that is devoted to Sino-Japanese relations (http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/China-Japan-Relations). Regarding material selection, I will search relevant articles on China-Japan page. Since the research question is how does China Daily represent “us” and “them” in the conflict and normalizing discourse of China and Japanese relationship and construct national identity through text on its website, I will choose a total of four representative articles (two articles on the Sino-Japanese conflict relationship, two articles on Sino-Japanese friendly relationship) for detailed analysis.

(The Homepage of China Daily about China-Japan Relations)
1. The first article is about “the Diaoyu Islands issue”.

In recent years, China’s booming economic and military forces have also caused many new problems in the world-wide. These problems have tested the ability of the Chinese government to support foreign policy through the mass media. The rich natural resources of the Diaoyu Islands and its surrounding waters are apparent, and as a result, other countries also want to occupy this Chinese land and resources. A preliminary survey conducted by the United Nations showed that there may be important hydrocarbon resources in the area (Denemark & Chubb, 2015). In the early 1970s, eight uninhabited islands were controlled by the Japanese government, which became a new issue in Sino-Japanese diplomacy (Denemark & Chubb, 2015). Since 2010, Sino-Japanese relations have been continuous deteriorating due to the Diaoyu Islands incident, which the most serious incident was the decision of Japan to nationalize five islands in 2012 (Denemark & Chubb, 2015). The Chinese government strongly condemns Japan’s illegal occupation of Chinese territory and firmly safeguards the integrity of China’s security interests and territorial sovereignty. Regarding the illegal acts of Japan, the Chinese government has propagated China’s official position on the issue of sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands through a large number of domestic and foreign press campaigns, and attributed the deterioration of Sino-Japanese relations to Japan. The Chinese government has used media news reports to guide people to raise their awareness of the Diaoyu Islands disputes and other issues of foreign affairs in order to increase the possibility of the legitimacy of China’s political status (Hyun & Kim, 2014).

Therefore, the Diaoyu Island issue is a good case study. It uses news discourse studies to examine the role and influence of the “state-run” media on Chinese nationalist and political views of Chinese audiences. The first article which was released on January 12, 2018 focused on the legitimacy of China’s mission to the Diaoyu Islands. The content is that China said a naval mission in its own territorial waters is beyond reproach and is justifiable after Japan lodged a protest about a Chinese frigate entering the waters surrounding the Diaoyu Islands.

2. The second article is about “the Taiwan issue”

History is one of the important factors in Sino-Japanese relations. Some Chinese scholars believe that the “Taiwan issue” is arguably to become an unavoidable stumbling block to the further development of bilateral relations when analyzing current and future Sino-Japanese relations. They noticed that Japanese officials have never directly admitted that Taiwan is part of China. How Japan treats the “Taiwan issue” presents the main obstacle in the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Japan defeated and invaded
China in 1895. Under duress, China ceded Taiwan to Japan as a colony until the defeat of the unconditional surrender of Japan at the end of World War II in 1945. With the representatives of Japanese government signing the document of surrender, after 50 years of Japanese colonial rule, Taiwan returned to China legally and de facto.

China is dissatisfied with Japan’s role on the “Taiwan issue”. Japan has a serious disagreement with China over Taiwan. Japan was responsible for separating Taiwan from China in the first place and has been fueling the drive for the Taiwanese independence by encouraging its independent identity. Nationalism has played a very important role in Sino-Japanese relation; it is also more susceptible to manipulation and guidance by the government and the media and easier to be affected by events to certain extent. Therefore, the “Taiwan issue” is an appropriate case to study. It can better understand how the China Daily, as a “state-run” media, influenced the nationalism through media discourse. In an article published on February 9, 2018, China protested to Japan on the Taiwan issue and accused Japan of using the disaster relief operation as a pretext to violate the one-China principle after a strong earthquake in Hualien County, Taiwan.

3, The third and fourth articles are about “China presents animals as gifts to Japan”.

The selection of the agenda of the China Daily on China-Japan relations will have an impact on the formation of the domestic public opinion and this will affect the public’s understanding and attitude toward Sino-Japanese relations. “China Daily” exerts its agenda setting function on the specific content configuration of each page in each day, which in turn exerts a subtle influence on the public’s choice of agenda in daily life. It must be affirmed that the Sino-Japanese bilateral relations are an important part of international relations. Therefore, in addition to reporting news such as the exchange between Chinese and Japanese governments and state visits by the leaders, the China Daily News also reports on the exchange of visits between leaders of the two countries, important sports events and major domestic political and economic changes in Japan because all these topics are very important information for the development of bilateral relations.

"China Daily" plays a vital role for the increase of mutual understanding between the two countries and the peoples from a comprehensive display of cultural exchanges. Compared with political and diplomatic news, the public is more interested in the information on social life, sports and entertainment. Reports on these topics can arouse the public's interest in reading, increase the public's understanding of the Japanese culture and the state of mind of the Japanese people, and contribute to the development of non-governmental friendly
exchanges between China and Japan. Therefore, I chose two reports on the diplomatic exchanges and friendly exchanges between China and Japan, as the key analysis.

One article is the news of May 11, 2018. It describes the 1980s when the “crested ibises” a rare bird species became endangered in Japan. China sent crested ibises as gift to Japan in 1999 and 2007 respectively. Today, there are 284 crested ibises living on Sado Island. The economy of Sado benefited greatly from the tourists who come to the island for bird watching.

Another article is about the Chinese panda "XiangXiang." Panda is special animal to China. There are only about 2,060 wild pandas in the world. Because of its low fertility rate, the World Wildlife Fund chose the panda as its symbol in 1961, the best known symbol for the protection of all endangered animals. At the same time, the black and white color and the cuddly appearance of the panda are deeply loved by the people, and there are a large number of fans around the world. The giant panda is also an important symbol of China's friendship in diplomatic activities, and the giant panda is seen as an important pillar of China's soft power.

Through the detailed analysis of the two news articles on Sino-Japanese friendly relations, I shall explain how China Daily expresses "us" and "them" in the normalization discourse of Sino-Japanese relations and builds a national identity.

Analytical toolbox

In the following analysis chapter, I will mainly refer to the work of Machin and Mayr (2012) and largely use the following three analysis tools:

- Presupposition

The author usually relies on the common assumptions of the reader. It is crucial to determine what type of meaning is assumed in the text. The author needs to determine what content is presupposed and which concepts are taken for granted. These presuppositions can be used to promote specific interests and ideologies (Machin & Mayr, 2012). This presupposition is a clever way in which the author can imply meaning without publicly stating or expressing their opinions (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Presupposition can be used to establish a foundation that sounds like a logical argument (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Presuppositions allow the speaker to strategically avoid clarifying what they mean, while allowing them to create the foundation on which they can continue to speak (Machin & Mayr, 2012).
- Lexical choices such as lexical absence, nominalization

One of the most basic language analysis in CDA is the vocabulary analysis (Machin & Mayr, 2012). This entails looking at what words are used in a text. CDA is formally described as the study of implicit or indirect meaning in text (Machin & Mayr, 2012). These are implied meanings that are not overtly expressed. First, we can analyze the basic choices of the vocabulary used by the text producers. We assume that because the language is a set of available options, the authors make certain choices for their own motivation (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Lexical absence means some elements or certain terms that readers might expect are absent (Machin & Mayr, 2012, 38). For the news on the website, for most people, it should be simple and direct. However, when the news involves some abstract terms, the presentation should be clearer and more detailed. Missing information about specific or abstract items can make it unclear and difficult to understand in some way. This can be interpreted as simple and easy to understand requirements, but it is important to ask what was omitted (Machin & Mayr, 2012). In the CDA, people think that linguistic activity and society are closely linked. Language is social practice and cannot be considered alone.

Nominalization usually uses a noun structure instead of a verb process, which may cover up institutions and behavior and responsibility for action (Machin & Mayr, 2012). If authors try to express processes and events through abstraction rather than through the microscopic details, then nominalization is particularly important (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Nominalization may narrow the audience’s thinking and vision, and to some extent, it is absence of vocabulary. Nominalization and presupposition are important tools where the authors wish to persuade without stating ideologies overtly (Machin & Mayr, 2012, 162).

- Metaphor and Metonymy

There is a widely shared assumption that metaphor is about magnificent language, which is related to poetry and creative writing. But linguists have shown that metaphor is the basis of human thought, and metaphorical thinking is the basis of all our statements about the world. The study of metaphor and other rhetorical studies are closely related to the study of political rhetoric (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Metaphor is not opposed to truth, but it is an essential part of human cognition. Metaphor is basically a means of understanding a concept in another way (Machin & Mayr, 2012). We keep thinking about them by referring to other things. But most of all, this process can influence the way we understand things or concepts. Metaphor can hide and shape the way it is understood because it can hide ideological loadings, although at the same time giving the impression that they reveal them (Machin & Mayr, 2012).
What is important here is that mastering metaphor is an everyday part of language and an important way to master reality (Machin & Mayr, 2012). But metaphor is of ideological significance. The acceptance of metaphor may not only affect how we think and understand the world, but also the way we behave, the institutions we build, and how we organize our society (Machin & Mayr, 2012). The process of metonymy means that one thing to replace another thing which is closely related to it. Metonymy can become another strategy for hiding the actual stuff of organization and their behavior (Machin & Mayr, 2012).

