

Dissecting Trump's Show off Power under Van Dijk's Strategies



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Figure 1. Discursive strategies used by Donald Trump.77

DEDICATION

This toil is dedicated to:

Allah An Nur (The Light)

My reverend father, Muhammad Khalid Khan

My wife Hafsa Bashir

My sincere elder brother, Aqeel Sabir Khan

My sweetie pie-than-life sister Saadia Khalid

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Abstract

This study explains the discursive approach with reference to power relation exercised in Donald Trump's speech. Being descriptive study under the qualitative paradigm, the data is in the form of words and utterances. The sample is based on the maiden speech of US President Donald Trump delivered at the 72nd session of Annual Head of States' Summit of United Nations' General Assembly, at UN Headquarters on Tuesday, Sept 19, 2017. This study takes into account the theory or Critical Discourse Analysis represented Van Dijk (1993) to evaluate the *utterances* that point out *discursive strategies of power relation* as an approach to manipulate "people's" intellect by the discourse structure of talk and text. The researcher primarily examines that among the strategies applied by Trump, the most used by him are the strategies of Self-Glorification to glorify Americans and strategy of Victimization to downgrade the other nations and countries. The outcome of this research reveals Donald Trump mirrors his power relation towards masses and nations through the discursive strategy of discourse. The purpose of power relation is to discursively delegitimize other people and races to victimizing, underrating yet discerning others with a view to portray himself more authoritative as compared to others. The structure of discourse is chiefly used to make the audience ideologically influenced and controlled. Discourse structure involves topics, schema and structure units that expose the authority toward others. Future investigators are proposed to carry out the study by probing power relation that is revealed in others like media, education and discourses.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Chapter

This chapter explains in depth the importance of power with relation to Van Dijk's concept of power and speech of Donald Trump. Moreover, the power relation in the speech of Donald Trump has been the feature of this research as it is the ample opportunity to discuss in detail the various aspects of Van Dijk's theory found in the speech of the current President of America. The research in this chapter develops a thesis statement with the framework given for the study.