

# The Presentations Of Van Dijk Model In The Speech Of Putin In The Independence Of The Donetsk People's Republic And The Lugansk People's Republic

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## Abstract

This article examines the content and structure of Putin's political speech regarding the independence and sovereignty of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, with a focus on the hostilities in Ukraine. This research used the Teun Van Dijk (2005) paradigm to do discourse analysis. The findings show that when Putin gave a speech, he always used the word colleague to greet his audience in order to establish excellent relations. This study concludes that Putin, the politician, employs discursive strategies (86 times). However, a discursive device analysis finds that Putin uses more discursive devices (Authority, Actor Description, Evidentiality, Example/Illustration, and so on); this may be explained by the fact that Putin's speech appears to be more formal, as it involves more intricate discursive strategies and structures. Putin wanted the people to believe that the President and the people shared the same position, so he always indicated authority to the Russian people, and the word "emphasize" was used several times to give people confidence that Putin would do what he said.

**Keywords:** Russian President Vladimir Putin, The Independence of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic, Discourse Analysis, Teun Van Dijk Model.

## Introduction

Discourse Analysis (DA) has recently become one of the most common concepts that can be defined according to the context in which it is used (Hjelm, 2021; Mullet, 2018). In fact, the word 'discourse' has been widely used to refer to various forms of language used in different areas of which people concern (Jørgensen & Phillips, 2002). However, over the last decade, many scholars attempt to offer a various number of significant theories to underline what kind of disciplines in which the concept is sought out. It is evident that the concept of discourse analysis is applied to analyze a wide range of research that

basically concern the contemporary social, cultural and political contexts. In other words, it explores how the language is used and developed within such contexts with regard to various factors such as society and its people and institutions (Jørgensen & Phillips, 2002; Skrede, & Hølleland, 2018).

Particularly, the words like linguistics, texts and discourse imply a variety of related definitions and concepts in the area of linguistics and sociolinguistics. The term DA can be seen as an independent practice for academic purposes within the institutions to discuss texts and various topics within different social, cultural, economic

and political contexts that constantly keep changing. Moreover, it comprises a various number of theories and methodologies of academic research that characterizes the term itself. And, the researchers uses different approaches related to the area of the research as well as many of significant definitions of grammatical and ideological concepts in terms of various approaches (Hjelm, 2021; Naser, & Hamzah, 2018; Zienkowski , Östman, & Verschueren, , 2011).

Therefore, this wide range of different areas of research and knowledge can rise the opportunity for the researchers to discuss more debates and try to achieve more goals than before. More specifically, the significance of the concept lies not only in its diversity of theories and methodologies it addresses, but also what the structures of the language and its social implications can imply as well. These contexts are by no means related to particular ideological aspirations that can be potentially addressed and discussed. For instance, the debate can address the issues concern the social class, gender roles, ethnicity, marginality, and so on (Hjelm, 2021; Zienkowski et al., 2011).

According to Dijk (2006), such issues have involved with social, cultural and political roles to address their ideological positions in society. More importantly, these positions have been defined through the language used and the structure of that language. In this sense, the groups may address a particular structure of language according to the specific domain they address to express their own stance. And more specifically, the analysis of such discourses aims to understand the relations between society and its members and how these relations can be defined. Accordingly, this study aims to investigate the text of the speech of Russian President Vladimir Putin in recognizing the independence of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic.

## Research Question

1. What is the language style Putin used in giving speech to the independence of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic?
2. What are the ideologies delivered by Putin through his speech to the independence of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic in term of Van Dijk socio-cognitive model (2005)?

## Literature Review

### Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theories and procedures were developed at the time to distinguish this paradigm from other DA theories and methodologies. Later on, the phrase was known by a variety of names. While some researchers choose the term Critical Linguistics to describe their fields of research or study, others prefer the term Critical Discourse Studies (CDS). As a result, Bloor and Bloor (2007) claim that CDA is an interdisciplinary method that can be utilized by professionals from a range of backgrounds, including historians, business institutions, lawyers, politicians, and others, to explore societal problems relevant to their work. There has been a resurgence of interest in applying CDA theory to a variety of studies in the recent decade or so (Bayram 2010; Akogbéto, & Koukpossi, 2015; Koussouhon & Amoussou, 2016).

Indeed, understanding the relationships between the linguistic elements of the discourse and its purpose is the goal of analyzing political speeches as a guide for understanding actions and ideas. Politicians use words to express their sentiments, opinions, and judgments about other people, events, and objects. According to Hunston and Thompson (1999), the speaker's or writer's belief or opinion is an important characteristic of a language that requires

explanation in a thorough description of text meanings, which is not usually expressed directly.

