*Original Paper*

# A Transitivity Analysis of International Ecological Discourse – Taking Remarks at the APEC Informal Economic Leaders' Retreat as an Example

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*Abstract*

*This study is guided by the International Ecosophy of "diversity and harmony, interaction and co-existence" proposed by He Wei and Wei Rong, and draw on the analytical model of transitivity for international ecological discourse to analyze China's President Xi Jinping's Remarks at the APEC Informal Economic Leaders' Retreat. The study finds that: first, in this speech, the action process plays a dominant role in the transitivity process, which explains that China not only plays more roles in the international community, but also attaches importance to and advocates starting from all aspects of action to establish an image of actively participating in international affairs and being responsible in the international community; second, in this speech, most of the speech discourse is beneficial discourse, few neutral discourse and no destructive discourse, which shows that China is committed to establishing a good international social ecological discourse system, so as to promote the benign development of the international social ecosystem.*

*Keywords*

*international ecosophy, analytical model of transitivity, ecological discourse*

## 1. Introduction

With the deepening of industrialization and the increase of human activities, the global ecological crisis has occurred frequently, resulting in the worsening of the living state of animals and plants. As the public gradually attaches importance to natural ecology, the topic of "natural ecology" has entered the public's vision, and the academic community has paid more and more attention to the correlation between disciplines and natural ecology. Based on this, ecolinguistics came into being (Huang, 2016).

Matthiessen (2009) believes that the research objects of ecolinguistics include the social environment of language and the social ecological environment. However, the ecological environment includes not only the natural ecological environment but also the social ecological environment (Qu, 1982). "Driven by the shift of discourse research ecology to discourse focus in international relations research, the phenomenon of international ecological discourse is in urgent need of academic attention" (He & Zhang, 2017).

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the situation in the international community has been complicated and changeable. As an ecosystem, the international community is an integral part of which countries are important ecological factors in the international ecosystem (He & Wei, 2017); A country's diplomatic language can reflect not only the relationship between a country and the international ecological system, but also the influence of language on the development and change of the international ecological society. As an influential power, China's diplomatic discourse reflects its position in the international community ecosystem and will also have a corresponding impact on international relations and the international community ecosystem. Based on the transitivity analysis model of international ecological discourse, this study will focus on the international ecological discourse analysis of Chinese diplomatic language.

## 2. The Analysis of International Ecological Discourse

In the field of ecolinguistics, the current research on ecological discourse analysis mainly focuses on natural ecosystems, while the discourse research on social ecosystems is rarely involved. Based on this, the ecolinguistics and social ecosystem are reconstructed, and then the international ecological discourse and its classification are discussed.

*2.1 International Ecological Discourse*

Ecolinguistics focuses on language itself and its ecosystem, and reveals the relationship between language and its ecosystem by studying the interaction between language and its environment (Haugen, 1971). At present, the main research models of ecolinguistics are metaphorical models and non-metaphorical models. The metaphorical model was proposed by Haugen (1971), who defined ecolinguistics as the study of the interaction between language and its ecological environment. In his definition, the concept of "ecology" is used to compare "society". The non-metaphorical model was proposed by Halliday (1990), who believed that language should actively create reality and people should pay attention to the role of language in ecology.

As far as ecolinguistics is concerned, its research method is Ecological Discourse Analysis (Alexander & Stibbe, 2014). At present, there are more researches on ecological discourse analysis of natural ecosystems, while on the contrary, there are few researches on social ecosystems. In human society, social ecosystem refers to individual ecological relations, various ecological relations and various ecological relations among countries in human society (He & Wei, 2017). Based on such research status, He and Wei (2017) reconstructed ecolinguistics and social ecosystem and discussed international

ecological discourse analysis. In the field of ecolinguistics, environmental discourse is the discourse representing the environment, which refers to the linguistic representation of the relationship between human beings and the natural environment (Muhlhausler & Peace, 2006). Based on this, He et al. (2017) argued that "international ecological discourse is a discourse about international ecosystems and a linguistic representation of relations between countries", with the purpose of exploring the impact of language on international ecosystems. In other words, international ecological discourse is based on the interaction between countries and between countries and the international environment. International ecological discourse is closely related to international ecological system. Analyzing international ecological discourse is to reveal how and what impact it has on international ecological environment.

