PSYCHOLINGUISTIC PECULIARITIES OF VERBAL AGGRESSION IN ENGLISH POLITICAL DISCOURSE

Yulia Igorevna Bakai [1]

[1] Department of English Language, College of Education and Languages, Lebanese French University, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

ABSTRACT

Psycholinguistic peculiarities of verbal aggression in English political discourse. The article examines features of speech aggression that allow social force to be exercised in the circumstances of the unequal social status of members in verbal communications. The factors of linguistic objectification are investigated from the perspective of age, social, gender, personal characteristics and characteristics of discourse subjects. As an example of verbal aggression, the public speeches of the past president of the United States of America D. Trump, which are reproduced as an essential part of an individual's activities, due to high semantic meaning and the essential level of interpersonal communication, were subjected to linguistic analysis. The usage of aggression in Trump's political speech is guided through reason, not emotion. His regular use of insulting nicknames, constant attention to the media, as well as the mixture of aggressive words that attract attention to the particular shortcomings of his addressees indicate that aggression is not based on impulsiveness or randomness. Verbal aggression directed at disappointing the opponent's social status is one of the methods of a hostile strategy and affects, sometimes significantly, the decision-making of an insulted individual. The use of methods of verbal aggression by D. Trump in the context of political discourse can be a powerful "weapon" both about the internal political situation and in the external political arena. Such aspects, in the context of the increasing influence of forms of digital culture on the psycho-emotional sphere of a person, leaving researchers with ample opportunities in the field of scientific research.

KEYWORDS: Speech features, Verbal aggression, Insults, Social force, Speech act forms, Communicative features..

1. Introduction

Aggression is the matter of attention in an extensive range of different disciplines, especially psychology and psycholinguistics, which define it as a form of performance-oriented towards causing harm to an object or a person; i.e., aggression is a type of behavior that includes intentional crimes and abuses. Recently, the theme of aggression has been actively studied by psycholinguistics, because of the transition from structural to functional psycholinguists, whose main object of study is rules of behavior that govern speech communication, the message and the interlocutor. In this connection, one of the main problems of modern psycholinguistics is the search for optimal means of speech communication, which is actualized in the term "speech or communication behavior". Researchers studying this problem analyze both positive (politeness, tolerance) and negative forms of speech behavior, which include aggression.

Aggression in speech as a linguistic phenomenon occurs in different speeches, but its goal is always to harm the addressee of aggression (victim). Information is not presented objectively, often together with a value judgment, but itself the aggressor creates a positive image for himself when he acts on reality in this way. Linguistic scholars analyze the particulars and functions of verbal aggression in different contexts (mainly publicist texts). Based on results their research can highlight common elements in the acts of speech expression of aggression.

The use of speech aggression as a means of manipulating a politician in political communication is due to the inharmonious nature of political discourse. Speech aggression is carried out with the help of a certain choice of communicative strategies and strategies by the politician. Speech aggression as a phenomenon of modern reality is studied from the

position of psychology, sociology, psychology. We understand speech aggression as a verbal expression of negative feelings and intentions in a form that is unacceptable in a given speech condition. This definition seems to be the most successful, since chains the reflection of the psychological side of aggression ("emotional state and intentions"), expression through language ("verbal expression"), situational context ("in a given situation").

A.R. Ryabokon and N.N. Evtugova (Ryabokon and Evtugova, 2020), exploring the attack statements of US President Donald Trump, published on Twitter (2015-2019), claim that in the politician's speech, aggressive invectives triumph over expressive ones (Dmitrienko, 2007). In invective statements Trump's authors note the significant use of "vocabulary with negative evaluative mode ", structures of the graphic design of aggressive statements, the use of superlative adjectives and colloquial expressions.

The crucial qualification criterion communication as political is its content and purpose. The goal of political message is the struggle for power, and the content comes down to a public debate of the owls of power. The struggle for power is the main theme and driving motive of this area of communication (Sheigal, 2004:5). Since the core of speech aggression in political discourse is aimed at overthrowing the enemy (Sheigal, 2004: 7); then it becomes clear that the strategy for a fall is widely used as one of the ways consciousness of aggression. This strategy is characterized by the focus on the opponent, the desire to expose his point.