Metaphor and Metonymy are a linguistic way of hiding potential power relations. They provide excellent linguistic resources for those who want abstractions to replace actual concrete processes, identities, and settings. When metaphor and metonymy become the main way for thinking a phenomenon, challenging these rhetorical skills which are used to describe a phenomenon may become very difficult, because these rhetorical skills become common sense or naturalized ways of understanding the world (Machin & Mayr, 2012).

Analysis and Findings

1, “Beijing calls mission in Diaoyu Islands valid” posted on 12 January, 2018

Analysis

This news describes about after Japan lodged a protest about a Chinese frigate entering waters surrounding the Diaoyu Islands, China said a naval mission in its own territorial waters is beyond reproach and justifiable. The Chinese government issued a statement to express China’s determination to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and strongly opposes Japan’s distortion of the truth.

After Japan lodged a protest about a Chinese frigate entering waters surrounding the Diaoyu Islands, China Daily published a news article entitled "Beijing calls mission in Diaoyu Islands valid" the next day. It can be seen that as a typical official discourse class, the headline selection of the China Daily has directly reflected its specific tendency: The Chinese government insists that the naval mission is correct in the waters surrounding the Diaoyu Islands. The news headlines use the word "valid", indicating that the Chinese government does not want to deny the fact that they are conducting naval missions on the Diaoyu Island, and that the Chinese government considers the fact to be reasonable. Meanwhile, in the title, China Daily used the word "Beijing". In this case, China daily uses the rhetoric of metonymy. Metonymy is based on the adjacent relation between the original subject and the rhetorical subject, and is a "horizontal combination", which explores the "plane" relationship of
language. Beijing becomes the metonymy of the Chinese government because it is the capital of China and also the political center of China.

At the beginning of the article, China daily uses the word "beyond reproach and justifiable", which directly expresses the Chinese government’s clear attitude towards the event. The choice of the word "beyond reproach and justifiable" shows that the attitude of the Chinese government is very tough, and there is no doubt about it. In the choice of words, China Daily did not use the more objective and neutral words, such as "correct" and "no problem", but deliberately selected such a direct expression to express their views. To a certain extent, this reflects the attitude of the official discourse class to the "Diaoyu Islands" incident. Also in the following, China Daily quoted the speech of Chinese government officials to show the position of the Chinese government. For example, “Japan’s behavior will not change the fact that the Diaoyu Islands and affiliated islands belong to China”, and “it can hardly shake the firmness and determination of China in safeguarding its territorial sovereignty”. Although news reports emphasize "authenticity" and "objectivity", China Daily, the official media, uses ‘lexical selection’ strategies to construct the subjective claims behind objective reporting.

At the same time, the ‘nominalization’ is also used here. Nominalization presents a scene or viewpoint by converting a process into a noun form. For example, the terms "frigate", "territorial sea", "defending territorial sovereignty" and so on, these words may be abstract, awe - inspiring and mysterious to the ordinary public. Through some specialized ‘nominalization’, these news texts construct the power position of the Chinese government’s absolute superiority. If the author tries to represent the process and events through abstraction rather than through the microscopic details, then the nominalization is especially important (Machin & Mayr, 2012). Through nominalization, logical analysis strengthens the status of certain words as established information, which is taken for granted. Therefore, by citing these sentences with professional nouns, the Chinese daily will easily bring the public into the context behind the discourse, and share the same context with it. This also ensures that the China Daily is used as a “government newspaper” and that the news reported is consistent with the views of the Chinese government, which enhances the credibility of the news.

In the next news article, the China Daily briefly introduced the reasons for the entry of the guided-missile frigate into the area by citing a statement issued by the Defense Ministry. According to a statement issued by the Defense Ministry, we summarized the process of the incident:
Because Japan Coast Guard vessels entered the northeastern region of the Diaoyu Islands at first, China's guided-missile frigate thus entered the area immediately to fully conduct tracking and monitoring the Japanese military's actions. Shortly thereafter, the Japanese ships left the area.

This statement uses the method of 'presupposition'. Presupposition is a clever way in which an author can imply meaning without publicly stating or presenting things that are both natural and stable (Machin & Mayr, 2012). The author will try to cover up their ideology, but express their ideas in an implicit way. Presuppositions allow the speaker to tactically avoid clarifying their meaning and allow them to build the basis for what they can continue to say (Machin & Mayr, 2012). The China Daily presupposes the concept of "the Diaoyu Islands northeast region is part of China's territorial waters". In this sentence, although the statement did not directly state that "Japan infringed upon China's sea areas", the public could learn that Japanese behavior is "a kind of provocative act which is a threat and violation of China's sovereignty" through a series of phrases including "immediately", "conduct thorough tracking and surveillance" and "the Japanese vessels have left the area" etc.. The action of the Chinese government is a "proper act of maritime defense", and in the end, due to the full and thorough tracking and surveillance of the Chinese army, the Japanese warships had no choice but to leave the sea. China Daily has implicitly expressed the Japanese government's action as an occupation and pillaging act threatening Chinese territory, thereby to constructs the tense atmosphere in which China's sovereign interests is being seriously infringed upon and the national security situation is critical.

As a result, the Chinese Defense Ministry's statement not only expressed the reasons for the incident to the public, but also expressed the strong dissatisfaction of the Chinese government. In the statement, the Chinese government said, "Japan is well aware of the situation but reversed the truth and hyped the Chinese military's legitimate rights." The words used in this statement are particularly noteworthy, such as "well aware of the situation", "reversed the truth", and "hyped legitimate rights". In this sentence, the meaning of "situation" and "truth" is that "Diaoyu Island is the territory of China", and this sentence in the interpretation of news discourse has become an objective reality. It also makes the public aware of "Diaoyu Island" as "the Diaoyu Islands is part of the territory of my own country." At the same time, by describing a series of verbs of the Japanese government, the Chinese government expressed negative emotions such as "well aware" and "reverse".

At the same time, this case is also a 'presupposition' case. Presupposition is an important tool that the author hopes to persuade public but does not publicly state ideology (Machin & Mayr,
2012). Although the author does not have direct statements, they assume that there is a consensus among the public that "Diaoyu Islands are China's territory." In addition, although in this part of the article, the author did not elaborate on what the Japanese government is clearly aware of, nor did it specify what kind of truth was reversed. This is to some extent 'lexical absences', but this is actually an objective affirmation of the concept of public cognition.

In this sentence, there is also a concept of the relationship between "us" and "them." There is an imagination about "the other" and the opposite relationship between "us" and "them" is hidden. "Us" have always occupied the dominant position of "centered" while "them" are in a de-centered inferior position. The construction of self-identity involves the construction of the identity of the “other” that is contrary to one’s own, and it always involves the constant interpretation and reinterpretation of the different qualities of “us”, in short, the construction of identity and the operation of power in a society is closely related (Wodak et al., 2009). This essentially emphasizes the important role of the operation of discourse power in identity building. More importantly, the confrontation between “us” and “them” will be stereotyped in the operation of the powerful party.

In this part of the article, China Daily has opposed the “Chinese government” (us) and the “Japanese government” (them) and expressed to the Chinese public that the Japanese army (them) first violated our national territory on the premise of a clear understanding of the facts. Our Chinese army was forced to enter the Diaoyu Islands to conduct defense of the territorial sea. This also implicitly expressed strong "nationalism" to the Chinese public.

We can clearly see that the concept of “nation” is not an intrinsic and natural entity, but a conception that is constructed through discourses and has different symbolic orientations. As a community, the nation no longer depends on the division of objective factors such as geography, ethnicity, religion, etc., and this community is not distinguished by truth and falsehood, but by its imaginative approach. Once the "community" is constructed on the basis of imagination, the core system of this nationalism concept is full of possibilities and uncertainties. The division system of the nation largely depends on the operation and practice at the discourse level.

In the news report of China Daily, it is precisely the Sino Japanese "Diaoyu Islands" dispute that constitutes the confrontation between "the Chinese nation" and "the Japanese nation". This imaginary “community” power permeates the public. The report of China Daily has inspired the public's sense of "community" by the mobilization of nationalism; on the other
hand, this kind of discourse itself is the reconstruction of the connotation of nationalism. Therefore, to some extent, due to "Diaoyu Islands" incident, the public regained the same identity recognition of the symbol of "Chinese nation". With this imaginative recognition, the public and the other members of the community (Chinese government) share some collective achievements.

