

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology
of Egypt / Egyptology

**A STUDY OF THE IDEATIONAL FUNCTION IN SYSTEMATIC
FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR: TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF NELSON
MANDELA'S SPEECHES**

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**Ihsan Ali , Abdullah Mukhtar , Ayesha Mansoor , Mahnoor Butt , A Study
Of The Ideational Function In Systematic Functional Grammar:
Transitivity Analysis Of Nelson Mandela's Speeches , Palarch's Journal Of
Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 18(7). ISSN 1567-214x.**

**Keywords: Discourse Analysis; Systemic Functional Grammar; Transitivity
Analysis; the Idealization Meta-functions; Political Discourse.**

Abstract:

This study analyzes the discourse of Nelson Mandela's political speeches in the light of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar. It also focuses to prove the hypothesis that the effectiveness of Mandela's political discourse is based on Systemic Functional Grammar particularly the idealization meta-functions. It uses the mixed method; both qualitative and quantitative. The sample of this study is consisted of randomly selected four speeches delivered by Nelson Mandela at different occasions. Later, transitivity analysis has been carried out to find the results. These speeches have been analyzed through transitivity system. The findings of the study indicate that Nelson Mandela uses the elements of the idealization meta-functions enormously in his speeches. It proves that he has considerably practiced the elements of systemic functional grammar in his speeches and indeed that was the lurking secret of his thrilling words being much more effective and revolutionary. Moreover, the findings show that the ratio of using the idealization meta-functional elements varies from speech to speech and even situation to situation. Therefore, this study posits that the transitivity analysis in Systemic Functional

Grammar can be used successfully to uncover the relationship between meanings and wordings in the political discourse.

Introduction:

For several centuries, the South Africans (particularly the black) have been treated in an inhuman manner by the white (especially the Apartheids) using all the possible steps. In another word, the tolerance and endurance of the black were trialed and tested time and again. Eventually, the black was compelled to speak out "enough is enough and no longer wait for freedom." Indeed, in the walk of the tantalizing situation, the political (but revolutionary) speeches of Nelson proved a cornerstone.

The US president Barack Obama gave the unique title to Nelson as the "Transitional Father" of his nation moved the nation toward equality, justice, peace, and prosperity of the entire world. His blessed soul came into this world on 18th July 1918 and left on 5th December 2013. He took his oath as an elected president of South Africa on 27th April 1994. He was also the first ever Black President of his country. He spent his whole life fighting against the virulent evils such as the legacy of apartheid, poverty, racism, inequity, discrimination, social and political injustice. He got more than 250 awards/ prizes or honors. He also received "Noble Peace Prize" in 1993, the "US President Medal of Freedom" as well as the "Soviet Order of Lenin" etc. He had to take a breath of prison for more than 26 years. Still, he didn't give up his freedom movement. He fought not only for the equality and justice of the Black and White Africans but even the entire humanity of the world also. He speaks out on the occasion of his trial in 1964, "I have fought against white domination, and I have against Black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs are, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die".

Therefore, it can be said that the profound impacts of his fluent and effective speeches seeped into the hearts of Africans deeply that brought about his dream turn into reality. It is the top secret that he emerged as the most influential figure in the globe of Africa. Since the speech of Mandela proved as an "Aladdin' lamp," the main concern of the present research is to study the idealization meta-functions of Nelson Mandela's Speeches in the light of "Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar" aiming at exploring the chief reasons of its long-lasting effects.

Literature Review:

The term discourse analysis is not merely to study about a language but, in especial, the way that enormously stresses on how the individuals practice it in the panorama of real life to do something like as to persuade, entice, stimulate and argue for demonstrating their discrete identities (Jones, 2012). It is well said that changing color is the face of life. There are certain factors responsible for the change within the society. The discourse itself is one of the chief factors. Here, the term discourse is not only just confined to text but has a broader sense. Being the complete interactive process of the society as well as the linguistic taste based on social and cognitive elements has to do much work with the entire aspects of the society including its evaluation and change. Both discourse and social change have strong but bilateral relations (Bloor & Bloor, 2013; Fairclough, 2001). Halliday, Matthiessen, and Halliday (2014) argues that if he emerged as an expert on grammar, then it did not mean that he had changed his mind regarding the issue rather the issue itself has been changed drastically. The prevailing point is

related to “discourse analysis.” Sometimes, it is supposed that grammar doesn’t play a central role to carry out discourse. In fact, such supposition is nothing other than a just tentative notion. In short, a discourse without based on grammar is just a textual commentary.

