



Power and Solidarity in President Al-Sisi's Discourse on the Corona Virus Pandemic

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معيدة ومسجلة لدرجة الماجستير في قسم اللغة الإنجليزية

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موقع المجلة الإلكتروني:

Power and Solidarity in President Al-Sisi's Discourse on the Corona Virus Pandemic

Abstract

The present research has conducted a critical discourse analysis (CDA) of Power and Solidarity in President Al-Sisi's Discourse on the Corona Virus Pandemic. This pandemic has already transported appalling costs at the global level. This novel coronavirus (COVID19) that originated in the Chinese City of Wuhan affiliated to the Hubei province. Huang et al. (2020) have highlighted the worldwide negative impact the pandemic has had upon the world. The virus has caused a series of infections and diseases that have led to significant fatality rates worldwide. Unfortunately, the number of cases was still rising. To stop this grave outburst, there must be powerful decision-making. The researcher has focused upon President Al-Sisi's Discourse on the Corona Virus Pandemic by employing the tools of CDA for highlighting the power and solidarity that characterize this discourse.

The President's decisions have shown great solidarity to all Egyptians and all nations rather than the individual, proving his own power in the face of this catastrophic time. The President has also proved that his decisions are in line with solidarity for the citizens in both discourse and reality. The president has transformed the words of his discourse into genuine actions for managing the crises. The decisions made have satisfied public opinion in terms of completely stopping the pandemic, vaccinating all the citizens free, and supplying financial and other aids to them. Thus, the discourse has been a mirror of the President's policy measures as regards credibility.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Power, Solidarity / Public Opinion / National Acceptance- Policy Measures

1. Introduction

The present research has conducted a critical discourse analysis (CDA) of Power and Solidarity in President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's Discourse on the Corona Virus Pandemic. This pandemic has already transported appalling costs at the global level. This novel coronavirus (COVID19) that originated in the Chinese City of Wuhan affiliated to the Hubei province. Huang et al. (2020) have highlighted the worldwide negative impact the pandemic has had upon the world. The virus has caused a series of infections and diseases that have led to significant fatality rates worldwide. Unfortunately, the number of cases was still rising. To stop this grave outburst, there must be powerful decision-making. The researcher has focused upon President Al-Sisi's Discourse on the Corona Virus Pandemic by employing the tools of CDA for highlighting the power and solidarity that characterize this discourse.

The President's decisions have shown great solidarity to all Egyptians and all nations rather than the individual, proving his own power in the face of this catastrophic time. The President has also proved that his decisions are in line with solidarity for the citizens in both discourse and reality. The president has transformed the words of his discourse into genuine actions for managing the crises. The decisions made have satisfied public opinion in terms of completely stopping the pandemic, vaccinating all the citizens free, and supplying financial and other aids to them. Thus, the discourse has been a mirror of the President's policy measures as regards credibility.

The research has focused upon the concepts of power and solidarity in President Al-Sisi's Discourse on the Corona Virus Pandemic. It has hammered upon CDA for spotlighting the interrelationship between the President's powerful decision-

making and the solidarity he has persistently shown to the Egyptian citizens. The research, moreover, has tested public opinion and national acceptance of his policy measures.

2. The Pandemic

Originating in Wuhan in the Chinese province of Hubei, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and a novel coronavirus (COVID19) have both rapidly spread over the world and are already having an impact on people's daily life (Huang et al., 2020). This virus has caused a series of infections and diseases that have led to significant fatality rates (i.e., 47,191, 844 confirmed cases) and 1, 209, 269 fatalities worldwide. Unfortunately, the number of cases is still rising.

The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed this viral pandemic as an international health crisis and pandemic on March 11, 2020, after it was designated a "societal Disease Crisis of Global Significance" on January 30, 2020 (WHO, 2020). This worldwide medical catastrophe has put authorities, the health of the public, global funds, and economic and political structures under so much strain that they are in danger of collapsing.

In addition to fever, dry cough, and dyspnea or shortness of breath, 20% of COVID-19 patients experienced acute to life-threatening illnesses, while nearly 80% experienced mild to ordinary sickness (ECDPC, 2020). The disease is spreading regionally in all parts of the world, including North America and Europe, according to the WHO. As reported by BBC Business News, unemployment rates have increased significantly in the USA and other countries, rising from 3.7% to 10.4% (IMF Reports, June, 2020).

In order to prevent the possibly detrimental impacts of this virus, researchers are working rapidly to understand its composition and behaviors in order to develop interventions, immunizations,

and treatments. The pandemic dominated news networks and public statements by government officials. The public was kept updated on the development of new laws and limitations to address this global issue. Because of the high degree of public concern, numerous individuals battled with the terrible virus and tried to avoid it (Sahu et al., 2020).

Globally, national leaders had to take action to halt this extremely severe pandemic. The speed, efficacy, and national approval of these governments' policy initiatives had a significant impact on the public's perception of how well they managed the pandemic (i.e., by preventing mortality and limiting its spread). Some leaders moved quickly with scientifically backed policy proposals, whereas other people spent their opportunity and got by, and some even minimized the danger.

According to the Oxford Coronavirus Government Response Tracker, on March 26, 2020, the United States' mean score for the nine Government Stringency Index metrics—school closures, workplace closures, public event cancellations, public gathering restrictions, public transportation closures, stay-at-home mandates, public awareness campaigns, internal movement restrictions, and international travel controls—was 72.69. Americans were 'not very confident' in their comprehension of the government's pandemic strategy and its effectiveness, as reported by Winton's Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication (Freeman, March 2020). Nonetheless, they had a comparatively high degree of confidence in the WHO and their national medical and scientific experts.

