

EVALUATIVE MEANING IN AI-GENERATED OPINION TEXTS ABOUT INDONESIA'S DPR

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Received: 15/10/2025

Accepted: 05/11/2025

Publication: 01/12/2025

Abstract

Artificial intelligence is becoming more important in modern news reporting, which brings up important questions about how it forms opinions within political discussions. This research investigates the use of artificial intelligence to generate evaluative meaning in political discussions, particularly concerning Indonesia's House of Representatives (DPR). Through a mixed-method approach combining qualitative discourse analysis with quantitative counting, the research investigates how AI systems represent attitudes toward the DPR in opinion texts generated in response to recent socio-political events. Based on Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory, the analysis considers three attitudinal categories: Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation. These categories are used for reasoning. By using AI models like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity as prompts for critical reflection on the DPR, opinion texts were created. The data were coded for attitudinal type and polarity, and a reliability check was conducted following Martin and White (2005) and Eggins (2004). The findings reveal that Judgment and Appreciation dominate, while Affect occurs less frequently, highlighting AI's analytical orientation and the enduring need for human interpretation in journalism.

Keywords— appraisal theory, artificial intelligence, journalism, opinion, politics

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become deeply embedded in daily life, transforming how people learn, work, and communicate. In journalism, AI is no longer confined to data processing or headline generation; it now assists in writing, editing, and even shaping narratives. For instance, a local online media outlet, *Bengkulu Ekspres.com*, uses AI to help journalists find terms, translate foreign phrases, and even process news (Kurnianti et al., 2024). On a global scale, a survey conducted by the *London School of Economics and Political Science* found that more than 75 percent of 105 newsrooms across 46 countries employ AI in at least one stage of the news value chain, including gathering, production, and distribution (Beckett & Yaseen, 2023). Yet, alongside these advancements arise concerns about authenticity, authorship, and the diminishing role of human creativity (Trausan-Matu, 2020). This growing dependence on machine-generated content blurs the line between what is human and what is artificial, creating both opportunities and ethical dilemmas for modern journalism (Porlezza & Ferri, 2022).

In news production, AI-generated articles and opinion pieces are becoming increasingly common. Automation does not merely support journalists, but also alters how meaning and authority are produced. Carlson (2014) argues that the use of AI in journalism redistributes control and accountability by enabling machines to influence how events are framed and interpreted. This shift becomes particularly critical in political discourse, where language choices can shape public

perception and trust. The way political institutions and figures are linguistically represented can either strengthen or weaken democratic credibility. Thus, understanding how AI constructs political narratives is not only a matter of linguistic interest but also one of democratic concern.

In Indonesia, the House of Representatives (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat* or DPR) has often been the center of public attention. As the nation's legislative body, it holds significant policymaking power but is frequently criticized for issues related to transparency and integrity. The controversy surrounding the increase in DPR members' allowances, which triggered widespread protests (Bestari, 2025; Mardianti, 2025; Redaksi, 2025), exemplifies how media framing can amplify public sentiment. Chuey et al. (2024) demonstrated that linguistic cues in news headlines, such as evaluative tone and word choice, significantly shape reader's perceptions of credibility and accountability. Against this backdrop, it becomes important to ask how AI, as a new agent in news production, constructs and evaluates the DPR; whether it portrays the institution neutrally, critically, or supportively.

Before exploring this, it is essential to reflect on what an opinion truly represents. Many scholars agree that an opinion is inherently human, grounded in thought, emotion, and personal experience. Solomon (2004) argues that emotions are not mere reactions but part of how human reason and form judgments. Similarly, Candiotta (2019) highlights that emotions create meaning and knowledge because they are tied to one's lived experiences and values. Supporting this view, Rocklage & Luttrell (2021) found that attitudes rooted in emotions tend to be more stable and enduring over time compared to those based on cognition alone. This suggests that emotion not only shapes but also sustains human opinions. In contrast, artificial intelligence does not possess emotions or consciousness since it merely reproduces patterns from existing data. This raises an important question: *if AI lacks emotion and experience, can it genuinely form an opinion?* What appears as evaluative or emotional language in AI-generated discourse may, in fact, be a reflection of collective human data rather than an authentic stance.

To address these questions, this study analyzes how AI-generated opinions represent Indonesia's DPR using the Attitude subsystem of Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2005). The analysis focuses on three key components, namely Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation, to identify how evaluative meanings are constructed in AI-generated texts. These categories reveal whether the AI tends to emphasize emotional reactions, moral evaluations, or assessments of quality and value. By focusing on these dimensions, this research moves beyond technical fluency and examines the evaluative stance embedded in AI-generated political discourse. It also considers whether such texts reproduce existing social biases or introduce new interpretive patterns in representing political institutions.

Ultimately, this study contributes to broader discussions on how technology, language, and ideology intersect in the digital age. If AI tends to echo dominant biases or amplify negativity, its role in journalism may risk distorting public understanding. Conversely, if AI demonstrates linguistic balance, it could become a tool for enhancing neutrality and fairness in reporting. Beyond linguistic inquiry, this research promotes critical literacy in an era where algorithmic systems increasingly mediate information. As Helberger (2019) reminds, democratic societies must equip citizens to critically assess algorithmic communication. Understanding how AI evaluates political entities like the DPR is therefore not only a linguistic endeavor but also a step toward fostering responsible and informed media consumption.

Literature Review

Previous Studies

Research on AI-generated discourse has predominantly examined its linguistic and stylistic features, leaving its evaluative and ideological dimensions less explored. Alafnan & Mohdzuki (2023) explored stylistic variation between AI- and human-written texts, focusing on lexical choices and grammatical mood. Prajapati et al. (2024), on the other hand, examined morphological, syntactic, and semantic patterns to distinguish AI-generated texts from human-authored ones. Similarly, Yang et al. (2024) analyzed thematic structures in argumentative writing, and Sardinha (2024) investigated textual coherence in AI-produced discourse using

corpus-based methods. Collectively, these studies reveal that while AI demonstrates linguistic fluency comparable to human writers, its capacity to express evaluative meanings, such as opinions, emotions, and stance, remains insufficiently explored.