Later on in the article, China Daily quoted the Agence France-Presse report. The report said that “Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister strongly requested China not to interfere with the flow of improving Japan-China relations”, which is also a presupposition method. This sentence implicitly expresses the Japanese government’s view that their Coast Guard vessels entered the northeast contiguous zone of Chiwei Islet is normal action, however, Chinese frigate entering waters surrounding the Diaoyu Islands is a way to destroy Sino-Japanese relations.

In general, the Chinese side is consistent and firm in expressing its stance on Sino-Japanese relations. First of all, China emphasizes the historical evidence, adheres to the "peaceful solution" problem and always adheres to China's active position on the conflict. Secondly, the Chinese media has a critical attitude towards some improper actions of Japanese government. It points out that Japan's desire and actions to improve relations between the two countries do not agree with each other. It also points out that Japan denies history and denies the concept of controversy. However, regarding the criticism of China, the attitude of the Japanese government is not firm enough and the tone is not strong enough. Japan has a weaker tone in the "China-Japan relations" discourse, using words such as "expression of concern" and "flow of relations between China and Japan."

Finding

Throughout the whole article, most of the reports in the China Daily use the text of a statement made by a Chinese government official, or directly quote the foreign media’s original report on the incident, in order to portray the China Daily as "objectivity" and "integrity" of the news media. Moreover, China's official media set up the agenda of the public through various rhetorical devices. China Daily selectively informs the public of what social issues are "the most important" and how the audience should pay attention to these issues in these current social realities. It can be said that the greatest power of the official media lies in the use of various symbols to "shape reality". Because the media production and fabrication of news is essentially the production of meaning, the meaning of various symbols also stems from the news media’s reassignment and reconstitution of the environment.
Therefore, the news media's production process of "meaning" is also the process of constructing social reality through discourse. It is precisely because of the existence of the "gatekeeper" role of the media that determines what the audience can hear, read and see. Perhaps the most important power of the news media is that it can dictate when and what issues are important, and to determine whose opinion should be heard on which question.

The establishment of objective news discourse system requires us to pay attention to the use of appropriate words, and also to break away from the dogmatic discourse. In the field of news communication and public opinion, there is actually a struggle for interests and ideology. The key lies in the contention of the right of discourse. The best way to fight for the right of discourse is to enhance the propaganda effect by boosting the public opinion, but there is a weakness in the Chinese media: Use political slogans and political terms in large quantities. Indeed, the text can use vocabularies to represent authority and cooperation with the audience (Machin & Mayr, 2012). The authors often try to influence them by gaining right of audience. This may be done by legal means or by claiming professional knowledge.

This point is reflected in the "China Daily" report on the Diaoyu Island incident. The news quoted a large number of government officials to make statements, and when reporting on the position of the Chinese government, it has always been the political slogan of "Japan's behavior will not change the fact that the Diaoyu Islands and affiliated islands belong to China, and it can hardly shake the firmness and determination of China in safeguarding its territorial sovereignty." In order to establish an objective right of news discourse, we should not only pay attention to the choice of vocabulary, but also pay attention to the way and content of the report, and avoid the diplomatic rhetoric of excessive political propaganda. Through the power of the facts and the purpose of propaganda, we must leave the facts in the news and squeeze out useless stereotypes.

Throughout the entire article, the most vocabularies we can see are official vocabularies such as "report," "statement", "strongly dissatisfied" and so on. It seems that China daily has indeed become the best platform for government propaganda. Through the media, the government conveyed to the public the strong determination and firm attitude of China to safeguard its territorial sovereignty. This shows the authoritative view of the Chinese government. But, such reports are just shouting slogans. In all the news about the Diaoyu islands incident in “China Daily”, there was little mention of what necessary measures taken by the Chinese government to stop Japan’s actions. It simply mentions that "China urges Japan to stop the act." "If Japan does not stop the act, the Chinese military will take all necessary measures." These languages are empty and powerless. If there are absences in
terms of activities, elements or participants, we can think about why the text producer did not want us to think of these (Machin & Mayr, 2012, 39). There were no anti-Japanese demonstrations by the Chinese people and without real picture and facts of the Chinese people's outrage against the anti-Japanese in the article. There were no vivid facts, only diplomatic terms. In fact, the media can only convey real and specific events to the public and gradually increase the objective reports, so as to further stimulate the public's nationalistic sentiments and make the public feel more deeply that national sovereignty is threatened.

Agenda setting is an important means for media to guide public opinion. In case of emergency, the media always pay attention to the dissemination of public opinion and formulate solutions based on the situation. Attracting the public's needs to the information that the press publisher wants to release, the media should also optimize the agenda setting from the perspective of national interests. The relationship between the media and public is mutual guiding and setting the agenda, which requires practitioners of news media to put forward more thinking and requirements. Guo Zhaojin, the former president of the China News Agency, said: "There is a big difference between Chinese and Western media in news reporting, which is mainly reflected in the agenda setting. The Western media's agenda setting is to draw up a topic, express the truth, and form the truth. In China, our agenda is set up around national leaders, irrelevant public." The agenda setting of the Diaoyu islands event reflects to a certain extent, the agenda set by the media considers too few of the factors of the public.

News text, as a special form of public discourse, has a specific connotation in its style and rhetoric. The main function of the news discourse is to spread the recent event information to the general public. The characteristics of news communication determine that the language style of news text is simple and concise, with fewer modifiers and mainly declarative statements. Some people also summarize the main features of news language are accuracy, clarity, conciseness, simplicity, and vividness. "Style is not a simple level but a perspective, which involves various levels. Style is the result of the speaker's choice in a variety of alternative forms of discourse." As Van Dick (2008) pointed out, style reflects some personal and social characteristics of news writers. Different authors, different news reporting agencies and different contextual features may exert subtle influence on the style of news discourse. "Style is the contextual feature of the text. This feature contains restrictions and constraints on the various possible variations of the expression program."

As a news article that represents the government's point of view, the news about Diaoyu Island is short and mainly in declarative sentences. As a “state-run” media, the China Daily's
style in news discourse is formal and official. In its coverage of Sino-Japanese relations, China Daily maintains consistency with the standpoint of party and government and is typical and representative. It can provide valuable insights into the ideologies of the party state.

2. “China lodges protest to Japan over Taiwan issue” posted on 9 February, 2018

Analysis

This news describes about that accused Japan of violating the one-China principle and attempting to create 'one China, one Taiwan' under the pretext of disaster relief efforts after a powerful earthquake struck Taiwan's Hualien county. China expressed its strong dissatisfaction and urged Japan to immediately correct the wrong practices.

Similar to other news on the "territorial dispute between China and Japan", the title of the article directly expresses the firm attitude of the Chinese government. While directly proclaiming the national position, it also declared the orientation of the media. The news reports on the China Daily are mostly presented in the form of special topics, taking the advantage of network in information collection to report Taiwan earthquake.

In the first half of the article, China Daily pointed out that "the Chinese government accused Japan of violating the one-China principle under the pretext of disaster relief after a powerful earthquake struck Taiwan's Hualien county". But there is a 'lexical absence' application. First, China daily uses "powerful" to describe the earthquake in Hualian County, Taiwan, but referencing no official seismic data as theoretical support, only describing with a simple adjective. It is a vague concept that makes the public unable to truly perceive the danger and destructiveness of earthquakes. At the same time, in the beginning of this part of the article, China Daily also did not introduce whether the earthquake caused serious casualties or damage to the building facilities. This makes it difficult for the Chinese public to have strong sympathy for the Taiwanese people by simply reading these few lines of text. In addition, China Daily merely stated that the Japanese government tried to create a situation of "one China, one Taiwan" in the name of mourning. But the public can't get a clear understanding of what concrete measures the Japanese government has, and how the Japanese government has violated the one - China principle through relief operations. This makes it hard for the Chinese public to have strong resonance in thought after reading the text.
In fact, in this part of the text, there is a profound meaning about "us" and "them". "Us" refers to the Chinese government, and "they" refers to the Japanese government, and the China Daily expects to convey a concept to the public that "Taiwan" is belonging to "us". The antagonistic relationship between "us" and "them" will be stereotyped in the operation of the powerful party. Therefore, for the public, "the Chinese government" in the "China Daily" expresses a strong discourse, thus the "Japanese government" as the "the other" image, is stereotyped. This kind of stereotype is based on symbolic power. It is precisely because the strong side has mastered the right of designation, classification and operation of the symbol that makes it possible to define the essence of “the other”. The appearance of the “other” is essential to constitute a "self-awareness” of the public.

The basic relationship between the “subject” and the “other” is conflict, which determines that the attitude towards others is conflict rather than dialogue or something else. The China Daily tried to stimulate the Chinese public's sense of identity of "the community" of "Taiwan is part of China's territory" by setting up the opposite relationship between "us" and "them". This is the mobilization of the "nationalism" ideology of the Chinese public and the reconstruction of the "nationalism" discourse.