Abbas (2020) examined the way COVID-19 news were used to advance political and philosophical ends in China and the United States in the Chinese Global Times and American New York Times, utilizing Van Dijk's media structures paradigm to study discourses connected to the pandemic. Abbas (2020) asserts that

the public's response to events was greatly influenced by political control over the media. COVID-19 has been politicized to gain political advantage and target competing countries, much like the Asian flu, cholera, AIDS, Ebola, and SARS pandemics. Unaware of the potentially catastrophic worldwide consequences of condemning and stereotyping against countries, that could result in racist and ethnic connotations for international security and peace, China and the United States exchanged accusations when COVID-19 initially started (Abbas, 2020; Myers, 2020)..

The propagation of hate speech and terror has the power to influence public opinion and steer international conflicts. Like Atasoy (2020), who examined the German and Spanish COVID-19 reports in the top stories of *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* and *El Pais* from January to March 2020 using Van Dijk's CDA. The findings showed that both media outlets portrayed COVID-19 as a global health crisis involving China by using polarization, vocabulary style, relational strategies, quoting credible witnesses and experts, highlighting similarities, and recurrence (i.e., syntactic-discursive structures). The German newspaper claimed that it was obviously focused on China, while the Spanish daily described it as emanating from China.

Similar to this, Parvin et al. (2020) examined how worldwide communities were directly informed about the spread of infection, preparedness, and governmental efforts from China and Japan (the epicenter) by using text mining to examine *China Daily* and *Japan Times* news media from January to March 2020. The ideas, viewpoints, recommendations, and instructions that were emphasized were disclosed by the results. The findings demonstrated that the focus of the media's interest, particularly editorials and opinions from experts, shifted from being health-driven to being economic and political. China demonstrated an

interest in social welfare and governance, while Japan placed a significant emphasis on international politics.

(CDA is a multidisciplinary investigation undertaking that practices various theoretical and methodological approaches to examine language. CDA scholars believe language is a social practice, examining ideologies, power relations, and its impact on society. They follow Foucault's dialectical perspective on speech and actively oppose or intervene in societal issues. CDA research begins with a study subject or problem, with design decisions informed by contextual understandings of the dynamics of the discourse under examination.

CDA's study design and methodological methods can be fluid, iterative, and adaptive, depending on the project's specifics. Researchers like Norman Fairclough, Ruth Wodak, Teun van Dijk, and James Paul Gee have developed methodological approaches for conducting CDAs. CDA scholars not only focus on textual discourse genres, but have also applied methodologies to visual and multimodal discourse. Strategies map discourse analyses across micro, meso, and macroscale social phenomena, alternating between descriptive, interpretative, and explanatory phases.

Discourse analysis (DA) is a method used by human geographers to examine the production, distribution, and assimilation of discursive practice at the mesolevel. It involves examining the larger social context, including laws, customs, and mores, to understand social structures at the macrolevel. CDA can be applied to various data types and formats, including interviews, ethnographies, speeches, and media. It offers investigative tools for understanding the connections between discourse, power, and ideology across various social and geographical scales.

Political discourse is a crucial component of political analysis, with language serving two main purposes: transactional

and interactional. Transactional language conveys information, while interactional language preserves social bonds. Political discourse reflects a politician's rhetorical strategies, personal traits, and the political environment. It also includes the author's communication goals, audience relationship, ideology, and message genre. Understanding political discourse, lexical devices, and distinguishing characteristics of speeches is essential.

Political discourse is complex, as politicians must navigate economics, law, and international politics, each with its own language. This requires blending formal language with comprehensible, persuasive speech for the public. The relationship between language, politics, and crisis is strong, as politics is an educated method of influencing and persuading the target audience.

As a social practice, language is employed to mold, influence, and convince people's attitudes and beliefs. As a communication tool, it can be used to explain something, convince someone, commit to something, show thanks, and achieve other social goals (Olimat, 2018; 2019a; 2019b). Thus, knowing how language is utilized in discourses and other kinds of interactions is essential. This is particularly true in stressful and emergency situations. A constant threat to all nations and people, the corona virus disease of 2019 (henceforth referred to as Covid-19) has the potential to bring societal divide, financial difficulties, political and economic ramifications, public health issues, and even fatalities.

Political discourse is complex, as politicians must navigate economics, law, and international politics, each with its own language. This requires blending formal language with comprehensible, persuasive speech for the public. The relationship between language, politics, and crisis is strong, as politics is an educated method of influencing and persuading the target audience. This study focuses on the relationship between language and

society, both spoken and written, and how it reflects aspects of power. It provides a critical discourse analysis of the President's addresses on the pandemic.

3. Fairclough's CDA Frameworks

Rahimi and Riasati claim that Fairclough is credited with making the most significant contribution to CDA. Since he was the first to develop a theoretical framework that offered recommendations for further CDA study, his model might be the central component of the entire discipline. The core of his framework is his conviction that language is an inseparable aspect of social life. Social practices (discourse orders), social events (texts), and social structures all realize the dialectic relationship between language and social reality (Fairclough, 2003). Fairclough attempts to uncover ideological and power patterns in texts in his research method of analysis. He is the only CDA scholar who defines the relationship between power and language (social power and ideology) in his research (Fairclough, 1989). In his study methodology, Fairclough looks for patterns of power and ideology in texts. In his research, he is the only CDA researcher to define the connection between language and power (social power and ideology) (Fairclough, 1989).

Fairclough offers a three-dimensional framework for text and discourse analysis: 1) The description of the text's formal properties in language; 2) The interpretation of the relationship between the text and discursive processes/interaction; 3) The explanation of the relationship between discourse and social and cultural reality. The text is the result of a process of text production and serves as a resource in the process of text interpretation.