Floridi & Chiriatti (2020) argue that although AI-generated texts may appear coherent, models such as GPT-3 lack genuine contextual understanding because they rely solely on statistical pattern prediction rather than semantic comprehension. A recent study analyzing AI and human-written news articles from Kazakhstani media outlets found that AI-produced news articles frequently exhibit factual inaccuracies and reduced credibility compared to human-written reports (Zhaxylykbayeva et al., 2025). Its systems still have difficulty capturing the depth and contextual sensitivity inherent in human communication (Sardinha, 2024). In political discourse, such distortions are not merely technical flaws but may shape how audiences perceive trust, authority, and moral credibility. Despite this, few studies have examined how AI constructs evaluative meaning at the linguistic level, particularly within politically charged contexts such as journalism.

Appraisal Theory

To address this gap, the present study applies Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2005), a framework within Systemic Functional Linguistics that explores how language expresses attitudes, intensifies or softens evaluations, and positions writers in relation to other voices. The theory identifies three main systems: *Attitude*, *Graduation*, and *Engagement*.

Attitude

Attitude refers to how speakers or writers express positive or negative evaluations. It explains how linguistic choices invite audiences to perceive events, people, or objects as good or bad, desirable or undesirable. It is further divided into three subtypes:

- a) Affect – emotional responses (e.g., happiness, sadness, fear, desire).
- b) Judgment – evaluation of human behavior against social norms, encompassing social esteem (normality, capacity, tenacity) and social sanction (veracity, propriety).
- c) Appreciation – evaluation of objects, performances, or phenomena based on impact, quality, balance, complexity, and value.

These evaluations can be expressed explicitly (e.g., “The film was amazing”) or implicitly (e.g., “The film made me fall asleep”), depending on the surrounding context. Importantly, evaluative meanings are context-dependent, what counts as positive in one setting may carry negative connotations in another.

Graduation

Graduation deals with the intensity or degree of evaluative meaning. It allows speakers to scale their attitudes by amplifying or downplaying emotional or evaluative expressions. Through graduation, writers can make their stance appear more forceful (“absolutely terrible”) or more moderate (“somewhat disappointing”), thereby fine-tuning the interpersonal tone of a text.

Engagement

Engagement examines how writers acknowledge or negotiate other perspectives within discourse. By using linguistic markers such as “it seems,” “according to,” or “clearly,” authors may either open space for alternative viewpoints or close it off. Engagement thus reveals how writers construct their relationship with the reader and position their stance within a larger dialogue.

Research Method

This study adopts a mixed-method approach that integrates qualitative discourse analysis with a simple quantitative count of attitudinal occurrences. The qualitative component explores how artificial intelligence systems linguistically express opinions and evaluations about Indonesia’s House of Representatives (DPR), while the quantitative aspect identifies the frequency of each Attitude type as proposed by Martin and White (2005).

Research Design and Data Source

The study draws data from opinion texts generated by three AI systems: ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity. These platforms were selected based on the *Top 10 Most Used AI Chatbots Survey* published by Visual Capitalist (2025). They were chosen for their accessibility, popularity, and ability to produce coherent and contextually appropriate discourse suitable for linguistic analysis. Although DeepSeek ranked second globally, it was excluded from the dataset because preliminary testing showed that it failed to interpret the prompts accurately and produced incoherent responses.

Data Collection Procedure

The data collection involved two structured prompts designed to test each AI's ability to recognize events and express evaluative opinions:

- a) Prompt 1: *"Apakah kamu tahu tentang peristiwa di bulan Agustus dan awal September 2025? Di mana masyarakat dari berbagai daerah di Indonesia melakukan demonstrasi besar-besaran ke DPR?"*
— This prompt tested the AI's awareness of the event and its descriptive accuracy.
- b) Prompt 2: *"Sekarang, posisikan dirimu sebagai seorang jurnalis atau reporter di media online terpercaya. Buatlah sebuah tulisan opini tentang penilaianmu terhadap DPR terkait situasi sosial-politik tersebut. Berikan opini kritis dari pemikiranmu sendiri, susun dalam bentuk naratif dengan jumlah kata ±500–800."*
— This prompt encouraged the AI to generate critical and evaluative content. The use of the term *"kritis"* was intentional to elicit more explicit attitudinal language.

Each AI was asked to respond to both prompts under the same conditions. The resulting opinion pieces were collected and stored as textual data for analysis.

Data Analysis Procedure

The analysis employed the Attitude subsystem of Appraisal Theory, consisting of Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation (Martin & White, 2005). These categories were used to identify how AI constructs evaluations toward the DPR. The researcher filtered the data based on three inclusion criteria:

- a) The sentence refers directly or indirectly to the DPR;
- b) It contains a positive or negative evaluation of the DPR, its actions, or its impact;
- c) It expresses an attitude or opinion rather than purely factual information.

Only **explicitly evaluative** sentences meeting all three criteria were analyzed. Each evaluative instance was then coded according to its type (Affect, Judgment, or Appreciation) and polarity (positive or negative). The frequency of each category was counted to reveal dominant evaluative tendencies.

Validation and Reliability

To ensure analytical consistency, the researcher cross-checked the classification of Attitude types by reanalyzing 20% of the data after one week (intra-rater reliability). Additionally, references from Martin and White (2005) and Eggins (2004) were used to guide the identification of evaluative language. This triangulation between theory, repetition, and data consistency enhances the reliability and scientific validity of the analysis.

Results and Discussion

Results

The data collected were thoroughly reviewed and classified based on the Attitude system outlined in the Appraisal framework by Martin & White (2005). The classification and discussion of the findings are presented in the following section.

