

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380629255>

Discursive Construction of Ingroup and Outgroup Identity in the Bilateral Speech by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez

Article in *Canadian Journal of Language and Literature Studies* · May 2024

DOI: 10.53103/cjlls.v4i3.165

CITATIONS

0

READS

7

4 authors, including:



Isaiah Aluya
University

22 PUBLICATIONS 13 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Discursive Construction of Ingroup and Outgroup Identity in the Bilateral Speech by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez

Isaiah Aluya¹ & Onuoha Udochukwu Daniel² & Ruth David³

^{1,2,3} Department of English and Literary Studies, Bingham University, Nigeria
Correspondence: Isaiah Aluya, Bingham University, Nigeria
Email: isaiah.aluya@binghamuni.edu.ng

DOI: 10.53103/cjlls.v4i3.165

Abstract

This article investigates the speech by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to determine the discursive strategies used to construct ingroup and outgroup identity, and the functions that these strategies perform. The bilateral speech delivered by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and President Joe Biden on June 28th, 2022 serve as the study's data. Extracts from the speech were purposively sampled and subjected to critical analysis using Ruth Wodak's (2009) Discourse Historical Approach. Findings reveal that nomination strategy is linguistically realised through reference, nominalization, material, mental and verbal processes. Nomination identifies the United States, Spain, Ukraine and Russia as the major social actors and categorizes the United States, Spain, and Ukraine as ingroup actors and Russia as outgroup actor. Through predication, the ingroup actors and their actions were metaphorically labelled positively using positive predicates and modifying adjectives. Conversely, the outgroup actor and its actions were framed negatively using negative predicates and modifying adjectives. The actions of the ingroup actors were legitimized using the topoi of usefulness and advantage while those of the outgroup actor were delegitimized using the topoi of threat and danger. Perspectivisation, through the linguistic tools of reporting and describing, highlight the overt and conscious stance of ingroup actors as well as their involvement in the discourse while the factuality and validity of their propositions were registered through the intensification strategy linguistically realised through declarative sentences.

Keywords: Bilateral Speech, Discursive Strategies, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, President Joe Biden

Introduction

Bilateralism, also known as bilateral relations, refers to the conduct of political, economic, or cultural interactions between two sovereign governments. It is the cornerstone of international relations. Bilateral relations provide individual foreign states the opportunity to engage in a variety of discussions in order to further their national and international goals (Rana, 2020). Countries establish a bilateral connection that is necessary

for furthering their foreign interests when they acknowledge one another as sovereign nations and accept diplomatic relations. For any country to connect directly with other countries, whether they are in their immediate neighbourhood or beyond, they need a bilateral relationship (Ravenhill, 2003). This relationship is important because it encourages international conversation and understanding, strengthens economic trade, reduces tensions, detects differences, prevents potential disputes, and provides security support among others (Rixen, 2010). From a numerical aspect, bilateralism organizes international negotiations and serves as the nucleus of international relations. Summits are an important part of bilateral relations between states given that they serve to send a diplomatic signal about the significance of a particular bilateral relationship, solidify it, move issues forward that could not be solved by diplomatic missions, and endorse declarations or binding agreements. Bilateralism promotes the image and culture of a country and remains the ideal way for countries to communicate and relate with one another (Pannier, 2020).

Communication is a crucial component of bilateral relations. It is utilised by political actors and members of the public in exchanging information, maintaining stability, peace, and cooperation in all areas. It is noteworthy to state that language is a necessity for communication in bilateral relationships. Language is a tool for communication, and communication is the act of sending and receiving messages (Aluya & Kofoworola, 2020). The notion that language is more than just a tool for communication but also the cornerstone of diplomacy and a critical component of global relations has been widely emphasized. Language is essential to all aspects of diplomacy such as communicating, negotiating, establishing agreements, gathering, generating, transmitting and recording of knowledge. The aforementioned clarifies why studies in diplomacy typically focus on the message rather than the means, highlighting the significance of investigating the language use in bilateral relations as it leads to a better comprehension of the operations of bilateral relations.