2. The Model.

This study adopts the General Aggression Model (GAM) given by Anderson and Bushman (2002). The primary purpose behind choosing this model is that it provides abroad framework for understanding aggression in many contexts. Another inspiration for

adopting GAM is that it consists of features from many domain-specific theories of aggression like cognitive neo association theory, social learning theory, script theory, excitation transfers theory and social interaction theory. What entire theories share is that aggressive behavior produces negative affect or at least some change in the target's behavior (Anderson et al 1995). GAM suits the purpose of our study since the topic under investigation is multidimensional, i.e. it deals with cognition, psychology and social behavior.

GAM has two aspects, namely proximate and distal processes. Individual episodes use three stages are inputs, routes, and outcomes.

The first stage (inputs) covers two proximate causes, viz. situational and personal. Situational causes are forms of the current condition that can rise or prevent aggression like abuse, provocation, etc. Personal reasons include what an individual brings to the present situation like their powers, views and deeds. Inputs affect an individual's inner state which in turn disturbs performance through the current internal state and these are anxious with the cognition and provocation. Some variables like risk factors for example, raise the possibility of aggression.

The second stage (routes) emphasizes the ways individual and situation factors use influence appraisal and judgment processes. They can change a person's feeling (e.g. moods and emotion); cognition (e.g. aggressive thought) and arousal (i.e. physiological and psychological reaction) (Bower, 1981).

The third stage (outcomes) contains some complex appraisal and decision-making processes reaching from relatively unconscious to heavily controlled. Outcomes from inputs arrive into the evaluation and decision process through their effects on the current inner state. The instant assessment is an atomized procedure but reassessment is a controlled procedure.

The reassessment means that another option has been examined and represented upon and that action may be non-aggressive. Once the action has been committed out, it affects the social encounter, which can alter an individual and situation factors, resuming the cycle of proximate processes (Anderson and Bushman, 2002).

Thus, GAM has prepared theoretic insights collected from several key theoretical viewpoints. Proximate procedures explain how individual and situation factors affect aggressive feelings, angry moods and awakening levels, which in turn affect judgment and choice processes, which in turn, influence aggressive or non-aggressive performance. Distal processes explain how biological and environmental factors can influence personality through changes in knowledge structures.

3. Methodology.

As a practical discourse analysis within the framework of this work, practical examples of verbal aggression used in communicative tactics are of considerable interest. We have chosen D. Trump's public political speeches as a corpus according to the GAM.

First, we have considered the routes of Donald Trump's verbal aggression by analyzing the pages of his favorite social network: "Many dead, including women and children, in mindless chemical attack in Syria. Area of atrocity is in lockdown and encircled by Syrian Army, making it completely inaccessible to outside world. President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad". - Many died, incl. women and children as a result of a senseless chemical attack in Syria. The area of atrocities is isolated and surrounded by the Syrian army, making it completely inaccessible to the outside world. President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for supporting the animal Assad". (President Trump's historic speech to 2018 March for Life)

The outputs realize even though the American leader blames Syrian leader B. Assad for the unproven "chemical attack". Using such defamation D. Trump not only publicly disseminates defamatory information, declaring the responsibility of B. Assad, but also subjects him to verbal discrimination, humiliatingly comparing him to an animal, realizing outputs. Such a communicative tactic allows him to create a provocative public information background, which ultimately results in a force attack by the US armed forces across Syria. Successful rhetorical verbal aggression allowed D. Trump not only to capture public opinion, but also to earn political points by achieving a missile strike. (President Trump's historic speech to 2018 March for Life)

Other examples of offensive rhetoric have made it possible to obtain a significant amount of samples of D. Trump's verbal aggression. Let us consider a small example of D. Trump's statements about the media: "Fake News Media"; "Fake & Corrupt Press!"; "has never been as corrupt and deranged as it is today"; "Fake news"; "the true enemy of the people!" (D. Trump's campaign speech in Wisconsin).

Such verbal overtone as inputs, aims at creating a negative social image of the American media (routes), leads to the creation of a special page on the official portal of the New York Times as outputs. It was there that the journalists of the newspaper collected the most famous of Tramp's statements. The portal collected 598 testimonies of insults to both D. Trump's political opponents and his foreign colleagues.

