Lexical modal in political languages in America

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 11 November 2020
Received in rev. form 27 Nov. 2020
Accepted 30 November 2020

Keywords:
Lexical Modal, Corpus Linguistics,
Political Language

JEL Classification:
M10, M15

ABSTRACT

Language in politics is directed towards the achievement of political objectives, that is gaining power or maintaining power. The language of the politicians is aiming to attract the attention of voters which can be seen in various campaign media, such as banners, advertisements, social media, and excerpts from interviews in the mass media. This research is descriptive research. This research describes the choice of words spoken by the political elite in representing their power. The data in this study are Donald Trump’s remarks relating to power. The data source in this study is the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The results of this study found that the choice of words used by Donald Trump is the use of sentence structures in the form of modal lexical.

Introduction

Language is a communication tool or tool which is used to convey thoughts and feelings to others. Language has a very important role not only in various regions, such as political, social, cultural, legal, educational, but also language is used by someone with various purposes. Language is a medium for gaining power. Language is also a very basic ingredient in politics, as illustrated in Del Espinasse’s mind that language is the basic spice of all realms related to politics to achieve power. Language is also seen as the main means of politics and through the use of language is reflected in how power is used. This is what is often referred to as political language (Beard, 2002). This is what makes researchers interested in conducting research about Lexical Modal in Political Languages in America.

Language can change the way people think. Through propaganda the government or the mass media that controls public opinion, or on the other hand passes resistance language is used by activists, the language of emotions can change opinions Public. In political struggles between different parties, language is very important tool. Politics also influences language. Many new words and expressions introduced politics, and there are words whose meanings are changed if used by the government. For example, if politicians use the word inside the motto, additional understanding will change and soon the word will contain different.

Theoretical background and conceptual framework

Political language

Political language is the language used for political purposes, or language which is used by humans in communicating for the benefit of influence and or regulate other people / communities (Beard, 2000: 4). Beard further said that it is necessary to influence or regulate others choice of words that can influence the minds of others so they agree or want follow the ideas / ideas of the speakers. Words that are often used in communicating is a metaphor, metonymy, and analogy (Beard, 2000: 19-28).

Halliday (1985) emphasizes the social context of language, the social function that determines the form of language and its development. Language as one of the systems of meaning (systems of tradition, systems of livelihood, and systems of courtesy) together form human culture. Furthermore, according to Halliday (1978) language is a product of social processes. A child who learns language at the same time learns something else through language, that is, building a picture of reality around and within it. There is no language phenomenon that is social vacuum, but it is always closely related to social aspects. In this social process, according to
Halliday, the construct of reality cannot be separated from the construct of the semantic system in which reality is coded. Furthermore, Hollday (1977, 1978) states that the study of language as a social semiotic includes sub-studies of (1) text, (2) context of the situation, (3) registers, (4) codes, (5) linguistic systems, and (6) social structure.

Politics is always related to power. The promotion of power and enforcement of political beliefs by Thomas and Wareing (2007) can be done in several ways as outlined below.

a. *Seeking power through violence. There have been many important events in the history of coercion through power or group to group.*

b. *Persuade people to obey voluntarily. In other words, "exercise power through the creation of agreements ... or at least create a willingness to let that power work (Fairclough 1989: 4)"*

Furthermore, according to Raharjo (2007) theoretically political discourse refers to texts which contain ideological meanings relating to the dominance or power relations of one group / class or an institution over groups / classes or other institutions. Furthermore, it is said that politics can be interpreted simply as a person's activity to acquire, use, maintain or control power, then political discourse is the utterances / writings used by someone to obtain, use maintain or control power.

Furthermore, Weedom in Raharjo (2007) argues that political discourse refers to the various ways available to speak or write to produce meaning in which involves the operation of power to produce certain objects and effects. In connection with the above opinion Foucalt (1972) argues that power is a relationship that is formed and disseminated through many channels, in ways that are sometimes contradictory and competitive, and generally overlap. That is why, when looking at discourse according to Vandijk and Stubbs (1985), the important issue is not just understanding how an event and object of discourse is understood, but also understanding the type of power that operates and what is the effect of that power. Clearly, according to Stubbs, (1997) political discourse is the place where the relationship between power and knowledge operates. Thus, the study of discourse is essentially an effort to understand what people are saying. Furthermore, Levionson (1985) most human actions, including political actions, are carried out through and influenced by the use and articulation of language. Therefore, understanding through language discourse is very important. Thus, it can be concluded that political discourse is the study of power by using language as a tool. Submission can take the form of providing information, inviting, influencing, insinuating, persuading, responding and refuting.

**Ideology**

Ideology is one of the central aspects in the analysis of discourse that is critical. This is because texts, conversations, and others are forms of ideological practice or reflection of certain ideologies. Discourse in this approach is seen as a medium dominant group to persuade and communicate power and domination they are to other groups (Dijk. 1997: 25). The ideology of the dominant group is only effective if it is based on that fact community members including those who are dominated consider this to be true and fairness. By Van Dijk called “false consciousness”, how the dominant group manipulating ideology to non-dominant groups through disinformation campaigns (like certain religions that cause riots, black people act criminally), through media control, and so on.

