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"An Eclectic Analysis of Transitivity and Textual Patterns of Donald Trump's Inaugural Speech(2017)"

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ABSTRACT

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The current study examines the discourse implied in Trump's political speech in 2017, in accordance with Halliday's (2014) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Furthermore, it discovers how Trump constructs discourse according to the Textual Patterns proposed by Hoey (1983). The study follows a qualitative -descriptive approach. Data is collected from Trump's inaugural speech. The study concludes that the existence of these implicit patterns helps to understand the underlying ideology of Trump's messages in the interpretation of the discourse which he uses to frame it.

1. Introduction

The current study investigates the ways that Trump utilizes to influence through his political speeches. It is considered to be an attempt to understand how the former American President discusses the American situation according to the patterns of text organization demonstrated by Hoey (1983). In addition, the textual analysis of this study is supported by an adapted version of Systemic Functional Linguistics. It is used to clarify two different aspects of meaning, i.e. experiential and interpersonal meanings by examining some lexicogrammatical choices. Therefore, the study examines Transitivity processes and participant roles, and Modality types. In short, the data are subsequently analyzed by applying Hoey's Textual Patterns and Halliday's SFL. Based on the findings, the researcher clarifies the conceptual basis of how Trump presents his viewpoint about the American situation.

1. Context of the Research Problem

The election of the American president Donald Trump, January 20th 2017, was considered one of the most important political events in the last fifty years. It was the first time that the USA was to elect such a kind of simple presidents. Obviously, he was influenced by his experience as a leading business man. Thus, his presidency period was to be followed closely not only to the American people but also to the whole world. Here comes the importance of Trump's speeches to present an explicit portraiture of the American situation.

2. Rationale for the Study

The current research sheds light on the relationship between the presidential speeches and language (politico-linguistics). Therefore, it utilizes an adopted model of Halliday's (2014) SFL. Such a combinatorial approach explores the manipulative power and the persuasive ideologies exercised within political discourse on the commonest American issues. The two selected models provide an analysis that involves the text level. They provide a linguistic discussion of the clues that construct the text. Furthermore, they try to elaborate how linguistic textual features unveil some hidden ideologies and establish some institutional and constitutional power relations.

3. Literature Review

This section presents a review of the literature relevant to the current study. Some related studies are chronologically presented. Each of these studies is reviewed in the light of its theoretical framework, methodology, data and final results. The cited studies nearly share the same theoretical framework of the current study: the patterns of text organization demonstrated by Hoey (1983), the SFL proposed by Halliday (2014).

Sherwani (2011) presents a critical discourse analysis of English Broadcast Political Speeches. His study aims at clarifying the underlining ideologies in political speeches by investigating language. The study adopts the framework of Van Dijk's (1997). It applies a quantitative-qualitative approach. As for the data, they are collected

through electronic media, TV channels, websites, and radio channels. Therefore, final findings reveals that Bush and Blair utilize four linguistic strategies of Antithetical Pronomination, Lexical Styles, Parallelism, and Disclaimers to persuade the audience to accept their policies.

Matsubara (2013) investigates a linguistic analysis of how knowledge of the patterns of text **organization helps in understanding texts better**. It, moreover, examines how these patterns influence acquiring good reading and writing skills. The study adopts a theoretical framework of three text patterns: ‘Problem-Solution’, ‘General-Specific’ and ‘Claim-Counterclaim’ and Clause relations: Matching relation and Logical relation. The final findings tackle how Patterns of text organization can be a powerful vehicle for second language acquisition (SLA).

Theoretical Framework

This section sheds light on Hoey's (1983) Textual Patterns and Halliday's (2014) Systemic-functional Linguistic (SFL) approach.

5.1 Textual Patterns

Hoey (1983) presents three textual patterns: Problem-Solution, General-Specific, and Claim-Counter-claim. Each these patterns is elaborated in the next sub-sections.

5.1.1. Problem-Solution Pattern

Hoey (2001) defines text as the indicator on an intentional interaction between one writer (sender) and readers (receivers). In order

for understand a given interaction, a text should include some given answers to a set of questions that may be intellectually aroused by the reader. Accordingly, Hoey (2001) believes that the problem-solution pattern exists to answer these predicted sets of questions. Therefore, the questions should be about the problem and its results. However, the order of answering these questions is not usually fixed. **Thereupon, the first** the pattern is problem-solution which is signaled by the following elements:

- (1) A situation in which the pattern arises,
- (2) The problem,
- (3) The response to that problem and
- (4) A solution.

