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"Exploring Simile in Political Speeches through Corpus Techniques"

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ABSTRACT

The use of rhetorical devices practiced in antiquity in Aristotle's time and reached to the present through Renaissance (Goodnight, 2014). These devices impart color to the meanings. The focus remains here on rhetorical devices as it has been the burgeoning interest of researchers. This paper tends to delve similes used by political leaders in their speeches. The present study probes into similes that are used by political leaders in their speeches. Firstly, similes are explored, and their structures are analyzed. Secondly, linking words (as and like) are taken as node words and each side of them is taken for structural analysis to find out phrases. Thirdly, this study explores the frequencies of linking words, as or like and structures at right and left collocates/context. Later, functions of the structural categories were analyzed. Structural categories including, noun phrase (NP) + node word + noun phrase and verb phrase (VP) + node word + NP. The corpus contains twenty speeches delivered by politicians in 20th century. The corpus of 74,470 words was built. We tagged whole data through TagAnt (Anthony, 2015). Later node words, like and as are analyzed through AntConc (Anthony, 2018). We selected only those occurrences where linking words as and like are served as simile. Findings reveal that NP + node word + NP and VP + node word + VP frequently occurred in selected corpus. In these two phrases, NP received high frequencies. Similarly, as occurred frequently than like. It was also kept under consideration that NP found both in right and left contexts of the node words while VP was found only in left contexts. The utmost use of these smiles revealed their functional features where they are used to convey different meanings.

1. Introduction

The word rhetoric goes back to trace its origin and history in ancient Greek as defined by Aristotle, rhetorical is usage of language for persuasion of audience and to impress them in favor of something or against something. According to Charteris-Black (2014), rhetoric is revised and practiced since Aristotle's time and is popular an academic discipline in American universities. Rhetoric is one of the most important persuasion keys for arousing human feeling for accepting or rejecting someone or something, that is done when words are used properly and have strong effective role in transmission of meaning with suitable situation and proper order. Moreover, Aristotle said that rhetoric should appeal to audience for convincing them in three different ways; ethos (to activate the speaker's character), pathos (to evoke the audience's emotion) and logos (to make logical connection between the previous two). He (Aristotle) also gave three categories for delivering speech: epideictic (a formal way of speech to blame or praise), forensic (speech in court which expresses someone/something guilt or innocence), and deliberative (that category appeals to audience to make decision about an issue). He further categorized rhetoric proofs in two kinds; enthymeme (to provide proofs by syllogism) and paradeigma (to give proof by example).

Simile is frequently used device of figure of speeches, and always appears in English literature (Fengjie, Jia and Yingying 2016). According to Tilak (2007), simile is indirect comparison between two things or ideas that have shared qualities, but these things or events would have different kinds and the comparison between them would be vividly exposed. The present study attempts to analyze the structural features of similes in the speeches delivered on specific moments for political purpose.

2. Literature Review

Khdair (2016) reflects that politicians use rhetorical devices as tools for different situations to convey their meaning very effectively but the sharpest one is repetition that they use purposely for an indirect way in the political discourse. Katrandjiev, Velinov and Radova (2016) work is based on advertising slogan, in which they identify different rhetorical figures and focus on their use and effective communication along with meaning and attraction. They explored that metaphor is the most frequently used in advertising slogan other than rest of rhetorical figures. Goodnight (2014) points out by saying that rhetoric is practiced in modern age, but it extended from classical through Renaissance. In modern, it appeals to special way of expression that cultivates practices for communication to achieve sustainable deep emotion of audience. To gain the support of audience is not secured by philosophy or mathematics, but it is rhetoric that must control the continual attention of audience. Similarly, another study based on persuasive rhetoric by Cirugeda and Ruiz (2013) explicates that Obama got deeper feeling of his audience by using rhetoric through which he persuaded them. He used these devices to understand them and made clear his political ideology. Most of the time he took conceptual metaphor along with other persuasive rhetoric as personification, repetition and synesthesia.

