



## **Language-Power Nexus and Political Discourse: A Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis of Pakistani Political Leaders' Speeches at United Nations General Assembly**

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### **Abstract**

In order to identify the power dynamics in political addresses delivered through Pakistani leaders in politics at the United Nations General Assembly's International Forum from first speech, the current study investigates the relationship between language and power. Prominent political figures across every of the cited decades have been chosen by the researcher. The research uses Paul Chilton's model of political speech and a conceptual framework, which was drawn from the publication "Analysing Political Discourse: Theory and Practice" (2004). His analysis of speech about politics has many facets, but while examining the chosen speeches about politics, the researcher focuses on his three-dimensional model of "physical, temporal, as well as model axes" with addition to convergent on the perspective of cognition. The information gathered or examined through corpus linguistics utilizing AntConc software (Anthony, 2013). The research's conclusions highlight the necessity and significance of Pakistan's ideological framework and its appropriate promotion at international fora in order to emphasize its position or positions on significant world trends and concerns. The employment of modal, geographical and temporal connections in speech was the focus of the present research, along with how speech is potentially controlled through their use. Under Paul Chilton's theoretical framework, a comprehensive corpus-based study is conducted, providing future scholars with valuable insights into politics or political speech.

**Keywords:** Cognition, Ideology, linguistics Devices, Political Discourse, United State

### **Introduction**

According to Chomsky (1988), there is a close relationship between language acquisition, politics as a whole and power. According to Chomsky (1988), speech is a powerful instrument for gaining influence in political and social circles in addition to being a means of interaction and participation. His theory of language, power, or politics is centered on how language functions in political systems, especially in democracies,



and how it influences public opinion including population control (1988). Chomsky's vision highlights the importance of understanding how language shapes a society's political and judicial structure.

## Research Objectives

1. To investigate the linguistic strategies employed by Pakistan's political leaders to sway and control the world community and persuade their intended audience of their political beliefs.
2. To examine the linguistic ideological contrasts between a few chosen remarks made by Pakistani leaders in politics addressing the United Nation Assembly of Nations.

## Research Questions

Q1. Which linguistic strategies are employed by Pakistan's chosen political leaders to sway and control the world community and persuade their intended audience of their beliefs?

Q.2: What linguistic philosophical disparities exist among Pakistani leaders and their comments at the U.N. the General Assembly's Worldwide Forum?

## Significance of the Study

In analyzing all linguistic tools that constitute the main origins of the interaction of language, the political process, and dominance for the exercise of power, the aim of the study is extremely important. Additionally, it highlighted the coherence of political statements in the United Nations General Assembly, an international venue where political leaders convey their ideology to the intended audience. In analyzing all of the linguistic tools which constitute the main origins of the interaction of language, the political process, and power through the exercise of power, the aim of the research is crucial. Additionally, it highlighted the coherence of political statements in the United Nations General Assembly, an international venue where political leaders convey their ideology to the intended audience.

## Literature Review

Since the speaker is a politician, the words can be appropriately identified as political discourse. According to Baker (2006), corpus-based approaches have been used since the turn of the century, however, it wasn't until the 1980s that corpus linguistics gained popularity due to the widespread availability of personal computers. Some of the best methods for in-depth analyses involves a concordance analysis, which is an overview for all the instances of a single search word in a collection along with the context in which they occur. The term that was searched and some of the phrases to its left and right are really displayed within the concordance outcomes, allowing for comprehension of the context (Ihalainen & Saarinen, 2019). The researchers and writers were able to gain a



thorough understanding of a number of political characteristics of speech through their use of corpora analysis. The various ways that war analogies were used in the addresses were highlighted by Khumalo&Mabuya (2021). Bush used intimidation to arouse adverse feelings in order to defend war, employing the war against terror metaphor as well as portraying "his identity and America like heroes, preserving his public reputation."