*2.2 The Classification of International Ecological Discourse*

Based on the ecological philosophy of "survival" under natural ecosystems, Stibbe (2015) divides discourse into three categories: "destructive discourse" - discourse that prevents people from protecting their survival ecosystems; "beneficial discourse" - discourse that encourages people to protect their living ecosystems; "neutral discourses" - discourses that promote and hinder, and thus influence people's treatment of the ecosystem in which they live. Similarly, He and Wei (2017) combined this classification of ecological discourse and proposed an international ecological discourse model based on the ecological philosophy of "harmony without diversity, mutual love and mutual benefit". They divide the international ecological discourse into three categories: destructive ecological discourse, neutral ecological discourse and beneficial ecological discourse. Among them, once the destructive international ecological discourse violates the international ecological philosophy, it will hinder people to protect the international ecological system; Neutral international ecological discourse refers to the discourse that neither violates nor supports the international ecological philosophy, indicating that it neither hinders nor promotes people to protect the international ecological system. Beneficial international ecological discourse indicates that the discourse supporting the international ecological philosophy can promote people to protect the international ecosystem.

He and Wei (2017) believe that in order to establish a good international ecological discourse system, different measures should be adopted in the face of different ecological discourses, such as rejecting destructive ecological discourses, improving neutral ecological discourses and promoting beneficial ecological discourses, so as to achieve dynamic balance and sound development of international ecosystems (He & Wei, 2017). In order to better understand international ecological discourse, discourse users need the guidance of ecological philosophy, which is thus constructed. Meanwhile, the transitivity analysis model suitable for describing the characteristics of international ecological discourse is also redefined.

## 3. The Theoretical Framework

The philosophical view and guiding ideology of ecosystem, ecological philosophy, plays an important role in discourse analysis. Similarly, the analysis of international ecological discourse needs the

guidance of international ecological philosophy. The analysis of international ecological discourse under the guidance of international ecological philosophy conforms to the study of international relations in the context of China and the world. Based on transitivity system, six processes are divided into three sub-categories, including beneficial processes, neutral processes and destructive processes. At the same time, based on the transitivity system, in order to highlight the attributes of the actor in the international ecosystem, the role of the actor is re-refined and defined.

*3.1 The International Ecological Philosophy View*

Ecological philosophy is a philosophy that requires us to extract and reconstruct classical views from traditional culture (Naess, 1989), which can provide us with a set of principles for analyzing ecological discourse, through which we can make corresponding efforts to achieve the balance of the ecosystem. According to different ecosystems, many scholars put forward different ecological philosophy views. For example, Schroll (2013) put forward "psychological ecological view" for interpersonal communication. For natural ecosystem, Stibbe (2015) put forward "survival view". Salazar and Jalabert (2016) proposed a "landscape ecological view" for urban ecology. For international communication, different scholars also have different ecological philosophy thoughts. For example, "peace" (Mowat, 1935), "View of communication" (Jonsson & Hall, 2003), and "diversity" (Masamichi, 2004). However, the above ecological philosophy view is not comprehensive, and the international ecosystem needs a systematic and constructive ecological philosophy view that pays attention to the existence, characteristics and relations of international ecological factors (He & Wei, 2017).