Talik (2007) sheds light on figure of speeches that figures are used to present

an image of thing/event in clear manner. McQuarrie and Mick (1993) expound that use of rhetorical devices is a specific effort that are used for achieving desired goals. Further, they stress figures of speech have historical practice which seeks specific words combination for the fields in which those words suit evocatively. Specially, it encircles the Classical rhetoric that focuses on audience motivations. In addition to, pun and hyperbole always take place in advertisements.

Fengjie, Jia and Yingying (2016) put that rhetoric is the art of powerful expression in effective way but hidden that influence, persuade and impress audience. Their study highlights rhetorical devices that appear in oral speech. They tell that speech does not mean the echo of applause, but it also returns a warm enlightenment on audience. Speech is a short way of communication that takes short time but conveys effective meaning that attracts audience's emotion. Specially, politicians take many advantages of rhetorical devices. They took Obama's name for such type of using words that he uses rhetorical devices and gains people's wishes. They say that Obama has used: alliteration, metaphor, simile, synecdoche, metonymy, parallelism and antithesis. Chetia (2015) opines that rhetorical devices are different tools that bring beauty, changes, lucidity, strength, and force to language. Rhetoric is especially famous in English advertisement. She discovered rhetorical devices such as simile, personification and metaphor that are found in English advertisement in India. She disclosed that simile is the comparison between different ideas or things, but they would have some resemblance in some way.

Regmi (2014) says that figures of speech are used for presenting different varieties through simile, metaphor, images, symbols and personifications. Speakers and writers have strong intentions for making a language colorful, for which they use rhetorical figures. They catch the idea of audience and elaborate specific points with the help of figures of speech. He also tells that these devices enhance the curiosity of learning of a language. Basically, the usage of rhetorical creates conducive moment. The study of Al-Hamad (2011) analyzes the figures of speech used by Syrian politicians for gaining political advantages. The authors encircle four figures of speech: metaphor, simile, euphemism and personification.

According to Carnie (2103) noun phrase could be a noun, pronoun, mass and countable noun. It is also noticeable that noun phrase starts with an article, determiner, and ends with a noun. Further, he says that noun phrase starts with an article, determiner followed by an adjective (optional) and ends with a noun. Verb phrase consists of a verb only or helping verb with main verb. Adjective phrase contains two adjectives followed by a noun or one adverb + adjective followed by a noun. Prepositional phrase starts with a preposition and ends with a noun. Persuasive and rhetorical speeches have taken wide attention since Greek times. Therefore, linguists pay meticulous attention to the analysis of such speeches. Politicians use figures of speech that attract and persuade public sphere. Simile is one of the literary devices that may persuade hearers. Hence, there is a need to explore the structural and functional features of simile that may impart literariness to political discourse.

The primary objectives of the study are to explore smiles carrying *as* and

like as node words in the selected data. The frequencies of node words (*as* and *like*) are explored and structural features of phrases found on each side of the node words are elaborated. After finding the structures of phrases, their functional features are explored and explained in particular context.

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, we designed following research questions.

Q. What are the frequently occurring phrases carrying *as* and *like* in the selected corpus?

Q. What are the structural properties of the phrases on each side of linking words in the selected corpus?

Q. Which linking words (*as* or *like*) are used frequently with phrases in the similes?

3. Methodology and Theoretical Framework

The data for this study is collected from speeches of renown political speakers of 20th century as mentioned in Table 1. The corpus of 74,470 words is built for this analysis.

Table 1: Details of selected speeches

S. No	Speakers	Titles	Delivered	Gender	Words
1	Martin Luther King	I have a dream	28 August 1963	Male	1,686
2	Franklin Delano Roosevelt	First Inaugural Address	4 March 1933	Male	1,946
3	Barbara Charline Jordan	1976 Democratic National Convention Keynote Address	12 July 1976	Female	1,901
4	Richard M. Nixon	Checkers	23 September 1952	Male	4,750
5	Malcolm X	The Ballot or the Bullet	12 April 1964	Male	7,981
6	Ronald Reagan	The Space Shuttle "Challenger" Tragedy Address	28 January 1986	Male	665
7	Lyndon Baines Johnson	Address to a Joint Session of Congress on Voting Legislation	15 March 1965	Male	3,769
8	Mario Matthew Cuomo	1984 Democratic National Convention Keynote Address	16 July 1984	Male	4,325
9	Jesse Louis Jackson	1984 Democratic National Convention Address	18 July 1984	Male	5,012

