| RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Critical Discourse Analysis of Elements of Influence in Abdul Latif Rashid's Statements

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| ABSTRACT

Political leaders use language to persuade and attract audiences and followers. Iraq is considered a prominent mediator to resolve most of the Middle East's critical problems. Iraq's presidents have had a real influence on the international community in addressing some of the suspended issues in the Middle East. The present study aims to investigate the elements of influence in Iraq's president's speech during his participation at the 33rd summit of the Arab League in Manama. The data of the present study is taken from Iraqi President Abdul Latif's speech during the 33rd Arab Summit in Manama. The present study adopts a qualitative research approach through which excerpts from the Iraqi president's speech are analyzed in light of Fairclough and Weddick (1993). The findings of the present study reveal that three out of the five CDAs strategies are employed, including Referential, Mitigative, and Perspective strategies. It is recommended that more investigations be conducted in areas other than the linguistic area.

| KEYWORDS

CDA, power, ideology, discursive systems, conflict.

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

1. Introduction

Power and ideology in Critical Discourse Analysis are considered the main veins that feed researchers. The political speeches of Iraq's presidents were considered by some Middle East and Arab researchers due to their essential role in resolving most of the suspended political obstacles. The social actor ideology emphasized through the performed ideology is a means of transforming relations of power. Most researchers know that ideology is an important aspect of creating and reserving unequal power relations (Wodak, 2001). Most researchers state that ideology is an important aspect of creating and reserving unequal power relations. Based upon most researchers stated that ideology is a generalization of social relations but idealized, generalized, and abstracted (Martin, 2015). In other words, ideology can be recognized as a one-sided perspective, and it is known as related mental representations, opinions, convictions, attitudes, and evaluations utilized by a member of certain social groups. Ideologies can be defined as the establishment of dominant identity narratives (Wodack, 2009). Controlling people and events in Critical Discourse Analysis is called power.

Critical Discourse Analysis is a part of DA as described by Fairclough (1997). However, its main goal is to detect and discover the unseen elements in social systems, such as power and hegemony, in order to denaturalize discourse and reveal the hidden ideologies in the text. Critical Discourse Analysis tries to follow further steps to reproduce the powerful people's discourse, resisting power and challenging dominance. Language is interwoven in social power through several methods: language indexes power, language expresses power, and it is involved in any contention and challenge to power (Wodak, 2001). Language can be used to challenge and perish power and change the power distribution in both the short and long term.

Without a doubt, A critical awareness of language is a prerequisite for effective communication. Fairclough (1997) assures there is a strong relationship between people's language capacities and the development of people's critical awareness of language and practices.

As is known to all researchers, critical discourse analysis (CDA) critically analyzes discourse in order to deal with social change problems. Social inequality is investigated and legitimized by language use in discourse (Wodak, 2001).

It is remarkable that discourse is a way to identify a particular social practice domain from a particular perspective. Iraq's president, Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid, is an Iraqi Kurd president and a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). Since 2003, Iraq's president occupied many important positions in different periods in the Iraqi Government, such as a Minister and Consultant (Aljazeera report, date of access 06-05-2024). Iraq's president was selected as the president of the Republic of Iraq on 13-10-2022 by the members of the Iraqi Parliament. Iraq's president, Abdul Latif, has a prominent role in the 33rd summit of the Arab League held in Bahrain to present the Iraqi Government and Iraqi people to resolve the suspended problems in the neighboring states. Iraq's president called for peace in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people, the principle of good neighborliness, and rejecting the violations that affect Iraq's sovereignty and develop Iraq's economy.

The language used in this research aimed at showing the president's power, influencing the summit members to achieve the targeted goals, and speaking with one voice, a voice of logic and wisdom (Iraqi presidency, date of access 27-08-2027).