A careful examination of this publication entails that the American leader makes the most offensive comments about the media that supported his political opponent H. Clinton during the election race. Repeatedly allowed accusations against the press, D. Trump gives a wide range of speech epithets: "dishonest"; "false"; "very corrupt"; "unfair"; "almost always negative"; "inaccurate"; "filled with

conspiracy theories and blind hatred" (D. Trump campaign speech in Wisconsin).

More than a hundred negative statements about the New York Times are designed to fulfill a very specific goal, which is to verbally discredit the press and undermine its authority in the eyes of the public. In our opinion, when studying speech components recorded using the media, it is especially important to pay attention to the presence (or absence) of signs of verbal abuse.

About his political opponents, the US leader admits a direct negative interpretation: "Sleepy Joe"; "Joe doesn't understand" (D. Trump's Speech West Bend, Wisconsin). This is how D. Trump calls the former US Vice President D. Biden, a candidate for the presidency of the United States in 2020, exposing his mental abilities to open verbal discrimination.

The insult to Secretary of State R. Tillerson was a response to the diplomat's presentation of the results of the meeting between the head of the White House and Russian President Vladimir Putin (inputs). Dissatisfied with the result of the meeting (routes), D. Trump admits the following statement (outputs): "a man who is "dumb as a rock". An unequal social status allows the initiator of speech aggression to effectively" turn off "a political opponent.

On July 9, 2019, Donald Trump insulted the British Ambassador to the United States, Kim Derrok (outputs), in reaction to his criticism (inputs). D. Trump: "The wacky Ambassador that the U.K. foisted upon the United States is not someone we are thrilled with, a very stupid guy <...>!" "I don't know the Ambassador but have been told he is a pompous fool," "Tell him the USA now has the best Economy & Military anywhere in the World, by far ... and they are both only getting bigger, better and stronger." (The 598 People, Places and Things D. Trump Has Insulted on Twitter: A Complete List).

In this example, D. Trump violates the ethical taboo by using negative epithets and obscene vocabulary (routes): "The wacky Ambassador","a very stupid guy", "a pompous fool" which, in turn, is offensive and degrading the honor and dignity of the addressee. Moreover, as stated in the book "The concepts of honor, dignity and business reputation", which presents the classification of invective vocabulary and phraseology related to the sphere of the literary language, "the word fool must be attributed to the group of words containing in its meaning a negative (abusive) assessment of someone personality, with a fairly strong negative expression, discriminating and determining the mental abilities of a person" (Milutina & Chirkova, 2013).

On October 17, 2019, the US President Donald Trump said that it was not he, but the Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi who lost her temper at a meeting in the White House, which ended in conflict (inputs). D. Trump did not compliment Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (routes).: "Nancy Pelosi needs help fast! There is either something wrong with her "upstairs," or she just plain doesn't like our great Country" (The 598 People, Places and Things Donald Trump Has Insulted on Twitter: A Complete List). D. Trump uses the conceptual metaphor "upstairs" - an attic, nominating the concept "head", likening it to a room, as a result of which the statement acquires a negative connotation (outputs).

Earlier, on November 6, 2018, the US President Donald Trump said that Democrats will lead the country to communism if they get a majority in the Senate of the Congress. (inputs). D. Trump shares his opinion on the Democrats (routes): "The Democrats are lousy politicians. They are. They've got horrible policies, open borders, crime is fine. They're lousy politicians but they have one thing, they are vicious. They're the most vicious people. So, the House Democrats are surrendering their majority, their dignity, and their reputations. They look like a bunch

of fools <...>". (The 598 People, Places and Things Donald Trump Has Insulted on Twitter: A Complete List).

This example presents a speech strategy to discredit decision-makers ("Democrats are lousy politicians", "look like a bunch of fools") (outputs). In this case, abusive vocabulary is used. The author uses a technique aimed at lowering the status of politicians. The negative author's evaluation is conveyed with the help of emotional-rhetorical figures (parallelism, negative metaphor). In this case, there is a pronounced manipulative nature of the speech act.