10	General Douglas MacArthur	Farewell Address to Congress	19 April 1951	Male	3,247
11	Martin Luther King	I've Been to the Mountaintop	3 April 1968	Male	4,432
12	Theodore Roosevelt	The Man with the Muck-rake	14 April 1906	Male	3,318
13	Robert F. Kennedy	Remarks on the Assassination of Martin Luther King	4 April 1968	Male	656
14	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Farewell Address	17 January 1961	Male	1,958
15	Woodrow Wilson	War Message	2 April 1917	Male	3,684
16	General Douglas MacArthur	Sylvanus Thayer Award Acceptance Address	12 May 1962	Male	2,066
17	Ronald Reagan	A Time for Choosing (aka "The Speech")	27 October 1964	Male	4645
18	Huey P. Long	Every Man a King -- Radio Speech to the Nation	23 February 1934	Male	4975
19	Anna Howard Shaw	The Fundamental Principle of a Republic	21 June 1915	Male	9550
20	Ronald Reagan	Remarks at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals	8 March 1983	Male	3904
	Total Words				74,470

The research focuses on the analysis of similes used by politicians in these speeches. Frequencies of linking words *as* and *like* are explored where only those occurrences were considered for analysis where they serve as similes. We examined the phrases in the immediate context of these linking words to determine their structures and functions. We cleaned the data manually and also used an online freeware *TextFixer*. Later, we tagged the data through *TagAnt* (Anthony, 2015). Tagging has exemplification to represent words correctly like a tag price (e.g. words are categorized based on their functions and use such as *can* is tagged as a noun and *can* is a verb/auxiliary that is automatically labeled). After cleaning, the data was analyzed through *AntConc* (Anthony, 2018).

Conrad and Biber (2005) proposed a framework on the classification of

lexical bundles. They elaborated two types of classification; structural and functional classification of lexical bundles. For this study, initially we identified various structures like lexical bundles are observed in right and left context of the node word through the lens of noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase, and prepositional phrase and then every category is divided into sub-categories. Second, the functional features which show the functions of the bundles of words in a discourse context are identified and explained. We examined the right and left collocates of each concordance. Functional category is divided into four different sub categories; stance expression, discourse organizer, referential expression and special conversational functions.

The structural properties of similes are explored through AntConc (Anthony, 2018). Initially, node words, *as* and *like* are explored in search bar and their right and left collocates are identified in terms of their structural categories. This study has been delimited to only two structural categories (NP + node word + NP and VP + node word + NP). Later the functions of these categories are explored by considering their usages in particular context.

4. Analysis

Firstly, all those occurrences having *as* and *like* were explored. Secondly, those phrases (occurred at the right and left side of the node word) were highlighted. Thirdly, the linking words *as* and *like* (also serve as simile) were focused and their frequencies were noticed with various phrases. Fourthly, the functional features associated with the phrase structures were categorized according.

Conrad and Biber (2005) proposed four phrase structures that are given at number 1 in Table 2, Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5. Further, we proposed 12 more structural categories that are stated in italicized form in Table 2, Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5.

Table:2 Noun phrase and its proposed structures with other phrases.

1). Noun phrase + node words (<i>as / like</i>) + noun phrase.	2). <i>Noun phrase + node word (as / like) + verb phrase.</i>
3). <i>Noun phrase + node word (as / like) + adjective phrase (AP).</i>	4). <i>Noun phrase + node word (as / like) + prepositional phrase (PP).</i>

Table: 3 Verb phrase and its proposed structures with other phrases.

5). Verb phrase + node word (<i>as / like</i>) + noun phrase.	6) <i>Verb phrase + node word (as / like) + verb phrase.</i>
7). <i>Verb phrase + node word (as / like) + adjective phrase.</i>	8). <i>Verb phrase + node word (as / like) + prepositional phrase.</i>

Table: 4 Adjective phrase and its proposed structures with other phrases.