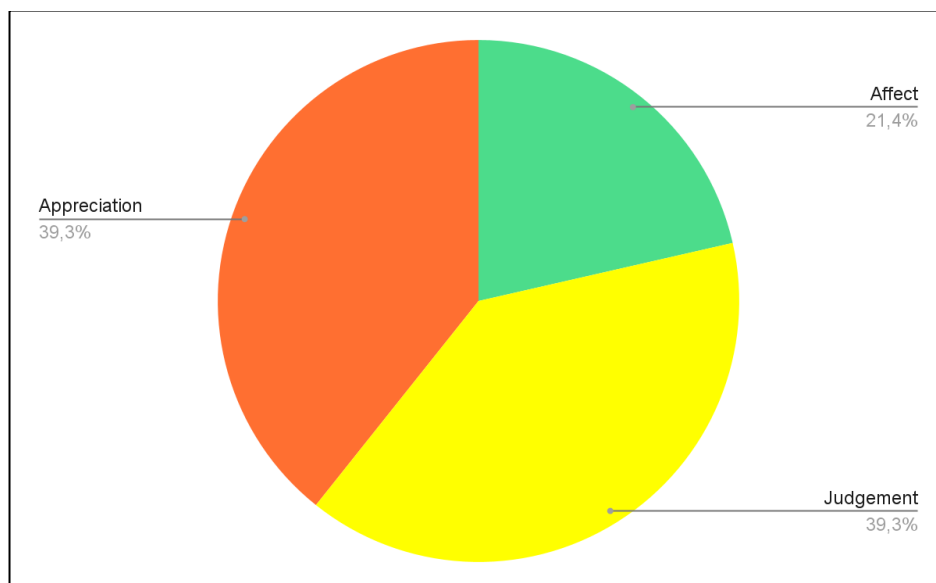


Figure 1. *Frequency Distribution of Attitudinal Appraisal*

As seen in Figure 1, **Appreciation** and **Judgement** each account for 39.3%, with a total of 33 instances per category, while **Affect** represents 21.4% with 18 instances. This distribution indicates that the AI-generated opinions are primarily focused on evaluating the DPR’s actions, decisions, and their consequences, rather than merely expressing emotions or personal feelings. In other words, the texts emphasize what the DPR does and how it affects the public, showing that the appraisal mostly focused on actions and consequences.

The following tables present the sub-categories within each attitudinal category, showing in detail which aspects of the DPR’s actions, decisions, and consequences are being evaluated.

Attitude	Subcategory	Polarity (+/-)	Frequency	Percentage
Affect	Un/happiness	(+)	-	-
		(-)	4	22.22%
	Dis/satisfaction	(+)	-	-
		(-)	12	66.66%
	In/security	(+)	-	-
		(-)	2	11.11%
Dis/inclination	(+)	-	-	
	(-)	-	-	

Table 1. *Frequency Distribution of Affect*

Based on the analysis, Table 1 reveals that expressions of *unhappiness* account for 22.22%, *dissatisfaction* for 66.66%, and *insecurity* for 11.11%. These findings indicate that the AI-generated opinion toward the DPR, including its actions and their consequences, is predominantly negative. Overall, the evaluation highlights the public’s dissatisfaction with the performance of the legislative body, which is perceived as failing to represent the people’s aspirations. This sense of disappointment is further accompanied by emotions of anger, sadness, and anxiety about the future of Indonesia.

The following examples show how the AI-generated opinions reveal feelings of dissatisfaction, unhappiness, and insecurity toward the DPR's performance.

- (1) **IDN:** Aksi-aksi ini menandai titik kritis dalam hubungan antara rakyat dan wakil mereka, sebuah pertanda bahwa kepercayaan publik terhadap institusi legislatif sedang berada di *titik nadir*.

ENG: These actions mark a critical point in the relationship between the people and their representatives, a sign that public trust in the legislative institution is at its *lowest point*.

[Chat GPT]

The opinion above was written by Chat GPT. This expression conveys the public's anxiety and loss of confidence in the stability of the legislative institution. The term '*titik nadir*' symbolizes a state of decline, indicating that people's trust in the DPR has reached its weakest stage. In other words, citizens no longer feel secure that their representatives will fulfill their duties properly. Hence, this sense of fear and uncertainty reflects the (-) **Insecurity** subtype within the **Affect** category.

- (2) **IDN:** Ini adalah gelombang pasang yang dibangun dari *akumulasi kekecewaan, kejengkelan, dan rasa dikhianati* oleh wakil-wakil rakyat yang duduk di Senayan.

ENG: This is a tidal wave built from an *accumulation of disappointment, irritation, and a sense of betrayal* by the representatives sitting in Senayan.

[Gemini]

The sentence above was written by Gemini, who views the demonstration as an outburst of the people's long-accumulated frustration and anger toward their representatives in Senayan. The phrase '*akumulasi kekecewaan, kejengkelan, dan rasa dikhianati*' illustrates the emotional pressure that citizens have been holding back for a long time. These feelings express (-) **Unhappiness** and (-) **Dissatisfaction** toward the DPR's performance, which is perceived as failing to meet the people's expectations.

No explicit examples of **Dis/inclination** were found in the analyzed opinions. This indicates that the AI-generated texts and other sources did not express explicit reluctance or unwillingness, but rather focused on dissatisfaction, unhappiness, and insecurity toward the DPR's performance.

Attitude	Subcategory	Polarity (+/-)	Frequency	Percentage
Judgement	Normality	(+)	-	-
		(-)	5	15.15%
	Capacity	(+)	1	3.03%
		(-)	14	42.42%
	Tenacity	(+)	-	-
		(-)	-	-
	Veracity	(+)	-	-
		(-)	-	-
	Propriety	(+)	-	-

(-)	13	39.39%
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Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Judgement

Table 2 reveals that **normality** (negative) accounts for 15.15%, **capacity** (positive) for 3.03%, **capacity** (negative) for 42.42%, and **propriety** (negative) for 39.39%. These findings suggest that the actions of the DPR are generally perceived as unethical and irresponsible by the public. They are viewed as lacking the ability to fulfill their duties as representatives who should remain open to public criticism and suggestions. Nevertheless, the analysis also shows that AI, represented by ChatGPT, still acknowledges the possibility for the DPR to improve its performance and restore public trust.