However, according to the concept of “community”, it reveals that once the "community" is constructed based on the imaginative approach, the core system of the concept of nationalism has uncertainty. China Daily did not introduce detailed and specific events about Japan’s attempt to create "one China, one Taiwan" incident. Therefore, if China Daily wants to arouse the public’s “nationalist” sentiment, it needs to rely on the public’s “imagining”, which will engender the public to spontaneously complement the content based on the nationalist discourse of "Taiwan earthquake" incident. The public discourse on nationalism has also become an additional part of the discourse system of the Chinese nation. Then these discourses which are attached by the public have various possibilities.

Facing the Japanese government's actions, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said “China was strongly dissatisfied and had lodged representations to Japan”. This is a case of `nominalization`. In this sentence, the word "representations" is a noun construction rather than verb. Nominalization usually uses noun constructions instead of verb processes, which may conceal the responsibility for organization, behavior and actions (Machin & Mayr, 2012). This structure may make the text more obscure and ambiguous. In this case, the noun structure of the word "representations" means that it is an exact thing, not a process, which covers some important processes of institutions. If the author uses "representations" in the form of a verb, it means that this is a process, then it depends on
some participants to carry out a specific purpose at a specific time, the author should describe what the representations is, who will lodge representations, and what the result of the representations is. However, if the author uses the noun structure of this word, it means that "representations" is an actual entity, and the author only needs to point out “lodging the representations”, but does not need to specifically introduce and explain the contents of the "representations".

Nominalization is specifically important when authors seek to represent processes and events through abstractions instead of through the micro-details of who did what to whom (Machin & Mayr, 2012: 162). Nominalization often does not indicate the process itself, that is, tense and modality, but also obscures background material and participants. By using nominalization, such as what is the content of China’s representations to Japan, the outcome of the representations and the feedback of information in Japan is omitted and absent. This is critical to the consequence of events and to the audience's access to information.

Nominalization may narrow the audience’s thinking and vision. This is ‘lexical absence’ in some extent. Without referring to the process of representations, the result of this incident was directly communicated to the public. Through this professional vocabulary, “representations”, China Daily seems to have acquired an undisputed authority as news media, and the subject’s discourse has naturally acquired a certain degree of the guarantee of symbolic authority and also influences the public by having power over the public. With these professional and stylized terms, China Daily has established its dominant position in the right to speak. Therefore, China Daily’s judgment on the objective situation naturally becomes “reasonable” or even “undoubted” in the public mind.

Finding

“External communication is a kind of information exchange that allows information input countries to better understand the country of information export and establish a good public opinion environment and cooperation”(Wei, 2012). The correct concept of external communication can help us shape a good country. The image is conducive to China’s participation in international social affairs and shaping the country’s soft power.

China Daily as an important medium for external communication of the Chinese government, their reporting focus is often placed on political issues. In the report on the Taiwan issue, most reports of the China Daily quoted the discourse of spokespersons and lacked a specific description of news events. This is not conducive to the public to better understand the truth
of the incident. It has misguided many foreign media to falsely report on news events in China, and this has also become an important reason for foreign media to misread the news in China.

In the news report on the “Taiwan issue”, most of the China Daily’s news reports were views and speeches of Chinese officials, lacking news facts and details, and did not achieve the purpose of “articulating the facts” through the clever construction of the subject structure and the expression of implicit semantics. The full text is only expressed at the beginning "China dominance Japan of violating the one-China principle under the pretext of disaster relief efforts after a powerful earthquake struck Taiwan’s Hualien county." However, the article did not elaborate how Japan had violated the one-china principle by disaster-relief operations. The content of the article does not have a brief summary of the actual facts, or detailed description of specific actions, so that the publics do not have a clear and profound understanding of the content and development process of the matter.

In its report on the Taiwan issue, the China Daily repeatedly quoted the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson as saying that “China was strongly dissatisfied and had lodged representations to Japan”. Such political slogans have frequently appeared in the news, but at this time, the focus of public concern is not here. They are even more concerned that after the occurrence of disasters, apart from showing concern for the affected areas, what specific rescue measures the Chinese government has adopted and how to minimize the damage. The lack of this kind of information in the news gives the government a bad reputation among the public's mind, and at the same time it has increased the possibility of foreign media’s inaccurate description of the incident. Therefore, in the dissemination of foreign news, we need to fully consider what kind of news reports our audience needs, in order to better shape our country’s national image.

The news discourse is not only on the micro level of a news text, but has a close relationship with the news issues. It also affects the overall cognitive framework of the audience in two dimensions, both horizontally and vertically. China Daily did not conduct a series of reports on the "Japan’s disaster relief efforts to Taiwan." There is no comprehensive coverage of the measures taken by the Chinese government and the response and status of the local people in Taiwan. It is only from the official point of view that the news source is too single. From this point of view, the discourse and subject of Chinese news media also show their own "official identity." And in this report, the meaning of the news text is relatively single, with less implied meaning.
3."Island takes flight after China bird gift" posted on 11 May, 2018

Analysis

This news describes about "Crested ibises" were on the verge of extinction in Japan in the 1980s. After benefiting from China's help, the number of "Crested ibises" is now growing rapidly. Sado is the sixth largest island in Japan and used to be the last habitat of crested ibises in Japan. Today's crested ibises on the Sado Island are all descendants of those from northwest China's Shaanxi province. China’s friendly action towards Japan has promoted the local economic development on the Sado Island.

In this case, the title of the article is "Island takes flight after China bird gift". The public may not understand the meaning of the sentence when they first start reading the title, but by reading the following article it shows that China Daily used the expression methods of "metaphor" "and 'lexical absence'. The development of the island’s economy has been mainly due to the prospering of the crested ibises. The China Daily metaphorized the island’s booming and economic growth as "take flight." The metaphor is "associative" and it discusses the "vertical" relationship between languages. “Crested ibises, who were on the verge of extinction in the 1980s, are now prospering and providing a boost to the local economy on the island of Sado". Therefore, it is reasonable to use "take flight" to express the rapid development of the Island’s economy. In addition, in the choice of words, the same word may be interpreted differently and the same meaning can be expressed through different words. The producers of the text always face a question of how to choose the meaning of the word, and the different choice of word not only reflects the situation of the objective world but also reflects the specific tendency of the text producers to the value judgment. Here, "take flight" is not the meaning we would usually associate with an island. The choice of words is crucial to the title, because a more interesting title can always attract more people to read the news.

In addition, China Daily's expression of "China bird gift" in the title is a case of using 'lexical absence'. China Daily did not specifically explain the meaning of "China bird gift" in the title, nor did it explain its relationship with "island takes flight". In this case however, the lack of words in the title can arouse public interest and invite the public to read the succeeding text carefully to be able to answer any initial doubts during the subsequent reading.

At the beginning of the article, the China Daily reported that "crested ibises" was the iconic bird that was on the verge of extinction in Japan in the 1980s. But they are booming now, and have also contributed to the rapid development of the local economy. Then, at the end of the sentence, it directly expresses thanks to China's help. In this sentence, it is an application of
‘lexical absence’. In this sentence, the China Daily did not clearly state who the subject of “thanks to China’s help” is. The initial subject of the sentence is “crested ibises”, but the public is very clear that "crested ibises" could not thank China for its help. Therefore, the public may naturally associate it with the possibility of the Japanese government, and it is more likely that the local government of Sado Island thanks China.

However, there are many blank contents in this sentence, which China Daily did not clearly express. For example, what is the direct relationship between the thriving of the birds and the development of the local economy? What is the direct relationship between the vigorous growth of birds that were once on the verge of extinction in the 1980s and the help of China? Or is there any direct relationship between the development of the Sado island’s local economy and China’s help? We know that the language system is composed of several subsystems, which are interrelated into an interwoven meaning network. The lack of these contents will have an impact on the public’s understanding of the meaning of the text (Billig, 1995).

However, in the process of social interaction, the choice of language is bound to be influenced by specific social and cultural contexts. It is more attractive to use the implicit and veiled style of writing in the Chinese language system, which is different from the western countries who like to go directly into the theme. Therefore, China Daily, as a "state-run" newspaper in China, still adopts the commonly used expression in China. Yet China Daily is the only national and official English daily in China and the target audience of the newspaper is English speaking foreigners in China and abroad. In order to reflect preferred styled of China Daily’s audience the newspaper should draw closer to the Western news media in the expression of language, format and content layout and be more integrated with western culture and language expression.

However, in many cases, the text content expressed by the China Daily, due to the ‘lexical absence’, makes it difficult for the public to understand the content of the article and the relationship between contexts. Take the following text for example:

“The so-called Agriculture in Harmony with Endangered Japanese Crested Ibis is seen as an advantageous resource on the island given its recognition by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage.”

In this part, China Daily explains the concept of "Agriculture in Harmony with Endangered Japanese Crested Ibis", but the content of interpretation merely is that this harmonious
agriculture is regarded as "an important advantage resource" as well as "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage" by "the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization".