9). Adjective phrase + node word (<i>as / like</i>) + noun phrase.	10) Adjective phrase + node word (<i>as / like</i>) + verb phrase.
11). Adjective phrase + node word (<i>as / like</i>) + adjective phrase.	12). Adjective phrase + node word (<i>as / like</i>) + prepositional phrase.

Table: 5 Prepositional phrase and its proposed structures with other phrases.

13). Prepositional phrase + node word (as / like) + noun phrase.	14). <i>Prepositional phrase + node word (as / like) + verb phrase.</i>
15). <i>Prepositional phrase + node word (as / like) + adjective phrase.</i>	16). <i>Prepositional phrase + node word (as / like) + prepositional phrase.</i>

In this study, TagAnt (Anthony, 2015) was used to tag the whole data and combinations of various phrases are explored through Ant Conc. We found that NP + node word + NP has highest frequency (40 times) and VP + node word + NP carried second highest frequency (34 times). We delimited this study on these two frequently occurring combinations.

4.1 Results related to every proposed structure

The data reveals that phrase structure **NP + node word + NP** carries the highest frequency in the corpus. Node words *like/as* are browsed through search bar in AntConc (Anthony, 2018) and their collocates are selected for phrase structure analysis. These phrase structures are observed after tagging through TagAnt (Anthony, 2015) as shown in figure 1 and 2.

_VVZ down_RP like_IN waters_NNS ,_ and_CC righteousness_NN like_IN a_DT mighty_JJ stream_NN ,_SENT " ,_ " 1_CD I_PP am_VBP	1_tagged.txt
roll_NN down_RB like_IN waters_NNS and_CC righteousness_NN like_IN a_DT mighty_JJ stream_NN ,_SENT " ,_ " Somehow_RB the_DT p	11_tagged.txt
_NN at_IN the_DT head_NN of_IN each_DT column_NN ,_ like_IN a_DT rooster_NN ,_ or_CC an_DT eagle_NN ,_ or_CC	19_tagged.txt
NN roll_NN on_IN like_IN a_DT river_NN ,_ righteousness_NN like_IN a_DT never-failing_JJ stream_NN ,_SENT " ,_ " Now_RB ,_ o	20_tagged.txt
-old_JJ son_NN ,_ " " There_EX is_VBZ no_DT foundation_NN like_IN the_DT rock_NN of_IN honesty_NN and_CC fairness_NN ,_	17_tagged.txt

Figure: 1 The frequencies of NP + NP with linking word like

DT bright_JJ tomorrow_NN ,_SENT Use_NN hope_NN and_CC imagination_NN as_IN weapons_NNS of_IN survival_NN and_CC progress_NN ,_SENT	9_tagged.txt
hildren_NNS ,_ using_VVG traditional_JJ Democratic_JJ principles_NNS as_IN a_DT fixed_VVN beacon_NN ,_ giving_VVG us_PP direction_NN	8_tagged.txt
_WP were_VBD accustomed_VVN to_TO use_VV their_PP\$ fellow_JJ men_NNS as_IN pawns_NNS and_CC tools_NNS ,_SENT Self-governed_JJ natio	15_tagged.txt
N ,_ and_CC experience_NN of_IN the_DT late_JJ Hubert_NP Humphrey_NP as_IN a_DT balm_NN for_IN the_DT wounds_NNS in_IN our_PP\$	9_tagged.txt
_TO that_DT end_NN we_PP 've_VHP accepted_VVN Social_NP Security_NP as_IN a_DT step_NN toward_IN meeting_VVG the_DT problem_NN ,_	17_tagged.txt

Figure: 2 The frequencies of NP + NP with linking word as

We explored similes through AntConc (Anthony, 2018) and added *as* and *like* as node words in the search options. Phrases on right and left collocates of the node words were analyzed. Table: 2 includes four parts but the only part: **Noun phrase + node word + noun phrase** received the highest occurrences. Here the focus was given to the node words firstly, and then each side of them was chosen for analysis of the phrases. Table: 3 contains the verb phrase in relation to three other phrases.