As far as the term SFG is concerned, it stands for “Systemic Functional Grammar.” The concepts of (SFG) is just like the multi-functionality or dimensionality of clauses, structures of grammar intertwined through the forceful flow of communicative functions as well as various activities of interaction among the individuals while planning and patterning in the walk of daily life (Eggins, 2004). Wang (2010) states, “Systemic Functional Grammar” of Halliday consisted of “Three Meta-functions such as ideational, interpersonal as well as textual.” Ideational Function regulates the essence realization as well as the meaning of accessible choices. According to Downing and Locke (2006), the ideational meta-function “permits us to encode, both semantically and syntactically or mental picture of the physical world and the worlds of our imagination.” It consists of both transitivity and modality analyses. The transitivity analysis consists of certain processes such as material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal and existential while modality analysis covers modal verbs, tenses as well as a personal pronoun. Interpersonal function shows strong ties between the person and society using discourse. It also determines all the processes by which the speaker tries to plunge into a situation of speech to demonstrate speech acts. However, the textual function accomplishes the needs of a discourse being related to the real situational context having entire texture.

In short, the dire task of SFG is to meet the linguistic features regarding supporting a person to imbibe knowledge, practice the acquired knowledge and information from the systematic aspect. It also means to frame out a sound strategy and to plan to express the desired intention related to the person himself as well as even others (Eggins, 2004).

Technically speaking, systemicists analyze texts by parsing them into constituents, differentiate between types of meaning in language, examine how different units are put together or separated and how this organization pattern employed can be effective in bringing differences in meaning. In other words, it can be said; they investigate how a language is used in various contexts by the people and how its use establishes a semiotic system. As Matthiessen and Halliday (2014) suggests that clause is the center of action in the grammar, it is where fundamental choices of meaning are made. It is not a constituent but also a central processing unit of meaning. According to Ewusi-Mensah (2015), in Systemic Functional Grammar, the clause is considered the most important functional element, and through it, the outer and the inner world of human beings are present. The functionality of the clause is seen through a set of processes that have certain participants and the circumstances (Praxedes Filho, 2004). These processes explain happenings, doings, feelings, and states (Yumin, 2007). Therefore, the process is very important in ideational meta-function that represents the event, state, relation, behavior, existence or anything expressed by a verb (Kondowe, 2014).

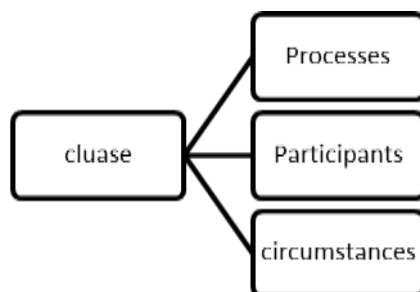


Figure 1. The Conceptual Framework of the Study

Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework of the study. It shows that a clause has three elements; processes, the participants and the circumstances. In the English language, there are six processes semantically; the three are major and the three minor. The material, mental and relational processes are the major ones, and the behavioral, verbal, existential are the minor ones. In this way, each of the six types of the process has its own small set of participants that have roles closely associated with its circumstances. Material processes are the clauses which construe doing and happenings. Generally, they refer to concrete material changes in the world. They are involved what is going on outside oneself (Ewusi-Mensah, 2015). One internet participant of material clauses is actor and goal; the former does the event and the later shows the extension of the process. Often in a transitive clause, there may also be a goal, the one impacted by the deed and recipient, the one benefitting from the doing.

Mental processes construe the clauses that show a person's sensing internal to him (Ewusi-Mensah, 2015). The meaning of feeling or thinking is encoded in it. According to Halliday et al. (2014), these processes are internalized in contrast to the material processes that are externalized. Therefore, the role of the participant will be a sensor, one with consciousness and the object or the entity that is felt will be a phenomenon.