A critical examination of the numerous areas of language use in bilateral relations provides a better comprehension of both the explicit and implicit messages transmitted by world leaders and political figures, as well as their stance in bilateral summits. It is on this premise that this article explores the bilateral speech made by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez of Spain and President Joe Biden of the United States from a Critical Discourse perspective. The objectives are to identify the discursive strategies used to construct the ingroup and outgroup identity in the speech as well as the functions that these strategies perform. The next subsection discusses the theoretical model adopted for this paper.

Theoretical Approach

The theoretical model for this study is Ruth Wodak's (2009) Discourse Historical Approach. Discourse, or the use of language in speech and writing, is a sort of social

practice that involves a dialectical interplay between a unique discursive occurrence and the situational, institutional, and social foundations that frame it. This indicates that discourse is socially constitutive and conditioned, as well as creating situations, objects of knowledge, social identities, and individual and group connections. One area of research that is included in the Critical Discourse Analysis subfield is Discourse Historical Approach. Subsequent to the groundbreaking ideas of Fairclough (1995, 2002), van Dijk (2006), and van Eemeren (2016), Wodak presents the discourse historical method for examining political, organizational, and historical topics in texts. The approach tries to incorporate a significant amount of available knowledge about historical sources and the context of the social and political areas in which discursive events occur. Furthermore, it delves into the historical component of discursive actions by investigating the manner in which specific genres of discourse undergo diachronic change (Wodak & Meyer, 2009).

The discourse historical approach employs three dimensions in examining a text. The first dimension is determining the exact contents or subjects of a given discourse. The second dimension then identifies the discursive strategies in the discourse. These discursive strategies are intended to be a systematic approach to employing language in texts and can be used to achieve certain social, political, psychological, or linguistic goals (Wodak & Martin, 2010). Some of the discursive strategies presented by Wodak under the second dimension are referential/nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivisation, and intensification. Referential and nomination strategy refers to membership classification. It involves the use of discourse to construct or categorize persons into ingroups and outgroups as well as seek to uncover how social actors are named or referred to linguistically (Wodak, 2006). The predication strategy entails using discourse to label individuals positively or negatively. It aims to determine the traits, characteristics, attributes, and aspects associated with social actors. The strategy is identified by stereotyped, evaluative attributions of bad or positive features, as well as implicit and explicit predicates. Argumentation strategy is the use of language to justify positive or negative attributions. This technique aims to discover specific persons' ideas and reasoning schemes used to justify and legitimize the exclusion, discrimination, suppression, and exploitation of others. This is accomplished by using *topoi* to justify political inclusion or exclusion, discrimination or preferential treatment (Wodak & Chilton, 2005). Perspectivisation, framing, or discourse representation is a strategy for communicating or presenting the speaker's point of view. It is concerned with the perspective or point of view that is used to communicate labels, attributions, and arguments. The strategy is introduced by reporting, description, narrative, or quotation of events and statements. The intensification/mitigation approach is used to change a proposition's epistemic status. It focuses on individual utterances and how they are expressed overtly through intensification or mitigation. It is the increase or decrease in the illocutionary force of remarks (Wodak & Meyer, 2009). The study examines all these strategies in the speech. The third dimension

in the discourse historical approach is to investigate the discriminatory preconceptions' linguistic methods (as types) and specific, context-dependent linguistic realizations in discourse (Wodak & Martin, 2010).