But in fact, in this text, some important content is omitted. For example, what criteria does "the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization" use to measure "Agriculture in Harmony with Endangered Japanese Crested Ibis" as an advantageous resource? What advantage does it provide? And in what respect does it reflects the "harmony" between agriculture and birds, and so on. In addition, the "Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations" is a very professional institution for the public. China Daily mentions this organization institution to construct an absolute dominant power position for the text. In the following text, there is a 'presupposition' case in which the Chinese Daily describes "the last Japanese-born Crested Ibis died", and "Today's crested ibises on the island are all descendants of those from northwest China's Shaanxi province". In fact, the text implicitly expresses that "the last 5 wild crested ibises of capture in Japan 22 years ago had all died" and the crested ibises living on the island were all descendants of birds from China to Japan. The presupposition must be known or assumed by both speakers and listeners in order to be considered appropriate in context. It is usually a necessary assumption and can be associated with specific lexical items or grammatical features in discourse.

In the following articles, there are also examples of 'lexical absence'.

"The gloom in the conservation center (in Sado) was dispelled by the good news. ... These birds were to save the species from extinction," Hiroyuki Ishi, an environmental journalist and scientist, later wrote in an article.

This text is a direct quote from an environmental journalist and scientist. It is provided as evidence that the "seven wild crested ibises were discovered in the mountains of Shaanxi in China". In order to prove the authenticity and reliability of this sentence, China Daily quoted an environmental scientist. In fact, there is a lack of content in this part of the text. For example, the journalist's true identity remains to be verified. The public is not sure whether the journalist is a real professional worker. This sentence was mentioned by the journalist in another article, but China Daily did not specify where the article was from, what is the title of this article and the specific news content.

In fact, a single sentence extracted from an article may make the true meaning of the sentence inconsistent with the actual content of the article. And the meaning of a single sentence may be one-sided and untrue. Therefore, due to the lack of some important
information and content, there is an unreal possibility of this text. But it also shows that China Daily tried to use an "unclear" and "vague" way of expression to reduce and eliminate public doubts and suspicions about the source of this sentence. China Daily also tried to make a more professional description of the subject who expressed the sentence, making the public think that the sentence is from an expert and more reliable source.

In fact, "these birds were to save the species from extinction" only represents the journalist’s personal views. In this paragraph, it does not express whether the source of this sentence has reliable data as a reference, nor does it express which of the in-depth study and analysis have led to this conclusion. This discourse was quoted by the author of China Daily without the proof of research, which also reveals the views and opinions of China Daily to some extent. Although the domestic news reports always emphasize the "authenticity" and "objectivity", China Daily also constructs the subjective demands behind the objective reporting through the choice of vocabulary and language.

Finding

In fact, the purpose of this article is to construct and represent a normalizing discourse of the Chinese and Japanese relationship and communication through text. It aims to show China’s friendly assistance to Japan in natural ecology and to help Japan’s local economic development. Therefore, in this article, the China Daily shows the authenticity and reliability of the report by quoting the original words of a large number of local people on Sado Island and the words of Japanese environmental experts. And by quoting local farmers, it shows that China delivery of extremely precious birds to Japan has indeed greatly improved the local economy and the lives of local people. China Daily tries to express the author’s views by using the discourse tools, but sometimes it ignores subtle plots and the interpretations of some ideas to cover up the information that the public does not know.

News is a kind of public opinion tool. In writing news and reporting facts, journalists are invoking various "voices" to build up the discourse system and enhance the true stereoscopic sense of the report. However, it is in this process that journalists set up discourse in a hidden manner, purposefully screen for quotations, pay attention to phrasal expressions to manipulate public opinion, and served the position and attitude of media platform.

China Daily is the preferred Chinese English media for high-end people at home and abroad. It is the only Chinese newspaper that has effectively entered the mainstream international society and has the highest rate of foreign media reprint. The news content of China Daily is
aimed at billions of potential audiences. Therefore, the value orientation of news reports has a huge impact on public opinion, including the international community, which uses English as a common language. Regarding the incidents that will arouse widespread concern from the international and domestic communities, especially the friendly communication between the two countries, the governments of China and Japan will surely use their media power to manipulate public opinions to safeguard the image of their interest groups. Therefore, the views expressed by the China Daily in the news and the way they are expressed will also be manipulated by the Chinese government’s ideology, presented through news discourses, and further realize the manipulation of public opinion. In short, the establishment and shaping of such discourse is the manipulation of power inside and outside the news media, which determined how to highlight and highlight what kind of mainstream values. In addition, most of the texts in this news coverage have clear sources of voice. They use the discourse of the higher status person to set the contents.

In fact, the China Daily should pay special attention to grasping the reading habits of other countries’ audiences when engaging in international news reports, and make reasonable use of the other country's language styles and expressions. China Daily should pay attention to audience analysis, reporting strategies and techniques in its external reporting, and make the foreign audiences accept the spread of Chinese media, so as to achieve a good external communication effect and to be respected by the international community. On the one hand, the news media should report the news events objectively, impartially and truthfully, restore the truth, and strictly observe the news and professional journalistic ethics. On the other hand, because the media is influenced by political, economic and cultural factors, it is difficult to exist as an independent subject and inevitably become a representative of a certain class, political party, consortium and other interest groups.

By analyzing this news, it is suggested that the entire news is quoting the content of the original words of others. For example:
"We can see these birds foraging in the morning and evening all seasons now, as there are crested ibises’ nests near our rice fields," 54-year-old farmer Katsumi Oi;
"Sado used to be the last habitat of crested ibises in Japan. But with the development of modern agriculture and the abuse of pesticides, food consumed by crested ibises, such as frogs and small fish, disappeared from the paddies, and crested ibises also went to extinct," said Takayuki Nishimaki, an official from the agriculture department of the local government;
"The gloom in the conservation center (in Sado) was dispelled by the good news. ... These birds were to save the species from extinction," Hiroyuki Ishi, an environmental journalist and scientist, later wrote in an article. etc.

However, these examples use confusing and obscure sources, such as “a 54-year-old farmer”, “an official of an agricultural department” and “an environmental journalist and scientist.” Through the description, readers seem to know the origin of these words, but in fact, readers still do not have a clear understanding of who are the farmer, the official, and the scientist. Although China Daily uses these indirect quotations to ostensibly enhance the authenticity of news and reduce the public's doubts about news sources, these unclear expressions actually weaken the authoritative credibility of the linguistic expression.

In news reports, especially in international communication, the reporting framework of the news media is more affected by the interests of the state, foreign policy and ideology. In the Chineses mainstream media, the news analysis framework or interpretation paradigm, which is constructed by the national interests, foreign policy and ideology, has become a tool for news reports, and the framework or paradigm determines the standard of news value, the choice of facts and the order of reporting. Therefore, the mainstream media in China that pursues objectiveness and fairness also inevitably imply value prejudice in news reports.

Discourse analysis has always insisted that all texts are historical, and that social construction, are the process of the reproduction and allocation of various powers, and are the process of the recoding of various ideological resources. This kind of analysis refuses to provide any truth. On the contrary, it is the true effect which is obtained through hegemony. Therefore, the first task of discourse analysts is to deconstruct the existing texts and expose the hidden power relations in the texts. In short, the practice dimension of discourse analysis emphasizes the link between discourse production and social structure. The social structure affects and determines the production process of the discourse and the production of discourse can be counterproductive to the social structure, including the destruction and reproduction of the established social structure.

4. “Panda cub Xiang Xiang to 'work overtime' for Japanese fans” posted on 18 January, 2018

Analysis

This news is about the female giant panda, Xiang Xiang, born in Japan as a gift from China to Japan and Xiang Xiang is very popular in Japan. In order to meet the requirements of
fanatical Japanese fans, Ueno Zoo in Tokyo has extended the viewing time of Xiang Xiang. This time adjustment will attract large audiences.

The title of the article is "Panda cub Xiang Xiang to 'Work overtime' for Japanese fans”, uses a metaphor to create a picture in the readers’ mind and to make the title more interesting. Metaphors and other rhetorical guides provide excellent linguistic resources for those who want abstractions to replace actual concrete processes, identities, and settings (Machin & Mayr, 2012). China Daily makes the personifies the panda and uses “work overtime” to replace the actual process of explaining this matter. This sentence expresses that there are so many fans wishing to watch the panda, that in order to satisfy everyone's wishes, the zoo has to increase the panda's display time. This metaphorical approach makes the original lengthy headline easier to understand, more vivid and more attractive.

In the beginning of the article, China Daily described the event as Xiang Xiang to meet the needs of "fanatical" Japanese fans, and "had to" extend the time that was on display. The panda is a national treasure of China and a unique animal in China. The giant panda is also an important symbol of China’s friendship with other nations in diplomatic activities, and the giant panda is symbolic of China's soft power. Therefore, in order to show that the pandas are very popular among the Japanese people, the discourse used in the word expression of China Daily is also very characteristic.

