Research Article

A Critical Discourse Analysis of Donald Trump's Rhetorical Animosity Against Illegal Immigrants

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ABSTRACT

This study looked at the discourses used by former U.S. President trump's against the immigrants. Specifically, the rhetorical expressions, metaphorical approaches, semantic expressions, linguistic features and classifications of ideologies in the political discourses were explored. Findings show that the discourses contained various rhetorical expressions and discourse patterns in his political speeches. With the use of conceptual metaphor theory for analysis, it showed that he expressed racism against immigrants and immigration and his political speeches also contained evidences of negative rhetorical expressions towards illegal immigrants. Findings show that the discursive components could be very instrumental in determining how politicians or leaders express their political ideologies on the issue about immigration, racism, and other socio-political issues in a country.

Keywords: *Critical Discourse Analysis, immigrants, political discourses, Donald Trump, United States of America*

Background

The freedom of expression movement sets America apart from most countries around the world (US Constitution, First Amendment, in Articles 19-20). However, after the 2016 presidential election and Donald Trump's winning candidacy, defying the American reform of exercising the right to speak freely negatively affected the nation's morale. Maintaining the freedom that permits public assertions that aims to harm an entire population, remarks mix with dreadful intentions or terrorize a state's permanence and its international relationships defy the implicit limitations for freedom of speech (Luqman, 2018). The beginning of Donald Trump's crusade against illegal immigration and his hate-driven rhetoric are a dangerous intimidation to the citizens of America especially the immigrants.

The debate about immigration flaunts its way to the public's attention during the last presidential operation and is still ongoing as Trump pushes his un-American racist ideology which impacts the American policy (CNN

Politics, 2018). Trumps remarks against the Mexican immigrants such as being rapists, aliens, illegal, and criminals made his way to catch the attention of the public deliberately launching his presidential campaign all across America. This is the ongoing tension of Trump's politics.

In the Philippine context, the rising Chinese population would be the best example for the immigration issues that will enlighten the political platforms of Donald Trump. This question will arise in the process: Can Filipinos stop the fluctuating population of Chinese and the semi-savage races going in our country? Definitely, if Filipinos were to preserve the foundation of the law enunciated by the Philippine government, however, no legislation of such a nature will be accepted (Gompers, 1898) not until Trump's succession. However, in a country such as the Philippines where President Rodrigo Duterte supports the influx of Chinese populace, such as giving importance to wage-earners with conditions and opportunities through migration processes.

Given the state of growth in the country, Filipinos are migrating. The Philippines is the world's global leader in labor export, aside from having a systemic migration management program and bureaucracy (Commission on Filipinos Overseas, 2003). It is worthy to mention that there are a broad range of problems within the migrant area, and it begins with the phenomenon of migration itself. The problems brought about by migration also project the image that migration is a "tragic" phenomenon (OFW Journalism Consortium, 2003). There are many Filipino workers residing in the United States, some are illegal migrants; and they will be ruled, ostracized, and killed for the worst part at the convenience of the President's rhetorical animosity against the immigrants.

For instance, Mexican immigrants are severely punished of wanting to cross the border. Killing men in public because they dare ask for humane conditions, how much more difficult will it be to plead any sympathy, and secure relief and assurance for Filipino migrants a non-native American populace, much less offence to their preservation of independence to live, fairness to express their thoughts, and feelings and search for happiness.

Knowing these issues, is a timely topic in modern politics and society, this study investigates Trump's discourses that brought changes to the world. Since there are only a few studies that focus on Donald Trump's linguistic features and ideologies against immigrants in his speeches (Quinonez, 2018; Mclay, 2017; Otto et al. 2020), the conduct of this study is relevant.

This paper investigates Donald Trump's discourses against illegal immigrant through critical discourse analysis. The dominant rhetorical expressions in his discourses are explored to better understand the linguistic features used in conveying messages about illegal immigration in the United States. Further, the metaphorical approaches and semantic expressions were also understood to unravel the deeper meanings of texts used in the political speeches. Ultimately, the ideologies of Donald Trump regarding illegal immigration and people related to this are examined through the evident textual and semantic features. Through this study, the researchers were able to discuss the important linguistic elements and ideological representations present in the political speeches of Donald Trump about illegal immigrants in the United States.