Beyond the "whatness" of the text description, Fairclough's (1989) study has focused on the "how" and "whyness" of the interpretation of texts and explanation. Some speech selections are

predicated on specific underlying assumptions. These presumptions are always ideologically motivated and driven rather than value-free and innocent. We can learn about social processes and the particular ideologies ingrained in language by examining its forms. The investigation of power dynamics within the community or society follows from this.

4. Research Objective

The current research analyzes the language the President has used effectively during the crisis to persuade the citizens to accept the policy measures adopted and the powerful decisions made. The President's speeches on the virus have persuaded the citizens to support the preventive procedures proposed. The outcome of all this is solidarity with the citizens. Thus, the research aims at spotlighting the political discourse in which the President has unveiled his power as a great leader and proved that it has been directed towards solidarity with the citizens. Moreover, the research highlights the President's stylistic mannerisms employed for integrate his power stature and its role in warranting solidarity for the citizens.

5. Research Questions

The research poses the questions below:

- (a) How does power manifest itself in the President's addresses on the pandemic?
- (b) In what way has the President employed power for making the right decisions that work for solidarity with the people?
- (c) What conceptual interpretations do the President's discourses convey? How do his power dynamics emerge in the frequency of particular lexical elements, syntactic structures, and ideational connotations?

To answer these questions, the study is theoretically grounded in Fairclough's three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis model (1989, 1995) referred to above. This paradigm facilitates in sorting the numerous ideologies buried beneath political jargon employed by speakers.

The study also makes use of corpus linguistic techniques (such as the AntConc 3.2.4w corpora tool) to identify the most prevalent grammatical and semantic patterns in the political texts being examined and their immediate context. In discourse studies, the combination of CDA and SFL computations with CL tools is crucial because it enables the analysis of vast amounts of textual data, helps comprehend the explanation of the data, and reinforces the empirical foundations of CDA while lowering researcher bias and boosting evaluation reliability.

6. Research Problem

Political discourse is one type of conversation. The main objectives of political speech are to educate the audience, build rapport, and influence others to share the politician's opinions. The language used and political discourse, however, can also disclose a lot about the politicians themselves, their current situation, and the character of their relationships with the public. The study's objective is to determine the President's recurring words and word associations by analyzing the lexical features of his political speeches.

7. Data Collection

The data are based on an observational technique of the language use in the President's following speeches of which Speech Two is selected for analysis:

- 1) President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's Speech and First Comment on the Coronavirus Crisis (22/3/2020),

- 2) President Al-Sisi's Speech during his Inspection of the Armed Forces' Preparations to Confront the Coronavirus (7/4/2020),
- 3) President Al-Sisi's Speech on the State's Efforts in Combating the Novel Coronavirus (7/4/2020),
- 4) President Al-Sisi's speech on Sinai Liberation Day and Comments on the Latest Developments of the Coronavirus (22/4/2020)
- 5) President Al-Sisi's Speech and Comments during the Meeting with a Number of Isolation Hospital Directors (28/4/2020),
- 6) President Al-Sisi's Speech during the Non-Aligned Movement Summit on the Novel Coronavirus (4/5/2020),
- 7) President Al-Sisi's Comment on the Speech of the Minister of Higher Education Regarding the Coronavirus on the Sidelines of the Inauguration of Bashayer Al-Khayr 3 (21/5/2020),
- 8) President Al-Sisi's Speech during the Global Vaccine Summit (4/6/2020),
- 9) President Al-Sisi's Speech at the African-Chinese Mini-Summit to Combat COVID-19 (18/6/2020).

8. Analysis

Here is an analysis of the President's addresses (Speech Two delivered on 7/4/2020) upon the pandemic. In this speech, the President inspects the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus.

8.1 Excerpt One (Speech Two)

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|---|---|
| <p>In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful</p> <p>Allow me to address to all of you the lined up forces that are here in front of me with their various elements, and also to the entire armed forces. All thanks and all appreciation, and the truth, what I see in front of me always confirms the confidence of the Egyptians in the ability of its army to be a strong contributing partner in confronting any crisis.</p> <p>The truth that I see in front of me here is something that calls for appreciation and pride. We are talking about elements that can have a very, very significant impact in confronting the crisis that we are talking about today.</p> | <p>بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم</p> <p>اسمحولي إن أنا أتوجه إليكم جميعا القوات المصطفة اللي موجودة قدام مني هنا بعناصرها المختلفة، وأيضا للقوات المسلحة بالكامل، كل الشكر وكل التقدير، والحقيقة، اللي أنا بشوفوا قدام مني ده بياكد دايماً ثقة المصريين في قدرة جيشها على إن هو يكون شريك مساهم قوي في مواجهة أي أزمة.</p> <p>والحقيقة اللي أنا شايفه قدام مني هنا، أمر يدعو إلى التقدير والفخر، إحنا بنتكلم على عناصر تستطيع أن يكون ليها تأثير كبير جداً في مواجهة الأزمة اللي إحنا بنتكلم عليها النهاردة.</p> |

Comment

The present example unveils a touch of informality through which the President intends to stress familiarity with and solidarity for his people. This is confirmed by the first person singular subject pronoun "I" (إن أنا) at the very beginning. There are many others that

extend the performance solidarity: “that” (اللي), “in front of me” (قدام), “what I see” (اللي أنا بشوفوا), always (دائماً), “we” (إحنا), “can have a very, very significant impact” (تستطيع أن يكون ليها تأثير كبير جداً جداً), and “talking about today” (بنتكلم عليها النهاردة).