To further understand how AI constructs moral evaluations toward the DPR, several examples of judgement are analyzed below. These examples highlight how the system represents the DPR's capacity, propriety, and normality in performing its duties.

- (1) **IDN:** Sebagai lembaga legislatif, DPR sepatutnya menjadi tempat aspirasi rakyat diwakili dan disalurkan untuk memperjuangkan kepentingan publik. Namun, kenyataannya jauh dari harapan.
ENG: As a legislative institution, the DPR is supposed to be a place where the people's aspirations are represented and channeled to fight for public interests. However, the reality is far from expectations.
 [Perplexity]

This sentence was written by Perplexity, which conveys that the DPR's performance fails to align with what is normally expected from a representative body. The phrase 'jauh dari harapan' reflects a **Judgement** of (-) **Normality** because it highlights a deviation from the expected standards of integrity, responsibility, and representation that a legislative institution should uphold. In other words, the DPR's actions are portrayed as abnormal or inappropriate when measured against the social and moral norms attached to its role.

- (2) **IDN:** DPR memiliki peluang untuk memperbaiki hubungan dengan rakyat, membangun kredibilitas, dan menunjukkan bahwa legislatif adalah lembaga yang mampu menjembatani kepentingan pemerintah dan aspirasi masyarakat.
ENG: DPR has the opportunity to repair its relationship with the people, rebuild credibility, and demonstrate that the legislative institution is capable of bridging government interests with public aspirations.
 [Chat GPT]

The above is another statement written by Chat GPT, which despite its earlier criticism of the DPR, acknowledges that the institution still has a chance to redeem itself. The phrase 'memiliki peluang' conveys a **Judgement** of (+) **Capacity**, implying that the AI still believes they possess the potential and ability to change for the better. It reflects a slight optimism that improvement remains possible if DPR takes responsibility for its past failures.

- (3) **IDN:** Demonstrasi yang berfokus di depan Gedung DPR RI dan meluas ke berbagai daerah ini sesungguhnya adalah cermin nyata kegagalan DPR menjalankan amanah konstitusionalnya.
ENG: The demonstration centered in front of the DPR RI building and spreading across various regions is, in fact, a clear reflection of the DPR's failure to fulfill its constitutional mandate.
 [Perplexity]

The statement above was written by Perplexity. This opinion explicitly labels the DPR as failing in carrying out its duties. The word 'kegagalan' represents a **Judgement** of (-) **Capacity**

because it evaluates the DPR's lack of competence and effectiveness in performing its legislative responsibilities. It reflects the public perception that the institution is incapable of meeting its constitutional obligation to serve the people.

- (4) **IDN:** Alih-alih merespons dengan bijak, beberapa justru menampilkan joget-joget santai di tengah rapat, sementara yang lain melontarkan pernyataan-pernyataan yang melukai hati seperti menyebut demonstran "tolol sedunia."

ENG: Instead of responding wisely, some members were seen casually dancing during the meeting, while others made offensive remarks such as calling the protesters "the dumbest in the world."

[Gemini]

This statement, written by Gemini, reflects unethical and inappropriate behavior from individuals who serve as national representatives. Both underlined phrases demonstrate a violation of moral and professional expectations tied to their position. Such actions are categorized under **Judgement** of (-) **Propriety** because they show conduct that is disrespectful and morally condemnable, particularly given the seriousness of the social unrest taking place at the time.

Based on the analysis of the AI-generated opinions regarding the DPR's actions and their consequences, no explicit expressions of **Tenacity** or **Veracity** were identified. Although implicit or nuanced meanings related to persistence or truthfulness might exist in some sentences, this study focuses solely on explicit appraisals, so such instances are not counted.

Attitude	Subcategory	Polarity (+/-)	Frequency	Percentage
Appreciation	Reaction: impact	(+)	-	-
		(-)	5	15.15%
	Reaction: quality	(+)	-	-
		(-)	-	-
	Composition: balance	(+)	-	-
		(-)	1	3.03%
	Composition: complexity	(+)	-	-
		(-)	3	9.09%
	Valuation	(+)	1	3.03%
		(-)	23	69.69%

Table 3. *Frequency Distribution of Appreciation*

Table 3 indicates that **reaction: impact** (negative) accounts for 15.15%, **composition: balance** (negative) for 3.03%, **composition: complexity** (negative) for 9.09%, **valuation** (positive) for 3.03%, and **valuation** (negative) for 69.69%. These findings suggest that the public no longer perceives the DPR as a competent or beneficial institution. The impacts of its actions are seen as more harmful than helpful to the people's welfare. Moreover, the growing gap between those in power and the marginalized reflects a decline in public appreciation toward the DPR's overall performance.

The examples below demonstrate how AI describes the DPR's actions, influence, and social impact through evaluative language.

- (1) **IDN:** Fenomena ini tentu menghadirkan *jurang kepercayaan yang sangat lebar* antara rakyat dan wakilnya.

ENG: This phenomenon certainly creates *a very wide trust gap* between the people and their representatives.

[Perplexity]

This statement, written by Perplexity, highlights the widening social and emotional divide caused by the DPR's controversial decision. The phrase '*jurang kepercayaan yang sangat lebar*' focuses on describing the consequences of the DPR's actions to increase their income amid economic hardship. Since it evaluates the effect or impact of the event, the phrase is categorized as **Appreciation of (-) Reaction: impact**.

- (2) **IDN:** DPR dan *Kesenjangan* Kepercayaan Publik: Antara Janji dan Realita

ENG: DPR and The Trust *Gap*: Between Promises and Reality

[Chat GPT]

Written by Chat GPT, this title illustrates the imbalance between the promises and the reality presented by the DPR. The word '*kesenjangan*' highlights a clear contradiction between what is said and what is actually done. This lack of harmony is the reason it falls under **Appreciation of (-) Composition: balance**, as it reflects a disrupted relationship between two elements that should ideally be aligned. In other words, the DPR's promises and actions fail to correspond, creating an impression of inconsistency and contributing to the erosion of public trust.