Methodology

This study is designed to account for the discursive strategies used in constructing the ingroup and outgroup identity in the bilateral speech made by the Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez of Spain and President Joe Biden of the United States. The data for the study is the bilateral speech delivered by these two world leaders on June 28th, 2022. The speech, which contains two parts, was retrieved electronically from the website of Whitehouse. It consists of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight (1768) words which was segmented into thirty-eight (38) paragraphs. This segmentation is to ease the analysis. The first part of the speech was made by Prime minister Pedro Sanchez. This part consists of eight hundred and sixty-five (865) words which were further structured into nineteen (19) paragraphs. However, the second part by President Joe Biden comprises eight hundred and seventy-three (873) words and was equally structured into nineteen (19) paragraphs. Extracts from the speech were codified using the acronyms 'PMPS' for Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and 'PJB' for President Joe Biden respectively. The letter 'P' is frequently used to denote paragraph in the data analysis and discussion. The choice of this speech as data for the study is hinged on the importance of its content and the need to identify the discursive strategies used in constructing ingroup and outgroup identity as well as the functions performed by the strategies. It is important to state that the study examines the full written transcripts of the speech. The two major levels of the analysis considered in the study are the immediate language of the speech and the broader historical and sociopolitical context. The analysis focuses on the discursive strategies of referential/nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivisation and intensification as introduced by Wodak. This is followed by discussing the findings of the study. Finally, in the discussion section, the implications of these findings are reviewed and interpreted.

Data Analysis

The Discourse Historical Approach is a multifaceted approach that investigates discourse from multiple perspectives. The historical background of the discourse is, in fact, one of the primary analytical vantage points. The data analysis begins with a few contextualizing notes on the history of the Spain-US relations, as well as the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Spain and the United States have had an official relationship since the country's inception. The Spanish colonies lived peacefully with the United States, and diplomatic relations were established in 1783. The Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 was a

significant diplomatic event between the two countries. It resulted in the United States acquiring Florida from Spain and Spain relinquishing its rights to the Pacific Northwest. Following the world wars, the two countries signed the Madrid Pact. This agreement permitted the United States to establish military bases on Spanish soil in exchange for military and economic aid. This signaled the beginning of long-term US-Spanish cooperation. This cooperation grew stronger as Spain attained democracy in 1978 and joined the EU and NATO in 1982 and 1986, respectively (Cortada, 1978). Spanish military cooperation with the United States extends back to the 1990 Gulf War, the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. Military defense, diplomacy, economics, education, and cross-cultural interactions are all areas of mutual interest for both countries. The two nations have pledged to work together to support democracy, human rights, and gender equality as well as safe, orderly, and regular migration. They also promise to expand defense cooperation (Liedtke, 1996).

The history of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which started in February 2014 in response to the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity, is however captured in the second aspect of the contextualization. Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine and backed pro-Russian separatists who were battling the Ukrainian military in the Donbas war (Wilson 2014). As Russian and Ukrainian forces controlled the eastern border regions, the battle descended into an ongoing standoff marked by frequent bombardment and fighting along frontlines. France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine tried to use the Minsk Accords to initiate negotiations to cease the conflict starting in February 2015 (Miller, 2021). But the majority of attempts to negotiate to a satisfactory compromise and diplomatic settlement failed (Khurshid 2022; Ariel & Driscoll 2023). In an attempt to prevent any future Russian invasion elsewhere on the continent, particularly in the Baltics, NATO declared in April 2016 that it was deploying four battalions to Eastern Europe, with the troops alternating between Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. To strengthen NATO's presence in the area, the US also sent two U.S. Army tank brigades to Poland in September 2017 (Wolff, 2015; Lawrence, 2022). New sanctions were imposed by the US in January 2018 on twenty-one people, including many Russian officials, and nine businesses connected to the eastern Ukraine war. The first transfer of deadly weapons to Ukraine since the start of the conflict was authorized by the US Department of State in March 2018. In October 2018, Ukraine participated in a number of large-scale air drills in western Ukraine alongside the United States and seven other NATO member countries. The exercises followed Russia's own annual military exercises in September 2018, which were the largest since the collapse of the Soviet Union. A U.S. intelligence, military, and diplomatic leaders were briefed at the White House in October 2021 regarding the likelihood of a large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, following months of intelligence gathering and observations of Russian troop movements, force build-up, and military contingency financing. Russian armies attacked a completely unprepared Ukraine in February 2022, after Russian President Vladimir Putin

ordered a special military campaign against the country. The current war has strained US-Russia ties and raised the prospect of a larger European conflict (Ariel & Driscoll 2023).