Chinese traditional culture and diplomatic ideas provide a systematic and constructive view of international ecological philosophy (He & Wei, 2017). Based on this, the international ecological philosophy concept is formed: "pluralistic harmony, interactive symbiosis", which specifically means that "countries are in a state of pluralistic harmony, which is contained in the process of interactive symbiosis" (He & Wei, 2018). In other words, the existence of various countries' tolerance and respect for the diversity of civilizations in the world and other countries is the idea of harmonious coexistence, and the civilizations and ideas of various countries in the world communicate and coexist in the dynamic dimension of national coexistence. The international ecological philosophy view of "pluralism, harmony and intergrowth", which is developed from "harmony without diversity, mutual love and mutual benefit", has unified the static dimension of "pluralism" and "harmony" and the dynamic dimension of "interaction" and "symbiosis", which not only states the proper state of each component of the international social ecosystem, but also discusses the process of coexistence and coexistence between each component of the ecosystem (He & Wei, 2018). International ecological philosophy is conducive to maintaining the dynamic balance of the international ecosystem, promoting the ecologicalization of the international society, and helping people become "ecological people" with ecological consciousness (Huang, 2016), thus promoting the country to become an "ecological country".

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*3.2 The Transitivity Analysis Model of International Ecological Discourse*

Based on the three kinds of international ecological discourse and the ecological philosophy view of "harmony without diversity, mutual love and mutual benefit", the paper constructs three subsystems with ecological significance, namely beneficial process, neutral process and destructive process, so as to construct a process system reflecting the characteristics of international ecological discourse. The process system divides the human experience into six processes and the participant roles into two categories, and then subdivides them on this basis to more intuitively reflect the ecological value of clauses.

3.2.1 The Process System

Systemic functional linguists represented by Halliday provided an operable theoretical basis for ecological discourse analysis and proposed three meta-functions of linguistic system networks, namely conceptual function, interpersonal function and discourse function. Among them, the conceptual function is embodied by the transitivity system in the form of clauses (Chen, 2019). Halliday (1994) believed that the transitive system represented the speaker's experience of the subjective and objective world and consisted of three parts: process, participants in the process and environmental components. Its function was to divide what people saw, heard and thought in the real world into several "processes" and to specify the "participants" and "environmental components" related to various processes. Based on people's understanding of the objective world, transitive systems divide human experience into six types of processes, namely, material processes, mental processes, relational processes, behavioral processes, verbal processes and existential processes (Halliday, 1985). On this basis, He Wei et al. combined with the transitive theory of systemic functional linguistics and three international ecological discourses, and based on the main process types of language ontology (He, Zhang, Tan, Zhang, & Wei, 2017) and the eco-philosophy view of "harmony without diversity, mutual love and mutual benefit", detailed and ecologicalized the main process. It constructs three subsystems with ecological significance, namely beneficial process, neutral process and destructive process, and constructs a transitivity analysis model that embodies the characteristics of international ecological discourse, namely the process system of international ecological discourse. The process of international ecological discourse includes six processes: action process, psychological process and relationship process. Among the three sub-system processes, the beneficial process is mostly manifested as the positive discourse, that is, the viewpoint supporting the ecological philosophy view, the neutral process has nothing to do with the content of the ecological philosophy view, and the destructive process violates the content of the ecological philosophy view. Based on transitive systems, the roles of actors are also redefined in order to highlight the attributes of actors in the international ecosystem.

3.2.2 The Participant System

He and Wei (2017) proposed an international ecosystem factor model, in which participants are divided into "living" and "non-living" according to their living and non-living factors, in order to show the significance of the role of participants in the international ecosystem (He &Wei, 2017). In order to

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highlight the attributes of participants in the international ecosystem and more intuitively reflect the ecological value of clauses, He and Wei redefined and refined the roles of participants. In more detail, living entities include human beings and non-human beings (She, 2009), so He and Wei (2017) subdivide "living entities participants" into "human living entities participants" and "non-human living entities participants". Among them, "human life participants" mainly refers to people, and "non-human life participants" mostly refers to non-human life entities such as animals and plants. In addition, "living body participants" also includes "individual participants" and "group participants" (He & Wei, 2017). As a non-living body and an important part of the international community, the country has the concept of regionalism (Yang & Gao, 2007), so the international community has the characteristics of place. Regional places include physical places and social places (Scannell & Gifford, 2010). According to this, He and Wei (2017) believe that the international community has physical and social characteristics, and further subdivide "non-living body participants" into "physical participants" and "social participants". "Physical participants" can specifically refer to physical factors such as geographical location, mountains, rivers and other countries. "Social actors" specifically refers to the social factors of a country such as politics, economy and culture.

