منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن
أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف، هدى طارق جمعة عبا.

مجلة كلية المعارف الجامعة

Hallidayan Perspective of Biden's Presidential Victory Speech

Meethaq Khamees Khalaf *, Huda Tariq Juma'a Abed Al Hiyali
Department of English, College of Education for Humanities, University of Anbar, Ramadi, Iraq
* ed.methak.khamis@uoanbar.edu.iq

ABSTRACT:

The aim of the current study is to investigate the discoursal function of modality in presidential victory speech. The victory speech of Biden in 2020 has been selected as the data source in the present qualitative study. The data of this study has been attained through purposive sampling from 'The Washington Post'. The analysis is restricted to clauses that are found in the speech by tabulated them and analyzing each type of modality. Modality is used as a linguistic system which reflects the social role, power, and the type of formality relationship. In addition, modality can reflect the speaker judgments toward certain topics. To this end, The Hallidayan Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) 2014 was adopted as a theoretical framework to study language structure and function. Major findings reveal that three types of modality were used in Biden's speech. Inclination was used (20) times in the speech and probability was used (26) times, and obligation was used only (4) times. In addition, the fourth type (usuality) was not used in Biden's victory speech.

REFERENCES:

Aboghunaim, N. M. T. (2020). Modality in political discourse. The islamic college university journal, 2(58).

Ayuningtyas, I. P. (2021). Modality analysis in Joe Biden's speech delivered on the anniversary of the Covid-19 shutdown. EnJourMe (English Journal of Merdeka): Culture, Language, and Teaching of English, 6(2), 115-125.

Crystal, D. (2003). A dictionary of linguistics & phonetics (5th ed). Blackwell Pub.

Dunmire, P. L. (2012). Political discourse analysis: Exploring the language of politics and the politics of language. Language and Linguistics Compass, 6(11), 735-751.

Fairclough, N. (1989). Language and Power. London: Longman.

Fireman Kramer, R. (1985). A overview of descriptive research. Journal of the Association of Pediatric oncology nurses, 2(2), 41-45.

Fontaine, L. (2012). Analysing English grammar: A systemic functional introduction. New York: Cambridge University Press

Halliday, M. A. K. & Matthiessen, C. (2014). Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar (4thedition).Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Halliday, M. A. K. (1981). Explorations in The Function of Language. London: Edward Arnold.

Hussein, I. (2016). Critical discourse analysis of the political speech of the Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, at the New Suez Canal inauguration ceremony. International Journal of Language and Literature, 4(1), 85-106.

Hussein, Rafi'Mahmood & AL-Marrar, M. K. K. (2016) Modality of Discourse Functionality: Letters-to-the-Editor.

Rosyda, R. R., & Citraresmana, E. (2020). Modality in Donald Trump's Speech on Iran's Nuclear Deal. Jurnal Bahasa Inggris Terapan (Journal Of Applied English), 6(2), 26-37.

Schäffner, C. (1996). Editorial: Political speeches and discourse analysis. Current Issues in Language and Society 3/3: http://www.multilingual-matters.net/cils/003/0201/ cils0030201.pdf.

مجلة كلية المعارف الجامعة

منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن
أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف، هدى طارق جمعة عبا.

Schiffrin, D., Tannen, D., & Hamilton, H. E. (Eds.). (2001). The handbook of discourse analysis. John Wiley & Sons.

Schiffrin, D., Tannen, D., & Hamilton, H. E. (Eds.). (2008). The handbook of discourse analysis. John Wiley & Sons.

Simpson, P. (2000). Language, ideology and point of view. London: Routledge.

Sinaga, M. P. (2018). The Ideology of Women Empowerment in Malala Yousafzai's Speeches: A Critical Discourse Analysis. Yogyakarta: Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Schiffrin, D., Tannen, D., & Hamilton, H. E. (Eds.). (2008). The handbook of discourse analysis. John Wiley & Sons.

Schiffrin, D., Tannen, D., & Hamilton, H. E. (Eds.). (2001). The handbook of discourse analysis. John Wiley & Sons.