Analysis of the Speech

The data for this study is the speech delivered by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and President Joe Biden on 28th June, 2022 in Spain. As already mentioned in the historical relations between the US and Spain as well as the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the speech focuses on the bilateral relations between the US and Spain as well as the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The first part of the speech was delivered by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and the second by President Joe Biden. The analysis of the speech is done using the same pattern adopted by Wodak (2009), where the macro-context is first elaborated, then, the discursive strategies are identified, and finally the implications of the results are interpreted.

Macro Context of the Speech

Examining the 1768-word speech, it is evident that its main emphasis is on diplomatic ties between the United States and Spain. The speech commences by introducing the two countries as friends and strategic partners. It refers to the relationship between the two countries, which is based on strong historical links, similar democratic principles, and a common vision for addressing global concerns, as shown in the historical contextualisation. It also demonstrates both countries' commitment to maintaining peace and security and increasing global economic development. However, it explores the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, highlighting the United States' and Spain's positions on the crisis, as well as the help provided by both countries to Ukraine's government and citizens.

Discursive Strategies in the Speech

The purpose of this section is to examine the speech for the discursive strategies of reference and nomination, predication, argumentation, intensification and perspectivisation in order to determine how they have been used to relate the thematic concerns of the speech as well as construct ingroup and outgroup identity. The analysis begins with the reference and nomination strategy.

Referential and Nomination

This strategy aids in recognizing key social players, objects, events, and processes. It is linguistically realised through the utilisation of deictics, metaphors, processes, and

membership categorization, resulting in the "Us" vs "Them" dichotomy. This dichotomy is widely acknowledged as one of the founding ideas of Critical Discourse Analysis, founded by van Dijk, in which the depiction of the "self" and the "other" is a central concept. In Wodak's paradigm, this division is referred to as the "ingroup" and the "outgroup." According to the analysis, President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez concentrate on four main social actors: Russia, Spain, the United States, and Ukraine. Additionally, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Spain's participation in NATO missions, and the NATO Madrid Summit in Spain are the main events that are constructed in the speech. These actors and events are expressly produced during the speech using the referential and nomination strategies. For example, in his speech, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez connects with the United States and Ukraine who are social actors he identifies as the "us" or "ingroup". One probable explanation for such framing is that these social actors are members of the same group or membership category known as NATO. In contrast, the other social player mentioned in Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's speech is Russia, which is positioned differently as "outgroup". The framing of membership categorization is underscored by the prominent use of "we," "us," and "our" rather than "others" or "some." The following extracts from Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's speech best demonstrate this point: "We are strategic partners and friends" (PMPS, p.2), "We share that desire to promote the principles of human rights" (PMPS, p.3), "What every ally has done" (PMPS, p.6), and "We are expanding and reinforcing our bilateral relations" (PMPS, p.5). Nomination includes the use of expressions like, "The Madrid NATO Summit" (PMPS, p.1), "the new declaration between the United States and Spain" (PMPS, p.4), "Putin's invasion of Ukraine" (PMPS, p.5), "The Covid-19 pandemic" (PMPS, p.17) and "the United States and Spain" (PMPS, p.10).