Language is used to control those with whom there is a conflict of interest; this is referred to as language manipulation (Al-qadi, & Naser, 2022; Rudyk, 2007). It is defined as a communicative and interactional behavior in which a manipulator exerts control over others, sometimes against their will or against their best interests (Van Dijk, 2006). To achieve their political goals and interests, most politicians employ a wide range of linguistic devices, including determining and persuading the community's thoughts, criticizing rival politicians, and pretending or attempting to act out people's feelings in order to persuade them to believe in politicians. As a result, we must be aware of the discursive strategies and how they are used in each phrase. As a result, by reading more than one of a politician's speeches, we can have a better understanding of how they utilize language.

### **Political Discourse**

The political text kinds, genres, and register conventions are discussed in this section. This analysis will be useful in identifying the distinguishing characteristics of political speeches, which are the key data in the current study. It's difficult to draw clear lines between different types of texts, and each typology looks at them from different angles. Legislative and administrative; legal; economic; political and social; religious; literary; moral; educational; research; and practical texts were the most common. However, the classification has been critiqued as purely a formal method based on the text's topic. Furthermore, because these kinds overlap so often, it's difficult to classify a text with just one of them. A journalistic writing, for example, could be political, whereas a literary text could be recounting historical events (Biel, 2017; Gowhary, et al., 2015).

### **Political Discourse and its General Characteristics**

Political languages, like all language registers, have their own distinctive features: syntactic, lexical, and pragmatic; each of these is assumed to have a defining stylistic purpose, in which case it is considered a distinct register (Ainsworth, 1993; Trosborg, 1997). These features differ depending on whether the text is spoken or written, or in this case, spoken. When making a speech in spoken language, politicians rely on intonation, emphasis, tempo, gestures, facial emotions, and other paralinguistic elements. Written texts, on the other hand, appear to lack all of these characteristics, forcing them to encode meaning lexically and syntactically (Ainsworth, 1993; Biber, & Conrad, 2019).

According to Schaffner (1997), the term "political text" is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of text genres. It implies that political texts are examples of political discourse, i.e. the use of political language, and that such language use can take many forms – both within and between nations. Political texts, according to Schaffner, might include genres such as political speeches, international treaties, editorials, newspaper commentaries, a press conference with a politician, a politician's memoir, and so on (Schaffner 1997).

Functional and thematic criteria are used to classify a text as a political text. Political texts are defined as such because they are the outcome of or a component of politics; that is, they are examples of language use for political purposes, and hence examples of political speech. They perform a variety of functions based on diverse political activities that are influenced by history and culture, and their issues are primarily political in nature, such as political actions and political beliefs. Political texts are also important to a wider audience because they are frequently part of a larger political discourse, implying that

they will exhibit a high degree of intertextuality (Shaffner, 1997).

### **The Theory of Teun Van Dijk (2005)**

According to Van Dijk, studying a discourse requires more than just looking at the text; we must also consider how a text is generated. Discourse, according to Van Dijk, has three dimensions: text, social cognition, and social context. The structure of the text being studied, as well as the tactics utilized to represent the desired theme, is at the level of the text being studied. Individual texts are studied in social cognition. The social context examines the discourse framework that emerges in society.

The text is divided into three levels by Van Dijk. First, there's the macro structure: a text's overall or broad meaning, which may be seen by looking at the topic or theme presented in a news story. Second, the superstructure refers to the structure of discourse in relation to a text's framework, or how the text's pieces are organized into the complete news. The micro structure, on the other hand, is a discourse that may be discerned from a little portion of a text, such as words, sentences, propositions, clauses, and images.

### **Analysis of Social Situations**

Social cognition is a dimension that describes how a text is created by a single person or a group of people. What is the best way to observe or understand a social reality that gave rise to certain texts? Over the course of a discourse, social analysis examines how the text is linked to the social structure and knowledge that evolves in society. These three dimensions are crucial to van Dijk's study and are carried out in tandem.

### **Methodology**

The research approach used in this study is discussed in this section. The study looks at Russian President Vladimir Putin's speech in the

Kremlin in Moscow. This speech was chosen because the data were acquired from theopolitical (political speech). The speech was thoroughly read before the data was processed using the Van Dijk technique (2005).

This study employs discourse analysis to analyze the data. Discourse analysis is a qualitative method for analyzing data in the form of writing, voice, and both verbal and nonverbal dialogues. Researchers can use the discourse analysis method to figure out why and how a message is delivered. Furthermore, discourse analysis enables us to determine the speaker's motivation for delivering a speech.

Discourse analysis also allows you to see hidden motivations in a writing/spoken text. The focus of discourse analysis is on all sentences, whether written and spoken, as well as people's delivery styles or methods, such as slowness, stress on words, metaphors, or word choice. It is not only the problem of language that is explored in discourse analysis, but also social issues and political knowledge. Every circumstance and subject can benefit from discourse analysis.