Two research corpora—approximately 4 million words of news about elections from 1992 to 2012 in addition to 2.3 million words of political coverage from the 1990s to the 2000s—were taken from American news sources. Spoken as well as written COCA served as the source of information corpora. Selling with relation to each of the three political candidates—Bush, Obama, and Clinton—was the search keyword. Each corpus's occurrence was utilized to contrast to other corpora. The findings showed that during an election season, sales tended to be highest in political news. Additionally, it demonstrated that each of the three political contenders leveraged sales to promote their various economic election agendas (Franssila, 2013). The leadership personality of Khaled Nordin, the Minister of Higher Education and a pivotal role in the growth of Malaysian postsecondary education, was revealed by Isam et al., (2014). 20 Using the search phrase education, AntConc program was able to retrieve and display Khaled Nordin's talks from 2009 to 2012. Collocation being then evaluated, themes were developed, and semantic grammar was used for interpretation. The findings demonstrated that he had demonstrated leadership, which was consistent with who he was.

Additionally, Brindle (2016) uses corpus linguistics to investigate the conceptual frameworks that inspired the Sunflower group of students in the two main English-language newspapers in Taiwan, The China Post and The Taipei Times, using corpora of articles published within six months of the start of the protests. Kamasa (2013) examined how the Polish Catholic Church's public statements referred to and articulated "In Vitro Fertilization" (IVF). The study used Fairclough's (2013) critical discourse analysis, or CA, approach to explain the ideas included into the church's claims.

Bakar (2014) examined how Malaysian adults verbally expressed their gender identities in their online personal advertisements. This study used ATTITUDE using social agent categorization & systemic multifunctional discourse semantics (Van Leeuwen, 2007). Wordsmith was used to start a hunt for the phrase "I" in the 65,659-word corpus of internet private advertisements (Scott, 1996). Abid& Manan (2015) looked into the use of corpus linguistics for critical literacy instruction. To investigate how corpus linguistics could be applied to systematically analyze discourses to uncover the ideology associated with the marker words, the way the media responded to Lance Armstrong's doping declaration was examined. Closing this gap is essential to improving our knowledge of how language shapes political beliefs and creating practical ways to counteract populist rhetoric's possibly deciding consequences for democratic discourse.



## Research Methodology

### Corpus Collection procedure

The current study entails designing a corpus that was collected from an internet source. Addresses made by Pakistani governors as well as foreign ministers before the U.N. Assembly of Nations make up the corpus meant for this research. A couple of presidential candidates are selected for the study because it is a time-barred assignment. The inaugural addresses of Prime Ministers Imran Khan & Nawaz Sharif were chosen as political personalities to be included throughout the corpus.

### Design of Corpus

All of the speeches have previously been written down and are easily accessible for analysis because it consists of spoken information. As a result, the researcher has 50,000 words of material.

### Corpus Tool

Professor of Applied Linguistics Lawrence Anthony created the popular corpus analysis instrument AntConc in 2004. Linguists and scholars frequently utilize AntConc to analyze vast amounts of text. It is well known that one of AntConc's key features is concordance assessment. It enables users to search a corpus seeking specific terms or phrases and find their contexts within the text. In order to uncover significant linguistic devices, AntConc also provides methods for keyword analysis, such as comparing the amount of necessary terms or phrases across one corpora to another. The current study uses AntConc.version 4.2.4 (2023) to examine the collocations as well as concordance of commonly used terms throughout a corpus that includes political speeches.

### Population of the Research

One well-known location—the United General Assembly of the United Nations, whereby the opening remarks are given at the assembly's annual meeting—is chosen to guarantee accurate sampling representation. In order to maintain the position of the speakers as fully reflected by the populace, Pakistani state chiefs are chosen, followed by foreign ministers, while maintaining their rank of seniority to get the highest level of accuracy in terms of representativeness. A number of political individuals were chosen for the study primarily because they are well-known throughout Pakistani politics and have made a significant impact on the country's populace:

1. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif
2. Prime Minister Imran Khan

### Sample Size

The two speeches were selected using a method of random sampling. Determining the ideal sample size to ensure a thorough and trustworthy examination of the corpus's linguistic properties is the primary goal here. One crucial factor in determining the sample dimension is the general quantity of texts. These factors are taken into account



when calculating the sample size; for example, if a feature is less common in the information, a larger corpus size is likely required to ensure that it is sufficiently represented for analytical purposes. However, a smaller corpus might prove adequate if certain frequencies are quite common.