However, as a speech that emphasizes the existing relationship between the United States and Spain, the need to re-establish these relations, and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, President Joe Biden in the same vein makes extensive use of nomination and referential strategy. The key social actors mentioned in his remarks are identical to those highlighted in Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's remarks. The United States, Spain, and Ukraine are constructed as "ingroup" actors, whereas Russia is constructed as "outgroup" actor. The referential strategy extends throughout the speech, with President Joe Biden constantly using reference items to represent social actors and membership categorization. This is demonstrated by the following sample texts: "We're standing together to defend our shared security" (PJB, p. 21), "Our alliance" (PJB, p.23), "We're facing heightened threat on our borders" (PJB, p.29), "Our NATO" (PJB, p.30), "And we're continuing to tighten sanctions on Russia" (PJB, p.32), and "We're providing assistance to the government and people of Ukraine" (PJB, p.33). Nominations in President Joe Biden's speech include the use of expressions such as "The NATO Madrid Summit" (PJB, p.26), "Spain's admission into NATO" (PJB, p.21), "Russian's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine" (PJB, p.23), "The

alliance is dealing with the threats and strengthening our posture against the threats from the east and challenges from the south” (PJB, p.31) and “The United States, Spain and other Allies” (PJB, p.32).

A notable aspect in the speech is the selection of processes used as part of the referencing and nomination strategy. Material, mental, and verbal processes are prominent in the speech. For Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, reference is made to material processes: “We’re reinforcing our support” (PMPS, p.5), “Putin’s invasion of Ukraine” (PMPS, p.5) and “Spain has practically doubled its military presence in Latvia” (PMPS, p.7); mental processes include expressions like, “I would like to start by thanking President Biden” (PMPS, p.1) and “I am so happy” (PMPS, p.4); and verbal processes like, “we have spoken about the U.S.’s interest” (PMPS, p.11) and “we have also discussed the increasing challenges” (PMPS, p.17). However, President Joe Biden’s speech deploys the following material processes: “we’re providing assistance to the government and people of Ukraine” (PJB, p.33), “Spain and the United States are working together” (PJB, p.35) and “we’re standing as one to support Ukraine” (PJB, p.25); mental processes e.g. “You know we’re marking 40years” (PJB, p.21) and “Thank you for welcoming me today” (PJB, p.20) and verbal process e.g. “And as President Sanchez and I want to talk to you” (PJB, p.22) and “we had a good discussion today” (PJB, p.38). Based on the preceding analysis, the “us” or “ingroup” in the speech refers to NATO members which are the United States, Spain, and Ukraine, while the “Them” or “outgroup” refers to Russia.

Predication

This refers to the discursive qualification of social actors, objects, phenomenon and events positively or negatively. It helps to enhance nomination; it is realised through the use of explicit and defining predicates, adjectives, or even collocations. In the speech, the United States, Spain, and Ukraine are qualified with positive predicates and modifying adjectives. These cover both the metaphorically labelling of the United States and Spain as “allies, strategic partners and friends” (PMPS, p.2). Other aspects of positive qualification of these social actors include: “Spain and the United States’s support for a rule-based international order” (PMPS, p.5), “Spain’s contribution to defend the security of Europe” (PMPS, p.6), “Spain’s participation in NATO’s missions” (PMPS, p.9) and “the United States and Spain’s commitment to strengthen cooperation” (PMPS, p.10). It is noteworthy that in President Joe Biden’s speech, similar social actors are framed positively as captured in the following sample texts: “Spain’s hospitality to the United States’ service members and their family” (PJB, p.22), “the United States and Spain’s forces sent to bolster Europe’s security” (PJB, p.26), “the United States’s assistance rendered to the government and people of Ukraine” (PJB, p.33) and “Spain’s support shown to the United States” (PJB, p.34). Apart from the framing of social actors positively, some events in the speech are