8.2 Excerpt Two (Speech Two)

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|---|--|
| And for this reason, when I thank you, this is thanks, that is, in advance of effort and performance, if we need it, it will be mobilized, because, I want to say to the Egyptians through you, and through the, this alignment and this presence, for all these different elements that there are systems for the Egyptian state, systems that mean In the Ministry of Health, this system, the state system deals with the crisis, university | وعشان كدة أنا لما بوجه لكم الشكر، ده شكر، يعني، مقدما على جهد وعلى أداء إن احتاجناه هايتم حشده، لأننا، عايز أقول للمصريين من خلالكم، ومن خلال ال، الاصطفاف ده والتواجد ده، لكل هذه العناصر باختلافها إن في أنساق للدولة المصرية، أنساق يعني في وزارة الصحة، ده نسق، نسق الدولة بيتعامل مع الأزمة، المستشفيات الجامعية، ده نسق بيتعامل مع الأزمة، مستشفيات القوات المسلحة، ده نسق بيتعامل |

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| hospitals, this system deals with the crisis, armed forces hospitals, this system deals with the crisis The Ministry of Interior hospitals, this is a system that deals with the crisis, the private sector hospitals, this is a system that deals with the crisis, in the crisis in which we are present, all available, and all existing resources are ready and willing to provide the required support, assistance, or participation in confronting the crisis that we are facing. We are talking about it. | مع الأزمة، مستشفيات وزارة الداخلية، ده نسق بيتعامل مع الأزمة، مستشفيات القطاع الخاص، ده نسق بيتعامل مع الأزمة، في الأزمة اللي إحنا موجودين فيها دي، كل المتاح، وكل الموارد اللي موجودة هي جاهزة ومستعدة لتقديم الدعم أو المساعدة أو المشاركة المطلوبة في مواجهة الأزمة اللي إحنا بنتكلم فيها. |
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Comment

The present example follows the same track where the President asserts the familiarity and solidarity with which the speech began. Here are some examples: “I thank you” (بوجه لكم), “this is thanks” (ده شكر), “in front of me” (قدام مني), “if we need it” (إن احتاجناه هايتم), “I want to say” (عايز أقول), “it will be mobilized” (هايتم حشده), “this alignment and this presence” (الاصطفاف ده والتواجد ده), among others mentioned in the previous quotation.

8.3 Excerpt Three (Speech Two)

| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
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| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|--|--|
| <p>However, in the context of the economy of power, we appreciate this alignment in the context of first reassuring the Egyptians. I am the words that are in front of me that many of us in the army know, but we loved that we present them to ourselves and to the Egyptian people so that they know that the Egyptian state is a strong and capable state, God willing, capable. With the determination of its men, their honesty, their sincerity, and their willingness to always make sacrifices.</p> <p>That is why I say again, all appreciation and thanks to all these forces lined up, and be prepared to participate in the effectiveness required to protect your country. As you presented with the Ministry of Interior,</p> | <p>لكن في إطار الاقتصاد في القوى، إحنا بنقدر هذا الاصطفاف في إطار أولاً طمأنة المصريين، أنا الكلام اللي موجود قدام مني كتير مننا في الجيش يعرفه، بس إحنا حبيننا إن إحنا نقدمه لأنفسنا وللشعب المصري عشان يعرف إن الدولة المصرية دولة قوية وقادرة إن شاء الله، قادرة بعزيمة رجالها وبأمانتهم وبإخلاصهم وباستعدادهم لتقديم التضحيات دائماً.</p> <p>وعشان كدة أنا بقول مرة ثانية كل التقدير وكل الشكر لكل القوات المصطفة دي، وكونوا مستعدين للمشاركة بالفاعلية المطلوبة</p> |

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| <p>martyrs and wounded in the face of terrorism, if the matter requires us to take action, God forbid, if there is a crisis, that is, we do not hope for it, but we remain prepared for it, and this alignment means, I say to the Egyptians: We are prepared for all scenarios, I say to the Egyptians, we are prepared for all scenarios.</p> | <p>لحماية بلدكم. زي ما إنتم قدتمت مع وزارة الداخلية شهداء ومصابين في مواجهة الإرهاب، إذا الأمر احتاج منا إن إحنا نتحرك لا قدر الله لو الأزمة يعني، وده مانتملوش لكن بنبقى مستعدينله، والاصطفاف ده معناه، أنا بقول للمصريين: نحن مستعدين لكل السيناريوهات، بقول للمصريين نحن مستعدين لكل السيناريوهات.</p> |
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Comment

The present example follows the same track where the President asserts the familiarity and solidarity with which the speech began. Here are some examples: “many of us” (كثير منا), “we loved that we” (إحنا حبيننا إن إحنا), “so that” (عشان), “always” (هايتم حشده), “As you presented” (زي ما إنتم قدتمت), “if the matter requires us” (إذا الأمر احتاج), “we do not hope for it, but we remain prepared for it” (وده), “we do not hope for it, but we remain prepared for it” (مانتملوش لكن بنبقى مستعدينله), “I say to the Egyptians” (بقول للمصريين), among others.