The construction of international ecological philosophy has laid a foundation for people to understand the positive and negative effects of beneficial and destructive discourse in international ecological discourse, and to improve people's understanding of ecological issues in international society. Under the transitivity analysis model of international ecological discourse, the ecological reconstruction and definition of process system and participant roles provide the means for international ecological discourse analysis. The purpose of the study is to explore how the speech reflects the international ecological philosophy, and then appeal to people to promote the harmonious development of international ecology.

## 4. The Transitivity Analysis of Speech

### 4.1 Data Collection

The data of this study from the website, the China Daily website (https://language.chinadaily.com.cn/) released a speech of the APEC Economic Leaders' Retreat. The summit was initiated by New Zealand, the host of APEC in 2021, with the theme of "How the Asia-Pacific Region can Seize opportunities, Cooperate to tackle the health crisis, Accelerate economic recovery and Lay a better Foundation for future development in the context of COVID-19". The data is bilingual with a total of 2699 words, but this study only analyzes Chinese data with a total of 1600 words. The reason why this study chooses this speech as the data is mainly considering that international discourse shapes the diplomatic relations of countries and also affects people's cognition. Therefore, it is particularly important to grasp the ecological orientation of international discourse.

*4.2 Data Analysis*

The data analysis in this study is divided into two steps. The first step is to analyze the role types of participants in the selected corpus based on the transitivity analysis model of international ecological discourse proposed by He and Wei (2017). According to the role system of participants in international ecological discourse (He & Wei, 2017), this study will summarize the number of various participant roles one by one, and then analyze their ecological roles in international discourse in detail. The second step is based on the international ecological philosophy view (He & Wei, 2018), according to the international ecological discourse process system (He & Wei, 2017), the number and proportion of the six processes are summarized, and then the ecological significance of the six processes in the speech is explored.

*4.3 The Analysis of Participants*

The roles of participants in thisdata can be divided into: (1) human living entity participants (individual participants) : New Zealand Prime Minister Ardern, others; (2) Human life participants (group participants) can be divided into: countries (we, parties, developing countries), China, APEC members; (3) Non-human living organism participants (group participants) can be divided into: viruses; (4) Non-living body participants (social participants) can be divided into: the New Zealand government, the World Trade Organization, regional economic and trade, Asia-Pacific economies, and others.

Example 1: I would like to thank Prime Minister Ardern and the New Zealand government for their efforts in making this summit possible.

Example 2: We should promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and uphold the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

Example 3: We need to implement the APEC Roadmap on the Internet and Digital Economy in a comprehensive and balanced manner, strengthen digital infrastructure, promote the dissemination and application of new technologies, and foster an open, fair and non-discriminatory digital business environment.

The above examples select individual participants, group participants and social participants in the role types of participants. In Example 1, "Prime Minister Ardern" is an individual participant. In Example 2 and Example 3, "we" is a group participant, in context, "we" refers to "APEC countries", and "we" take measures to safeguard the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core and strive to build an open, fair and non-discriminatory digital business environment. They all express the determination of Asia-Pacific countries to work together to maintain a harmonious and symbiotic relationship among the international community.

By analyzing all the role types of participants, this study found that the number of group participants under the living body participants was the largest, followed by the number of social participants under the non-living body participants. The proportion of participants' role types is relatively high among group participants, followed by social participants and individual participants. Among the group participants, the proportion of "we (Asia-Pacific countries)" is 43.70%, and the proportion of "China"

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is 31.30%. We can clearly understand the proportion of role types in the larger number of participants, so as to better grasp which roles play an important role in the speech. On the whole, "we" was the main participant in the speech, followed by "China". It can be seen that the speech focused on the APEC countries, highlighted the main objectives of the meeting, and focused on the discussion of the Asia-Pacific countries and China's fight against the epidemic, the outlook for future development and the efforts needed to achieve it in the future.