equally constructed positively. They include: the bilateral relations between Spain and the United States (PMPS, p.4), the NATO Summit holding in Spain (PMPS, p.5), Spain's participation in NATO's missions (PMPS, p.9), and President Joe Biden's role in defining the transatlantic trade relations (PMPS, p.14). However, predicates such as "invasion (PMPS, p.5)", "attacked" (PJB, p.25) and shattered" (PJB, 23) in the speech serve to position social actors in a negative light. From these sample texts, negative predicates are used to qualify Russia as a threat to Europe following its invasion of Ukraine. Apart from the negative light in which Russia has been portrayed, the threat to Europe's security from the Southern and Northern flanks is labelled negatively. It is noteworthy that the bilateral relations between the United States and Spain and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine are among the pressing topics in the speech. This explains the reason for the Madrid Summit and why both leaders devoted quality time in addressing these topics. From the analysis on predication, the relationship between Spain and the United States has been qualified as cordial, beneficial and advantageous. Both countries are particularly framed as working in the best interest of Ukraine and NATO.

Argumentation

As earlier mentioned, this strategy refers to the persuasive use of language to legitimize or justify the positive or negative acts produced in discourse. In the speech under study, some of the *topoi* used by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and President Joe Biden include: *topoi* of threat and danger, usefulness and advantage, and responsibility. These *topoi* relate to the major themes addressed in the speech. For instance, the *topoi* of threat and danger is expressed in the following sample texts: "Putin's war" (PMPS, p.6), "Russian's invasion of Ukraine" (PJB, p.23), "if Putin attacked Ukraine" (PJB, p.25) and "Russia's aggressive actions" (PJB, p.26). Russia's invasion of Ukraine is considered by the United States and Spain "a clear violation of international law" (PMPS, p.5). Hence, the choice of the *topoi* of danger and threat deployed in the speech to delegitimize such act of invasion and therefore, classifying Russia's action as a threat to both Ukraine and the whole of Europe. It is noteworthy to state that this *topos* is most frequently deployed by President Joe Biden compared to Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

The next *topos* that features prominently in the speech is that of usefulness and advantage as expressed in: "the joint declaration between the United States and Spain will help to strengthen the relations between them" (PMPS, p.4), "we're expanding and reinforcing our bilateral relations" (PMPS, p.13), "And today, we're standing together to defend our shared security" (PJB, p.21), "And I'll be laying out additional steps the United States is going to take with our NATO colleagues" (PJB, p.30). Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez speaks about the joint declaration between the United States and Spain and the desire of both countries to expand and reinforce their bilateral relations. Also, President

Joe Biden alludes to the need for both countries to defend their shared security and strengthen their transatlantic alliance. These themes raised and discussed are of utmost significance to the interest of both countries. Seeing the bilateral relations between both countries as a positive act, both leaders employ augmentation as a discursive strategy to persuasively justify these themes considering what each leader stands to benefit.

The topos of usefulness and advantage is followed immediately by that of responsibility which equally features prominently in the speech. This topos serves to foreground the mutual obligation which the United States and Spain owe to each other as well as NATO's obligation to Ukraine at the break of Russia's invasion. Influenced by the topos of responsibility, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez alludes to Spain's participation in the Baltic air police patrols (PMPS, p.8), NATO's missions (PMPS, p.9) and strengthening the cooperation in the areas of defense and security (PMPS, p.10). Similarly, President Joe Biden alludes to all NATO allies standing as one to support Ukraine (PJB, p.24) and the United States, Spain and other Allies supplying weapons to Ukraine (PJB, p.32). The actions highlighted in the foregoing texts are positively constructed and as a result justified by both political leaders.