8.4 Excerpt Four (Speech Two)

| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
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| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|--|---|
| <p>The energy of work that you have in front of you, or the energy of treatment, the energy of treatment for the crisis that is in front of you, I want to reassure you, and never let you lose anyone who affects your morale or your self-confidence. We can, thanks to God Almighty, and in cooperation with each other, if we deal with any challenge, inside Egypt from its first border on the Mediterranean Sea to its southern and western borders. We have no problem, God willing. We have the resources and we have the capabilities.</p> <p>As I said, the offer we have before us reflects this.</p> <p>I just want to tell you who, I mean, when we provide a helping hand to friendly or brotherly countries, the goal is</p> | <p>طاقة العمل اللي إنتوا قدام منكم، أو طاقة العلاج طاقة المعالجة للأزمة اللي قدام منكم، عايزها تظمنكوا، وماتخليكمش أبدا تفقدوا أو حد يآثر على معنوياتكم أو ثقتكم في أنفسكم. نحن نستطيع بفضل الله سبحانه وتعالى، وبتعاوننا مع بعضنا إن إحنا نتعامل مع أي تحدي، جوة داخل مصر من أول حدودها على البحر المتوسط لغاية حدودها الجنوبية وحدودها الغربية، مافيش مشكلة عندنا إن شاء الله، لدينا الموارد ولدينا القدرات.</p> <p>وزي ما قلت، العرض اللي إحنا قدام مننا ده بيعكس كدة.</p> <p>أنا بس عايز أقول لكم من، يعني إحنا لما نقدم يد العون</p> |

that we affirm solidarity with the severity of the misery that these countries are suffering from. The whole world is suffering, but in some countries they are suffering harshly, and support here remains important, even if the support is Symbolic support, support is symbolic support, and I am telling you this so that we have the opportunity if we provide more support, and this is a matter, I mean, Can someone say, do you have resources if you provide support to other countries? We offer what is possible, I mean, we don't offer... Because we cannot provide every country with supplies, we are trying to provide us with what we have here.

لدول صديقة أو شقيقة، الهدف منها إن إحنا نوكد تضامنا مع شدة البأس اللي بتعاني منه هذه الدول، العالم كله بيعاني لكن في بعض الدول بتعاني بقسوة، والدعم هنا بيبقى مهم، حتى لو كان الدعم دعم رمزي، الدعم دعم رمزي، وأنا بقولكم كدة عشان لدينا الفرصة إن إحنا نقدم مزيد من الدعم، وده أمر، يعني، يمكن حد يقول، يعني إحنا لديكم يعني موارد إن إنتوا تقدموا بيها دعم لدول أخرى؟ إحنا بنقدم ما تيسر يعني، مش بنقدم.. لأن إحنا لا نستطيع أن نوfer لكل دولة مستلزمات، إحنا بنحاول نوfer لينا إحنا ما لدينا هنا.

Comment

In a similar vein, the current example uncovers the President's speech power via which he communicates with the citizens so much that he has gained their trust in his leadership and the decisions he makes. Here are further examples: "that you have in front of you" (اللي إنتوا قدام منكم), "I want to reassure you" (عايزها), "inside Egypt from its first border on the Mediterranean Sea" (جوة داخل مصر من أول حدودها على البحر المتوسط), "We have no problem" (مافيش مشكلة عندنا), "reflects this" (بيعكس كدة), "with the

severity of the misery that these countries are suffering from” (مع (يمكن حد يقول) “Can someone say”, (شدة البأس اللي بتعاني منه هذه الدول among some others that reassure the Egyptian citizens in times of crises.

8.5 Excerpt Five (Speech Two)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|---|--|
| You've heard a lot about the problem, like the ventilators. I want to tell you, and I'm talking to you now, other than what was presented, and the head of the Supply and Catering Authority, and Major General Ihab, would be appropriate for me. We have 6 hospitals, right? 6 hospitals ready to open, 6 hospitals with a capacity of 200 beds. What do I mean by "ready for opening"? We're not saying we'll do it. No, we're saying | إنتوا سمعتم كلام كثير عن مشكلة، يعني أجهزة التنفس الصناعي.. أنا عايز أقول لكم، وأنا بكلمكم دلوقتي، وأنا بكلمكم دلوقتي، غير اللي تم عرضه، ويصلح لي رئيس هيئة الإمداد والتموين، واللوا إيهاب.. إحنا في ٦ مستشفيات.. مش كدة؟ ست مستشفيات جاهزين للافتتاح، ست مستشفيات طاقة المستشفى ٢٠٠ سرير. أنا عايز أقول جاهزة للافتتاح يعني إيه، مش إحنا بنقول هانعمل. لأ ده إحنا بنقول إحنا |

we're ready. And that's what I said in the hall, that there are many projects whose openings have been postponed due to the circumstances we're facing. I'm talking to you about six Armed Forces hospitals, in addition to the Ministry of Health hospitals that are currently being implemented. Over the past six years, a huge effort has been made, and strong, ambitious planning has been undertaken by the Egyptian state in all sectors. We have not left any sector untouched without our intervention and effort to develop it and bring it to the level we hope for our country, Egypt.

مستعدين، وده الكلام اللي أنا قلته جوة في القاعة إن في مشروعات كثيرة تم تأجيل افتتاحها لظروفنا اللي إحنا موجودين فيها. وأنا بكلمكم على ست مستشفيات للقوات المسلحة حتى غير مستشفيات وزارة الصحة اللي بيتم تنفيذها. خلال الست سنين اللي فاتوا، اتعمل جهد كبير قوي، واتعمل تخطيط طموح قوي للدولة المصرية في كافة قطاعات الدولة، ماسيناش قطاع من القطاعات إلا لما اتدخلنا وبذلنا فيه جهد عشان نطور من هذا القطاع ونخليه يصل بالمستوى اللي بntمناه لبلدنا مصر.

Comment

This excerpt completes the whole idea and strengthens the solidarity that the President shows throughout. The president focuses upon concrete nouns and objects such as “ventilators” (أجهزة التنفس الصناعي), “the head of the Supply and Catering Authority” (رئيس هيئة الإمداد والتموين), “six hospitals ready to open” (ست مستشفيات جاهزين للافتتاح), “six hospitals with a capacity of 200 beds” (ست مستشفيات طاقة المستشفى ٢٠٠ سرير), in addition to “six Armed Forces hospitals” (ست مستشفيات للقوات المسلحة). The President

highlights the great efforts exerted as an evidence of wise management of crises. This management is based upon the right decisions, appropriate planning, and rapid response from all sectors. The President's use of the first person plural possessive pronoun in the phrase "our country" is masterfully employed for consolidating the line of solidarity drawn from the very beginning.