- (3) **IDN:** Sementara itu, pembahasan isu-isu krusial sering kali dilakukan secara *tertutup*, jauh dari pengawasan publik.

ENG: Meanwhile, the discussion of crucial issues is often carried out behind *closed doors*, far from public oversight.

[Gemini]

In this example, Gemini portrays the DPR as an institution that tends to discuss crucial matters behind closed doors. The word '*tertutup*' emphasizes the lack of openness in its decision-making process. Because it depicts the proceedings as opaque and removed from public oversight, this instance represents an **Appreciation of (-) Composition: complexity**, showing that the DPR's system is viewed as overly closed and difficult for the public to access or comprehend.

- (4) **IDN:** Reformasi struktural dan budaya kerja di DPR menjadi *kebutuhan mendesak* agar kepercayaan masyarakat bisa mulai dibangun kembali.

ENG: Structural reform and changes in the working culture of the DPR are seen as an *immediate necessity* to begin rebuilding public trust.

[Perplexity]

This remark by Perplexity emphasizes the importance and value of comprehensive reform within the DPR. The phrase '*kebutuhan mendesak*' signals that such changes are essential and positively evaluated in terms of their impact on restoring confidence among citizens. Hence, it is categorized as **Appreciation of (+) Valuation** because it assesses the significance and worth of the proposed reforms rather than describing feelings or judging personal behavior.

- (5) **IDN:** Akhirnya, gelombang demonstrasi Agustus–September 2025 adalah *panggilan keras* bagi DPR untuk introspeksi.

ENG: Finally, the wave of demonstrations in August–September 2025 was a *serious warning* for the DPR to reflect on itself.

[Chat GPT]

This statement, written by Chat GPT, conveys a critical evaluation of the DPR's behavior during the 2025 demonstrations. The phrase '*panggilan keras*' indicates that the event carries a negative implication and serves as a call for self-reflection. Such wording is categorized under **Appreciation of (-) Valuation**, as it assesses the significance and worth of the demonstrations as a consequential response to the DPR's failure.

In the dataset, no explicit instances of **Reaction: quality** were identified. While it is possible that some sentences carry implicit or nuanced evaluations related to the quality of actions or events, such subtleties were not included in this analysis because researchers focus solely on explicitly stated appraisals.

Discussion

The analysis reveals that all three AI models—ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity—tend to display similar evaluative tendencies in their generated opinion texts. Based on the data, **Judgement** and **Appreciation** dominate equally at 39.3% each, while **Affect** appears least frequently at 21.4%. A comparable pattern was found by Yao & Liu (2025), who analyzed GPT-generated and human-authored book reviews using Appraisal Theory. Their study showed that GPT-produced texts similarly prioritized Judgment and Appreciation over Affect, indicating a tendency to adopt analytical rather than emotional stance-taking. These findings suggest that the AI-generated opinions emphasize assessment over emotion. In other words, instead of expressing how the people feel, the texts focus more on what the DPR does and how their actions impact the public. Across the samples, the DPR is repeatedly described as an institution that fails to represent the people, acts with poor transparency, and contributes to public disappointment. Even though the phrasing and sentence structures differ across models, the general evaluative stance remains consistently critical.

Interestingly, most appraisal instances identified in the corpus are expressed through phrases or clauses rather than single words. This linguistic pattern makes sense considering the topic's complexity. Political issues, especially those concerning government institutions, demand nuanced evaluation. Such complexity is reflected in findings by Zhunussova et al. (2024), who found that politicians often rely on evaluative phraseological units like idiomatic or multi-word expressions to convey stance and criticism more precisely. When context is not fully understood, an expression may easily be misinterpreted. Therefore, the AIs tend to construct longer evaluative units which combine emotional undertones with factual information. These extended expressions allow the AI to maintain a balanced tone while still delivering strong criticism, reflecting how appraisal in political discourse often operates subtly within broader clauses.

However, the strong critical tone found in all texts should not be mistaken as the AI's independent attitude. The negativity largely stems from the prompt direction, which specifically requested a *critical opinion piece*. Without such instruction, AI models generally produce descriptive and neutral statements, avoiding subjective judgments. Ganie et al. (2025) similarly found that prompt-based AI writing tends to produce structurally coherent but contextually shallow texts, lacking the nuanced reasoning and rhetorical awareness typically shown by human writers. Thus, the evaluative stance in these outputs mirrors the intention of the user rather than the AI's inherent bias. The models simply reproduce and reorganize language patterns found in their training data, aligning their tone to the communicative goal defined by the prompt. In other words, AI does not "choose" to criticize, but it performs criticism because the user asks it to.

Connecting this to journalism, the findings illustrate a crucial insight about AI's evolving role in the newsroom. While AI can convincingly imitate the linguistic style and tone of a human opinion writer, it lacks genuine stance-taking ability. It cannot decide whether an issue is right or wrong, only reconstruct how such evaluations are typically expressed. Consequently, AI serves best as an assistive tool for journalists, but the final ethical and interpretive judgment must remain in human hands. Human writers ensure that nuance, moral reasoning, and contextual awareness, especially in politically sensitive topics, are accurately represented.

In short, the analysis shows that AI-generated opinion texts are shaped less by "what the AI thinks" and more by "how it has been told to think". Its language reflects patterns of human evaluation embedded in data, rearticulated through phrasing and structure. The dominance of

Judgement and Appreciation indicates a focus on institutional critique rather than emotional appeal, while the frequent use of phrasal and clausal appraisals highlights the complexity of evaluating political discourse. Ultimately, these findings reaffirm that AI can imitate evaluative language but not originate genuine perspective. This is a distinction that underscores the ongoing need for human interpretation in journalistic practice.