All the countries' crises were raised in the Middle East due to the conflict between Israel and Palestinians. The present study was operated as a completion of previous studies on power and ideology. One of the previous studies is the political speech by Iraq's president, Ahmed Barham Salih, at the Emergency Arab Summit in Saudi Arabia in 2019, which focuses on many challenges and crises, such as Iraq's security, Combat Terrorism, and the neighboring states security (Iraqi Presidency, date of access 27-08-2014). The previous president, Ahmed Barham Salih, in his speech, explained the role of the Iraqi people, how they stand together against ISIS with their neighboring states, and how they defend the International community's security.

From those previous studies, the research highlights Iraq's president, Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid, who represents his ideology in his political speech.

1.1 Background to the study
1.1.1 Critical Discourse Analysis
By Critical Discourse Analysis, we mean the analysis that aims to explore opaque relations of causality and determination between events and texts, discourse practices, extended social and cultural structures, processes, and relations. The reason behind using these is to investigate how such events, practices, and texts results resulted in and were ideologically shaped by the power relations and struggles over power. It is known to all analysts that they want to understand, reveal, and resist social inequality (Van Dijk, 2001). Studying and analyzing " the relations between discourse, power, dominance, social, inequality and the position of the discourse analyst in such social relations."

It is known to all researchers there are five discursive strategies, which are considered linguistic language users' moves. They are used to control readers and audiences (Susilowati and Ulkhasanah, 2020). Critical Discourse Analysis highlights the idea of unseen meanings in discourse, which should be analyzed beyond the text structure (Wodak, 2015). The use of language is considered one of the forms of social practice.

1.1.2 The Concept of Power
Critical Discourse Analysis chooses the perspective of those in power, those who have the decision to solve problems, and those who are responsible (Wodak, 1989). Power is maintained through language (Atawneh, 2009). The analysts in Critical Discourse Analysis are interested in law breaching rules and principles of democracy, Justice, and equality by those who control power. Dominance is defined as the exercise of social power by elites, departments, or groups that may result in social inequality, including political, class, cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender inequality (Wodak, 1989). Power can be defined as relations of differences, especially about the effects of social structures' differences. Language provides articulated means of power differences in hierarchical social structures.

1.1.3 The Concept of Ideology
Ideology is defined as the belief of something or many people in something. Judgment and attitude are the main basics of ideology, which is a system of ideas that help certain entities within a society to stabilize their power (Wodak, 2001). Cognitive and social psychology, discourse analysis, and sociology were found in the concept of ideology (Van Dijk, 2004). Language is a medium of ideological forces. The ideology of language dissents from the fact and is deceived by language interpretation (Wodak, 2001). It is

remarkable that ideologies compose the forms of the belief systems or the representation of society of certain groups (Van Dijk, 2001). Our daily texts and talks are impacted by ideologies influence (Van Dijk, 2004). It is remarkable that ideology is regarded as important in creating and maintaining unusual power relations (Wodak, 2009). Critical discourse analysis is interested in the fact that language is considered a mediator of ideology for different social institutions (Van Dijk, 2000). It was observed that dominant groups or classes used to hide their ideology and interests as a system of values, norms, beliefs, and goals (Van Dijk 2004).

1.1.4 Referential Strategies
It can be defined as the most basic strategy in the communication of Prejudice (Wodak, 2001). The researcher uses a referential strategy to exploit the human capacity for categorizing Coalitional groups". It is remarkable the construction of in-groups I is a result of text.

1.1.5 Prediction strategies
Prediction is used to characterize individuals, members, and groups of members linguistically. It is a kind of evaluation of the attributes in a positive and negative manner. Such strategies' main goal is to remark if the social actor is in a positive manner or negative even less manner (Wodak, 2015).

1.1.6 Argumentation Strategy
Topoi is part of the argumentation in the current time analysis. The positive and negative aspects can be justified regarding Topoi's amounts. Many suggestions were presented that political exclusion and inclusion of characters and policies are legitimate. Most researchers consider Topoi to be a central analysis that is widely adopted in all policies, genres, and debates.

1.1.7 Perspective Strategy
The speaker may be involved in discourse representation and reporting his point of view, describing and narrating relevant events or utterances.