**Modality**

According to Huddleston (2002:172) in Nugraha (2018:84) the distinction between modality and also mood is the same as the one between time and tense, as well as the one between aspectuality and aspect: mood is a grammar’s category and modality is meaning’s category. Mood is said to be the grammaticalization of modality within the verbal system, meanwhile according to Sadia et al (2019:1) stated that Modality is said to be a comprehensive term that describes propositions of the attitude of a speaker towards a condition or a situation. Modality is taken into consideration as an important tool of linguistic that expresses not only the relationship but also the roles between reader/listener and writer/speaker and hearer/reader. Semantically, the meaning types of modalities that will be used in this study are based on the theory by Huddleston (2002: 177-179) which consist of two categories, there are epistemic modalities and deontic modalities. Huddleston (2002:178) also stated that “Epistemic” is taken from Greek for ‘knowledge’: this sort of modality include the qualifications that concerns the knowledge of a speaker, on the other hand, “Deontic” is taken from Greek for ‘binding’ so that here it involves a matter of granting permission, improving prohibition or obligation, and so on. The individual, convention and also authority, or whatever from the obligation stated above, and such, is well known to radiate and we allude to as the deontic source”.

The use of modality in political discourse in accordance with the main questions raised by Fair Clough (1989: 26) are important features of relational modality and expressive modality. Relational modalities relate to one participant’s problem in relation to other participants’ interactions. In addition, expressive modalities are modalities related to the problem of the speaker’s authority over the truth and the possibility of a reality representation. Expressive modality deals with the evaluation of speakers of truth. The modalities described in this paper are modalities of necessity, wealth, abilities, and expectations.

**Corpus Linguistics**

Corpus linguistics is seen by some as a new study in linguistics due to its development which began rapidly in the 1960s along with the development of the use of computer technology. However, the corpus itself is not a new term because historically the method of searching the meaning of words and phrases in various contexts involving a very large amount of text has been done since the 13th century, but the process is still done manually (McCarthy & Okeeffe, 2010: 3).
Now the corpus linguistics is known as the study of language data (written and spoken texts transcribed) on a large scale by using a computer to analyze it. Corpus linguistics is also referred to as an area that focuses on a series of procedures or methods that studies language (McEnery, T. & Hardie, A., 2012). Svartvik (in Facchinetti, 2007) further argues that corpus linguistics is the study of the use of language in reality that is observed by doing a data collection from the spoken and the written languages, then analyzed using a computer (corpus software), and described based on specific points of goals and view. Based on several definitions above, it can be said that corpus linguistics is often referred to as a representation of the actual use of language from a society. This is in line with what was stated by Tognini-Bonelli (2010). They suggest that the corpus linguistics tends to study language that focuses on the performance level rather than competence. In this understanding, the corpus linguistics is intended to describe the use of language rather than identifying universal linguistics. Tognini-Bonelli (2010) also added that quantitative elements are considered very important because they are the basis for determining language description categories. In addition, McEnery & Wilson (in Baker et al., 2006: 50) says that corpus linguistics is a language study which is based on the examples of ‘real life’ language utilization and also a methodology rather than a language description or explanation. Based on this opinion, it can be stated that corpus linguistics is a language study which is based on the examples that are obtained from the use of language in real terms and as a methodology from aspects of the language that need explanation or description.

Research and Methodology

In this research, the method used is descriptive research method. According to Gay & Diehl (1992: 217), descriptive research includes gathering information to test the hypothesis or to respond to the questions that concerns the current status of the study’s subject. A descriptive study not only reports but also decides the way of things are. Descriptive research is scientific research that describes about event, phenomena or fact systematically dealing with certain area or population. Descriptive data is a description of the characteristics of the data accurately in line with qualitative methods including the scientific nature of descriptive data in the understanding of photographing data as it is, for accuracy of data collected numerically (in numbered order), as well as in sorting, no data may be missed, sorted according to the characteristics / rules of the data itself. Data sources were taken from English linguistic corpus through the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English) concordance program. This research used the descriptive qualitative method as the research method. The linguists in the period of 1940s to 1950s, (Brown, 2007: 9) stated that the method of descriptive qualitative is the idea or method that language can be dismantled into pieces or these little units are scientifically and logically interpreted, differentiated, and adjusted into forms of the whole. This method also explains the research that carried out based on the facts that are available or based on realities. This study also uses a distributional study method. According to (Djajasudarma, 1993: 60). The utilization of distributional study method depends on the consideration that each component or element of language relates to one another in order to form a unified unity. Another term that is used for the distributional study method of distributional is the aghih method (Sudaryanto, 1993). The distributional analysis technique that is used in this study are the technique of not only fading (deletion), but also the technique of replacement (substitution), as well as the technique of moving elements (permutation).