Methods
Research Design
This study is a qualitative approach since the primary concerns of qualitative research are to understand the meaning of human action by describing the inherent or essential characteristics of social objects or human experience (Denzin and Lincoln, 2000). Also, this study employed critical discourse analysis, highlighting the discourses filled with the speaker's ideologies, attitudes, ideas, and courses of action. (Fairclough 2003; Meyer, 2001; Weiss & Wodak, 2003). Qualitative approach and Critical discourse analysis method is the most appropriate in determining the rhetorical expressions, specifically the animosities, used by the speaker against the rising group of immigrants in the United States.

Research Corpora
The two primary sources of data analysed of this study: The gathered speeches in this study have themes of Donald Trump's negative

views on immigrants and his views on the issue on immigration. (1) the four selected speeches delivered by Donald Trump both before and after the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election and (2) news articles and reports published by different news outlets featuring issues about immigration, racism, and Trump's controversial political issues.

Procedure

The following steps were undertaken in the conduct of the study. To be more specific, the procedure was divided into three phases.

Phase 1: Gather substantial data and achieve credibility. The researchers systematically followed the process of data collection since Donald Trump's speeches catered to a wide variety of societal issues executing his campaign objectives which did not restrict immigration only. The analysis of all the corpora were aided with video reviews of the actual speech delivery in order to have the most accurate analysis for the meaning of the words delivered during the actual speech and the emotions behind them.

Phase 2: Find and analyze Donald Trump's rhetorical approach. The researchers analyze Donald Trump's rhetorical approach specifically looked at the rhetorical expressions present in the selected political speeches of Donald Trump against immigrants.

Phase 3: This study is conducted with uprightness and scholarly trustworthiness. The researchers are consistent with proper respect for the involved source of corpora. High regard for trustworthiness, precision, and objectivity was observed in the entire conduct of this study.

Data Analysis Treatment

Critical Discourse Analysis Dimensional Framework (Fairclough, 2001) were employed in this study to examine the entire corpora of President Donald Trump with focus on the usage of rhetoric to exhibit animosity towards immigrants. After identifying the president's rhetorical approaches, the metaphorical and semiotic approaches were then extracted through the lens of Lakoff and Johnson (1980). Lastly, ideologies were identified; and this served as a springboard in categorizing the immigrants based on how they are portrayed in the discourses. The extraction of the ideologies was based on van Dijk's Ideological Square.

Results and Discussion
Rhetorical expressions in the political speeches of Donald Trump against the immigrants

In the present study, the discussions are based on Donald Trump's political speeches against immigration in the U.S. illustrating the central issue of the speech which is the usage of negative rhetoric; persuading the audience about Donald Trump's political beliefs on immigration; changing and affecting people's perception of themselves and the situation.

Table 1. Rhetorical Devices in Trump's Speech 4

Rhetorical Devices	Excerpt No.	Sample Line
Hyperbole & Denotation	3	*"Last year our brave ice officers arrested more than 120,000 criminal aliens…."* S4, P1, L1
	4	*"Radical politicians have chosen to provide sanctuary for these criminal illegal aliens."* S4, P1,L3-4
	5	*"Local officials order police to release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public……"* S4, P1, L4-5

Rhetorical Devices	Excerpt No.	Sample Line
Appeal to Emotion	11	*"One of the victims is a terrible terrible situation died 51 years old American named Rocky Jones.* S4, P3, L3-4
	12	*"Rocky was at a gas station when this vile criminal fired 8 bullets at him from close range murdering him in cold blood."* S4, P3, L3-4
	13	*"Rocky left behind a devoted family including his brothers who loved him more than anything else in the world, one of his grieving brothers is here with us tonight......"* S4,P3,L5-7
Imagery	19	*"He viciously shot one man going about his daily work; he approached a woman sitting in her car and shot her in the arm and in the chest."* S4, P2, L7-8
Eulogy	23	*"Jodi our hearts weep for your loss and we will not rest until you have justice"* S4,P5, L1

Table 1 show the linguistic trends of Trump's political speech against the immigrants which are composed of five rhetorical devices that are mostly hyperbole, denotation, emotional appeal, imagery, and eulogy. Results reveal that Donald Trump skillfully used vivid descriptions (imagery) and exaggeration (hyperbole) in the number and events relating to illegal migration for the audience to understand the urgency of eradicating illegal migrants in America. He mostly uses hyperbole in the aspect of exaggerating the numbers equivalent to the negative actions of the immigrants and also naming and describing them horridly in front of the public, and appeal to emotion in the areas where Trump gives importance to the native Americans who were victimized by the cruelty of illegal migrants.