*4.4 The Analysis of Process System*

The speech has a total of 118 clauses, and its process system is labeled to obtain 100 action processes, 8 mental processes, 8 relational processes, 1 communication process, 0 behavioral processes, and 1 existential process. In the whole speech, the action process appeared 100 times, indicating the dynamic interaction between the agent and the objective world, reflecting the speech has strong action power; In international ecological discourse, psychological process describes participants' love, hate, opposition or doubt to other participants through emotion, willingness and cognition (He & Wei, 2017). Relational process appears eight times in the speech. In international ecological discourse, relational process establishes political, economic, military, cultural, diplomatic and other relations among participants by describing their identity, location and what is related to them (He & Wei, 2017); The communication process occurs once. In international ecological discourse, the communication process mainly describes the process in which participants exchange information through language communication (He & Wei, 2017). The existence process appears once. In international ecological discourse, the existence process is used to describe the existence state of the participants in the international ecosystem (He & Wei, 2017), but the behavior process does not appear. The following is a detailed analysis of the process system in the data.

4.4.1 The Ecological Analysis of Action Process

In this data, the action process occurs 100 times, and the action process occupies a relatively large and dominant position in the six processes, reflecting the objectivity of the speech corpus. Verbs play a certain role in speech - they have strong attitudinal meaning and influence the transmission of speech meaning. In international ecological discourse, action process describes the action activities of relevant participants, involving three action processes: beneficial, neutral and destructive (He & Wei, 2017).

Example 1: Under the current circumstances, we should strengthen solidarity and cooperation to overcome the impact of the epidemic and promote world economic recovery.

Example 2: China has contributed to the establishment of the COVID-19 Response and Economic Recovery Sub-Fund to help Asia-Pacific economies overcome the epidemic and achieve economic recovery at an early date.

In Example 1, the participants in the three action processes of "strengthening", "overcoming" and "promoting" are "we", i.e., the Asia-Pacific countries, and the semantic configuration of the three verbs is "doing - human life group participants (we) + action process + other". This shows that in the grim situation of COVID-19, Asia-Pacific countries should join hands and work together to overcome

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obstacles and overcome the epidemic. Only in this way can countries resume their former economic development and further promote the world economy, and a harmonious and symbiotic relationship between the international community has been formed. In Example 2, the participant of "donation", "victory" and "realization" is "China", and the semantic configuration of the three verbs is also "doing something - human life group participant (Chinese side) + action process + other". The purpose of China's contribution to APEC is to help other countries ease the economic pressure of fighting the epidemic in order to survive the epidemic.

4.4.2 The Ecological Analysis of Mental Process

Through analyzing the data, there are 8 mental processes. The mental process is characterized by the following three aspects: (1) emotion: thank you; Thank you; Full of confidence, etc. (2) Willingness: hope; A wish; Believe, etc. (3) Cognition and perception: acquisition etc. According to ecological philosophy, mental processes include beneficial, neutral and destructive mental processes (He & Wei, 2017). The mental process of the emergence of this data is analyzed below.

Example 1: We are full of confidence in the victory of the pandemic through human cooperation, in the prospects of world economic recovery and in a bright future for mankind.

In Example 1, "full of confidence" appears three times, and its participant is "we". The semantic configuration of the word is "emotionist - human life group participant (we) + mental process (full of confidence) + phenomenon". He expressed the hope that Asia-Pacific countries will have full confidence in the future and believe that one day the battle against COVID-19 will be won and the world economy will recover.