In a subsequent text, China Daily states that the Japanese zoo will receive close to 10,000 panda viewers each day after the time adjustment, fivefold that of the current daily figure. But in fact, this is a case of ‘lexical absence’. The China Daily expresses that "the zoo is expected to receive close to 10,000 panda viewers each day,". In fact, the use of “expected” in this case, expresses a good wish, a plan, and a prediction. That is to say, the number of 10,000 panda spectators is not accurate. In reviewing the contents of the article, China Daily does not show a reliable data reference source, and does demonstrate that this data was obtained through a professional survey. Therefore, due to the lack or omission of the main data sources, the audience cannot get clear and reliable information.

In the following content, China Daily also has a ‘presupposition’ case. Take the following sentence as an example:

“Xiang Xiang made her first public appearance on Dec 19, becoming the zoo’s first cub to debut in 29 years”.

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In the article, China Daily said that Xiang Xiang became the first cub of public appearance in the zoo in 29 years. In this sentence, China Daily presupposes a situation in which adult pandas have appeared in public during the last 29 years. We can consider presupposition as the predefined prophet information of the two parties, and can also be regarded as derived from the context based on the meaning and structure of the sentence. The implied meaning of this sentence should be derived from the context of the article. Presupposition can be used to build a foundation that sounds like a logical argument (Machin & Mayr, 2012). To commemorate the normalization of Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations in October 1972, a pair of pandas from the Beijing zoo, “Kang Kang” and “Lan Lan”, arrived at Tokyo’s Ueno zoo with the goodwill of the Chinese people. Their arrival immediately caused a sensation in Japan and formed an enduring "panda fever". 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty. As the ambassador for peace friendship and the liaison between China and Japan, "Xiang Xiang" will continue to enhance the friendly sentiments of the two peoples. The Chinese Daily newspaper specifically pointed out that Xiang Xiang was the first panda cub to be viewed by visitors in Japan, which expressed the significance of the public appearance of Xiang Xiang. Presuppositions allow speakers to avoid making clear their meaning in strategy, while allowing them to create the foundation they can continue to say (Machin & Mayr, 2012). It is also a very important year for the establishment of friendly relations between China and Japan in 2018. China Daily has a tactful and implicit expression of China’s contribution to promoting the development of the friendly exchanges between China and Japan.

At the same time, there is ‘lexical absence’ in this sentence. The China Daily said it was the first public appearance of the panda cubs in 29 years, but the China Daily did not provide a specific year for the number of 29. Instead, it provides here only a vague expression and the public does not know exactly which year it begins. The content of the article should be rigorous and professional as the official news media.

Finding

The media can through reporting certain news events, as well as through the order and length of the news, which influences public’s views on news events. The media’s positions and opinions are reflected in the selective reporting of numerous news events and the selective invocation of existing information in the audience’s mind. The news media conducts selective reporting in many news events or background materials, which these choices are definitely not random. There are always some ideological factors behind the choices that are working.
The theory of hegemony holds that the news theme of propaganda composed of the ideas of the ruling class will directly benefit the owners and rulers of society.

Vocabulary is the main tool for critical discourse analysis and is the basic unit of discourse. The lexical choice can reflect the description of people and events in news discourse, and people's understanding of events is also affected. Through the analyzing lexical choice, it suggests that the deeper meaning that the reporter wants to express. The same event can be expressed in different meaning according to different values and ideologies in different cultural contexts.

According to the case of China presenting a panda as a gift to Japan, it exemplifies that the different narrative angles of the news media will also affect the public's understanding of the same event. From The perspective of China Daily, China gave the Chinese national treasures pandas to Japan, which has greatly increased the number of visitors to the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo and promoted the local economic development of Tokyo. China Daily used “fanatical” to describe Japanese fans when depicting the Japanese public's love for Chinese pandas. "Fanatical" is a very subjective adjective, which implicitly expresses that China Daily believes that pandas are China's national treasures and are also very popular in Japan. At the same time, the Chinese Daily's high appraisal of pandas also implicitly proves that the Chinese government considers this gift to Japan as very important and has made great contributions to the friendly exchanges between China and Japan.

In the latter part of the news, China Daily carried out a series of subjective descriptions of the incident. For example:
“After the time adjustment, the zoo is expected to receive close to 10,000 panda viewers each day, fivefold that of the current daily figure. Currently, it accepts 80 groups of up to five people per session, or up to 400 visitors in total.”

“Under the current system, panda lovers need to apply online or by telephone and depend on luck to catch a glimpse of the panda celebrity”.

“Under the current competitive lottery’s viewing policy, the public will be very worried that they do not have the opportunity to meet panda babies”. etc.

These subjective discourses all over-emphasize this incident that China presented a panda to Japan. It over-expressed that this action is very popular among the Japanese public and has a very positive effect on promoting the friendly development of China and Japan. In fact, the
deep meaning expressed by China Daily is that this action by the Chinese government has enabled the local economy to develop and improve in Japan. It can be seen that in the news representation of the China Daily, the panda is only a symbolic concept which is to highlight one of the ways that China contributing to Japan’s increased wealth.

Actually, news reports should not show that the subjective intention of the reporter is too obvious. Throughout the entire news, China Daily did not use direct or indirect quotation, but directly described the content of the news in a subjective manner. This obscure narrative approach, on the surface, gives the public a real and authentic feeling for first-hand information, but it is actually very one-sided and not persuasive.

In this article, most of sentences have “the Ueno Zoo” as the subject. For example:
“The zoo decided to extend the viewing hours to 16:45 pm from February, after judging that the animal was getting more accustomed to the crowd”;

“The zoo is expected to receive close to 10,000 panda viewers each day, fivefold that of the current daily figure”;

“The Ueno Zoo is also considering building a new house by 2020 for Xiang Xiang and her family in the wake of the panda mania”.

Although the China Daily has been ostensible expressing the views and opinions of the Ueno Zoo, it has not informed the public about the source of the information, which may cause confusion to the readers in understanding the information. This may make the public question, whether this article is written by the China Daily after interviewing the Ueno zoo, or whether this article is quoted from Japanese local newspaper, and so on. Such a news narrative method does not have any strong theoretical basis as a support, which greatly reduces the credibility of the entire news.

The public’s understanding of news discourse should not be merely an interpretation of the language level. In addition to the news language, the public should also understand the worldview and values behind the news propaganda. The ideology of official government has always influenced the construction of discourse. Ideology exists in all kinds of texts, which is hidden behind the linguistic structure of texts and plays a role in imperceptible ways. When exposed to news reports and research reports, critical discourse analysis can help the readers better understand certain constructive meaning of language processes and social processes.
Globalization is an extension of relations and activities throughout regions and borders in global scale. It shows that the scope, scale and strength of global flows is increasing and making countries and societies more and more generalized in systems and interactive networks around the world (Berglez, 2013). Through the analysis of the above article, it suggests that China and Japan are not merely political tensions. While China and Japan still have major traditional differences such as historical cognition and territorial disputes, a normalized Sino-Japanese relationship is one of the important guarantees for maintaining the prosperity and development of China and Japan. Through the analysis of the news articles, it argues that that the era of relying solely on politics to promote Sino-Japanese communication has gradually changed, and that nongovernmental communication is driving the era of government and nation. In today's society, globalization has become an inevitable process. Between China and Japan, tourism and cultural communication have gradually increased.

Globalization, as a critical precondition, should be extended to the field of global journalism (Berglez, 2013). Global journalism has made the process of globalization visible and concrete to audiences successfully (Berglez, 2013). According to the above analysis, China Daily has fully presented the development of conflict and normalizing between Sino-Japanese relations in its news reports. News is not a natural product, but a construction process of objective reality, which is a compromised product between media organization and social culture, and has the public function of transforming or transmitting social events. Therefore, news reporting is the process of "limiting" some facts, "choosing” some facts and subjectively "reorganizing" these social facts. In the process of constructing social events in the news media, news media use selection mechanisms to emphasize or omit certain parts of the event. This subjective strategy of constructing meaning or changing symbolic concepts is the main basis for the formation of a news framework.

In fact, although there are many contradictions and conflicts between China and Japan, the frequent personnel exchange and close economic communication have created many more common interests in the fields of security and economy. Today, in the age of globalization, the degree of mutual contact and interdependence among countries in the world continues to deepen, and human beings live in the same global village. In fact, if we proceed from the commonality of human interests and values, China and Japan are also a "community." In the face of the United States and other Western countries, China and Japan are also "us", while Western countries are "them".