The following figure elaborates the problem-solution pattern and its parts.

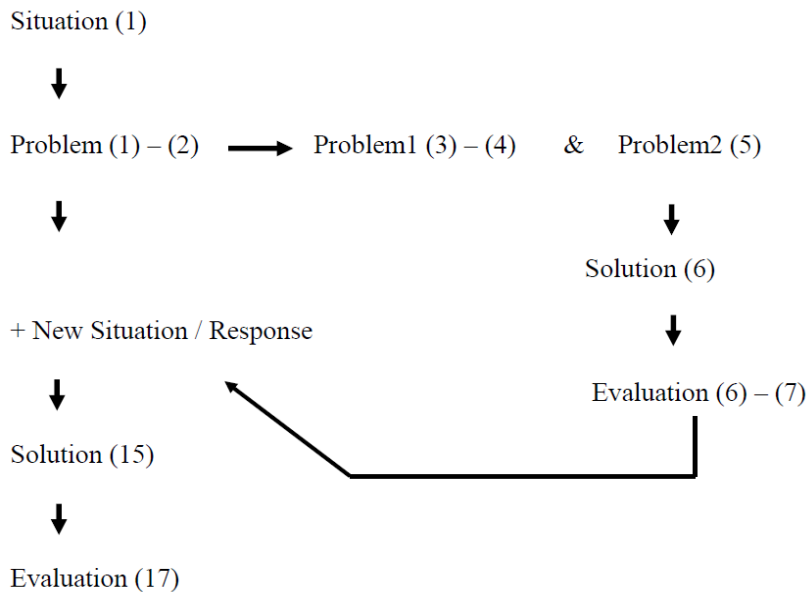


Figure 6: The Problem Solution Patterns Analysis Adopted from (Seiko Matsubara, 2003)

Hoey (2001) adds that there is an interlinking stage which does not occur in the previous figure. It is the "plan" which suggests what solution to be presented. Therefore it may appear between the problem and the solution. To conclude, the pattern can be represented in a situation, a problem, a plan, a solution and an evaluation .

5.1.2. General/Specific Pattern

Holland and Johnson (2000) explain that text contains general sentence followed by a set of specifying sentences. These specifications exemplify, explain or justify the first generalization. Then it culminates with a further general sentence which stresses the same idea. The following diagram demonstrates the pattern and its elements:

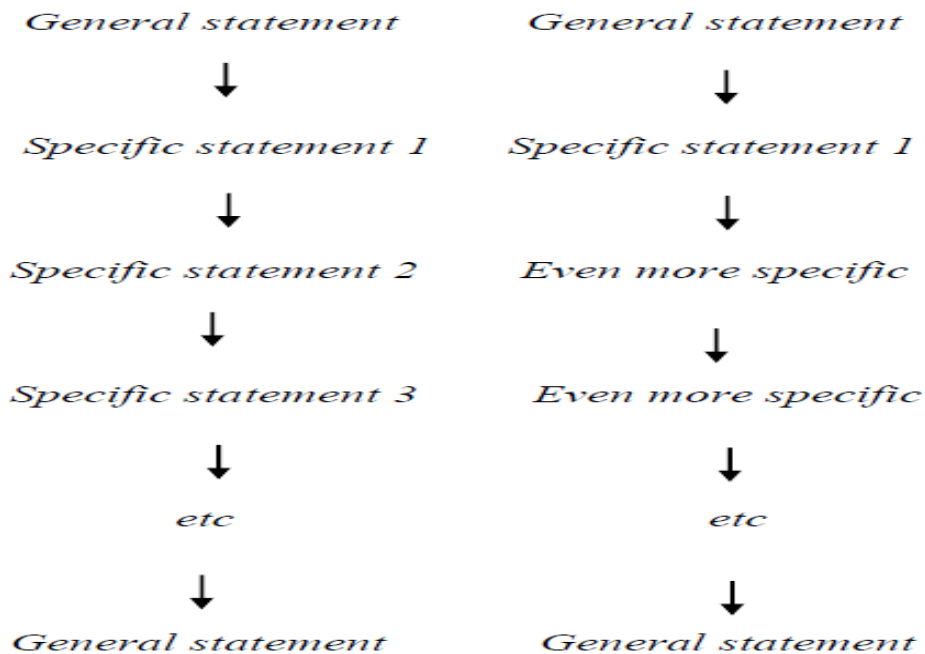


Figure 7: The General/Specific Pattern Adopted from (Matsubara2003, p. 4)