oday_NN ,_ " " Yes_UH ,_ let_VV justice_NN roll_NN on_IN like_IN a_DT river_NN ,_ righteousness_NN like_IN a_DT never-fa	20_tagged.txt
_the_DT same_JJ size_NN ,_SENT America_NP is_VBZ more_JJR like_IN a_DT quilt_NN ; : many_JJ patches_NNS ,_ many_JJ pieces	9_tagged.txt
God_NP 's_POS sight_NN ,_SENT America_NP is_VBZ not_RB like_IN a_DT blanket_NN -- : one_CD piece_NN of_IN unbroken_JJ	9_tagged.txt
with_IN Amos_NP ,_ " " Let_VV justice_NN roll_NN down_RB like_IN waters_NNS and_CC righteousness_NN like_IN a_DT mighty_J	11_tagged.txt
solution_NN ,_SENT Your_PP\$ guidepost_NN stands_VVZ out_RP like_IN a_DT ten-fold_NN beacon_NN in_IN the_DT night	16_tagged.txt

Figure:3 The frequencies of VP + NP with linking word like

Verb phrase + node word + noun phrase structures were examined that carried second highest frequency in the corpus as shown in figure 3 and 4. NP + node word + NP and VP + node word + NP were analyzed, having the frequencies

of 40 and 34 respectively in concordance line.

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V the_DT words_NNS of_IN temptation_NN _"_" Ye_NP shall_MD be_VB as_IN gods_NNS _SENT _"_" The_DT Western_JJ world_NN can_MD answe 20_tagged.txt
  It_PP 's_VBZ an_DT old_JJ story_NN _SENT It_PP 's_VBZ as_RB old_JJ as_IN our_PP$ history_NN _SENT The_DT difference_NN bet 8_tagged.txt
  _PP are_VBP to_TO go_VV forward_RB _"_" we_PP must_MD move_VV as_IN a_DT trained_JJ and_CC loyal_JJ army_NN willing_JJ to_TO 2_tagged.txt
I Proclamation_NN _SENT This_DT momentous_JJ decree_NN came_VVD as_IN a_DT great_JJ beacon_NN light_NN of_IN hope_NN to_TO 1_tagged.txt
T flames_NNS of_IN withering_VVG injustice_NN _SENT It_PP came_VVD as_IN a_DT joyous_JJ daybreak_NN to_TO end_VV the_DT long_JJ 1_tagged.txt
    
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Figure:4 The frequencies of VP + NP with linking word as

The linking words (*as* and *like*) were taken as node words in both structures; NP + node word + NP and VP + node word + NP. The linking word *as* was found more than *like*.

In this study, we also focus on functions of the selected structures. Functional features were associated to NP + node word + NP and VP + node word + NP. Table 6 shows the functions and patterns of the selected structures.

Table: 6 Functional features and patterns of NP + node word + NP

Function	Examples
Commitment	Righteousness like a mighty stream
Patriotism	Righteousness like a mighty stream
Rules	Righteousness like a never-failing stream
Encouragement	Foundation like the rock of honesty
Subalterns	Column like a rooster
	Democratic principles as a fixed beacon
	Use hope and imagination as weapons
	Hubert Humphrey as a balm
	Social security as a step towards meeting
	Their fellow men as pawns and tools
Pattern	Examples
Abstract with concrete	Righteousness with a mighty stream
	Righteousness with a mighty stream
	Righteousness with a never-failing stream
Abstract with abstract	Democratic principles with fixed beacon
Concrete with concrete	Hope and imagination with weapons
	Security with step
	Column with a roaster
Concrete with abstract	Hubert Humphrey with a balm
	Men with pawns and tools
	Foundation with the rock of honesty

Politicians use similes for comparing different things and ideas to convince their audience, as they use hope for weapons and encourage them.