**Conclusion**
This thesis mainly focuses on the critical discourse analysis of China Daily’s news discourse on Sino-Japanese relations. It explores how China Daily constructs Chinese national image in the conflict and normalizing discourse between Sino-Japanese relations, and how it shapes the national image of "us" and "them" between China and Japan. The thesis selects “Diaoyu Islands” and “Taiwan issues” to exemplify the conflict discourses of Sino-Japanese relations. The two cases exert profound influence on Sino-Japanese friendly development as it concerns critical issues in bilateral relations in history and politics. Through detailed analysis, it reveals that China’s reaction relates to intense propaganda in the domestic and international to promote government’s assertive stance on claiming the sovereignty of these islands and blaming Japan for territorial dispute. Chinese government takes the advantage of China Daily’s internal and external report to clarify understandings of domestic citizens and overseas readers on China’s foreign affairs, such as Diaoyu Island dispute and Taiwan territorial conflict. The strategy actually functions to intensively legitimize China’s policies.

The cases chosen for the normalizing discourse of Sino-Japanese relations in this thesis are that China gave the precious birds and giant pandas of the Chinese national treasure to Japan as gifts, which has promoted the rapid development of Japan’s local economy. These events describe China’s contribution to promoting friendly development of bilateral relations. In the long run, benign Sino-Japanese relations are one of the important safeguards for the prosperity and development of China and Japan. These two cases prove that China is proceeding from the long-term interests, pursues an active and friendly policy, strengthens its economic and cultural exchanges with Japan, and strives to return Sino-Japanese relations to the track of stable development. The Chinese government has used China Daily, a news media platform that has a high influence on both inside and outside, to express its desire for peaceful development and common development. In fact, these two classic cases are actually designed to show the correct diplomatic view that China has been insisting on the "global view" beyond the nation-state and ideology. It has created a good image of China’s positive efforts to promote the friendly development of Sino-Japanese relations.

In fact, when China Daily portrays the dichotomy of “us” and “other” between China and Japan, this antagonistic relationship is not an equal confrontation. The existence of “us” must be defined by the existence of "other". The operation of discourse power dominates in identity construction. The powerful “us” expresses each other in the name of “other”. This discourse is full of danger of hegemony and oppression. The confrontation between "us" and "other" will be stereotyped in the expression of the strong side’s discourse. At this point, China Daily, as the official newspaper of the Chinese government, is a strong side in constructing China's national image in Sino-Japanese relations. In describing the processes
of events, China Daily opposed "us" and “other”, and "us" spontaneously occupy the upper level. As the identity of "us", China has been portrayed as a good international image, such as "insisting on the historical basis of incident", "resolutely defending the territorial integrity", "resolutely fighting against provocative acts", "actively contributing to the peaceful development of the two countries", and "having the overall concept of common development” and so on. On the contrary, as the identity of “other”, Japan emerged as a relatively inferior international image, such as “not respecting history”, “infringing on China’s national territory”, “initiatively provoking China’s national sovereignty” and “obtaining economic assistance from China”.

The construction of identity is a two-way process. Under such a discrepancy of power relations, China can shape and reconstruct its own status. As a reference system, Japan has become a vassal of Chinese official discourse and even criticized by Chinese official discourse. In short, the official discourse of China daily expresses its interpretation of bilateral relations through the production of information, giving meaning to the conflict and normalizing relations between the two countries. Through the dissemination of information and the expression of discourse, the image of the two countries in the public mind is constructed, and the public also completes its own understanding of the construction of the event by the official media. In conclusion, critical analysis of official media discourse emphasizes the relationship between the production and interpretation of discourse and the construction of nationalism and national image. What national image is created and how to build it affects and determines the production process of discourse. On the contrary, the production of discourse can also produce a counteraction on shaping the national image, and even destroy and reproduce the established national image.

As a matter of fact, this discourse analysis reveals the process of power infiltration through the analysis of the process of text production and practice. By deconstructing the existing news texts, it reveals the hidden power relations and the national image created in the text. Discourse analysis emphasizes that people understand the world through the landscape constructed by discourse, and ideology produces and maintains a specific power rule through the discourse hegemony. The dominant class disguises the privileged words and meanings as the basic elements of the natural language, claiming the legality of their use and constantly replicating the power relationship based on them. The study of critical discourse is to expose the hidden mechanisms and influences of ideological operations through a critical analysis of texts, thereby interfering and interrupting the regular operation of ideological discourse and shaking the existing social order. Therefore, as a normative form of social science and political action, critical discourse can prove what is "justified" and what is "problematic" for
the world's text and discourse. The task of an effective critical discourse analysis lies in "confirmation and recording" and "analytic deconstruction".

According to classical propaganda theory, the masses and most of the public must be far apart from political events and politicians (Patrick & Thrall, 2007). Hegemony theory takes the perspectives of the ruling class as the topics of political propaganda, which can directly benefit the governor and dominator of society. It also shows consistent styles of political propaganda aimed at command and pacifies (Patrick & Thrall, 2007). In fact, as the perspectives of classical propaganda theorists, the basic beliefs of public are more important than political ideologies, because the government's political propaganda must be consistent with beliefs of "community" to be effective (Patrick & Thrall, 2007).

And the public and most of the people be bound to far away from the event and political figures, so the official government how to use news media to propagandize, to make it better service to the national ruling class ideology is very important (Patrick & Thrall, 2007). In these four news coverages, China Daily is using news discourse to establish the concept of "community" between "us" and "them" to the public, so that the public and Chinese government can share common beliefs for better political propaganda. The essence of political propaganda is that it is a kind of discourse that fundamentally involves political, economic or rational ideas and is mobilized for political purposes. In fact, news propaganda often insists that it is a model of rationality or justice. However, such a so-called impartial stance may also include some choices and approaches that are hidden and have not been explored. In fact, the inner nature of propaganda is highly emotional and subjective. The four news articles selected in this paper belong to supporting propaganda. The news discourse is embodied and presented by China Daily in order to express certain ideology. In addition, discourse expression tends to increase the realization of ideology through some kind of nonrational expression.

For a long time, the relations between China and Japan have been quite tense due to the territorial disputes, Taiwan issues, national sentiments and other factors. This study explores how the China Daily's conflicting discourse and normalizing discourse on Sino-Japanese relations can be used to construct a national identity through four news articles in the China Daily. In this study, three CDA analysis tools are used to focus on different aspects of discourse. This thesis analyzes the representation, identification and ideological meaning of news text in different text characteristics. Such a news discourse method emphasizes the multidimensionality and versatility of news texts, and believes that there is an intrinsic link between text and the social and the material world in which it live, events in the world, and
people involved in events. By analyzing the differences and connections between representations, recognitions, and behaviors in news texts, not only enrich our understanding of news texts, but also strengthen the social dimensions of textual details, placing the significance of texts in specific sociocultural contexts.

The focus on the multidimensionality of texts and the dynamic process of their production is particularly important for the critical review of the significance of the construction of national identity and positions in the news media. This is because it sees the concept of national identity and national stance as appearing in certain conditions in specific historical and socio-political events. It reveals that the significance of national identity and national position, and its relation to the interaction between specific events and discourses by analyzing the discourse and normalization discourse of ethnic conflicts between China and Japan in the China Daily. Through the above analysis, it exemplifies that in the “Taiwan issue” and “Diaoyu Island” incidents, China Daily considers China as a country that respects the rules of international politics and military activities. China Daily promotes peace and justice by condemning Japan's improper conduct and provocative actions. In the folk cultural and economic communication, China Daily shapes China in a national image that makes efforts for the friendly development of China-Japan relations.

Therefore, China and Japan were established as countries with different identities and even opposing identities in the discourse of ethnic conflicts. In the normalizing national discourse, the national identities of the two countries are also different. However, in the increasing cultural and economic communication, the cooperative and coadjutant relationship between China and Japan has gradually established. On the one hand, China Daily emphasizes the competitive position between China and Japan. On major political issues such as historical understanding and territorial disputes, there are still huge differences between the two countries. On the other hand, China is deemed as a country with international influence and plays an important role in international cultural and economic exchanges. The discourse structure of China’s national image and nationalism is related to specific historical and political moments. These structures derive from social practices related to massive nationalist discourses.

On the whole, when journalists report on events with international influence, they may reference a lot of others’ words to reproduce the scene of the news more realistically, without exposing their obvious motives. On the one hand, it interprets events from multiple angles; on the other hand, it implies viewpoint within selecting favorable references. After the journalists complete the first draft, the article will be finally released after continuous
revision, editing, and review. Therefore, there is a confrontation between power and ideology behind news discourse that intertwines various voices. Under this circumstance, journalists can choose the perspectives they want to present, mix it with their own views, and also can present opposing arguments with separating them from other sounds. When the control is increased, it will use special forms of speech and wording is used to resist. In brief, the interest groups behind the news discourse have manipulated what perspectives should appear and how they are presented in the news text.

The journalists strictly control the circulation of information refrain public’s interpretation to guide mass opinion and contest for discourse. Therefore, the news discourses that readers’ access are selected through multiple layers and presented within the required ideology. The interweaved perspectives are the tool serving the position and values behind.