## Data Collection Procedure

Finding the speeches which will be included within the corpus usually the first stage in this data collection procedure. A set of criteria has been developed to choose speeches according to a number of criteria, including the political entity giving the speech, general political figure's standing, the time structure, its subject or concept, the location, the speech's setting, and the accessibility of the speaking data. Following the speeches' recognition, the speech substance will be gathered from a few reliable sources. The source is followed by a manual compilation of the speeches that have been captured and transcribed using a carefully chosen, reliable UNGA online source.

## Results

### Discourse Analysis of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's First Speech at UNGA

*"Located at the nexus of Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan can contribute to and gain from the economic growth and interaction between these dynamic regions"* (Sharif, 1997).

The sentence's reference to Central Asia took given a spatial setting that is defined by its significant placement in relation to China's borders with Russia and the Middle East. Because of its abundance of natural resources, including minerals, oil, and gas, Central Asia is a region of great geopolitical significance. By placing Pakistan in the intersection of Central Asia, the example illustrates a geographic reference that strengthens Pakistan's status as a gateway between Central Asia and other nations.

By highlighting Pakistan's advantageous geographic location in the center of the regions of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East, the statement presents a good image. By increasing Pakistan's anticipated contribution to economic development and productive engagement among various dynamic places, the statement employs diplomatic terminology.

*"Through years of upheavals and dislocations, through turbulence and brief moments of tranquility, we now stand at the threshold of a new century and a new millennium"* (Sharif, 1997).

The speaker's great resilience on behalf of the common knowledge of the country being referenced is demonstrated by his selection of the preposition "through," which implies an attribution with continuity of tolerance. The sentence explores the time period and several difficulties that have arisen over a long period of time by referencing "years." The phrase "new century" is used to denote a significant turning point that signifies the passage from one era to the next. Like the reference to a "new century," the statement of a "new millennium" signifies a distinct change in time, signaling the



passage from a century to another. This significant time reference marks an important turning point in the evolution of humanity.

*“My Government will persevere in the dialogue with India for the sake of our people and the peoples of South Asia”* (Sharif, 1997)

"My Government will persevere" expresses a strong and profound resolve that demonstrates an active approach to dealing with the issues pertaining to India. Additionally, building "for the sake of this people and the citizens of South Asia" uses the influence of talks and diplomacy to support regional peace and security. A dedication to diplomatic and nonviolent means of resolving disputes is demonstrated by the usage of the adjectives "persevere" as well as the term "dialogue."

Table 1: Linguistic devices Examples

Linguistic devices	Examples
Positive Framing	(1997)treaty of non-aggression. Pakistan-India dialogue will have made a heartening advance.
Emotive Language	vigorously addressing. No country in the world has suffered more than Pakistan. deeply concerned about India’s acquisition of missiles.
Assertion	India must be persuaded to reverse its missile programme. who had dared to dream of freedom 50 years ago, are resolved to defend freedom
Diplomatic use of language	All this and much more can be achieved if India joins us in pursuing our current dialogue.
Metaphor	wasteful arms race. dreadful grip of poverty. across the uncharted waters. hair-trigger.

## Discourse Analysis of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s first Speeches at UNGA

*“To this end, India must rescind the measures it has instituted since 5 August 2019, end its military siege and other gross human rights violations, and agree to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people”* (Khan, 2020).

The sentence's mention of "India" evokes a geographical context inside South Asia's geopolitical area. The Jammu & Kashmir issue and its significance for territorial security, stability, and fundamental human rights are the spatial framework in which this reference places India's actions. The term "military siege" refers to a form of confinement and limitation that the Indian military imposes on the Jammu & Kashmir



territory. The use of the descriptor "gross equality violations" serves to further legitimize the rule with injustice and pain.

The word "dispute" conjures up a situation that is related to regional political upheaval and territorial disputes. The historical, social, and geopolitical significance of Jammu & Kashmir is unique. This geographical reference highlights the need of considering the conflict's underlying causes as well as the necessity for a diplomatic solution that respects the region's diversity and its citizens' right to self-determination.