Conclusion

This study explored how artificial intelligence systems construct evaluative meaning in opinion articles about Indonesia's DPR using Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory. The analysis revealed that although AI-generated texts can produce coherent and contextually relevant opinions, their evaluations tend to mirror dominant public sentiment rather than express an original stance. Most of the attitudes identified were negative, reflecting society's existing distrust and disappointment toward the DPR, yet these emotions were not genuinely "felt" by the AI. Instead, they functioned as linguistic reproductions of the evaluative patterns found in the data on which the models were trained.

This finding indicates that AI does not form personal opinions. It only reproduces human perspectives in a systematic, text-based manner. However, since this research focused solely on explicit attitudes, it did not account for implicit or metaphorical evaluations that might reveal subtler ideological positioning. Future studies could expand on this by incorporating implicit analysis and comparing evaluative strategies across different political or cultural contexts to better understand how AI contributes to shaping discourse.

Acknowledgements

The researchers would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Rahmadsyah Rangkuti, lecturer of the Cyber Discourse course, for his invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout the writing of this article. His thoughtful feedback and continuous support have greatly motivated the researchers to refine their analysis and complete this study with confidence. The researchers are sincerely thankful for his inspiration and mentorship.

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APPENDIX

Full Texts of AI-Generated Opinions

1. ChatGPT

DPR dan Kesenjangan Kepercayaan Publik: Antara Janji dan Realita

Gelombang demonstrasi yang melanda Indonesia pada akhir Agustus hingga awal September 2025 bukanlah sekadar aksi rutin. Ribuan warga dari berbagai lapisan, mulai mahasiswa, buruh, hingga kelompok sipil, turun ke jalan menuntut perubahan kebijakan dan transparansi dari Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (DPR). Aksi-aksi ini menandai titik kritis dalam hubungan antara rakyat dan wakil mereka, sebuah pertanda bahwa kepercayaan publik terhadap institusi legislatif sedang berada di titik nadir.

Sebagai lembaga yang sejatinya menjadi representasi rakyat, DPR memiliki tanggung jawab moral untuk mendengar aspirasi masyarakat, menyusun regulasi yang berpihak pada publik, dan menjaga akuntabilitas. Namun, realitas yang terjadi belakangan ini menunjukkan jarak yang semakin lebar antara DPR dan rakyat. Demonstrasi yang menuntut pembubaran DPR, yang disuarakan pada 25 Agustus 2025 melalui seruan viral di media sosial, adalah simbol dari kekecewaan yang mendalam. Bukannya menilai sebagai aksi yang melampaui batas, masyarakat menganggap lembaga ini gagal menunjukkan kepemimpinan yang berpihak pada kepentingan publik.

Salah satu fokus kritik utama adalah soal besaran tunjangan dan fasilitas anggota DPR. Sementara sebagian besar masyarakat berjuang memenuhi kebutuhan pokok di tengah kenaikan harga barang, wacana tunjangan anggota legislatif yang dianggap berlebihan memicu perasaan ketidakadilan. Kritik ini bukan sekadar persoalan materi; ia mencerminkan persepsi publik bahwa DPR lebih memprioritaskan kepentingan internal ketimbang tanggung jawabnya sebagai wakil rakyat. Keadaan ini semakin diperparah oleh komunikasi yang cenderung tertutup, sehingga rakyat merasa suaranya tidak didengar dan aspirasi mereka diabaikan.

Demo pada 28 Agustus 2025 yang dipimpin serikat buruh, dikenal dengan Hari Solidaritas Buruh Nasional (HOSTUM), menambah dimensi baru dalam kritik terhadap DPR. Tuntutan menolak revisi UU TNI dan Polri, sekaligus menuntut efisiensi kabinet, menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat menaruh perhatian tidak hanya pada kesejahteraan pribadi, tetapi juga tata kelola negara yang transparan dan adil. Sayangnya, respons DPR selama ini cenderung lambat dan reaktif. Beberapa anggota bahkan menilai aksi ini sebagai gangguan, bukan sebagai masukan konstruktif, yang pada akhirnya memperburuk citra DPR di mata publik.

Tidak kalah penting adalah aksi mahasiswa Aliansi BEM Seluruh Indonesia (BEM SI) pada 9 September 2025. Mereka membawa 25 tuntutan yang mencakup isu strategis, mulai dari revisi UU, evaluasi program sosial, hingga transparansi anggaran negara. Demonstrasi ini menunjukkan bahwa generasi muda sangat peduli terhadap arah kebijakan nasional dan keberlanjutan demokrasi. Namun, ketika aspirasi ini tidak direspons dengan serius, risiko munculnya apatisisme politik di kalangan generasi penerus menjadi nyata. Alih-alih menjadi partner kritis dalam proses legislatif, mahasiswa kerap dipandang sebagai pengganggu, sebuah sikap yang tidak sehat bagi budaya demokrasi.

Melihat keseluruhan peristiwa ini, DPR perlu merenungkan perannya secara mendasar. Kritik publik bukanlah serangan personal, melainkan cermin dari ekspektasi masyarakat terhadap lembaga legislatif. Jika DPR terus mengabaikan suara rakyat, legitimasi politiknya bisa terkikis lebih jauh. Demokrasi bukan hanya soal pemilu dan suara yang masuk ke bilik suara; ia juga tentang partisipasi aktif, dialog terbuka, dan akuntabilitas yang konsisten. DPR harus mampu menjadi mediator antara kepentingan pemerintah dan aspirasi publik, bukan sekadar simbol kekuasaan yang jauh dari realitas sosial.

Selain itu, DPR juga perlu memperbaiki mekanisme komunikasi publik. Transparansi dalam pengambilan keputusan dan penyampaian informasi mengenai penggunaan anggaran serta kebijakan strategis adalah langkah awal untuk membangun kembali kepercayaan masyarakat.

Penerapan sistem feedback yang memungkinkan warga menilai kinerja legislatif secara berkala bisa menjadi solusi inovatif. Rakyat tidak hanya ingin didengar; mereka ingin tahu bahwa suara mereka berpengaruh dalam setiap kebijakan yang diambil.