Perspectivisation

This strategy is introduced linguistically through the techniques of reporting, narrating, quoting, and describing of utterances and events. It helps speakers express their own idea and point of view in order to frame or represent discourse. Also, through the techniques, speakers are able to convey their involvement or distance in discourse. Perspectivisation in the speech under study is achieved linguistically through the techniques of reporting and describing. Instances of the use of these techniques by Prime Minister Pedro Snachez include: "And Spain has practically, dear Mr. President doubled its military presence in Latvia..." (PMPS, p.7), "And we're taking part in the Baltic air police patrols" (PMPS, p.8), "And so, in total, Spain is participating with its deployment in five NATO missions with a total of 1,471 forces deployed" (PMPS, p.9), "we have agreed to strengthen the bonds between us in the areas of justice, cybersecurity and energy security" (PMPS, p.12) and "we also agree on the importance of promoting a positive agender in Latin America" (PMPS, p.15). However, instances in President Joe Biden's speech include: "We're marking 40 years since Spain joined NATO in becoming an indispensable ally" (PBJ, p.21), "Mr. President, you're hosting a truly historic summit and the key moment in our alliance when Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has shattered peace in Europe..." (PJB, p.23), "And as I said before the war started: if Putin attacked Ukraine, United States would enhance our force posture Europe and respond to the reality of a new European security environment" (PJB, p.25), "Earlier this year, we surged additional U.S forces to Europe to bolster our alliance in response to Russia's

aggressive actions” (PBJ, 26), and “I’ll be laying out additional steps that the United States is going to take with our NATO colleagues...” (PBJ, p.30). The extracts above indicate the position of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and President Joe Biden in relation to the proposition they make in the discourse. A close study of the speech show that the messages in the extracts are those of both political actors and thus represent their views. It is significant to state that both Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and President Joe Biden are involved in the discourse subject.

Intensification and Mitigation

This is the final strategy utilized to change the effect of the speech by increasing or decreasing its force. The utilization of intensification in Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's speech is demonstrated using the following sample texts: “we are strategic partners” (PMPS, p.2), “we are reinforcing our support for a rules-based international order” (PMPS, p.5) and “this visit has been a significant turning point in the bilateral relations between our two countries” (PMPS, p.18). However, those in President Joe Biden’s speech are: “we are standing together to defend our shared security” (PJB, p.21), “we are standing as one to support Ukraine” (PBJ, p.24) and “NATO is focused on all directions and domains” (PBJ, p.31). From the foregoing sample texts, the declarative sentences can be viewed as one of the linguistic devices employed to indicate the force and validity of the assertions made in the speech. In each extract cited, both political actors adopted an overt and conscious stance. The choice of such stance may be connected to the seriousness of the issues being discussed by both world leaders.

Discussion

The speech analysis shows that the majority of the utterances are persuasive, descriptive, and informative in nature. This could be related to the speech's topic, which focuses on Russia and Ukraine's crisis as well as the diplomatic ties between the United States and Spain. Statements concerning the diplomatic ties between the United States and Spain are both informative and descriptive because President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez are interested in informing their listeners about the positive diplomatic ties between the two countries as well as the steps being taken to strengthen them. Similarly, statements about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine are informative, descriptive, and persuasive. This may be related to President Biden and Prime Minister Pedro's objectives to convince the audience to support the sanctions being imposed on Russia, explain the steps being taken to ensure that Ukraine is strengthened, and update them on the support that the United States and Spain have provided to Ukraine through NATO since the war began. The United States and Spain are positively characterized in the speech as NATO members working together to support the Ukrainian government and people amid the crisis.

In contrast, Russia is portrayed as a threat to the peace in Ukraine, the European Union, and the rest of the globe. All of the discursive strategies employed are intended to give legitimacy to the diplomatic ties between the United States and Spain, the steps being taken to strengthen those ties, and the sanctions placed on Russia. However, they serve to delegitimize Russia's war crimes against Ukraine. The speech of both world leaders is identical in orientation, and the goal has been achieved linguistically through the selection of all strategies used.

Conclusion

This study examined the bilateral speech by Prime Minister Pedro Snachez and President Joe Biden in order to identify the discursive strategies employed in constructing the identities of ingroup and outgroup actors as well as the functions performed by the discursive strategies. Applying the Discourse Historical Approach as a theoretical framework, the analysis reveals that a speech's construction is significantly influenced by its historical context. This explains why specific macro-topics are addressed in the speech. The speech discursively constructs the many social actors, phenomena, and events by using nomination, predication, perspectivization, intensification, and argumentation. The common event in speech is the NATO summit in Madrid, Spain. Russia, Ukraine, Spain, and the United States are the major social actors. The discursive formulation of ingroup and Out-group in the speech is also notable. Russia is portrayed as out-group, whereas the United States, Spain, and Ukraine are portrayed as in-group. The discursive strategies of nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivisation, and intensification were employed in order to attain the objectives of speech.