Thompson, G. (2004). Introducing Functional Grammar. USA: Routledge.

Thompson, G. (2014). Introducing functional grammar. London: Arnold.

Van Dijk, T. A. (1997). What is political discourse analysis. Belgian journal of linguistics, 11(1), 11-52.

Wilson, J. (2015). Political discourse. The handbook of discourse analysis, 775-794.

1. Introduction:

Speech is used to express one's perspective and viewpoints. Speech is an act used to convince a speaker's beliefs in a variety of contexts such as politics, economics, humanitarian concerns, and other formal events (Sinaga, 2018). Speech can be used in a political context to discuss politics and influence society of certain beliefs. A political victory speech is intended to convey what the president is thinking about. According to Wareing (2004) (as cited in Sinaga, 2018), "language has the ability to impact people's mind, belief, perception, and attitudes" (p. 3). A political speech is presented with a clear goal in mind which is stated as the communicative function of a discourse. Presidents use their speeches as a campaign to persuade others to alter their minds about certain political topics. They believe that their remarks will influence others' perception.

In General, modality is a linguistic system that expresses someone's opinion about the actuality of a proposition that is perceived by the producer and by the receiver (Hussein & AL-Marrar, 2016). This means that the truth of a proposition can be arguable. Four types of modalities were investigated in this research namely: probability, usuality, inclination and obligation. Current research utilizes modality types to show the self-representation of Biden as a representative of the Democrat party. This choice is convenient since it shows the interactions, he tries to construct with citizens at first speech directed to them. Modality used in the speech to reflect the meanings that the president wants to say and images he wants the listeners to see.

Victory speeches have a great influence on the audience as the main concern of politicians is to convince the public of their political point of view's validity (Crystal, 2003). The influence practiced on public is accomplished by the confirmed employment of the linguistic choices that express the politicians' beliefs and thoughts about different matters in America and in the world. Surrounded by the framework of SFG, the current study aims at identifying modality used in Joe Biden's victory speech. Also, identifying modality functionalized in both speeches.

This study is considered important and useful in linguistics in general and in discourse analysis in particular, as it contains an effective scientific participation in the theoretical and practical aspects of the subject. From the theoretical side, this study provides an extensive presentation of modality in selected political victory speeches. From the practical side, it presents examples and analytical pieces that illustrate the application of the theoretical model

مجلة كلية المعارف الجامعة

منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن
أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف، هدى طارق جمعة عبا.

in a scientific and practical way; the study displays how to analyze any piece of a spoken discourse according to Halliday and Matthiessen's Model (2014).

2. Literature Review

Recently, many researchers have explored modality in political discourse. Aboghunaim's (2020) study investigated two political speeches of Tony Blair and Obama. The researcher focused on modality as a device used by the presidents to persuade the audience for certain objectives. Modality analysis showed low certainty and confidentiality of the speakers while delivering the speech. In the same political vein, Ayuningtyas (2021) investigated modality function in the clauses and to explore the self- representation in the speech of Joe Biden. In which, three types of modality are found: Inclination, probability and Obligation while no usuality are found. Modality used as a tool of analysis and SFG as a framework. Some researcher analyzed modality in other genres, for example Hussein & AL-Marrar (2016). Another study examines the discourse value of modality's functionality in communications' act. Letters to editors have been analyzed in the light of Halliday's SFG through which the researchers concluded that variants of modality types realized in selected samples of letters to the editors and these variants depend on significance ideological, text type, and social power.
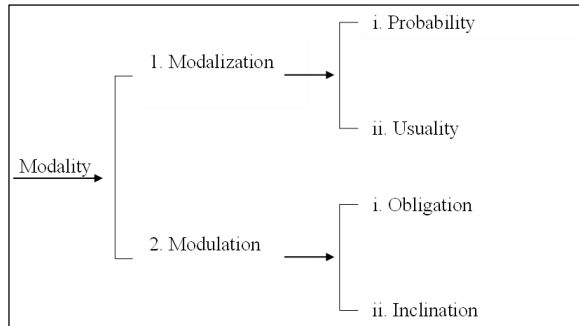
The current study is different from the previously mentioned studies in that the data used in the current is the political victory speeches of Biden. Moreover, the main objective is to identify the modality types and how they functioned in the victory speech of Biden. In resemblance to the current study, the major findings of Ayuningtyas (2021) shows that three types of modality were used out of four in Biden's victory speech.