### **The Analysis of the Study**

#### **Macrostructure Analysis**

##### **Military/Battle**

When a political leader uses the battle, he or she is more likely to communicate a confrontational message. He portrays the problem as a threat that must be confronted, or as a battleground across which he must move or fight for victory. As a result, this purpose seeks to portray the financial crisis as a fight, a task that must be faced, overcome, defeated, and so on. As a result, the crisis can be compared to a war or fight.

e.g., I will remind you that after the 1917 October Revolution and the subsequent Civil War, the Bolsheviks set about creating a new statehood.

They had rather serious disagreements among themselves on this point. In 1922, Stalin occupied the positions of both the General Secretary of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the People's Commissar for Ethnic Affairs. He suggested building the country on the principles of autonomisation that is, giving the republics – the future administrative and territorial entities – broad powers upon joining a unified state.

### **A Machine, a Method, or a Piece of Technology**

The machine as an intention in political speech is most commonly used to portray the economy as a system, such as when discussing the financial, banking, tax, and benefit systems. This system or mechanism can malfunction, distort, or fail, yet it can also be mended, repaired, or tinkered with.

The leaders are presenting the enormously complicated subject of the economy as a simple system or machine by employing this specific metaphor theme. As a result, they are oversimplifying the subject in order to make it more clear and accessible to a wider audience. People may feel like they have a better understanding of the financial crisis as a result of this, which is a positive feeling. As a result, the leader might be seen as a responsible politician who knows what he is talking about. This theme could thus be interpreted as attempting to persuade politically to some extent.

e.g.,

### **Building / construction**

Building intention is used to describe something that is being built or made. A creation is anything that is being planned, turned into, or (re)formed. This metaphor can also be used to portray the economy or society as a structure that requires solid foundations or a framework to remain stable. It must be constructed, established,

installed, or even cemented, but it can also collapse or be demolished.

e.g., So, I will start with the fact that modern Ukraine was entirely created by Russia or, to be more precise, by Bolshevik, Communist Russia. This process started practically right after the 1917 revolution, and Lenin and his associates did it in a way that was extremely harsh on Russia – by separating, severing what is historically Russian land. Nobody asked the millions of people living there what they thought.

### **Journey**

The voyage intention in political speech puts the listener or reader of the speech on a journey, even if it is not with his country or leader. On that voyage, one follows a set of instructions, a path, or takes steps in a specific direction. During this journey, one can advance ahead or backward, be held back, or even become lost.

e.g., I would like to emphasise again that Ukraine is not just a neighbouring country for us. It is an inalienable part of our own history, culture and spiritual space.

### **Illness vs. well-being**

The financial crisis is portrayed as a disease. A country's economy is sick, debilitated, or infected with a disease, and it must be healed. If it receives the proper healing prescriptions, it may be able to recover, strengthen, or survive this endeavor. As a result, economic health might be poor, and efforts should be made to make it stronger and more resilient.

e.g., When it comes to the historical destiny of Russia and its peoples, Lenin's principles of state development were not just a mistake; they were worse than a mistake, as the saying goes. This became patently clear after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

### **Motion**

The motion intention implies that something is moving. Prices can rise or fall, the economy can slow, taxes can increase, and payments can be reduced. Instead of utilizing more technical jargon, it depicts everything as a moving object. As a result, it has an oversimplifying effect.

e.g., Of course, we cannot change past events, but we must at least admit them openly and honestly, without any reservations or politicking. Personally, I can add that no political factors, however impressive or profitable they may seem at any given moment, can or may be used as the fundamental principles of statehood.

### **Unity / encounter/ friendship**

The unity motif is most likely an attempt to unite and inspire a sense of camaraderie. To get out of the crisis, people must work together as a team. They must rise to the occasion and solve the situation. Emotions are the focus of this theme.

e.g., the people living in the south-west of what has historically been Russian land have called themselves Russians and Orthodox Christians

### **Game**

The game intention uses phrases associated with games, sports, and plays in a lighthearted manner. Political leaders aim to follow the rules in order to come up with a solution that is fair to everyone. They want to solve problems instead of falling for the same old gimmicks.

This metaphor topic makes the leader appear powerful since it makes him appear as if he is participating in sports or a competition. Because he is playing a game, it also implies that the leader is on the lookout for traps. Politicians may strive

to persuade voters to deal with the issue responsibly, honestly, and thoughtfully when they talk about a fair economy. They then take on the role of impartial referee, on whom everyone may rely.

e.g., I am not trying to put the blame on anyone. The situation in the country at that time, both before and after the Civil War, was extremely complicated; it was critical. The only thing I would like to say today is that this is exactly how it was. It is a historical fact. Actually, as I have already said, Soviet Ukraine is the result of the Bolsheviks' policy and can be rightfully called "Vladimir Lenin's Ukraine." He was its creator and architect. This is fully and comprehensively corroborated by archival documents, including Lenin's harsh instructions regarding Donbass, which was actually shoved into Ukraine. And today the "grateful progeny" has overturned monuments to Lenin in Ukraine. They call it decommunization.