Since the media always presents topics in a specific method, so as to guide the audience’s understanding of specific issues, and even construct a virtual environment to influence the audience's understanding and cognition. In this era of economic globalization, the world public opinion dominated by English news is constantly impacting or even manipulating people’s ideology. At present, English news has become a platform for the global media to compete for the power to speak. The voice and expression presented in the news discourse has become a channel for external communication. All kinds of hints in English news reports, whether positive or negative, involve the fundamental issues of national image building and national interest maintenance. How to outstand in English news reports, to take the initiative to master the right to speak, to take appropriate means to correctly guide public opinion, and to maintain the national interests in the international community has become a top priority.

Like other texts, news reports describe the objective world through linguistic symbols. Under the guidance of a certain spiritual activity, the journalists will incorporate the content they want to describe in this conceptual framework and reorganize related information in which implies their stances. Although journalists sometimes deliberately avoid the apparent inclination of reporting, they cannot be completely neutral and objective due to the language's internal functions and communicational goals.

The thesis hopes to provide insights to examine the complex process of discourse construction in media. Through multi-dimensional analysis of the discourse and expression methods in news discourse, it particularly concerns the establishment of national identity and national image. Although it is not fully covered for the thesis in examining national image construction in media, I hope this thesis will be meaningful, so that promoting CDA
will become a more critical linguistic exploration paradigm with social and cultural significance.
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China said a naval mission in its own territorial waters is beyond reproach and justifiable after Japan lodged a protest about a Chinese frigate entering waters surrounding the Diaoyu Islands on Thursday.

Japan's behavior will not change the fact that the Diaoyu Islands and affiliated islands belong to China, and it can hardly shake the firmness and determination of China in safeguarding its territorial sovereignty, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a regular news conference on Thursday.

The Defense Ministry issued a statement saying two Japan Coast Guard vessels entered the northeast contiguous zone of Chiwei Islet, which is a part of the Diaoyu Islands.

Chinese guided-missile frigate Yiyang immediately entered the area to conduct thorough tracking and surveillance of the activities of Japanese forces, and the Japanese vessels have left the area, the statement said.

Japan is well aware of the situation but reversed the truth and hyped the Chinese military's legitimate rights, the statement said, expressing strong dissatisfaction and opposition.

The Chinese military will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard the territorial sovereignty and security interests of the country, according to the statement.

Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama summoned Chinese Ambassador Cheng Yonghua on Thursday to voice Tokyo's concerns and strongly requested China not to interfere with the flow of improving Japan-China relations, according to AFP.

China urges Japan to stop using the issue to make trouble and take practical actions to improve bilateral relations, Lu said.

China considers its relations with Japan to be important, he said. "We noticed the positive signals from Japan and their high-level officials to improve the relations between the two countries," Lu said.
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said last week that he wanted 2018 to be the year in which people in Japan and China recognize "great improvement" in the nations' ties, according to Xinhua.

China hopes Japan will match its words with deeds, work for the same goal with China on the basis of the consensus and spirit of the four-point principled agreement and take practical actions to improve relations, Lu said.

2. China lodges protest to Japan over Taiwan issue
(http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201802/09/WS5a7d7ff0a3106e7dcc13b0c.html)
Xinhua | Updated: 2018-02-09 19:03

BEIJING - China on Friday accused Japan of violating the one-China principle under the pretext of disaster relief efforts after a powerful earthquake struck Taiwan's Hualien county.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang made the remarks in response to a question saying that some senior Japanese official sent condolences to Taiwan politicians addressing them by the so-called official titles.

"The Japanese side openly attempted to create 'one China, one Taiwan' under the pretext of disaster relief and condolences," Geng said, adding such move went against the one-China principle as well as Japan's commitment on the Taiwan issue.

He said China was strongly dissatisfied and had lodged representations to Japan.

"We urge the Japanese side to abide by the principles set in the four China-Japan political documents, immediately correct its wrong practice, and not make new obstacles for bilateral ties," the spokesperson said.

Geng said the Chinese mainland was concerned after the magnitude 6.5 earthquake that hit Taiwan late Tuesday. Zhang Zhijun, head of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, expressed sincere regards to Taiwan compatriots, and pledged to send rescue teams and offer aid.

As of Friday morning, 10 people were confirmed dead in the earthquake, four from Chinese mainland, five from Taiwan and one from the Philippines. A total of 276 people were injured.
3. Island takes flight after China bird gift

(http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201805/11/WS5af4f3a5a3105cdf651d4c7.html)

China Daily | Updated: 2018-05-11 09:36

TOKYO - Crested ibises, the iconic birds that were on the verge of extinction in Japan in the 1980s, are now prospering and providing a boost to the local economy on the island of Sado, thanks to China's help.

Since May, the island's farmers have been busy in the fields transplanting rice seedlings. In the morning and evening, white-plumed crested ibises can be seen hunting for food in the paddy fields.

"We can see these birds foraging in the morning and evening all seasons now, as there are crested ibises' nests near our rice fields," said 54-year-old farmer Katsumi Oi.

Sado, covering an area of 855 square kilometers and with a population of 55,000 people, is the sixth largest island in Japan.

The so-called Agriculture in Harmony with Endangered Japanese Crested Ibis is seen as an advantageous resource on the island given its recognition by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage.

A crested ibis is an iconic bird deeply rooted in Japanese history and culture. Records of the bird can be traced back to as early as the Chronicles of Japan, a book of history finished in 720 AD.

However, the number of crested ibises in Japan plunged in the 20th century as the birds were hunted for their meat and fine feathers. They also lost their habitats due to deforestation.

"Sado used to be the last habitat of crested ibises in Japan. But with the development of modern agriculture and the abuse of pesticides, food consumed by crested ibises, such as frogs and small fish, disappeared from the paddies, and crested ibises also went to extinct," said Takayuki Nishimaki, an official from the agriculture department of the local government.

To save the endangered species, the Japanese government captured the last five wild crested ibises on the island and relocated them to a conservation center.
But 22 years later, the last Japanese-born crested ibis died at the center at the age of 36, an age equal to 100 in human years.

Today's crested ibises on the island are all descendants of those from northwest China's Shaanxi province.

In 1981, while the world was holding its breath for the endangered species, seven wild crested ibises were discovered in the mountains of Shaanxi.

"The gloom in the conservation center (in Sado) was dispelled by the good news. ... These birds were to save the species from extinction," Hiroyuki Ishi, an environmental journalist and scientist, later wrote in an article.

With the seven ibises, China successfully launched its artificial breeding programs for conserving and protecting the species. In 1999, two crested ibises went to Sado as a gift from China, and three more ibises were sent to Japan by 2007.

Now, around 284 crested ibises are living in Japan.

To boost the local economy, the city of Sado plans to increase the number of foreign tourists from 1,510 in 2011 to 5,000 by 2019, according to Hiroaki Iwasaki, a local government official, who said the target has already been achieved in large part due to the birds.

Moreover, crested ibises have become a brand of their own for local products, especially agricultural products.

"We produce 20,000 tons of rice every year, enough to satisfy the needs of 500,000 people a year, which is ten times of the population of Sado," said Manabu Watabe, an official from a local agricultural cooperative.

To excel in the fiercely competitive Japanese rice market, local farmers stressed that their rice is "produced in harmony with crested ibises".

To produce such rice, farmers must make the rice paddies an effective ecological system, where small creatures coexist in harmony and crested ibises have plenty of food, Nishimaki explained.
"Crested ibises increase demands on protecting the environment, and the birds successfully breeding here shows that the rice here is safe," said Nishimaki.

4. Panda cub Xiang Xiang to 'work overtime' for Japanese fans

Xiang Xiang, the female giant panda born in Japan last year, will have to "work" four more hours to meet the fanatical Japanese fans as Ueno Zoo in Tokyo extended the cub's viewing sessions to accommodate more public.

The cub has been put on display for five 30-minute sessions daily between 9:45 am - 12:15 pm. The zoo decided to extend the viewing hours to 16:45 pm from February, after judging that the animal was getting more accustomed to the crowd.

After the time adjustment, the zoo is expected to receive close to 10,000 panda viewers each day, fivefold that of the current daily figure. Currently, it accepts 80 groups of up to five people per session, or up to 400 visitors in total.

To avoid congestion, each visitor will get a look at the cub - along with her 12-year-old mother Shin Shin - for around two minutes. There are no limits on viewing Xiang Xiang’s father Ri Ri.

Xiang Xiang made her first public appearance on Dec 19, becoming the zoo's first cub to debut in 29 years.

The viewers will no longer worry about their chance to meet the panda cub either as the zoo will replace the current competitive lottery draw to "first come, first served" policy, making the tickets more accessible.

The zoo will begin distributing tickets from 9:30 am starting from Feb 1 near its main entrance.

Under the current system, panda lovers need to apply online or by telephone and depend on luck to catch a glimpse of the panda celebrity. With the number of applicants surging, getting a spot has been difficult.
The Ueno Zoo is also considering building a new house by 2020 for Xiang Xiang and her family in the wake of the panda mania.

Xiang Xiang turned 7–month-old on Jan 12.