3. Modality in Systemic Functional Grammar

SFG is concerned in the language use and gives the importance to the language function than the language structure (Matthiessen & Halliday, 2004). Halliday viewed language as a system which relates meaning to form as a system of signs (Fontaine, 2012). According to SFL, languages are seen as systems that can deconstruct and elaborate language production in terms of their efficiency, one of which is the transitivity system (Halliday, 1981).

According to Simpson (2000), modality is a major element of the interpersonal function of the language. In SFG, modality denotes the intermediate degrees between 'positive' and 'negative' poles (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014). Simply, it is defined by Thompson (2004) as the space between 'yes' and 'no' since the message between the speaker and the listener could be understood in accordance with a wide-ranging of certainty and modality. Modality relates to the speaker's assessment of the situation and attitude toward it as described in the clause. There are two main types of modality which are: Modalization includes probability and usuality, and modulation includes inclination and obligation (Halliday, 1994). In terms of probability, the modality refers to how reliable the information is provided (how likely it is to be true) (Thompson, 2014). Usuality is defined by Thompson (2014) as "how frequently it is true". It is related to the frequency of any process. Obligation denotes the speaker's desire to do something as well as his/her ability to do so based on his/her feeling. Obligation expresses the responsibility or pressure that is practiced on the addressee to meet the addresser's demand. While inclination expresses willingness and readiness of the speaker to

مجلة كلية المعارف الجامعة

منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن
أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف، هدى طارق جمعة عبا.

meet an offer (Rosyda & Citraresmana, 2020). The table below shows the types of modality with their subtypes:

Table (1): types of modality.

4. Political Speeches

"Political discourse" can be used to describe a variety of distinct spoken language or writing formats (Wilson, 2015). Van Dijke (cited in Dunmire, 2012) defined 'political discourse piece of text and speaking of politicians in a political context. According to Schäffner (1996), "political discourse, as a subcategory of general discourse, can be classified according to two factors: functional and thematic". It is described as a 'political action' (Van dijk, 1997). However, Schäffner (1997) argues that political discourse can be internal or external, and it can take many different forms. A contribution made by a member of parliament to a cause during an election campaign or during a political party's convention, parliamentary debate, newspaper editorials or commentaries, a politician's press conference, or a politician's memoirs are all examples of political discourse.

Whilson (as cited in Schiffrin, Tannen, & Hamilton, 2001; 2008) states that the term of political discourse is ambiguous and suggest two alternatives. Firstly, the term 'discourse' is political itself and secondly, political discourse is analyzed as a simple example of discourse type, with no explicit reference to political content or context. Van Dijk (1997) characterizes political discourse by participant who are involved of the activity of political discourse: "actors or authors, viz., politicians" within the political context. Many studies relate political discourse to professional politicians or presidents or any other members in the governments in many different levels (local, national, and international). He argues that from an interactional standpoint, political discourse, and politicians in addition to the political practices are not only participants in politics domain. People, masses, and other categories in political communication should also be included. The same is true for other types of discourse with audience. Such complication suggested by Van Dijk who further explains that political discourse is not concerned only with participants who are professional in politics. In a broader definition, "political discourse identified by all participants in the political process". Moreover, participants in the political activity are members in the political discourse only when they are functioning as political actors and thus when they are taking part in political action like governing, ruling, voting, legislating and so on. Texts and talks forms have political further "functions and implications" (Van Dijk, 1997).

مجلة كلية المعارف الجامعة

منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن
أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف، هدى طارق جمعة عبا.