References

- Arel, D., & Driscoll, J. (2023). *Ukraine's unnamed war: Before the Russian invasion of 2022*. Cambridge University Press.
- Aluya, I., & Kofoworola, B. (2020). Non-verbal cues as discourse strategy in Soyinka's death and the King's Horseman. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies*, 9(5), 117-126.
- Cortada, J. W. (1978). Spain's diplomatic relations with the United States: 1931-1936. *Rivista di Studi Politici Internazionali*, 45(1 (177)), 79-85.
- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical discourse analysis. The critical study of language. Language in social life series*. London: Longman.
- Fairclough, N. (2002). *Analysing discourse: textual analysis for social research*. London: Routledge.
- Khurshid, R. (2022). Russia and Ukraine crisis: From Geo-Political confrontation, to Putin's ambition to regain lost grandeur. *Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS)*, 3(2), 51-71.

- Lawrence, P. (2022). Russia's war in Ukraine. *Journal of Global Faultlines*, 9(2), 198-211.
- Liedtke, B. N. (1996). *International relations between the US and Spain 1945-53: Economics, ideology and compromise* (Doctoral dissertation, London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom)).
- Miller, I. (2021). From concert to confrontation: The ideational Motives of Russia's Wars with Georgia (2008) and Ukraine (2014). State University of New York at Albany.
- Pannier, A. (2020). Bilateral relations. *Global Diplomacy: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*, 2020, pp.19-33.
- Rana, K.S (2020). Bilateral Diplomacy: a Practitioner Perspective. *Policy Papers and Briefs*, 15(1), 1-15.
- Ravenhill, J. (2003). The new bilateralism in the Asia Pacific. *Third World Quarterly*, (24)2, 299-317.
- Rixen, T. (2010). Bilateralism or multilateralism? The political economy of avoiding international double taxation. *European Journal of International Relations*, 16(4), 589-614.
- van Dijk, T. A. (2006). Discourse and manipulation. *Discourse and Society*, 17, 359-383.
- van Eemeren, F., & Grootendorst, R. (2016). *Argumentation, communication and fallacies*. New York: Routledge.
- Wilson, A. (2014). The high stakes of the Ukraine crisis. *Current History*, 113(765), 259-264.
- Wodak, R., & Martin, R. (2010). The Discourse-historical approach (DHA). In R. Wodak, and M. Meyer (eds.) *Methods of critical discourse analysis*, 2. edition. Los Angeles. S. 87- 121.
- Wodak, R., & Chilton, P. (2005) eds. A new agenda in (critical) discourse analysis: theory, methodology and interdisciplinarity. Vol. 13. John Benjamin's Publishing.
- Wodak, R. (2006). The discourse-historical approach. In Ruth Wodak and Michael Meyer (eds.) *Methods of critical discourse analysis*, Sage.
- Wodak, R., & Meyer, M. (2009). *Methods for critical discourse analysis*. Sage
- Wolff, A. T. (2015). The future of NATO enlargement after the Ukraine crisis. *International Affairs*, 91(5), 1103-1121.

TEXT ANALYSED

Joe Biden and Pedro Sanchez. "Remarks by President Joe Biden and President Pedro Sanchez of the Kingdom of Spain Before Bilateral Meeting". June 2022. Available from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/06/28/remarks-by-president-biden-and-president-pedro-sanchez-of-the-kingdom-of-spain-before-bilateral-meeting-madrid-spain/> [Accessed 8 January 2023]