4.4.3 The Ecological Analysis of Relational Process

The relational process occurs eight times in the speech. According to ecological philosophy, He and Wei (2017) divide relational processes into beneficial, neutral and destructive relational processes. The relational process in this corpus will be analyzed separately in the following sections.

Peace and development remain the theme of The Times, and there is a stronger call to uphold multilateralism, strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and jointly meet challenges.

In Example 1, "peace and development" is the carrier of the clause, and the relational process of "is" defines its attributes. This sentence is the attributive relationship process, semantic configuration of "carrier - non-living body social participant + relationship process (is)+ attribute", this sentence objectively describes the two major themes of today's world and emphasizes that countries should strengthen exchanges and cooperation in order to better cope with and grasp the emerging challenges and opportunities. "Peace and development" follows the international ecological philosophy view for the beneficial relationship process.

4.4.4 The Ecological Analysis of Communication Process and Behavioral Process

In this speech, the communication process and the behavioral process appear once each. In international ecological discourse, the communication process includes the beneficial process of transmitting positive information, the destructive process of transmitting negative information, and the

neutral process of transmitting neutral information (He & Wei, 2017). Existence processes include beneficial processes describing positive states of being, destructive processes describing negative states of being, and neutral processes describing neutral states of being (He & Wei, 2017).

Example 1: Last year, we adopted the APEC Vision 2040, which proposed the goal of building an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community, charting the course for Asia-Pacific economic cooperation.

In Example 1, the word "proposed" indicates that the sentence is a communication process, and the semantic configuration of this sentence is "communicator - human life group participant + communication process (proposed)+ communication content". This phrase shows that the Asia-Pacific countries have worked together to put forward the goal of "openness and peace" and have taken firm steps towards it. This sentence is part of a beneficial communication process that conveys a positive message. Both Chinese and English have habitual existence processes, for example, "there" is a common existence process in Chinese, and "there be" is a common existence process in English (He & Wei, 2017).

## 5. Comprehensive Discussion

Through the analysis of the data, it is found that the sentences in the speech mostly adopt the action process, indicating that the speaker has a positive attitude -- calling on Asia-Pacific countries to jointly cope with the novel coronavirus epidemic, actively recover the economy, and lay a foundation for future development. It can be seen that in this speech, the speakers mostly used objective and helpful words, such as the role types of participants "we" (APEC countries) and the action process (positive verbs). For example, "we" clearly indicates the coordination and co-construction of viewpoints among the subjects of position selection Asia-Pacific countries are actors committed to the well-being of the people. At the same time, "we" constitute a community with a shared future, which shows that Asia-Pacific countries enjoy equal status and unite to fight the epidemic and achieve common development. Through objective and beneficial discourse strategies, the speaker constructs the national identity objectively and truly, makes the discourse persuasive and easy to be accepted by the audience. At the same time, the use of discourse also shapes the image of China as a responsible major country, that is, it is committed to establishing a good international social ecosystem.

Based on data analysis, it can be seen that the discourse system constructed by this speech has two points:

(1) Accurately define China's role in the current APEC

First, in the speech, the speaker said: "To defeat the epidemic at an early date and restore economic growth is the most important task for all Asia-Pacific members at present." (https://language.chinadaily.com.cn/), China's maintenance and support of multilateralism, strengthen pragmatic cooperation with other countries, we must work together to fight against the new outbreak, Shared responsibility and power, build the sometimes-complex mix-and-match, I have you in the fate

of the community, achieve the goal of, the advocacy, qi development, So as to win the war against the epidemic and restore economic development. Secondly, the speech is mostly shown as beneficial international discourse, which is in line with the international ecological philosophy of "pluralism, harmony, interaction and symbiosis", indicating that China actively participates in the action of maintaining the international community ecosystem, so as to realize the good development of the international community ecosystem.