Table:7 Functional features and patterns of VP + node word + NP

Function	Examples
Boast	Justice roll on like a river Justice roll down like waters You shall be as god
Gratification	America is more like a quilt America is not like a blanket
Encouragement	Guidepost stands out like a ten-fold beacon We most moved as train It is as old as our history Decree came as a great beacon It came as joyous daybreak
Pattern	Examples
Abstract with concrete	Justice with water Justice with water Decree with great beacon Justice with joyous daybreak
Concrete with concrete	You with god America with quilt America with blanket Guidepost with beacon We with train Tower with history

Politicians use similes for different purposes but follow different patterns according to needs. They try to color the language with these patterns and attract their attentions.

4.2 Result and Discussion

Findings of the study reveal that NP + node word + NP occur more frequently than VP + node word + NP.

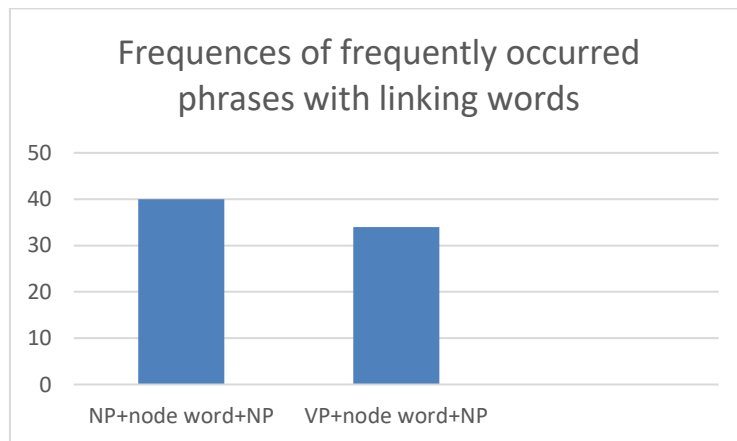


Figure :5 The frequencies of frequently occurring phrases with linking words

Figure: 5 shows that NP + node word + NP has 40 occurrences in total,

node word (*like/as*) serve as simile. Hence in total, *as* serve as simile in 34 occurrences while *like* serves as linking word in 6 occurrences. VP + node word + NP has 34 occurrences in total while *as* occurred 24 times and *like* occurred 10 times.

Occurrences of frequently occurred phrases

If we talk about phrases in particular

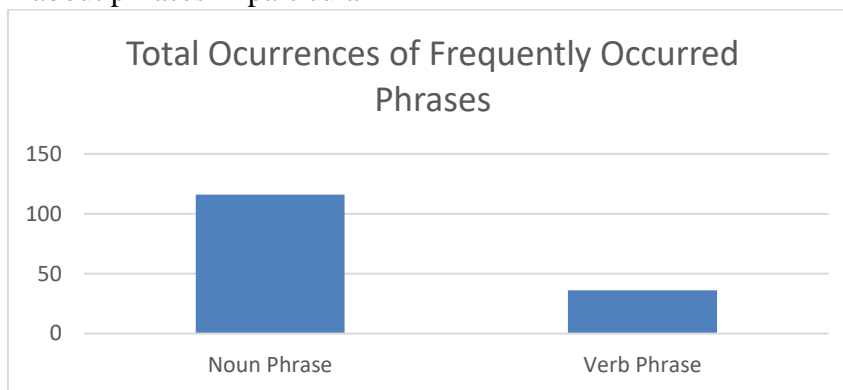


Figure: 6 Total occurrences of NP (114) and VP (34)

Figure: 6 revealed the frequencies of each phrase; noun phrase and verb phrase. Phrase structure, **NP + node word + NP** has 40 instances and it had noun phrases on each side of the node word so it NP has 80 instances in total. Phrase structure, **VP + node word + NP** has 34 instances in which right collocate comprise of noun phrase. Therefore, noun phrase carry high frequency than verb phrase. These 40 + 40 + 34 += 114 created highest score.

Table: 8 The total frequencies of the proposed structures

Part	Phrases with linking/node words	Occurrences
1	Noun phrase + node word + noun phrase	40
2	Verb phrase + node word + noun phrase	34

The second highest phrase structure, **VP + node word + NP** that has 34 occurrences having left collocate as verb phrase (VP). Hence verb phrase has only 34 occurrences in total.