Result and Discussion

Data 1

Q. You said that it will require a long time to escape from this economic emergency or crisis. Would you be able to assure the American that the economy will be developing by the late spring, the fall or the year’s end?

A. I don’t think that anyone has that kind of crystal ball. We are experiencing a twisting cycle or process of de-leveraging or de-utilizing in the financial sectors - of course, not only here in the United States, yet all around the globe – that have profound consequences for Main Street. What started as the trigger as issue with the banks, that led to a contraction of loaning, which drove thus turn to both declining demand on the consumers’ part, yet in addition declining demand on the part of business also arose. So, it will require some time to work itself through.

Implication

The implication of the conversation in the dialogue above is spoken by A (Donald Trump) after Q asks A about the growth of the American economy in the summer, spring or maybe at the end of the year. From these utterances it can be interpreted that A does not always take his time to work for only so some time.
the strategies of Al Qaeda in Iraq. There might be some equivalent open doors in Afghanistan and the Pakistani area. In any case, the circumstance in Afghanistan is, regardless, more unpredictable. You have a less administered locale or a less governed area, a history that marked by fierce independence among tribes. Those tribes are various and sometimes work at the cross purposes, so sorting all that out will be a considerably more of a test and also a challenge.

Implication

The conversational implicature of the interview was spoken by A after Q asked A about the peace of ordinary citizens in the Taliban. Once again it is explained that utterance A does not directly answer the question but A only implies it. In the linguistic context found in the saying ” Those tribes are various and sometimes work at the cross purposes, so sorting all that out will be a considerably more of a test and also a challenge.”. In the utterance there is the word sometimes (sometimes), which is based on the scale value of the Horn, implies not always. From that value scale, the word always is higher in value than sometimes. Based on the principle of the scalar implicature itself that the negative form of all the higher scale forms is implied, then the negative form of always corresponds to the above analysis. From this statement it can be interpreted that it does not always operate at a certain destination only a time.

Data 3

Q. Is it safe to say that we are closer to that balance at this moment?
A. I think we've yet got work to do in managing those initial steps. Guantanamo being Exhibit A. As a result of a progression of early choices, we currently have individuals in Guantanamo who have not been attempted, have not had an chance to answer charges, huge numbers of whom are dangerous, some of whom are extremely hard to attempt, will be – some of whom will be hard to attempt due to the way in which proof was gotten.

Implication

The conversational implicature of the dialogue above is spoken by A after Q has asked A about the approach to the value of balance and desire or ideals. During the conversation utterance A does not directly answer the question asked by Q but A only implies it. In the data above there is a linguistic context in the words A "I think we've yet got work to do in managing those initial steps. Guantanamo being Exhibit A. As a result of a progression of early choices, we currently have individuals in Guantanamo who have not been attempted, have not had an chance to answer charges, huge numbers of whom are dangerous, some of whom are extremely hard to attempt, will be – some of whom will be hard to attempt due to the way in which proof was gotten”. In the utterance there are many (many) words, which based on the scale of the value of the Horn implies not all (not all). From this value scale, the word all is higher in scale than many. Based on the principle of the scalar implicature itself that the negative form of all the higher scale forms is implied, then the word all is in accordance with the above analysis. From these utterances it can be interpreted that many are dangerous from them but not all things too.

Data 4

Q. Is it accurate to say that you are sleeping well sir or is it difficult to sleep?
A. Ohhhhh, I constantly sleep since when I'm not sleeping, I'm working.

A. You never feel troubled by it, however? You've come into – there are many issues that the nation faces. Do you feel the heaviness of that now as president?

Implication

The implication of the conversation in the interview was spoken by A After Q asked A about an activity whether A was sleeping or could not sleep because of a problem with his country. Then A only responds to the statement and then implies utterance on the matter. The linguistic context is found in the saying A " You've come into – there are many issues that the nation faces.”. In the utterance, there are many words which are based on the scale value of Horn which implies not all. On that scale, the word all is higher in value than the word many. Based on the principle of the scalar implicate itself that the negative form of all the higher scale forms is implied, then the negative form of all corresponds to the above analysis. From these utterances it can be interpreted that not all problems. Based on the above analysis, utterance A implies that his country has many problems but not all, and in the previous utterance A implies that he will always sleep unless he is not working.

Conclusion

Language and politics do indeed influence each other. The language used in the political field special politics. A good impression is very important for the career of a politician, use the wrong language or insult because someone not expected by society or maybe lose his career. Language is also the most important tool to discuss political messages for Public. During the election campaign, politicians and dialogue activists were together use slogans agreed by the community on issues. The language used is complete, difficult and easy to catch. Sometimes the government will be chosen because the motto is very good, even though it does not mean too clear, and the wisdom is less clear.
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