1.1.8 Intensification or Mitigation
Two strategies are available: intensification and mitigation. One of them can sharpen or tone down situations. Intensification can be used to qualify on the one hand and justify on the other hand.

1.2 Problem Statement
In their endeavor to explore which strategies are employed by influential figures, previous studies paid a great deal of attention to certain figures other than Iraqi presidents (Al-Romany, 242). The present study is devoted to exploring the strategies Iraqi President Abdullatif Rashid used to influence his audiences. This idea represents an unexplored topic despite the fact that Iraq is taking its role in leading efforts that seek to settle conflicts as well as resolve problems taking place at both regional and international levels.

1.3 Research Questions
-How the influential strategies used to influence Iraq's President Abdulatif Rashid's audience and supporters.
- What are the CDAs strategies that were adopted in this current study?

1.4 Research Objectives
The present study aims to explore the CDAs strategies used in this study and how Iraq's president's speech influenced his audience and support. In addition, comparing the current study with the previous studies.

1.5 Scope of the study
The current study aims to reveal the CDAs strategies used by Iraq's president's speech at the 33rd summit of the Arab League in Manama. This text was selected from the website and translated into the English language. This study contributes to enriching the linguistic field and other areas. This study also aims to reveal the role of Iraq's president in solving most of the suspended issues in the middle east by using power and ideology to address these issues.

2. Significance of the study
2.1 Literature Review
Critical Discourse Analysis chooses the perspective of those who are in power, those who have the decision to solve problems, and those who are responsible (Wodak, 1989). Power is maintained through language (Atawneh, 2009). The analysts in Critical Discourse Analysis are interested in law breaching rules and principles of democracy, Justice, and equality by those who control power. Dominance is defined as the exercise of social power by elites, departments, or groups that may result in social inequality, including political, class, cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender inequality (Wodak, 1989). Power can be defined as relations of

differences, especially about the effects of social structures' differences. Language provides articulated means of power differences in hierarchical social structures.

3. Methodology

The goal of this research is to understand how ideology is represented by power in Iraq's President Abdul Latif's political speech at the 33rd summit of the Arab League in Bahrain. The selected data in this research was in the form of words. A critical discourse analysis approach was used in this research because it was proper to analyze linguistic phenomena that are related to social practice. The current data was selected from the 33rd summit of the Arab League on 16-05-2024. The text was downloaded from the website entitled " The speech of Iraq's President Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid at the 33rd summit of the Arab League held in Bahrain on May 16, 2024". The selected data covers many critical issues, specifically the conflict between Israel and Palestinians, the conflict in the neighboring states, and how to avail the economic and investment opportunities raised from the prevailing political and security conditions in Iraq.

4. Findings and discussions

The findings of this research consist of data analysis on the critical discourse analysis theory of discursive strategies on power and ideology.

5. Data Analysis

Data 1

Iraq's president Abdul Latif, in his speech before the Arab leaders, reiterated the unwavering of the Iraqi Government and people to solve the Palestinian cause. Iraq is considered the main mediator and player in solving most of the suspended issues in the neighboring states. Previous Iraq's president, Ahmed Abddullah Sali, played the same role as Abul Latif's with the neighboring states.

"We reiterate the unwavering position of the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people in support of the Palestinian cause; we affirm Iraq's support for the resilience of the Palestinian people in the face of these ongoing brutal attacks and Iraq's unconditional solidarity with the Palestinian people in their demands and aspirations to achieve their legitimate rights to establish an independent state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with international resolutions and all occupied territories restored."

Regarding the data above, Iraq's president, Abdul Latif, tried to solve the permanent conflict between Israel and Palestinians. The pronoun "we" refers to the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people standing together to support the Palestine cause. In his speech, he tried to influence the Arab Leaders to work together and confront these conflicts. Israel and the Palestinians conflict is a real obstacle. So, during his speech, he called the two parties for peace, but the global policy may sometimes be against that, and even the interests of other countries will be at risk. The argumentation strategy in this study was followed. Iraq's president, Abul Latif, attempted to influence the Arab leaders to ensure that peace was settled. A new approach needs to be followed. The pronoun ''we'' is used by Iraq's president to show a positive self-presentation. The Arab leaders may accept this thought that Iraq's presidential approach will solve the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. This strategy is one of the powers' strategies to represent his ideology by using this pronoun to support the Palestinians.