Aksi-aksi damai yang berubah ricuh, seperti yang terjadi di beberapa titik demo, seharusnya menjadi alarm bagi DPR. Kekerasan bukanlah solusi, tetapi kegagalan institusi untuk menjalin komunikasi yang efektif dapat memicu frustrasi publik. Tanggung jawab moral DPR adalah menciptakan ruang dialog yang inklusif, mendengar kritik, dan menindaklanjuti masukan dengan tindakan nyata. Tanpa hal ini, demokrasi hanya akan menjadi formalitas tanpa esensi, di mana rakyat merasa diwakili hanya dalam angka dan statistik, bukan dalam kebijakan nyata.

Akhirnya, gelombang demonstrasi Agustus–September 2025 adalah panggilan keras bagi DPR untuk introspeksi. Kritik publik, tuntutan mahasiswa, serikat buruh, dan berbagai elemen masyarakat bukanlah ancaman; mereka adalah indikator vital bahwa demokrasi masih hidup dan partisipasi publik masih kuat. DPR memiliki peluang untuk memperbaiki hubungan dengan rakyat, membangun kredibilitas, dan menunjukkan bahwa legislatif adalah lembaga yang mampu menjembatani kepentingan pemerintah dan aspirasi masyarakat. Jika gagal, maka bukan hanya legitimasi yang terancam, tetapi juga masa depan demokrasi di Indonesia.

DPR harus memilih: menjadi legislatif yang responsif, transparan, dan berpihak pada rakyat, atau terus menjauh dari masyarakat dan kehilangan kepercayaan yang telah dibangun selama puluhan tahun. Gelombang demonstrasi ini mengingatkan kita bahwa suara rakyat adalah sumber kekuatan demokrasi sejati — sebuah pesan yang seharusnya tidak pernah diabaikan.

2. Gemini

Suara Rakyat di Tengah Senayan yang Membisu

JAKARTA – Gerakan massa yang memenuhi jalan-jalan ibu kota dan berbagai kota besar di Indonesia sejak Agustus hingga awal September lalu, bukanlah sekadar riak-riak kemarahan sesaat. Ini adalah gelombang pasang yang dibangun dari akumulasi kekecewaan, kejengkelan, dan rasa dikhianati oleh wakil-wakil rakyat yang duduk di Senayan. Sebagai jurnalis, saya melihat ada pola yang berulang, sebuah narasi ironi yang semakin menguat: saat rakyat berteriak, gedung DPR justru terasa paling sunyi.

Bermula dari isu kenaikan tunjangan perumahan anggota DPR, yang mencapai Rp 50 juta per bulan, nyala api kemarahan publik tersulut. Di tengah badai ekonomi, di mana harga bahan pangan meroket, lapangan pekerjaan menyempit, dan upah buruh kian tak sebanding dengan kebutuhan hidup, wacana tersebut terasa seperti lelucon kejam. Respons dari para anggota dewan pun jauh dari empati. Alih-alih merespons dengan bijak, beberapa justru menampilkan joget-joget santai di tengah rapat, sementara yang lain melontarkan pernyataan-pernyataan yang melukai hati, seperti menyebut demonstran "tolol sedunia." Sikap arogan dan tidak peka ini seakan mengonfirmasi pandangan publik bahwa para wakil rakyat telah kehilangan sentuhan dengan realitas yang dialami oleh konstituen mereka.

Ketika Lembaga Legislatif Kehilangan Legitimasi

Aksi massa yang meluas ini adalah refleksi nyata dari erosi kepercayaan publik terhadap DPR. Selama bertahun-tahun, lembaga ini dipersepsikan lebih sibuk mengurus kepentingan internal daripada menunaikan tugas utamanya: membuat undang-undang yang berpihak pada rakyat, mengawasi jalannya pemerintahan, dan menampung aspirasi. Laporan dari berbagai lembaga pemantau, seperti Indonesian Parliamentary Center (IPC), menunjukkan kinerja legislasi yang lesu, di mana banyak rancangan undang-undang (RUU) penting, seperti RUU Perampasan Aset, tak kunjung disahkan. Sementara itu, pembahasan isu-isu krusial sering kali dilakukan secara tertutup, jauh dari pengawasan publik.

Kritik terhadap DPR tidak berhenti pada soal tunjangan dan kinerja legislasi. Peristiwa tewasnya pengemudi ojek online, Affan Kurniawan, yang dilindas kendaraan taktis polisi saat demonstrasi, mengubah arah tuntutan. Protes yang awalnya menasar kebijakan ekonomi dan DPR, kini juga berfokus pada isu kekerasan aparat. Namun, tanggapan dari DPR terkesan lamban

dan tidak substantif. Hanya ada permintaan maaf yang normatif dan janji-janji klise untuk berbenah. Seharusnya, momen krisis ini bisa menjadi momentum bagi DPR untuk mengambil peran yang lebih aktif. Mereka seharusnya menjadi garda terdepan dalam mendorong reformasi kepolisian dan memastikan adanya pertanggungjawaban hukum bagi pelaku kekerasan.

Mencari Jalan Kembali ke Jati Diri

Jika DPR tak berbenah, gelombang protes ini hanyalah awal. Suara-suara yang menuntut pembubaran lembaga legislatif akan semakin nyaring. Pertanyaannya, bagaimana DPR bisa kembali mendapatkan kepercayaan publik?

Pertama, transparansi dan akuntabilitas adalah kunci. Setiap keputusan, terutama yang menyangkut anggaran dan kesejahteraan anggota, harus dibuka seluas-luasnya kepada publik. Tak ada lagi rapat-rapat tertutup yang hanya menguntungkan segelintir elite. Kedua, perbaikan kinerja legislasi harus menjadi prioritas utama. DPR harus segera mengesahkan RUU yang pro-rakyat, bukan yang pro-oligarki. Fokus pada isu-isu mendasar seperti ketenagakerjaan, pendidikan, dan kesehatan jauh lebih penting daripada isu-isu yang hanya menguntungkan segelintir pihak. Terakhir, empati harus menjadi karakter utama. Anggota DPR harus membuktikan bahwa mereka benar-benar memahami penderitaan rakyat yang mereka wakili. Berhenti mengeluarkan pernyataan yang provokatif dan mulailah mendengarkan.