Fairclough (1989) elaborates that it is a commonplace for political tendencies to have a social base. Social bases are not always ready-made; they (and, by extension, 'the people') are frequently formed through fusing disparate social groups into a coherent political constituency. The importance of political discourse in molding people's views and attitudes is critical. Politicians typically use their rhetorical skills to influence and control the opinions and attitudes of the public. To be a successful politician, one must be an effective speaker who can manipulate the emotions, attention, and thoughts of the audience (Hussein, 2016).

5. Methodology

The current study is concerned with identifying modality and its functionality in political victory speeches. Joe Biden's victory speech has been selected to data analysis. Thus, a descriptive- qualitative method was preferred as the most suitable research design to be used in this investigation. It allows the researcher to analyze facts and develop an in depth understanding of the research problem, and through which the behavior of people can be determined in natural setting (Kramer, 1985). To this end, Hallidayan perspective (2014) is adopted to be the modal of analysis of the current study.

5.1 Data Collection

The researcher purposefully selected Biden's victory speech in 2020. The circumstances in the world in general and in America accompanied the election for Biden's presidency were different, which may affect the linguistic structure of modality used by president when delivering the victory speech. The speech was downloaded from "https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2020-11-07/joe-biden-victory speech-2020-election-transcript". The speech was reviewed on YouTube with reliable transcripts. The selection of the speech focusses on the shared linguistic systems within the political discourse.

5.2 Data Analysis

The following procedures are followed when analyzing the target data:

1. Firstly, the victory speech was carefully read to understand the nature of the speech and its content.
2. The qualitative analysis begins by analyzing the types of modality in the victory speech. These types were identified sequentially on every single clause in the speech.
3. Modality types were identified and classified.
4. After classifying modality patterns, the frequency of each type was calculated with their percentage separately in the selected speech.
5. Finding out the function of each modality type.
6. All the findings have been tabulated to show clear description for the frequency, percentage, and functions of modality**.**

6. Result of the study

As for Joe Biden's victory speech, results portrayed in table (2) revealed that 40 modal verbal operators are used by the president Joe Biden. The highest occurrence is for Inclination with (20) occurrence, accounted for (50%) of the total, followed by (16) occurrence of probability, accounted for (40%) of the total. the least occurrence is Obligation

with only (4) occurrence accounted for (10%) of the total. Table (2) shows that there is no occurrence of Usuality in Biden's speech.

Modality Type	The Number of Occurrences
Inclination	20
Probability	16
Obligation	4
Usuality	0
The total number	40

Table 2: The frequency of modality types and their percentages

From the table above, we can see that 'inclination' is the most used modality type in Biden's speech. It refers to his desire and willing to change with participating in achieving his vision. The future form mostly used to express inclination, and this gives the implication that they are determined to lead the country and to support their nation. For that, this type of modality gives the audience hope of prosper future. For example:

And for that is what I believe America is about. It is about people. And that is what our administration *will* be all about.

Also, 'probability' ranked in the second place which refers to Biden's future expectations of action that he may performs with his presidency. Generally, he uses 'can' to express probability in his speech to shorten the distance between him and the audience. He tends not to imply any authority in his first speech and make the audience follow his instruction willingly. Biden is constantly encouraging the audience to make them realize that there will be hope even though the country is living its darkest days, and that there is a chance to live the glory again. For example:

'Folks, our work begins with getting Covid under control. We *cannot* repair the economy or…until we get it under control.'

Obligation and usuality are the least frequencies in the speech as shown in figure (1). It can be concluded that Biden request for more action from the audience and to take effective role in building their country and protect it. The most important use was the need to fight the corona virus and making peace with other parties because they are after all 'American'. For example:

'We won with the most votes ever cast on a presidential ticket in the history of the nation: 74 million. Well, I *must* admit it surprised me.'