### **Microstructure Analysis**

Accordingly, this study followed the division of Van Dijk (2005) who classified micro level into twenty five categories known as discursive devices as follows: Actor description, authority, burden, categorization, comparison, consensus, counterfactuals, disclaimers, euphemism, evidentiality, example/illustration, generalization, hyperbole, implication, irony, lexicalization, metaphor, national self-glorification, norm expression, number game, polarization, populism, presupposition, vagueness, and victimization

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of each discursive device

<b>Discursive Devises</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Actor description</b>	6	6.9%
<b>Authority</b>	14	16.2%
<b>Burden</b>	7	8.1%

<b>Categorization</b>	2	2.3%
<b>Comparison</b>	6	6.9%
<b>Consensus</b>	3	3.4%
<b>Counterfactuals</b>	2	2.3%
<b>Irony</b>	1	1.1%
<b>Lexicalization</b>	0	0%
<b>National Self-Glorification</b>	4	4.6%
<b>Norm Expression</b>	0	0%
<b>Number Game</b>	2	2.3%
<b>Polarization</b>	4	4.6%
<b>Disclaimers</b>	3	3.4%
<b>Euphemism</b>	4	4.6%
<b>Evidentiality</b>	7	8.1%
<b>example/illustration</b>	10	11.6%
<b>Generalization</b>	3	3.4%
<b>Hyperbole</b>	2	2.3%
<b>Implication</b>	3	3.4%
<b>Populism</b>	2	2.3%
<b>Presupposition</b>	5	5.8%
<b>Victimization</b>	2	2.3%
<b>Metaphor</b>	3	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>

It is displayed in table 1 that discursive devices are used with having different degrees. Table 1 presents that authority is the most discursive device used as it is used 14 times with the percentage of 16.2%. The category of authority refers to discourse makers' expertise in a subject or topic by relying on information or evidence provided by authorities to duplicate the discourse producers' beliefs, opinions, or claims in order to track the feelings of the audience; it also refers to the discourse producers' use of deductive or cognitive reasoning (logic) to persuade the listeners (Van Dijk, 2005; Rashidi & Souzandehfar, 2010). This highly frequent device is followed by example/illustration device. It is used 10 times which means 11.6%. Next, Burden and evidentiality as discursive devices were used 14 times, 7 times for each with the percentage of 8.1%. Then, they are followed by actor description device with the frequency of 6 and

percentage of 6.9%. Lexicalization and norm expression were not used in this political speech.

### Discussion

The study shows that various political ideologies are used in a way that fits Van Dijk's socio-cognitive model (2005). The speech's contextual and grammatical features are deliberately chosen to assist ideologically favorable self-representation and negative other-representation. Its major goal is to draw attention to the contrast and variety between good self-presentation and negative other presentation as a technique of controlling audiences' thoughts and perpetuating the misuse of manipulation, power, and inequity.

The usage of discursive tactics by Putin, the politician, is concluded in this study (86 times). However, an analysis of devices reveals that Putin employs a greater number of discursive

devices; this may be explained by the fact that Putin's speech appears to be more formal, since it incorporates more complicated discursive tactics and structures. The more these discursive tactics are used, the more formal their speech becomes and the more ideological stances/attitudes they have. As a result, they employ a variety of increasingly complicated discursive techniques, structures, and rhetorical devices. The study affirms Van Dijk's (2005) model's relevance to Russian politician's discourse. It also shows how the underlying ideologies of each political speech in relation to the democratic issue and media in the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic are revealed, as media achieves this primarily through the use of socio-political and ideological beliefs, as well as implied linguistic strategies.

### Conclusion

From the preceding description, we can deduce that each analysis yields a number of findings. Putin began his speech by briefly explaining the contents or subjects to be discussed in terms that encouraged his listeners pay greater attention to what was to be delivered, based on a macro-structural analysis. In terms of the content of the speech, Putin explained in detail by describing the details of Putin's strategy, beginning with a brief explanation of the events in Ukraine and why this is so important for us, for Russia, then in the closing section, Putin announced the independence and sovereignty of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic, Putin also proclaimed the independence and sovereignty of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic, Putin also proclaimed According to the micro structural analysis, Putin wanted the people to believe that the President and the people shared the same position, so he always indicated authority to the Russian people, and the word "emphasize" was used several times to give

people confidence that Putin would do what he said.

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