That is why after the succession and aggressive speech of Donald Trump against the immigrants, the attitudes towards immigration and immigrants have changed; and the attention of the masses, politics, and media turned to the southern border (Ting, 2006). The president's exceptional capacity to drive both social media and the news media, improved in his role as President, makes for an exceptionally difficult time for Latinos and other communities that include many recent immigrants.

The analysis of Li, Ren, and Zhang, (2016) discovered the former president in America, Obama's frequent usage of rhetorical schemes or devices such as alliteration, antithesis, and parallelism which could mean that the use of such rhetorical devices could be a politician's way of swaying the audience attention.

Metaphorical Approaches: Decorative and Conceptual Expressions of Donald Trump's Political Speeches

In the present study, the discussions are based on the decorative approach in Conceptual Metaphor Theory by Lakoff & Johnson, (1980) and it is defined as using exceptional rather than ordinary language. In the speeches of Trump, a number of these expressions following the decorative approach are evident.

"Last year our brave ice officers arrested more than 120,000 criminal aliens charged with nearly 10,000 burglaries - 5,000 sexual assaults - 45,000 violent assaults- and 2,000 murders." S4-P1-L1-2

Excerpt 1. Sample Text 1 for Decorative Approach

Excerpt 1 is an example of decorative approach by Trump because aside from exaggerating the numerical data, he also labelled illegal immigrants as *criminal aliens* that give double meaning depending on the audience interpretation. Trump refers to all migrants in a form of racial discrimination because of the word *alien* which pertains to outsiders, outlanders, strangers, or a foreigner, giving importance to Native Americans.

To better interpret Trump's statement, the study of Clair and Denis (2015) pertaining to *Sociology of Racism* emphasize that racism is the biological and cultural superiority of one or more racial groups, with perceived patterns of physical difference, hierarchical and social domination. Contextually, Trump's exaggerated labels of immigrants fit in to these criteria, constituting illegal immigrants as a negative icon to the society such as *criminal aliens* with a majority of criminal offenses while blatantly ignoring the fact that Native Americans are also included with what he would refer as grave criminal transgressions.

To better solidify these facts, there is no evidence that immigrants commit more crimes than native-born Americans. Instead, the arrival of migrants decreases the factor of crime rates. It means that the non-citizens make-up the smaller fraction of inmate populace in prisons and jails in contrast to the U.S. inhabitants, and that immigrants generally have a deep reason than native-born Americans to stay out of legal dilemma specifically illegal and undocumented immigrants, who risk expulsion (Walter et al. 2015).

In the present study, another principle of Conceptual Metaphor Theory by Lakoff & Johnson, (1980) is the conceptual approach which is defined as how often-used metaphors can form the beliefs of society.

> *"America is committed to ending illegal immigration and putting the ruthless coyotes, cartels, drug dealers, and human traffickers out of business"*
>
> S2-P1-L4-5
>
> *"This is a moral issue the lawless state of our southern border is a threat to the safety, security and financial well being of all America"*
>
> S2-P2-L2-3

Excerpt 2. Sample Text 2 for Conceptual Approach

Excerpt 2 is an example statement by Trump using conceptual approach in which he mentions the statement above for the sake of symbolism as a form of social construction to change the belief of society regarding the issue on illegal immigration.

To better interpret Trump's first statement, the study of Clair and Denis (2015) pertaining to *Sociology of Racism* was used as a basis in the analysis. In accordance to Trump's statement above, the nature of race and racism has two distinct phases which include the social actors and the social forces that are apparent as explicit individual- level beliefs and attitudes and explicit biases constituted as unconscious, historical, and systematic forms of racism.

The direct persecution of Trump as the social actor in his political speech against illegal immigration putting ruthless coyotes, drug dealers, smugglers, rapists etc. out of business is an example of explicit individual-level beliefs and attitudes of racism because it perpetuates racial inequality. The second phase is the social forces stating illegal immigration as a moral issue that is a threat to the safety, security, and financial well-being of America as an explicit prejudice towards migrants living in America either unconsciously stated or a form of systematic racism that pertains to racial domination of natives towards foreigners based on the context of Trump's political speeches.