Gelombang demonstrasi di bulan Agustus dan awal September adalah tamparan keras bagi DPR. Ini adalah pengingat bahwa kekuasaan datang dari rakyat, dan legitimasi lembaga negara ada di tangan mereka. DPR kini berada di persimpangan jalan: antara memilih untuk kembali ke jalan yang benar sebagai wakil rakyat atau terus berada dalam menara gading yang semakin terisolasi dari suara masyarakat. Pilihan ada di tangan mereka. Tetapi satu hal yang pasti, suara rakyat tidak akan pernah berhenti bergemuruh.

3. Perplexity

DPR dan Gelombang Demonstrasi 2025: Cermin Kegagalan Demokrasi

Gelombang demonstrasi besar-besaran yang mengguncang Indonesia sejak Agustus hingga awal September 2025 bukanlah sekadar protes biasa. Ia adalah alarm keras yang menggema dari berbagai lapisan masyarakat yang lelah, kecewa, dan marah terhadap kondisi parlemen yang selama ini dianggap abai pada fungsi dasarnya sebagai wakil rakyat. Demonstrasi yang berfokus di depan Gedung DPR RI dan meluas ke berbagai daerah ini sesungguhnya adalah cermin nyata kegagalan DPR menjalankan amanah konstitusionalnya.

Sebagai lembaga legislatif, DPR sepatutnya menjadi tempat aspirasi rakyat diwakili dan disalurkan untuk memperjuangkan kepentingan publik. Namun, kenyataannya jauh dari harapan. Tuntutan dasar rakyat yang tercermin dalam demonstrasi ini begitu jelas: menolak kenaikan tunjangan anggota DPR yang fantastis, menuntut transparansi kinerja, menyoroti dugaan korupsi hingga permintaan pembubaran DPR karena dianggap gagal menjalankan fungsi kontrol terhadap pemerintah. Ketika mayoritas rakyat menghadapi tekanan ekonomi yang berat—harga kebutuhan pokok melambung, subsidi yang tidak merata, pajak semakin berat—anggota DPR justru menaikkan pendapatan mereka sampai ratusan juta per bulan dengan alasan peningkatan tunjangan perumahan dan kunjungan kerja. Fenomena ini tentu menghadirkan jurang kepercayaan yang sangat lebar antara rakyat dan wakilnya.

Yang lebih memprihatinkan, dalam kondisi rakyat terluka oleh beban kehidupan dan menyuarakan aspirasi melalui aksi damai, respons DPR cenderung acuh, bahkan diwarnai sikap arogan dan statement yang tidak mewakili perasaan rakyat. Ada bahkan rekaman anggota DPR berjoget-joget saat sidang tahunan MPR di tengah gejolak sosial yang tengah terjadi. Perilaku seperti ini tentu semakin menjauhkan DPR dari fungsi moral dan tanggung jawabnya sebagai wakil rakyat.

Krisis kepercayaan ini bukan sekadar soal angka dan kebijakan ekonomi. Gelombang demonstrasi menandai fragmentasi yang lebih dalam: rakyat merasakan ketidakadilan struktural

dan ketidakpastian hukum. Contohnya, hanya satu dari 42 Rancangan Undang-Undang prioritas yang disahkan dalam setahun, yakni UU Tentara Nasional Indonesia, yang pun disahkan dengan proses minim partisipasi publik. Fungsi legislasi DPR yang lamban dan tidak transparan menjadi salah satu akar kekecewaan besar masyarakat. Ini membuktikan DPR tidak melaksanakan tugasnya sebagai pembuat undang-undang yang berpihak pada kepentingan rakyat luas, melainkan lebih banyak terjebak dalam politik dan kepentingan kelompok.

Kematian tragis Affan Kurniawan, seorang driver ojek online yang tertabrak kendaraan aparat saat mencoba melewati lokasi demonstrasi, menambah luka dalam proses demokrasi yang seharusnya menuntut ruang kebebasan berekspresi dan perlindungan. Aksi represif aparat yang mengedepankan kekerasan, bukan dialog, mencerminkan kegagalan pemerintah dan DPR dalam menciptakan lingkungan demokrasi yang sehat dan manusiawi.

Lebih jauh, demonstrasi ini menunjukkan bagaimana DPR telah kehilangan relevansinya di mata rakyat. Jika dibiarkan terus demikian, bukan hanya legitimasi DPR yang runtuh, tapi juga fondasi demokrasi Indonesia yang terancam rapuh. DPR harus menyadari bahwa posisi mereka bukan di atas rakyat, melainkan sebagai pelayan rakyat yang mendapat kepercayaan untuk memperjuangkan kepentingan bersama.

Kritik keras, tuntutan pembubaran atau reset DPR yang mengemuka di media sosial dan jalanan adalah cermin dari kegagalan DPR membangun komunikasi dan keterwakilan yang sejati. Masyarakat kini menuntut perubahan radikal, bukan hanya kosmetik semata. DPR harus membuka ruang dialog yang inklusif, transparan, dan bertanggung jawab kepada publik. Reformasi struktural dan budaya kerja di DPR menjadi kebutuhan mendesak agar kepercayaan masyarakat bisa mulai dibangun kembali.

Sebagai penutup, gelombang demonstrasi yang bergejolak ini bukan sekadar soal masalah tunjangan atau kenaikan gaji, melainkan refleksi dari rasa sakit dan kekecewaan rakyat terhadap degradasi fungsi demokrasi di Indonesia. DPR telah menjadi simbol kegagalan sistem representasi politik yang harus segera diperbaiki. Jika DPR tidak mampu respond dengan serius dan kredibel, gelombang kekecewaan ini bukan hanya akan terus meletup, tetapi juga dapat menimbulkan konsekuensi yang lebih berbahaya bagi stabilitas dan masa depan demokrasi di negeri ini.