Total frequencies of phrases with linking words *as* and *like*

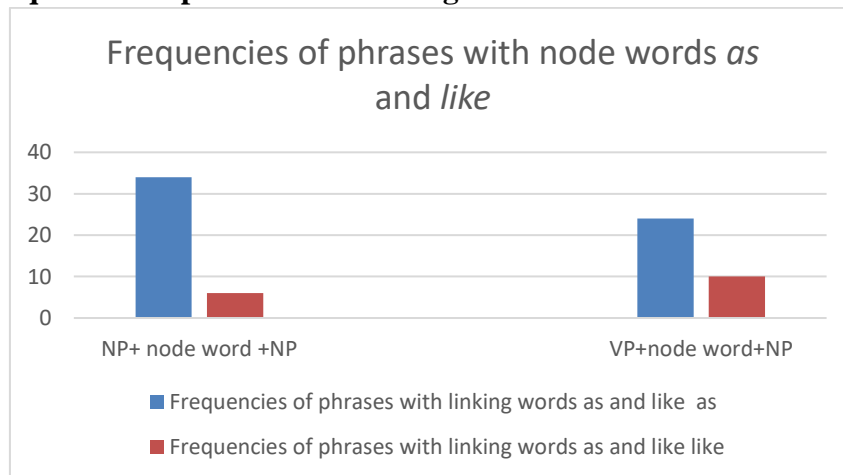


Figure: 7 The Frequencies of phrases with linking/node words *as* and *like*

The linking words (*as* and *like*) were only found in NP + node word + NP and VP + node word + NP, in which the linking word *as* has high frequency than *like*. The analysis reveals that NP + node word + NP has 40 occurrences in which 34 having node word (*as*) and VP + node word + NP has 34 occurrences in total in which 24 has (*as*) as a node word. Based on these results, node word *as* has 58 occurrences at all while *like* has 16 occurrences in total. Hence it can be concluded that NP exist frequently with similes in the corpus of political speeches. Furthermore, the analysis also reveals that *as* is frequently used in similes. Similarly, it is also interesting that only NP has relationship with NP through simile while the relationship of VP with VP does not exist in this corpus. It is also noticed that NP has occurrences both in left and right collocates of the node word while VP has only in left contexts.

Functional features

Politicians use figures of speech for getting desired goals and convincing their audience. For instance, '*righteousness like a mighty stream*' is used because water has power and strength, and no one can stop it. It can wash all the dirty things and bring greenery that symbolizes hope and power. Therefore, the speaker uses this simile to refer to the purity of thoughts and complete commitment in terms of providing basic rights to the minorities.

The next one is '*foundation like the rock of honesty*' that shows sincerity and patriotism. Everything needs a basic or strong foundation that gives strength to rest of the building but here it is also mentioned *honesty* that gives more mental satisfaction to the audience. '*Column like a rooster*' was another stance that expresses deep idea, '*Rooster*' was used that shows the power and difference between common and specific things and attracts its onlookers. To sustain the idea of rules among the citizen such type of words is used that brings better results '*Democratic principles as a fixed beacon*'. *Principles* were mentioned that are the need of every human, but *beacon* is used to satisfy the rules and followers of the leaders. '*Use hope and imagination as weapons*', here the speaker tries to express the strengths of human beings that their imagination and hopeful behavior are their powers that can serve as a weapon to rule the world. Hope and imagination may take the person on the right way that brings light (success) in future. That also creates sympathy and understanding among humans and establishes regularity and balance in the progress of a nation.

'*Hubert Humphrey as a balm*', Hubert Humphrey is the name of the leader that may be used to get the attention of the audience or may be used to bring tranquil features in the lives of his followers and *balm* is an ointment that brings calmness during the pain. '*Social security as a step*' was used where security signifies the basic need of humans that always affects the lives of human.