Without using harsh or antagonistic rhetorical tactics, statements like "India must revoke the measures," "end its military siege," and "agree to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute" highlight the urgency of acting now. Furthermore, bringing up the Security Council's decisions is consistent with diplomatic norms and conventions as well as international legal frameworks, which emphasize how important it's becoming to resolve the dispute over Kashmir within a diplomatic but peaceful manner.

*"I have consistently maintained over the past two decades that there is no military solution to the decades-old conflict in Afghanistan"* (Khan, 2020).

The term "past two decades" designates a certain period during the last 20 years. By lengthening this statement, the speaker's long-term stance on the current Afghan crisis is taken into consideration. By stating the topic's two-decade period continues to the present, the term "past" demonstrates the speaker's viewpoint on the matter has been constant across the specified time range.

The adage "decades-old conflict" draws attention to how historically significant the current situation in Afghanistan is. The statement emphasizes that the battle has been ongoing for a considerable amount of time, spanning several years, by referring to it as "decades-old." The expression also suggests that the problem has a lengthy and important history as well as is most likely intricately woven into Afghanistan's political as well as cultural fabric. By strengthening the speaker's steadfast viewpoint on the Afghan issue that spans more than two decades, the remark is presented in a positive light. The speaker expresses a trait that is encapsulated in perseverance and devotion to a particular position by using the adverb phrase "I have consistently maintained."

In order to find a fair and peaceful resolution to the issue, this constructive framing seeks to promote participation and negotiation. The reciprocal regard that is fostered by this diplomatic word choice emphasizes the importance of inclusive and cooperative efforts to solve the root causes about the problem.

*"Pakistan will continue to participate actively in this process and endeavour, with other Member States, to build a world where conflict is outlawed and equitable prosperity for all pursued in conditions of peace and security"* (Khan, 2020).

The modal word "will," which expresses Pakistan's determination to actively participate in the method in question, indicates a deontic versatility. It also says that Pakistan considers an active role for this effort as a necessary aspect to attain specific objectives such as developing a global society with no disputes and promoting equitable and



truthful wealth. By using the modal auxiliary "will," the sentence implies that Pakistan has an obligation to participate in international initiatives that promote peace and development. This deontic purpose carries out Pakistan's pledge to fulfill its responsibilities as an accountable member about the global community in order to accomplish and advance common objectives. In addition to implying Pakistan's active involvement in the matter, the adjective "active" is used to characterize Pakistan's efforts to create a world that is peaceful.

Table 2: Linguistic Devices or examples

Linguistic Devices	Examples
Positive Framing	(2020)
Parallel Structure	In Pakistan, we realized very early on that if we imposed a strict lockdown, the type that several affluent countries had imposed, we would have more people dying of hunger than the virus.
Emotive Language	extremely important milestone. triggered the worst recession. cumbersome procedures. festering wound’.
Assertion	I want to make it clear that any attempt by the fascist totalitarian RSS-led Indian government to aggress against Pakistan will be met by a nation that will fight for its freedom to the end.
Metaphor	we are still not out of the woods.

## Conclusion

Language & politics have a complicated relationship that permeates practically every sphere of society. In governance, language is a tool for communication, identity formation, persuasion, and power negotiation. In politics, language is essentially tied to power relations. People in positions involving leadership and power frequently use language manipulation to establish their dominance, create and manage narratives, and sway public opinion on a larger scale. Politicians, for example, attempt to influence and convince voters, legitimate their power, and create policies by using rhetorical tactics. In order to resolve regional disputes and global inequalities, they regularly invoke global responsibility. In reality, however, they never discussed the national agenda. In that location they refused to bring up the internal problems facing Pakistan.

## Recommendations

In their statements, political actors ought to strive for honesty & clarity and ensure that the vocabulary they use most accurately reflects their goals, intents, ambitions, and resolutions. Second, political communication must be managed in a way that is sympathetic and inclusive to a wide variety of audiences. To increase and actualize the diversity on language grounds relating to contemporary cultures, serious attempts





should be undertaken to integrate intercultural or multilingual communication throughout political discourse.