8.6 Excerpt Six (Speech Two)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|--|--|
| Therefore, I'm telling you, as I'm talking to you now, there are now 6 hospitals, ready to operate, I don't want to say, fully operational, with everything... And as I'm talking to you now, I swear they shouldn't have said this, I swear they shouldn't have said this... I'm telling you there is equipment, and this is also thanks to God, and when we were talking about the unified | فأنا بقولكم وأنا بكلمكم دلوقتي، دلوقتي موجودين ٦ مستشفيات، يعني، جاهزين للتشغيل، يعني مش عايز أقول، يعني، عالمفتاح يعني، بكل حاجة.. وأنا بكلمكم دلوقتي، المفروض الكلام ده ماقولوش والله، والله الكلام ده ماقولوش... أنا بقولكم في معدات، يعني، وده بردو بفضل من الله علينا، وأنا لما كنا بنتكلم على الشرا الموحد |

purchasing of supplies and medicines in the Egyptian state, this had a really, really big impact. So, when we come and say, "I wonder what we have," go ahead, Ihab, go ahead... And I, when I say that we have appropriate reserves for this crisis, I am not talking about the Ministry of Health and its reserves, nor the Armed Forces and its reserves, no, I am talking about other reserves, and this is my nature in any case, this is me, I mean, my nature as a human being, before I am... I always like to have reserves on the side to confront an unexpected circumstance. The face of the time that we are in, now I imagine that if we need it we will get it.

للمستلزمات وللأدوية في الدولة المصرية، ده كان ليها تأثير كبير جدا جدا. وبالتالي، لما بنيجي نقول يا ترى عندنا، اتفضل يا إيهاب، اتفضلوا... وأنا، وأنا بقول إن إحنا عندنا احتياطات مناسبة للأزمة ديت، أنا مش بتكلم على وزارة الصحة، واحتياطياتها، ولا القوات المسلحة واحتياطياتها، لأ، بتكلم على احتياطات أخرى، ودي طبيعتي على كل حال، دي أنا، يعني، طبيعتي كإنسان، قبل ما أكون.. دايما أحب يكون عندي احتياطات على جنب لمجابهة ظرف مش متوقع، وجه الوقت اللي إحنا، دلوقتي أتصور إن إحنا لو احتاجنا ده هانطلعه.

Comment

In this excerpt, the President speaks to the Egyptian citizens and reassures them of the readiness and well-preparedness of the leadership and the country to confront the pandemic. He has listed several hospitals that are affiliated either to the Ministry of Health or to the Armed Forces. Again, the President reassures the Egyptian citizens that these facilities are well-equipped and ready to deal

with any emergency. That is to say, everything is in working order. Furthermore, the President spotlights the efforts exerted for overpowering the pandemic and asserts the need for a firm stand in the face of the global catastrophe. The President also commends the efforts exerted and the Egyptian state's uniform procurement of supplies and medications.

8.7 Excerpt Seven (Speech Two)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|---|---|
| And I can say these precautions, these precautions are inviolable, Bahaa, huh? They are inviolable only after being shown to me, okay? Go ahead and relax. I just want to say to all of you, and through you the Egyptian people, rest assured, just help us, have faith in yourselves and in us, just help us again, we want to celebrate, God willing, celebrate, that we no longer | ويمكن أنا الاحتياطات دي بقول، هذه الاحتياطات لا تُمس، يا بهاء، هه؟ لا تمس إلا بعد العرض عليا، خلاص؟ اتفضل استريح. فأنا عايز أقول بس ليكم جميعا ومن خلالكم الشعب المصري، اطمئنوا، بس ساعدونا، ثقوا في أنفسكم، وفينا، بس ساعدونا تاني، عايزين نحتفل إن شاء الله، نحتفل إن شاء الله، بأن إحنا مابقاش عندنا لا إصابات، ولا وفيات. وده ممكن، |

| | |
|--|--|
| have any infections, no deaths. And that is possible, it's easy so far, but focus with us a little, focus with us a little. | حتى الآن سهل، بس ركزوا معانا شوية، ركزوا معانا شوية. |
|--|--|

Comment

The very first sentence is typically informal in terms of word order: “And I can say these precautions, these precautions are inviolable, Bahaa, huh?” (ويمكن أنا الاحتياطات دي بقول، هذه الاحتياطات لا (تُمس، يا بهاء، هه؟). This naturally overflowing conversational style deviates from the characteristically formal and diplomatic language of presidential addresses. The President has thus been capable of creating a friendly atmosphere at a time during which all the Egyptian citizens need reassurance and solidarity. It is also put in the form of a rhetorical question as is the following utterance: “They are inviolable only after being shown to me, okay?” (لا تمس (إلا بعد العرض عليا، خلاص؟). Here is how the President reassures the citizens in this critical period in the history of humankind; the measures and precautions are inviolable until they are presented to the President to check them and make the right decision.

Remarkably, the remaining part of the present excerpt includes six imperative clauses that mark the seriousness and urgency of the current situation. Interestingly, the tone is motivating inspiring, hopeful, reassuring, promising, positive, encouraging and boosting. This is how the President addresses “all of you, and through you the Egyptian people”:

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | rest assured |
| 2 | just help us |
| 3 | have faith in yourselves and in us |
| 4 | just help us again |
| 5 | focus with us a little |
| 6 | focus with us a little |

The note on which the above excerpt ends is one of optimism and communalism as manifest in the masterful use of the first person plural subject pronoun “we” and its variant (first person plural object pronoun “us”):

we want to celebrate,
 God willing,
 celebrate, that
we no longer have
 any infections, no deaths.