Relational processes are the clauses that are the generalization of the traditional notion of copula constructions. This type of processes construes experience of being or becoming (Ewusi-Mensah, 2015). They have two different modes; attributive and identifying (Thompson, 1994). In clauses of the attribution mood, the participant roles involved are always carrier+attribute. As far as relational identifying clauses, they are often with token+value.

Verbal clauses prototypically refer to the process of saying. Thus the central participant is sayer, sometimes including a receiver, the addressee and also target. However, the verbal process does include not only different modes of saying (asking, commanding, offering, stating) but also semiotic processes that are not necessarily verbal (showing, indicating).

Behavioral clauses can be viewed as the intermediate type with mixed characteristics of material and mental/verbal process. What makes behavioral different from the others are the characteristics it includes on the aspect physiological processes (e.g., shiver, sweat, cough, grasp) and social processes (e.g., dance, hug, chat, gossip), etc. and the participant role of the behavioral clause is simply called behavior.

Existential clauses are similar to relational clauses as it to be a certain extent indicates the relationship of being something. However, they differ from relational ones in that there is only one participant, the existent.

Generally, it has been observed the politicians deliberately follow transitivity system in their political discourse because speech is used as a powerful tool to achieve certain aims in various circumstances (Medhurst, 2010). Further, Yule (1996) has highlighted that the utterances are used to complete verbal actions. Charteris-Black (2011) has argued that the great leaders use particular words in their speeches to show their leadership qualities. Fairclough (2001) also points out that the civil rights and peace are spread through political speeches. There are some studies by Frimpong (2007), Adjei (2010), Ayoola (2013) and Kondowe (2014) that have used Systemic Functional Grammar to discover the intended meanings of the speakers. Therefore, the current study also uses Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as its theoretical framework. Ewusi-Mensah (2015) states, "This theory is termed functional in the sense that language performs limitless practical functions in a variety of situations." These functions are ideational, interpersonal and textual. As far as this study is concerned, it only investigates the ideational meta-functions in Nelson Mandela's political speeches that he delivered on different occasions. For this purpose, transitivity analysis has been carried out which is "The most powerful conception of reality consists of going on of doing, happening, feeling, being" (Kondowe, 2014).

Research Questions

- 1) How is "Systemic Functional Grammar" practiced by Mandela in his political speeches?
- 2) In what way does the idealization meta-function work in Mandela's political speeches?
- 3) Why does Mandela use the idealization meta-function in his political speeches?

Hypotheses:

The effectiveness of Mandela's discourse is based on Systemic Functional Grammar; the idealization meta-function.

Research Methodology:

This study uses qualitative and quantitative approaches together. The sample of this study is consisted of randomly selected four speeches delivered by Nelson Mandela. However, this study is limited to his following four speeches:

"The Struggle in my Life (1961)"

"Court Statement (1962)"

"On the Rivonia's Trial (1964)"

"On Getting Freedom from Prison (1990)"

Mandela's speeches have been considered as the primary source of collecting data related to the aimed topic. This study analyzes the idealization meta-functions of Nelson Mandela's speeches concerning Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar. "The ideational Function" is well expressed through the process of "transitivity analysis." In another word, "transitivity analysis" is highly practiced in "functional grammar." Also, it has to play a key role regarding representing the entire "ideational function." It indicates to the dire system that narrates the whole clause or sentence than merely the verb as well as its object (Feng & Espindola, 2013). Moreover, "transitivity analysis" plays a role of productive means to analyze how senses are embedded within the clause. Therefore, special attention has been paid to the clauses within a sentence. A sentence is composed of main clause, coordinate or subordinate clause. Usually, the subordinate clause is embedded, so they are considered an individual clause. The processes are identified

according to the Systemic Functional Grammar. The types of processes are separated into six main processes as explained in the transitivity method. Further, the communication purposes of the processes are interpreted semantically and explained pragmatically. In this context, the processes, the participants, and the circumstances were analyzed following the three steps developed by Burton (1982). The first step is to separate the processes and identification of the participants, the second step is finding out the process type and identification of the participant engaged in the process and the last step is determining the entity that is affected by the particular process.

