

”Chances of sunshine will be good”: Positive evaluations of dry and warm weather in the midst of a climate crisis

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This article investigates linguistically 1) if and how TV meteorologists assess weather conditions in weather forecasts, and 2) whether certain weather conditions are evaluated positively versus negatively. The study is based on a corpus of 62 weather forecasts from May 2024 broadcast on DR and TV2, specifically one weather forecast from each day of the month on the two channels. Assessments occur frequently. Their manifestations can be described on a spectrum: some are explicit and make use of attributive or predicative formulations, others are less direct and present weather forecasts through evaluative categories, and finally some are distanced and implicit as TV meteorologists mention weather conditions neutrally but contrast this mention with a preceding or following evaluative description of an opposing weather perspective. The trend is clear: hot, dry, sunny and windless weather is evaluated positively, while cold, wet and windy weather is assessed negatively, and the programmes refrain from exploring possible links between weather and climate. Against this background, the article discusses how weather forecasts risk normalising rising temperatures and reproducing psychological distance to global warming.

KEYWORDS: weather report; climate change; linguistics; evaluation; psychological distance