Data 2

Iraq's president, Abdul Latif, in his speech, reaffirmed the Iraqi Government and Iraqi people to support and mitigate the economic challenges and the effects of regional and global crises. This attempt may mitigate the hard times and challenges that Lebanese have experienced. The president intensified this case to be supported by other Arab leaders due to the political and economic position of Lebanon. So, the intensification and mitigation of this selected data from the speech were followed. The Iraqi government and the people of Iraq together want to aid the Lebanese, as stated by Iraq's President Abdul Latif in his speech. He tried to prove to all that Iraq is still the prominent player and mediator in the Middle East to solve such critical problems, specifically to the neighboring states.

"The government and people of Iraq also reaffirm their full support for their brothers in Lebanon so they may overcome their economic challenges and the effects of regional and global crises. Iraq is in favor of all efforts to resolve political differences and build bridges of trust in the country in order to reach political and economic stability and achieve the aspirations of the Lebanese people."

Data 3

Abdul Latif, in his speech at the 33rd summit of the Arab League, like other previous Iraqi presidents, tried to refer to the predicted future of Iraq in the field of economy. The previous president, Ahmed Barham Salih, in 2019 tried hard to achieve the targeted goals and launch a new project to support the economy of Iraq and the infrastructure, but many internal effects prevented him from doing that. The current president, plus the help of the people, will launch a different project and provide improved services

to the people of Iraq. This strategy is real; it is not only words like before. He confirmed that there is a delay in launching projects and services.

"Today, Iraq is witnessing an economic revolution as the government launches new projects and endeavors to provide improved services to its people. I renew the call to our brothers to avail of the economic and investment opportunities arising from the prevailing political and security conditions in Iraq, as well as our abundant human capital. I also hope that this summit embodies the will of our peoples to advance towards achieving our goals and speak with one voice, a voice of logic and wisdom when addressing our common issues".

The negative manner will be changed to a positive manner. Abdul Latif wanted to show his power by assuring that other presidents in the same position presented unreal images. He was clear in his ideology, which is represented in his power with disclosure of opinion. He wants other Arab countries to follow his ideas and opinions to support Iraq in launching new projects and services.

5.1 Discussion
The power relation is used by Iraq's President Abdul Latif to represent his ideology of speech. Three types of discursive strategies were used: Referential, Mitigative, and Perspective strategies. The reason behind using these strategies is to represent his ideology through his ideological construction. The use of referential strategy was for constructing Iraq's president in-groups or out-groups. The prediction strategy was utilized to remark himself in a negative, positive manner. Finally, the argumentation strategy was used to determine political inclusion or exclusion.

6. Conclusion
The current study analyzed the power representing the ideology of Iraq's president's speech at the 33rd summit of the Arab League. Three discursive strategies have been found to be implemented in the data of the present study. The researcher examined these strategies and found that Iraq's president succeeded in controlling and influencing the members of the Arab summit by following the ideological construction. The three discursive strategies were used by Iraq's president, Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid, at the 33rd summit of the Arab League held in the Bahraini capital, Manama, on May 16, 2024. He used the three strategies to describe his power and ideology so that the Arab leaders could trust him and construct a positive image in order to understand power and ideology in the Critical Discourse Analysis area. The findings of the present study reveal that three out of the five CDAs strategies are employed, including Referential, Mitigative, and Perspective strategies. It is recommended that more investigations be conducted in areas other than the linguistic area. In the future, researchers have to select further data to examine and investigate power representing ideology in different contexts and prominent approaches. Researchers have to seek and investigate in fields other than politics and use other theories. This kind of study may feed and support the linguistic field.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.
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