5.1.3. Claim-Counter-Claim Pattern

To clarify a certain concept, the writer may need to present a contrasting idea. Accordingly the third textual pattern plays an important role in refuting ideas through presenting their opposing ideas. Therefore, it includes claims and their counterclaims. Matsubara (2003) adds a further element which interlinks the claim to the counterclaim, the 'common ground'. It demonstrates what is similar between the two opposing affirmations. Consequently, the pattern is signaled through the following elements:

- Claim,
- Counterclaim and
- common ground.

Thus, this section demonstrates three textual patterns proposed by Hoey (1983). Each of these patterns makes use of specific lexicogrammatical choices to signal some veiled messages. That is why the current study utilizes SFG in order to provide more linguistic clues about these choices. Thereupon, the next section presents a snapshot about SGL.

5.2. The Concept of SFL

During the 1960s, Halliday developed (SFL) as a linguistic approach. Newly, it is utilized for the purpose of devising teaching strategies in schools and language institutions instead of traditional methods of teaching language. It is also used for providing linguistic

clues which helps in discourse analysis. Halliday (2014) states that language is further than words or even grammatical structures. Thereupon, language can fulfill several tasks in different social contexts.

In addition, Halliday (1994) sees that language is a semantic system which its meanings are perceived by its forms. In other words, grammatical level and meaning level are closely interrelated. Thus, SFL is concerned with exploring meanings by considering grammatical structure. Based upon Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), SFL is mainly concerned with the afforded grammatical choices made by language user and how he/she can select the appropriate choice.

4. Methodologies

The current data is excerpts of the inaugural speech delivered by Donald Trump in (2017). This speech was made in 2017 to address diverse issues in the American society. Data is collected in the form of a written text which is retrieved from different websites. The investigation is applied only on selected excerpts not on all the clauses in the speeches. These excerpts are discussed and analyzed in the light of an elective model of SFL proposed by Halliday(2014) and Textual Patterns proposed by Hoey (1983) and McCarthy (1991).

5. Data Analysis

This section analyzes data within the selected speech. Only few samples are investigated in the light of the selected patterns. Only three patterns of textual organization are presented in this section.

7.1.Problem/Solution Pattern

The following table demonstrates the Problem-Solution pattern.

Table 1:Problem/Solution

DEVICE	UTTERANCE
Situation	For too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost.
Problem	Washington flourished, but the people did not share in its wealth. Politicians prospered, but the jobs left and the factories closed. The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories. Their triumphs have not been your triumphs. And while they celebrated in our nation's capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land.
Solution	That all changes starting right here and right now because this moment is your moment, it belongs to you.
Evaluation	It belongs to everyone gathered here today and everyone watching all across America. This is your day. This is your celebration. And this, the United States of America, is your country.

Actor	Process: Material	Goal
a small group in our nation's capital	has reaped	the rewards of government
the people	have borne	the cost
The establishment	Protected	Itself
Attribute	Process: Relational	Attributive
Their victories	have not been	your victories
Their triumphs	have not been	your triumphs
this moment	Is	your moment
This	Is	your day
This	Is	your celebration
the United States of America	Is	your country

According to the aforementioned table, the first two clauses presents the situation before Trump's coming on. To clarify how unfair the situation was, the material process "has reaped" is used. On the hand, the second material process "have borne" indicates that the poor paid the cost. Besides, the material process "protected" services the goal "itself" to stress selfishness of policy makers during the last decades. To reveal how complicated the problem is, the former president tackles the

problem using two clauses which identify the relation process. The negative relational process " have not been" negates the relation between the Attribute and Attributive which indicates that these achievements do not benefit the American middle class. Finally, the excerpt presents the solution and evaluates it using other five relational processes. It ends up with a noun phrase of the Attribute "the United States of America", the relational process "is" and Attributive "your country" to rebuild a sense of belonging. Thus, in other words, utterance (1) signals the existence of Problem/Solution Pattern which is indicated by its four elements: situation, problem, solution and evaluation. Obviously, using this pattern not only organizes the speech but also supports the information.