Law in every country promotes justice. '*Justice roll on like a river*', was taken as an example that shows that river has the power that can't stop. *River* symbolizes unconsciousness, similarly laws should be unconscious of the status and standards of human beings and should be same for all. '*America is more like a quilt and America is not like a blanket*', this sounds a satisfying statement for the hearers

as American has more opportunities like quilt has many patches. If you will work more for the betterment of your country and your life, you will open further doors of opportunities that may lead to success. Further, the word *blanket* reflects a single piece that is not having different patches. *Patches* may also reflect the whole make-up of a nation that may comprised of the rich and the poor of a country. Overall, they contribute in the progress of a country.

'Your guidepost stands out like a ten-fold beacon in the night', it shows an obvious reason of encouragement. *Guidepost* is taken for guidance and *beacon* shows a light for giving signal that provides information. *'It (tower) is as old as our history'*, here, 'it' was used for 'tower' and signifies history. Basically, history has various features and aspects that represent the lives of a group, community or a country. Tower represents age as well as strength. *'This momentous decree came as a great beacon'*, here decree is an abstract thing but for giving importance to it, beacon was taken that made its affect more. Beacon is visible and on the top of peak that may show alarming situation or warning sign. *'It (justice) came as joyous daybreak'*, justice is compared with joyous daybreak. Actually, both represent happiness and prosperity. But here, the use of joyous daybreak adds meaning to convince the audience. *'This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice'* and Decree is an abstract thing but for giving importance to it, beacon was taken that made its affect more. Beacon is visible and on the top of peak that can indicate alarming and warning. Further, it gives more clarity and closeness with *'It (justice) came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity'*, justice is compared with joyous daybreak. Actually, both represent happiness and prosperity. But here, the use of joyous daybreak adds meaning to convince the audience.

Finally, the simile, *'Their fellow men as pawns and tools'* is used by the political speakers in order to refer back to the black people who have always been subjugated by the white communities in American societies. King Martin Luther synthesizes the serious concerns about the future of the black community through this simile. American constitution has provided all citizens with equal rights to all. However, such rights were denied sometimes by Americans through their acts as the white are considered superior than the black. If we pay a close attention to the etymology of the simile, one is stricken by spontaneity of the situation. By dint of such comparisons, the speaker achieves his goal which is asking for the equal representation and rights for the black community.

In a nutshell, we can summarize that similes are not only confined to literature and poetry. They are also part and parcel of political speeches and may be used for getting the targeted goals, for aesthetic pleasure, and finally for communicating hidden notions and ideas. In this case, if we pay heed to the above usage of similes, we can find ideological usages of similes here like for demanding the equal rights for the black people (justice), secondly, they are used for covering a bitter idea through using positive similes (righteousness, honesty, hope and social security). Moreover, they are also used for the purpose of euphemizing certain truths

so to make them more acceptable and less projectable. As ‘*We most moved as train*’ it gives an order to everyone that everyone needs struggle, but the speakers used the term very skillfully.

There are limitations of this study that are useful for in-depth analysis of the corpus. First, it is limited to 20 speeches, delivered by 20th century great personalities and most of them had political upbringing. Secondly, it focuses on structural and functional features of phrase structures/phrases (NP + node word + NP and VP + node word + NP) on each side of the linking word. These phrases were taken as right and left collocates of the node words (*as* and *like*).

5. Conclusion

In this study a single rhetoric device (simile) has been examined. The structural and functional features of similes were analyzed. Conrad and Biber (2005) model was proposed for examining similes in the study. The model has two basic parts structural and functional features that were taken for the analysis to find results in the speeches of political leaders. The structural features of two phrases (noun and verb) were analyzed because they occur frequently in the corpus. The findings of the study shed light on the frequencies of linking words that *as* has more instances than linking word *like*. The node words *as* and *like* carry the frequencies of 58 and 16 respectively. Similarly, NP occurs frequently than VP having the frequencies of 114 and 34 respectively. This was also a point of great interest that NP occurred both in right and left collocates while VP occurred only on left context. These similes perform various functions in spoken political discourse commitment, patriotism, rules, encouragement, subalterns, boast, gratification and encouragement. Along with this, different patterns were found like abstract noun with concrete noun, abstract noun with abstract noun, concrete noun with concrete noun, concrete noun with abstract noun were compared to explore various functions performed by similes.

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