D. Trump also does not disregard one of the leading American newspapers: "..... I have to tell you, I have to be always very truthful because if I'm a little bit off, they call me a liar. They'll say, he gets a Pinocchio, the stupid Washington Post. They're Pinocchio." (The 598 People, Places and Things Donald Trump Has Insulted on Twitter: A Complete List).

In this example, aggression is presented using an allusion, a stylistic device in which the author (outputs), as a rule, refers to a well-known fact or work. Consequently, the author of the statement does not openly characterize the addressee (inputs), but he assumes that the audience will have sufficient knowledge to notice a hint of a famous work of art and understand its importance and meaning in the context itself.(routes)

In this case, everyone knows the story of Pinocchio. It is a living wooden doll whose nose grew larger when he lied. In addition, throughout most of the story, Pinocchio has been portrayed as an aggressive, lazy, lie-loving character. Thus, the author of the statement opposed himself to his opponents and emphasized the negative qualities attributed to them.

US President Donald Trump accused the Democrats of fabricating a report by the special prosecutor for the "Russian case" Robert Mueller and called for responding and bringing to justice people who have committed "serious crimes." According to him, we can talk about espionage and treason (inputs). In the following example, D. Trump accused Democrats of tweeting of fabricating Mueller's report (routes): "Despite two years and millions of dollars spent, the Democrats are acting like crazed lunatics ever since the results of the Mueller Report were made public. <...>". (The 598 People, Places and Things Donald Trump Has Insulted on Twitter: A Complete List).

In the given example, aggression for discrediting decision-makers is actualized ("Democrats are crazy lunatics"). The analyzed strategy is expressed through the use of negative evaluative vocabulary ("crazy") and the conceptual metaphor "sleepwalker" (outputs).

On May 17, 2019, the US President Donald Trump again criticized the media; this time accusing journalists of inaccurate coverage of the situation around Iran. The Wall Street Journal reported that new intelligence from the US intelligence services suggests that the US and Iran are making military preparations because they mistakenly expect the other side to attack first. In early May, the US Central Command said it had information at its disposal that "Iran and its henchmen are preparing for a possible attack on US troops in the region." The United States has evacuated its diplomatic personnel from Iraq and pulled at least seven ships to the Persian Gulf, including an aircraft carrier (inputs). D. Trump expressed outrage at the way the media covered the situation around Iran (routes): "The Fake News Media is hurting our Country with its fraudulent and highly inaccurate coverage of Iran. <...>!" (Tele Trader Public Web Station).

This example presents aggression aimed at insulting the media. The author uses negative evaluative vocabulary ("fake media", "deceptive coverage") and resorts to a technique aimed at reducing the status of the media. The negative author's evaluation is conveyed using the negative metaphor "fake media"

(outputs). In this case, the subjective-evaluative commentary on individual cases of mentioning Iran by the author is intentionally generalized to discredit the media as a whole.

4. Results and Discussion

According to the preceding points of analysis of this study, it can be concluded that D. Trump's aggression is directed against a wide range of people. They are united by the fact that they all oppose him in the sphere of politics and power or criticize his actions. In an effort to discredit and silence all his opponents, D. Trump quite often uses the "insult" communicative tactic.

The use of verbal abuse in Trump's political speech is by and large regular and systematic. Therefore, he is guided by reason, not emotion. His consistent use of insulting nicknames, continual attention to the media, as well as the variety of aggressive words that draw attention to the specific shortcomings of his addressees (dishonesty, incompetence, insignificance, etc.) indicate that these insults are not based on impulsiveness or randomness. His aggression is intended not only for his political opponents, but primarily aims at influencing the opinion of millions of people.

5. Conclusions.

Verbal aggression that aims at lowering the opponent's societal position is one of the approaches of an attacking strategy and affects, sometimes significantly, the decision-making of an offended individual. The use of methods of verbal offensive strategy by the leaders of states in the context of political discourse can be a powerful "weapon" both in relation to the internal political situation and in the external political arena. Such aspects, in the context of the increasing influence of forms of digital culture on the psycho-emotional sphere of a person, leave researchers with ample opportunities in the field of scientific research.

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