The entire ‘transitivity’ elements practiced by Mandela in all of his selected four speeches have been analyzed or grubbed out, one by one as under:

Material: She stirred the coffee.

Mental: She saw the car, she feels the pain.

Relational: Maggie is strong

Behavioral: She laughed.

Verbal: She replied.

Existential: there is once a house.

After collecting and analyzing the data, the findings have been presented and interpreted speech by speech.

The data interpretation:

Transitivity analysis of Nelson Mandela’ four political speeches has been shown and interpreted below one by one.

“The Struggle in my life (1961)”

Out of Nelson’s fifteen selected speeches, the first speech was delivered by him is to be noted. This speech was delivered while he was underground, in South Africa, on 26th June 1961 and soon was released in the Press. It consists of 373 words. It appears from the structures of the sentences that he was very committed. Once he made his mind, he has to do it even he has to crawl on the earth. Just because of his strong determination, he was of the view that life is the name of a continuous struggle. He had to take the breath of prison for more than 27 years, but he didn’t give up his struggle. Whether he is among the suppressed Africans or even in the virulent prisons, he kept on his campaign. Transitivity analysis of his first speech has been shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Transitivity Analysis of Nelson Mandela’s First Speech

Speech	Total Sentences	Material Processes	Mental Processes	Relational Processes	Behavioral Processes	Verbal Processes	Existential Processes	Total processes
1	19	21	5	5	0	0	0	31

Transitivity analysis shows that Mandela uses material process in 21 clauses, relational process in 5 clauses and mental process in 5 clauses as described in Table 1. Moreover, there are five sentences in his speech where he combines material process with the relational process and mental process. It can be said that that he uses the relational process to relate the mental world of reality to the real or he shows the effect of real-world happenings on the psychological world of abstraction relating them to each other. It seems that the exploitation of the Africans has affected them mentally that has been perceived by Mandela who has set for action and also persuading his people to rise against it. The three actors frequently come in his speech. “We” have been referred to the general audience and the people of his country whom he is addressing including himself. “Those people/ the police” have been used for the authorities. “You” has been used to address the public and “I” have been used for himself as a leading figure. The use of these pronouns shows that he encodes material world through mental reactions such as perception, thought and feeling using mental processes, gives insight to his consciousness, relates it to his people with their present situation and set a course of action for them and persuades other to the similar aim. The use of the pronoun “We” anaphorically employed himself and the Africans as an actor who is traditionally associated with the ideology of inclusiveness (Halliday et al., 2014). The dominant use of material process and the use of activation give out the impression that he wants to set himself and the audience for actions.

“Court Statement (1962)”

This is the second speech of Nelson which has been delivered on 15th October 1962, in Pretoria. It is considered as one of his most thrilling speeches as it was delivered when he was in prison. It has presented the “Court Statement.” It presented his inner feelings and sprouting thoughts. It consists of 483 words. In this speech, he expressed his strong determination of snatching the democratic rights; even he has to sacrifice his precious life. For further detail, his speech is mentioned. Transitivity analysis of his second speech has been shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Transitivity Analysis of Nelson Mandela’s Second Speech

Speech	Total Sentences	Material Processes	Mental Processes	Relational Processes	Behavioral Processes	Verbal Processes	Existential Processes	Total processes
2	14	16	11	16	0	1	0	44

Transitivity analysis shows that Mandela uses material process in 16 clauses, relational process in 16 clauses and mental process in 11 clauses as described in Table 2. The use of an equal number of material processes and the relational processes seems to show that he relates the injustice being done to the African people with their cognitive perception and feelings and finally connects it with their collective course of actions. These relational processes serve the communicative purpose of linking the carriers and their attributives and make their relationship clear to the audience. Most of the actors in his speech are abstract nouns like injustice, inhumanity, this court; racial arrogance refers to the Whites who were inflicting cruelties on the Blacks. “We,” “I” and “mankind” have been used for the sensors that have got consciousness in

the wilderness of those days. The dominant use of “I” as an actor gives the impression that he is the leading and revolutionary figure for the people. Therefore, it can be said that to relate the situation of the African people, with the injustice of the Whites and to set his people against this cruelty, he selects the words beautifully and uses them aptly.