The excerpt closes upon a remarkable note of hope without which heart would break: “And that is possible, it's easy so far,” the idiomatic participial clause “God willing” adds a divine touch to the whole for being free of illnesses and deaths.

8.8 Excerpt Eight (Speech Two)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|---|---|
| Here again, allow me, once again, while I am here in this place, to offer my prayers and good wishes to the British Prime Minister, and I wish him a speedy recovery from the | هنا بردو اسمحولي إن أنا مرة ثانية وأنا موجود في يعني في هذا المكان، إن أنا أتوجه بالدعاء والأمني الطبية لرئيس الوزراء البريطاني، وأتمنى له الشفاء |

| | |
|---|--|
| injury, and to come out and return to leading his country in safety and peace, and we wish security and peace for all people. | العاجل من ال، يعني من الإصابة، ويخرج ويعود إلى قيادة بلده بكل أمان وسلام، وبنتمنى الأمن والسلام لكل الناس. |
|---|--|

Comment

Interestingly, the President's love extends far beyond national borders to embrace all human beings. This is manifest in his expressive condolences and best wishes to the British Prime Minister to recover the infection he caught and survive the catastrophe. Thus, the President hopes the British Prime Minister would get better quickly and make the required progress to resume leading his nation in safety and peace. Furthermore, the President wishes for everyone to live in security and peace.

8.9 Excerpt Nine (Speech Two)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Speech Title in English | Text of President El-Sisi's speech during his inspection of the Armed Forces' preparations to confront the Coronavirus |
| Speech Title in Arabic | نص كلمة السيسي خلال تفقده استعدادات القوات المسلحة لمواجهة فيروس كورونا |
| Release Date | 7/4/2020 |
| URL | https://almanassa.com/stories/4358 |

| Translated Text | Original Text |
|---|---|
| Once again, thank you. Always be prepared, as I expect from you, especially with regard to disinfection | مرة ثانية بشكركم، وكونوا دائما مستعدين زي ما أنا متوقع منكم، وخاصة أعمال التطهير اللي |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>efforts, which I envision will increase significantly during this period and the coming period, covering all Egyptian regions in coordination with other state agencies. Once again, I do thank you. The truth is, what I'm witnessing today, as I said, truly calls for high esteem and pride. Thank you very much; we are thankful.</p> | <p>أن أتصور إن خلال الفترة ديت، والقادمة، هاتزيد بمعدلات كبيرة، حتى تغطي كل المناطق المصرية بالتنسيق مع أجهزة الدولة الأخرى.</p> <p>مرة ثانية، بشكركم، والحقيقة اللي أنا شايفه النهاردة زي ما قلت كدة يدعو إلى التقدير والفخر، شكرا جزيلا متشكرين.</p> |
|--|--|

Comment

The President thanks the Egyptian people once again. Once more, the informal touch adds a note of familiarity and solidarity to the scene as manifest in the proximal demonstrative pronoun “this” in the phrase “during this period” (الفترة ديت); the colloquialism “الفترة ديت” is used instead of the formal phrase “هذه الفترة”. The President also asks all the Egyptian citizens to be always be ready as far as the disinfection operations are concerned. Again, the President reassures them that these operations will increase vividly over the course of this and the upcoming period. Thus, the operations will cover and encompass every part of Egypt. This will be achieved via the sincere collaboration of all the country’s organizations and agencies. The closing sentence highlights the President’s thankfulness three times for all the Egyptian citizens: “I do thank” (بشكركم), “Thank you very much” (شكرا جزيلا) and “we are thankful” (متشكرين).

The current speech is called a crisis discourse in which the President proves how a powerful leader is capable of handling the

pandemic at the national as well as global levels. Here, the President addresses the armed forces to make sure of the required preparations for confronting the pandemic, thus underpinning national unity, harmony, commonality, camaraderie, and solidarity. The discourse is analyzed for its use of language, power dynamics, and underlying ideologies. It is noteworthy that the speech is delivered in the middle of this crisis. The President has spotlighted this menacing public health emergency in which the armed forces and healthcare systems have a fundamental role to play. The President has masterfully managed to march the armed forces' support and to, at the same time, to encourage the concerned health sectors to be well-prepared for overpowering the pandemic.

Implicit in the situation is the solidarity message sent to all Egyptians based upon the measures and procedures adopted for confronting the Virus, thus sustain the solidarity on which the President is keen all the way through. By implicature, the citizens are motivated to take part in this national collective effort. The President has managed to follow the strategies he adopts and take part in the collective efforts to be exerted for challenging the pandemic and any other issue that may crop up. In so doing, the President has provided a vibrant, flawless and rich vision for sustaining internal and external solidarity.

Furthermore, the President has shown appreciation and reverence towards the military and the healthcare officials by inaugurating his speech by the name of Allah Almighty: In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. The President articulates appreciation to the armed forces and health sectors, thus establishing a positive tone. Equally important is the clever use of the first person plural subject pronoun "we" and its variants (first person plural object pronoun "us" and first person plural possessive pronouns "our" and "ours"). By highlighting

teamwork and shared accountability, this promotes solidarity among the military, medical professionals, and civilians. The President has probed deep into the citizens' psychology and assured them that Egypt is a strong and able country. This breeds confidence in the state's capabilities of challenging the pandemic and consolidates the trust the citizens keep upon their wise and competent leader.