7.2 General/Specific

The following table demonstrates the Problem-Solution pattern.

Table 2: General/

Specific

DEVICE	UTTERANCE
General	We are one nation
Specific	and their pain is our pain.
Specific	Their dreams are our dreams.
Specific	. And their success will be our success.

Specific	We share one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny	
General	The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans.	
Attribute	Process: Relational	Attributive
We	Are	one nation
Their pain	is	our pain
Their dreams	Are	Our dream
their success	. will be.	our success
The oath of office I take today	is	an oath of allegiance to all Americans.
Actor	Process: Material	Goal
We	share	one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny

Generally speaking, Trump's vocabulary level is simple. and he, apparently, repeats himself over and over. Further, he usually lurches from one subject to an unrelated one and provides a detailed description of a single point. For the text organization, General/Specific is the most

utilized pattern for Trump throughout the selected data. With that pattern, he can support and enhance his general statements using specific instances in which more detailed descriptions of the first statement are offered. For instance, the excerpt starts with the relational process "are" to stress unity among the American people. Then, it is followed by a set of relational processes which paraphrase what this unity means for Trump. Simply, it means having the same dreams, feeling the pains and sharing the same home and destiny. The excerpt ends up with another relational process "is" which admits devotion to all Americans. Accordingly, the excerpt clarifies how the former president provides his notions in detailed description which indicates how he tries hard to convince his listeners of what he says. Thus, the pattern serves his attempts of domination. The next section elaborates Claim-counter-Claim pattern.

7.3 Claim-Counter-Claim Pattern

The following table demonstrates Claim-Counter-Claim Pattern

Table 3: Claim-Counter-Claim Pattern

DEVICE	UTTERANCE
Claim	Today's ceremony, however, has very special meaning because today, we are not merely transferring power from one administration to another or from one party to another,
Counter	but we are transferring power from Washington,

claim	D.C. and giving it back to you, the people.	
Attribute	Process: Relational	Attributive
Today's ceremony	Has	very special meaning
Actor	Process: Material	Goal
We	Are not transferring	power from one administration to another or from one party to another,
We	Are transferring	power from Washington
-----	Giving	it back to you, the people.

In this utterance, Trump presents the claim that the inauguration ceremony is held to replace one president with another. Then, he presents an opposing viewpoint and rejects the first one. The first claim is supposedly a hypothetical one, whereas the second is supposed to represent the real status quo. To attract the listeners to what he says, the former president paves the way using the relational process "has". Then he describes the attributive "meaning" with the adjective "special" to admit that his inauguration is much different. After that, he refutes the claim that the inauguration is just a power transferring between

administrations using the material process "are transferring". Then he states his point of view of the inauguration using the affirmative form of the same material process "are transferring". Finally, he confirms the Americans' right of authority using the material process "giving". Apparently, the three simple clauses indicate how Trump prefers to speak simply and with more passion.

Obviously, he prefers to disprove his opponents' opinions. Therefore, this device is actually suitable for the position of Trump as a controversial president who, from the very beginning, has been opposed by a large number of Americans. The use of the claim-counter-claim device signifies awareness on his part of the situation and his position. It denotes, in other words, that he is being discursively defensive, so to speak. The device is also suitable to attack his opponents such as media, the Democratic party and even Obama's administration.

6. Conclusion

The study concludes that Trump demonstrates his persuasive ideologies through some lexico-grammatical choices which are highlighted by the analysis of the text. As for textual patterns, they reveal some discursive features of Trump's discourse. The selected patterns clarify the construction of the selected speeches. Throughout the texts, the former American president discusses key issues relevant to the American people following one of these divisions: problem solution division, General-Specific division or Hypothetical-real division. On the level of the lexico-grammatical choices which construct these patterns,

the analysis signals remarkable linguistic features such as the Transitivity processes: material process and relational processes. These processes reflect how Trump's concern stands for America and the Americans. As for the material process, the former American president uses it to tackle some actions he intends to take such as: building a wall or cutting taxes. On the other hand, he usually stresses his relation to the millions of Americans using the relational process.

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