“On the Rivonia’s Trial (1964)”

It is not a speech properly delivered by him. However, it is a statement taken from the Dock, at the initiative of the defense case, in “the Rivonia trial,” on 20th April 1964, Pretoria, the glebe of South Africa. It is a medium of diction produced by him which consists of 313 words. In this statement, he clearly described the complaint and dreams of African for which they have been struggling. The main message what he wanted to convey is to eliminate the so-called law and steps must be taken for its reformations so that both the black and whites can enjoy with equal rights. Transitivity analysis of his third speech is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Transitivity Analysis of Nelson Mandela’s Third Speech

Speech	Total Sentences	Material Processes	Mental Processes	Relational Processes	Behavioral Processes	Verbal Processes	Existential Processes	Total processes
3	16	20	2	18	0	0	1	41

Transitivity analysis shows that Mandela uses material process in 20 clauses, a relational process in 18 clauses and mental process in 2 clauses and existential process in 1 clause as described in Table 3. The dominant use of the material process by Mandela shows that he uses material processes to set out his revolutionary principles through the processes of doings and actions. Most of the actors are the whites/ legislation, the ANC, the speaker himself and some abstract nouns; fear and solution. It highlights the dominance of the Whites and the ruling government as the most influential actor in his speech. Moreover, mostly he uses “I” as the most active agent through activation in his speeches that seem to indicate that he is behaving as the significant leader to guide his nation to the path of freedom and development. Fear, solution, and democracy are also used as the actor in his sentences. It indicates that he is not only describing the cruelties of the whites but also presenting the solution in the form of democracy which is considered a threat to the government. The analysis also discovers that he evenly chooses attributive or identifying clauses but largely preferred former to provide definitions and explanation.

“On Getting Freedom from Prison (1990)”

It is the fourth speech of the fifteen speeches. It is a lecture delivered by him, full of political ideology, in Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in New Delhi, India. It was delivered on 25th January 1965. This lecture consists of 281 words. The main theme of this lecture is “reconciliation.” It is very profound, deep and effective lecture. During the lecture, he disclosed the dream of African majority irrespective of political riots and discrimination of color. Transitivity analysis of his fourth speech is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Transitivity Analysis of Nelson Mandela's Fourth Speech

Speech	Total Sentences	Material Processes	Mental Processes	Relational Processes	Behavioral Processes	Verbal Processes	Existential Processes	Total processes
4	9	12	2	11	0	0	0	25

Transitivity analysis shows that Mandela uses material process in 12 clauses, relational process in 11 clauses and mental process in 2 clauses as described in Table 4. The balance between material process and relational process shows that he defines and explains the course of actions for his people and relates them to their struggle. The actors are mostly, all the South Africans, reconstruction & development, and the world. From these actors, it can be understood that he wants to relate the progress of the world with the development and reconstruction of the African people that can only be possible without their participation in the affairs of the world. The frequent use of "We" as an actor gives out the impression that Mandela associates the freedom of the Africans with their potential actions. Thus it can be said that he superbly selects the appropriate words to arise enthusiasm for liberty in his people.

Table 5: The Results of Transitivity Analysis of Nelson Mandela's Speeches

Speech	Total Sentences	Material Processes	Mental Processes	Relational Processes	Behavioral Processes	Verbal Processes	Existential Processes	Total processes
1	19	21	5	5	0	0	0	31
2	14	16	11	16	0	1	0	44
3	16	20	2	18	0	0	1	41
4	9	12	2	11	0	0	0	25
Total	58	69	20	50	0	1	1	141

Table 5 describes that in the selected four speeches, Nelson eloquently practiced the “Ideal Function” using all of its elements. However, he uses material function and relational process more frequently than the other processes. It can be said that he wants to realize the Africans that their existing state is not fated rather it is contrived by the Whites. Therefore they should set for actions to turn down all of their cruelties. These speeches consist of 6420 words. Transitivity analysis shows that material processes have been used in 69 clauses, mental processes have been used in 20 clauses, and relational processes have been used in 50 clauses. Behavioral processes, verbal processes, and existential processes have been used in a few clauses. In another word, Nelson Mandela has used processes for ideational function in 141 clauses. Therefore, it can be said that Nelson Mandela uses unconsciously Systemic Functional Grammar in his sentences to provoke the African for freedom and getting civil rights from the Whites.