Semantic Expressions in Donald Trump's Discourses against the Immigrants

In the present study, semantic approaches examine the power of semantic principles which could be cultural or textual representations visible in the political speeches of Donald Trump, injustice against immigrants, abuse of social power, and political-economic or cultural change in the society (Laclau & Mouffe, 1985).

Table 2. Semantic Expressions in Donald Trump's Discourses

Semantic Reference	Semantic Expressions	Language in Context	Semantic Projection of Racism
Immigrants	Aliens	The semantic expression *aliens* was used when Trump mentions all statistical data or findings against illegal migrants.	Aside from Trump exaggerating the numerical data, negating radical politicians for providing sanctuary to illegal migrants and vividly describing the criminal offenses of illegal settlers in America, he also labelled illegal immigrants as *criminal aliens, criminal illegal aliens, dangerous criminal aliens, and criminal illegal immigrants* that give double meaning depending on the audience interpretation.
		This is to persuade the audience and quantify the words with the combination of the two nouns to make it seem more that they are dangerous outsiders who are inside the American borders and who should be eradicated from the community.	

Semantic Reference	Semantic Expressions	Language in Context	Semantic Projection of Racism
Immigrants	Illegal Aliens	*Illegal aliens* were used when Trump mentions the issue on how radical politicians still provide refuge to the illegal migrants.	However, Trump referring to all illegal migrants directly as a negative icon in the society is a form of racial discrimination because of the word *alien* which pertains to outsiders and foreigners giving importance to Native Americans, while he skillfully persuades the audience and make his political campaigns more powerful and acceptable, thus resulting in social inequality.
		In this case, Trump added another variable to his descriptions with the illegal migrants, the adjective *illegal* which means forbidden and not very much, at all, welcome in American borders undocumented.	

Table 2 reveals the two representations of semantic analysis which is the cultural and textual method of analysis visible in the political speeches of Donald Trump against illegal immigrants.

Conclusively, the analysis of Donald Trump's political speeches using semantic expressions shows an abundance of evidence of his animosity towards illegal immigrants. However, there are no other interpretation accounts for Donald Trump's discourse patterns. Instead, the researchers offer a plenty of proof that he expressed racism against immigrants and immigration through the use of various semantic expressions.

Ideologies in Trump's Political Discourses

In the present study, Critical Discourse Analysis was used with the intention of explaining the relationship between Trump's linguistic features in his political speeches and his beliefs, experiences, and social practices.

Table 3 show the four ideologies that tell how Donald Trump's discourses classify the immigrants. These are *Immigrants as Dangerous People, Immigrants* as Prejudiced Outsiders, Immigrants as Political Antagonists, Immigrants as Social Outcasts.

Table 3. Ideologies in Trump's Political Discourses

Ideology	Sample Excerpts
Immigrants as Dangerous People	E1: "Illegal immigration is a moral issue and a threat to the safety, security and financial well -being of all America."
Immigrants as Prejudiced Outsiders	E3: "Last year our brave ice officers arrested more than 120,000 criminal aliens......"
Immigrants as Political Antagonists	E11:"Tragically there are many cities in America where radical politicians have chosen to provide sanctuary for these criminal illegal aliens"
Immigrants as Social Outcasts	E15:"Reduce jobs, lower wages, over-burden schools, hospitals that are so crowded you can't get in, increase crime, and a depleted social safety net."

The first ideology strongly suggests that Trump considers the immigrants as dangerous individuals who could bring harm not only to the citizens but also to the whole country. This could be evidenced by the use of the word *threat* in E1 which is juxtaposed with terms *safety, security,* and *well-being.* Using van Dijk's (2004) analysis of ideologies, it can be gleaned that Trump's discourses were more on Them than the Us. This one is highly manifested by focusing the attention to the discourses more on the immigrants through the use of negative words or expressions that intensify a negative image of Them.