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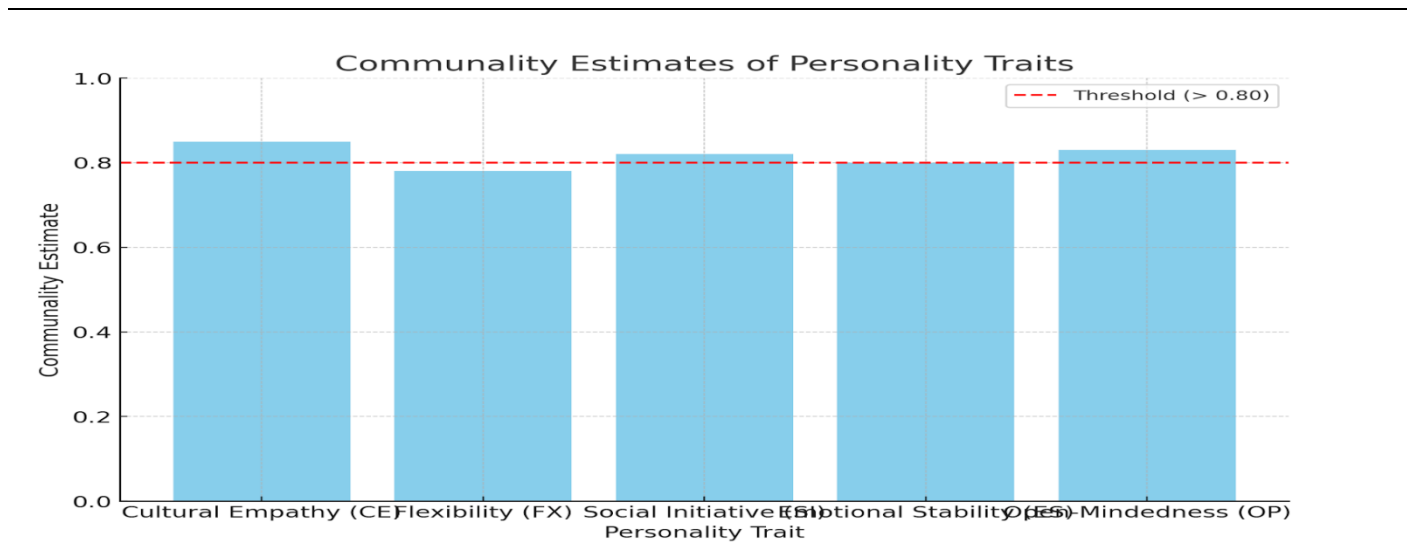
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Variable	Value	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	37	50
	Female	37	50
Age	Above 50	5	6.8
	Below 50	22	29.7
	Below 30	25	33.8
	Below 23	17	23
	Below 18	5	6.8
Education	PhD	15	20.3
	Postgraduate	33	44.6
	Graduate	17	23
	Intermediate	4	5.4
	Below intermediate	4	5.4
	Missing Data	1	1.4
Language Use	Always	12	16.2
	Frequently	21	28.4
	Never	4	5.4
	Rarely	9	12.2
	Sometimes	28	37.8
Language History	More than 12 years	25	33.8
	Less than 12 years	2	2.7
	Less than 10 years	24	32.4
	Less than 5 years	15	20.3
	Less than 3 years	7	9.5
	Missing data	1	1.4
Language proficiency level Special English Education	Excellent	24	32.4
	Very good	29	39.2
	Average	20	27
	Below average	1	1.4
	Yes	40	54.1
	No	34	45.9



Trait	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Communality Estimate
Cultural Empathy (CE)	4.2	0.5	0.2	0.85
Flexibility (FX)	3.8	0.6	-0.1	0.78
Social Initiative (SI)	4	0.4	0	0.82
Emotional Stability (ES)	3.6	0.7	-0.3	0.8
Open-Mindedness (OP)	4.1	0.5	0.1	0.83



Variable	Value	Frequency	Percentage
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