The application of Usuality was not used in Biden's speech. To sum up, Biden focused on some priorities as being president of the United States and he tried to reflect his intentions, determinations, and desires through the modality system. Figure (1) shows percentage of each type of modality used in Biden's victory speech.
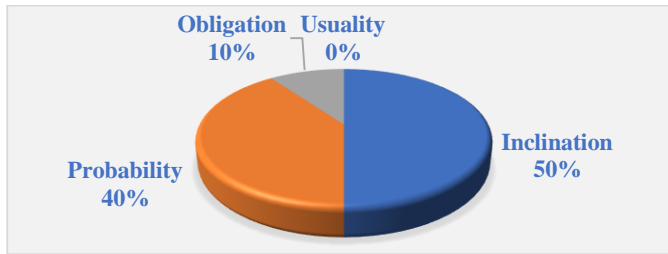
مجلة كلية المعارف الجامعة

منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن
أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف، هدى طارق جمعة عبا.

Figure (1): Percentage of modality types in Biden's victory speech

7. Conclusion

Modality has a significant impact on the Audience's interpretation and demonstrates the interpersonal function. Modality analysis provides understanding the judgments and thoughts concerning the issues discussed with consideration of the presidents' social relations with the listeners. In his speech, Biden has mentioned some issues that are related to America and the world, some of these issues are very important. Only three types of modality were functioned in Biden's victory speech in which Inclination and Probability were the most dominant modality types. The use of inclination shows the president's desire and willingness to change and provide the citizens positive services and developments. The main goal is to make the audience in the full picture of the next policy and showing them both negative and positive sides of the way of change. Other function part of Inclination is that it reflected a picture of a hopeful future. From the analysis, Biden reflected credibility by using Inclination. as a caring president who worry about his country's future and aims to work hard for the sake of repairing what is damaged during the last years. Probability used to sign positive and negative future events. Lastly, Obligation was not much frequently used because the president doesn't want to show high authority to audience rather, he tried to show modest and humble side of his personality. However, as a leader, he can use obligation in a form of giving permissions and recommendations.

In this study, the researcher uses modality analysis as a method to disclose the speaker's ideas and judgment towards some issues. Systemic Functional Linguistics includes modality analysis which is part of the interpersonal meaning of the language (other meanings are the ideational and the textual). In this sense, an utterance is used to reflect patterns of experience based on Halliday' and Matthiessen's model of modality (2014). The study is also restricted to analyze political discourse with Biden's victory speech who won the presidential elections in 2020. The study can open possibilities to investigate other important parts of the interpersonal meanings of the language. The data that is employed in this study can analyze the textual meaning that carry another point of view of the meaning and how the presidents' messages are organized and how they are uncovered. The present study is significant to EFL and ESL learners as it relates to language in use, according to the analyses and findings reached. Students would encounter a variety of usual writing-related discoursal challenges, including detachment from the pertinent physical surroundings as a shared context for a writer and a reader and the ensuing requirement to be explicit, as well as the decision of how to stage the text, are all examples of absent addressees.

منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن
أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف، هدى طارق جمعة عبد.

مجلة كلية المعارف الجامعة

منظور هاليدي لخطاب النصر الرئاسي لبايدن

أ.م.د. ميثاق خميس خلف*، هدى طارق جمعة عبد

قسم اللغة الإنجليزية، كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية، جامعة الأنبار، الرمادي، العراق

* ed.methak.khamis@uoanbar.edu.iq

ملخص البحث:

إن الهدف من الدراسة الحالية هو التحقيق في الوظيفة الخطابية لمساعدات الفعل في خطاب النصر للرئيس الأمريكي جو بايدن. إذ تستخدم المضامين الدلالية لمساعدات الفعل في النظام اللغوي الذي يعكس الدور الاجتماعي والقوة ونوع العلاقة إضافة إلى ذلك فإن مساعدات الفعل تعكس حكم المتحدث تجاه مواضيع معينة. وتحقيقا لهذه الغاية، فقد تم اعتماد نظرية علم اللغة الوظيفي المنهجي المقترح من قبل هاليدي (٢٠١٤) كإطار نظري لدراسة بنية اللغة ووظيفتها. وكشفت النتائج أن هنالك ثلاثة أنواع من مساعدات الفعل من أصل أربعة تم استخدامها في خطاب النصر لجو بايدن.