(2) Discourse is global and intersubjective

First, the speech was holistic. In his speeches, the speakers constantly conveyed the concept of community of responsibility, community of interests and community of destiny, and constantly displayed the image of China as a new type of major country. For example, "We live in a global village where all countries share a common destiny. We must work together to tide over difficulties and safeguard a healthy future for mankind." (https://language.chinadaily.com.cn/), the other emphasizes the asia-pacific countries under the current situation, the power and wisdom of action should be gathered members, to comply with the trend of active disease resistance, jointly cope with challenges. Under the new circumstances, China has followed the trend of the globalization era of peace, development and cooperation and demonstrated its style as a responsible major country. At the same time, the speech stressed win-win cooperation, inclusiveness and harmony under the diversity of civilizations, which is in line with the international ecological philosophy and conducive to maintaining the international ecological order.

Secondly, the speech is intersubjective. Intersubjectivity is mainly from the perspective of the group, understanding globalization and other objective things, abandoning the "self" of a single subject, advocating the "we" of the group, emphasizing that countries should strengthen exchanges, dialogue and communication, and properly handle the relations between countries. We should tear down walls rather than build them, open up rather than cut off, integrate rather than decouple, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all. (https://language.chinadaily.com.cn/), the other is harmony - the Asia-Pacific countries to the "equality, mutual trust, mutual inclusive, cooperation and win-win" spirit under the guidance of building a harmonious world peace and prosperity. Secondly, in the speech, the multiple appearances of "we" as a participant indicate the emotional significance of the speaker's words, namely that Asia-Pacific countries have the responsibility to face global problems together. "We" achieve intimacy and emotional integration with each other.

In summary, the speech was intended to convey two messages: First of all, it can be seen from the speech that China follows the basic principles of harmonious coexistence, inclusiveness and symbiosis, adheres to the concept of mutually beneficial cooperation and win-win results, and actively builds the image of a responsible major country in international affairs. Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, China not only provides vaccines to developing countries, but also supports IPR exemptions for COVID-19 vaccines. We also call on all Asia-Pacific countries to work together to fight the

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epidemic, restore the past economic development and create a better future. At the same time, focusing on the all-round development of mankind, China seeks the greatest common denominator in the interests of all parties, and always adheres to the principle of being friends and a community of shared future with other countries. Secondly, the speech mostly uses beneficial international discourse, following the international ecological philosophy view. In his speeches, China's ideas of "harmony in diversity", "win-win sharing" and "inclusiveness' were all reflected, which reflected the positive aspects of China's diplomatic language, and reflected that China actively maintains the international ecological order and provides a good environment for the development of the international ecological system.

## 6. Conclusion

Fairclough (1992) once pointed out that discourse is socially constructive, for example, beneficial discourse is conducive to promoting friendly relations between countries, while destructive discourse will bring friction, misunderstanding and even war between countries. The relations between countries are mainly reflected in international discourse. Diplomatic discourse represents the image of a country and reflects the relationship between various ecological factors in the international ecosystem. He and Wei (2017) argue that friendly relations between countries need to be reflected through beneficial international dialogue, whereas the international social ecosystem may be in crisis due to destructive international discourse. Nowadays, China's status in the international community is gradually improving, and its influence is also increasing day by day. Its diplomatic discourse represents the image of China in the new era, which has important research value.

Based on the international ecological philosophy of "diversity, harmony, interaction and symbiosis" proposed by He and Wei (2018) and the transitivity analysis model of international ecological discourse proposed by He and Wei (2017), this study analyzes a speech at the APEC Economic Leaders' Retreat from two aspects of participant roles and process types. The conclusions are as follows: First, the transitivity process analysis of international ecological discourse shows that the action process is the majority of all processes, indicating that China actively advocates that all countries should take actions and make contributions to the fight against the epidemic and the development of future causes. This shows that China is actively building its image as a responsible major country in the international community. Second, the analysis of international ecological discourse shows that most of the discourse in the speech is beneficial, with little neutral discourse and no destructive discourse, which indicates that China is committed to establishing a good international ecological discourse system and thus promoting the sound development of the international ecological system.

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