The speech is cohesive and coherent and follows a logical sequence from start to finish. The speech has a well-defined format: it starts with thanks, then goes on to describe the state's readiness, and ends with appeals for trust and collaboration. The audience's comprehension and involvement are improved by this logical progression. The President has highlighted and stressed Egypt's readiness as far as hospitals and other healthcare institutions are concerned, thus safeguarding Egyptians against the emerging and rapidly spreading pandemic. Here is how the President unveils his power dynamics as a decisive leader who can manage any emergency on the spur of the moment. The President has called upon the Egyptian Armed Forces: By highlighting the military's readiness and past sacrifices ("martyrs and injured"), the speaker reinforces the military's status as a vital force for national security and crisis management.

Moreover, the President has his own ideology that has intertwined the efforts of the Armed Forces, healthcare services providers, and the citizens themselves into one nationalist unity that has shouldered responsibility for cooperating and collaborating for overpowering the pandemic. The President has thus expanded the scope of solidarity to embrace other nations, confirming that Egypt has the resources to do so. This humanitarian instinct on the part of the President has made him assure that this is a situation that

requires noble conducts and there is no nobler behavior than helping others in times of crises.

The President has also called for the citizens to be part and parcel of the process and to collaborate in order to overcome this one of the most terrible situations in the history of humanity. This is a time in which the country and the whole world need all hands to pull under the slogan “United, we are might.” In other words, this is a time for mobilizing all available resources to conquer the pandemic. Interesting still is the President’s amazingly rapid response to the concerns of the citizens about the obtainability and readiness of hospitals and other medical resources. The President has been capable of assuring the citizens that the Egyptian leadership spares no effort for guaranteeing medical services and care for free to all Egyptians without discrimination. That is to say, the hospitals (whether equipped through the Armed Forces of the Ministry of Health) are ready to admit any number of cases. The credibility of the President’s discourse has aptly alleviated the citizens’ fears of any possible shortage. It is no wonder then that, after producing the vaccines, the President has ordered that all Egyptians be vaccinated for free in a smart move that has been found nowhere in the world at the time.

This powerful and credible discourse has unveiled a type of transparency in speech that has sustained the citizens’ trust in the power, decisiveness, credibility, truthfulness and solidarity of their President. It is worthy of notice that the President has widened the scope of assistance and care to embrace the whole world. Towards the end of the speech the President wishes recovery for Boris Johnson, then British Prime Minister, thus showing that the President is keen upon confirming Egypt’s global role which is based on solidarity for and responsiveness to all human beings. The speech closes upon an optimistic note to sustain hope because

without hope hearts would break as the citizens can easily glean for themselves that the President's efforts and decisive decisions have played a vital role in minimizing mortalities and infections. The final supplication of Allah's support and backing as manifest in the subjunctive structure "God willing" (إن شاء الله) adds a layer of psychic inspiration. The President's final expression of thankfulness and appreciation takes the issue a step further and uncovers the commonality of the situation.

9. Conclusion

Political discourse can refer to any written or spoken political text. As a category of public speech, political discourse focuses on the general administration of national or state affairs or public policy, according to other authors. Election campaign programs, press conferences, party manifestos, government news releases, political documents, speeches, letters, interviews, and other comparable items are often regarded as political discourse. Political speech then uses particular linguistic strategies. Generally speaking, the four main categories are vocabulary, grammar, speech coherence, and intertextuality.

The President's public speaking style is unique. He portrays himself as an effective leader who takes on all responsibilities and handles issues. He speaks in a straightforward and casual manner. Another factor that makes him unique is his informality, which shows up in many different forms. He tries to be transparent and approachable to all citizens. He provides rational explanations for his political remarks.

Lastly, political speech from the President is more consistent with mainstream discourse. One characteristic of the President's latest addresses is that he regularly uses personal tales to make his points more relatable to the audience.

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الملخص:

تناول البحث الحالي تحليلاً نقدياً للخطاب حول القوة والتضامن في خطاب الرئيس السيسي حول جائحة فيروس كورونا. لقد أحدث هذا الوباء بالفعل تكاليف باهظة على المستوى العالمي. وقد نشأ هذا الفيروس الجديد (كوفيد-١٩) في مدينة ووهان الصينية التابعة لمقاطعة هوبي. وقام هوانغ وآخرون (٢٠٢٠) بتسليط الضوء على التأثير السلبي العالمي الذي أحدثه الوباء على العالم. وذكروا إن هذا الفيروس تسبب في سلسلة من الإصابات والأمراض التي أدت إلى معدلات وفيات كبيرة على مستوى العالم. ولسوء الحظ، كان عدد الحالات في ارتفاع مستمر. ولوقف هذا التفشي الخطير، كان لزاماً اتخاذ قرارات قوية. وقد ركز الباحث على خطاب الرئيس السيسي بشأن جائحة فيروس كورونا من خلال توظيف أدوات تحليل الخطاب النقدي لإبراز القوة والتضامن الذين يميزان هذا الخطاب. ولقد أظهرت قرارات الرئيس تضامناً كبيراً مع كل المصريين وكل الأمم وليس مع الأفراد، مما أثبت قوته في مواجهة هذا الوقت الكارثي. وأثبت الرئيس أيضاً أن قراراته تتسجم مع التضامن مع المواطنين خطاباً وواقعاً. لقد حوّل الرئيس أقواله إلى أفعال حقيقية لإدارة الأزمات. وقد حققت القرارات المتخذة رضا الرأي العام من حيث إيقاف الوباء بشكل كامل، وتطعيم كافة المواطنين مجاناً، وتقديم المساعدات المالية وغيرها لهم. وبذلك أصبح الخطاب مرآة لتدابير السياسة التي اتخذها الرئيس فيما يتصل بالمصادقية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل الخطاب النقدي، القوة ، التضامن ، الرأي العام، القبول الوطني ،التدابير السياسية.