The second ideology strongly suggests that Trump considers the immigrants as outsiders, foreigners, strangers, and aliens to be exact, not included as one of what he would consider as natives who could destroy the image and well-being of the American society. This could be evidenced by the use of the word *criminal* in E3 which is juxtaposed with terms *alien/s, illegal alien/s,* and *criminal illegal immigrants.* This is a representation of van Dijk's (2004) linguistic polarization model in which he portrays the members of the in-groups (Us) Native Americans being the victim of the illegal migrants (Them) as negative-other representation portraying out-group members negatively.

The third ideology strongly suggests that Trump considers immigrants as political antagonists as he sees those politicians who side with the immigrants as being rivals and antagonizing him. This could be evidenced by the use of the word *radical politicians* in E11. These *radical politicians* are providing sanctuary to criminal illegal aliens. Trump's negative viewpoint on illegal migrants strengthened due to some politicians providing help. Trump's constant reference to illegal immigrants as *criminals* clearly shows a negative presentation of 'Them' and further drives the narrative that they are his enemies and that they antagonize him by threatening the safety of the American citizens 'Us'.

The fourth ideology strongly suggests that Trump considers immigrants as outcasts of the society who are taking away jobs from Americans. This could be evidenced by the use of the word *foreign* when referring to immigrants who are working in America in contrast to calling those who are affected as *American workers.* In other excerpts such as in E15, Trump enumerates the negative impacts brought forth by illegal immigrants such as *reduce jobs, lower wages, over-burden schools,* and *hospitals.* As such, Trump sees immigrants as outcasts due to Trump looking down on them and by extension, those who believe his rhetoric. A

positive self-presentation emphasizes an individual's positive actions, such as saying positive things about 'Us' and negative things about 'Them.' However, one can use a negative self-presentation of 'Us' so that you can drive home the point that 'Them' are harmful.

Thus, the analysis of Donald Trump's political speeches using critical discourse analysis shows an abundance of evidence of negative rhetorical expressions used by Trump towards illegal immigrants by also categorizing illegal migrants as dangerous individuals, prejudiced immigrants, political enemies, social outcasts. Through the discourses analyzed, it can be said that Donald Trump used strong discourses to suggest that immigrants are not welcome in the United States of America.

Conclusion

Based on the findings obtained from this study, the following conclusions were drawn: the dominant rhetorical expressions used by Donald Trump includes appeal to emotion, hyperbole, denotation, imagery and eulogy to solidify his claims and arguments and to connote messages in his speeches. The president's exceptional capacity to drive both social media and the news media, improved in his role as a president, makes for an exceptionally difficult time for Latinos and other communities that include many recent immigrants.

The second findings are the metaphorical approaches containing decorative and conceptual expressions of Donald Trump's political speeches. It was found that Donald Trump's discourse patterns in his political speeches using the Conceptual Metaphor Theory for analysis shows an abundance of evidence that he expressed racism against immigrants and immigration. This is because Trump considers illegal immigrants as a negative icon to the society and as the prime subject for criminal offenses.

It was observed that Trump illustrates explicit individual-level beliefs and attitudes of racism because of his constant use of negative representation creating a distance among the citizens by highlighting the superiority of the American culture, showing his racist ideals by referring to immigrants as *criminals, gang members, and as security threats* to America.

Secondly, the social forces stating illegal immigration as a moral issue that is a threat to the safety, security, and financial well-being of America is an explicit prejudice towards migrants living in America either unconsciously stated.

The last findings using strong theories on ideologies, it was also discovered that Donald Trump's political speeches contain abundance of evidence of negative rhetorical expressions used by Trump towards illegal immigrants. As a matter of fact, these ideologies point out to how Trump categorized or tagged immigrants. Based on the analysis, ideologies like immigrants being *dangerous people, prejudiced outsiders, political antagonists,* and *social outcasts* emerged. These ideologies tell a lot about how Trump projects the image of immigrants to the whole America.

Recommendation

The usefulness of this paper to pedagogy is beyond imagination. This study will entice more researchers, students, and faculty alike, to engage in linguistic studies that focus on pressing social issues such as immigration, racism, or discrimination on immigrants, political rhetoric, and political ideologies not only in the Philippine setting but also in other international contexts. The conduct of this investigation will definitely strengthen students' conceptual and theoretical understanding in terms of the conduct of critical discourse analysis. Utilizing this method to understanding a socio-political issue is purposeful in a way that this paper could improve critical evaluation of linguistic phenomena that have social relevance.

Acknowledgement

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