Discussion:

The findings seem to show that the idealization meta-functions works in Mandela’s discourse particularly in his political speeches, and thus indicates that he practices the “Systemic Functional Grammar” in his speeches. Nelson was not only the most influencing political figure of his age but also the revolutionist as well as the reformer of South Africa. It was his extraordinary intellectual skills that made his dream turn into reality even after passing more than 27 years in prison. He very dexterously carried out the political discourses while being much more careful in the selection of words during his speeches. He chose the words according to the mentality and demand of his listeners. The findings of the research indicate that collectively, in all of his four speeches, the elements of the idealization meta-function have been enormously used which proves him to be an ideological politician. Moreover, the findings also show that the ratio of using the idealization meta-functional elements vary from speech to speech and even situation to situation.

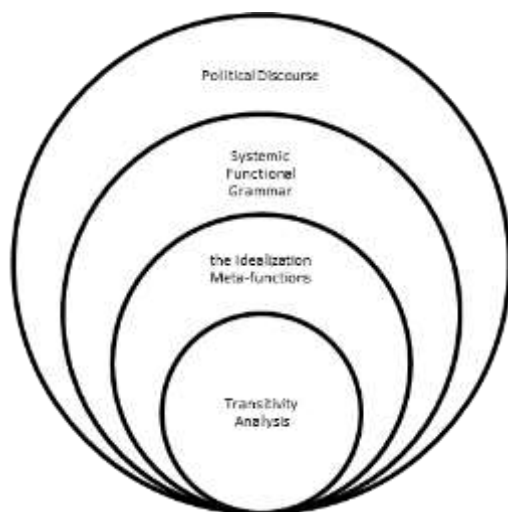


Figure 2. The Theoretical Framework of Nelson Mandela’s Political Speeches

Figure 2 shows the theoretical framework of Nelson Mandela’s political speeches. It shows that his political discourse is determined by Systemic Functional Grammar that corresponds to the idealization-meta functions leading to transitivity analysis. Further, transitivity analysis of

Nelson Mandela's speeches shows that he uses material processes more than the other process types. In transitivity system, material processes are related to doing or happenings in the real world. Thus, it confirms Wang (2010)'s notion that in political speeches, the material process is a good choice. Also, the second highest used process in his speeches is a relational process, and it is also employed according to the Halliday's relational assertions of being and having. He uses this process to relate himself and his struggle with his people and their struggle. He makes use of the mental process to awake his consciousness, raising the spirit of freedom in his people and demonstrate the psychological situation of his nation. As Kondowe (2014) states, "The mental processes have the potential of arousing the emotions of the audience". It confirms the research findings of Ewusi-Mensah (2015) who posits that in the political arena, politicians deliberately make use of linguistics items to show experiences or events for stylistic efforts. The study affirms (Bloor & Bloor, 2013) that the transitivity analysis helps users to represent their perception of reality. It also affirms Halliday et al. (2014)'s assertion that the structures of a language can create certain meanings and ideas that can't be understood explicitly by the readers. It means that transitivity system is a useful way of finding out the participants involved in the process and the entities where this process is extended. It can uncover the relationship between meanings and wordings in political discourse.

Conclusion:

The research has been carried out to analyze the discourse of Nelson Mandela's political speeches in the light of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar; the idealization meta-functions. The study has also proved the hypothesis that the effectiveness of Mandela's political discourse is based on Systemic Functional Grammar particularly the idealization meta-functions. The findings of the research indicate that collectively, in his majority of speeches, the elements of the idealization meta-functions have been used enormously. It proves that he has considerably practiced the elements of systemic functional grammar in his speeches and indeed that was the lurking secret of his thrilling words being much more effective and revolutionary. Moreover, the findings show that the ratio of using the idealization meta-functional elements vary from speech to speech and even situation to situation. Therefore, the study concludes that Nelson Mandela uses the idealization meta-functions according to Systemic Functional Grammar to make his speeches effective. Moreover, the study posits that the transitivity analysis of the Systemic Functional Grammar can be used successfully to uncover the relationship between meanings and wordings in political discourse.

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