



Pragma-Rhetoric Analysis of Political Discourse: A Case of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's Victory Speech

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Abstract

Political discourse (PD) plays a significant role in disseminating political ideologies. Previous studies mainly examined PD from a critical discourse perspective ignoring the significant contribution of the pragma-rhetorical approach that provides systematic tools for multi-level analysis of discursive contextualization of political power struggle and confrontation. The current study investigates the use of different speech acts and modes of rhetoric used by Pakistan's PM Shahbaz Sharif in his victory speech, for effective persuasion, and to detect communicative and persuasive intentions. In the current study, qualitative data analysis is conducted through thematic analysis by utilizing Searle's (1969) speech acts theory, Lucas's (2009) persuasive appeals, McQuarrie's and Mick's (1996) rhetorical devices as theoretical frameworks. The findings reveal that the representatives were the most frequently used speech acts, in contrast, the least frequently used speech acts were expressive. Moreover, the frequency of persuasive intention was 59% which is higher than the communicative intentions that showed the speaker was inclined to persuade his audience by asserting facts and making promises.

Keywords: communication, intentions, persuasion, Pragma-Rhetoric analysis, speech acts, political discourse

Introduction

Political activities and processes develop from the intellectual discourse and communication between individuals and are formed by these interactions. Political discourse debate is a crucial tool for establishing legitimacy and formulating decisions, as well as for the effective operation of political power. Political figures not only provide a viewpoint of the world, but also create a compelling narrative of themselves and their actions by demonstrating solidarity with the audience, evaluating ideas and expressing divergent views (Basarati & Zohrabi,

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2024). Therefore, effectively managing their own 'voice' and validating their position is essential for constructing a meaningful discussion. The language of politics and the politics of language over time has been a problem for many domains of study because the use of speech in the political arena influences not only the individualistic attitudes, opinions and acts but it also has a deep impact on the political behavior of entire institutions and communities.

The study of politics and political phenomena has contributed to the convergence of several scientific disciplines. Specifically, the anthropology of politics integrates research from anthropology and political science to examine and contrast the diverse social control mechanisms in different societies, to analyze the power structures, as well as the level of agreement and the patterns of equality or inequality within them (Hou, 2020). In political communication studies, a similar "convergence" can be found, focusing on how communication forms affect political power relationships, by identifying categories of political styles of communication and networks, and their impact on political behavior and attitudes of people (Scupin, 2019). The aim of the political discourse is to investigate "common ways in which persuasion techniques function in political life; and how argumentation tactics are used to form judgments" (Serafis et al., 2020, p. 1).

In their study, Al-Hindawi and Harbi (2020) present an interpretative paradigm that aims to comprehend the figurative use of political rhetoric in fostering unity and bridging differences through deliberation. This paradigm is influenced by Meyer's (2010) Questioning Theory of Rhetoric, which, rooted in Problematology, views rhetoric as the process of negotiating the gap between individuals in connection to different questions. The disparity among individuals for a particular matter (logos) is the disparity between the persuasive arguments (ethos) and emotional appeals (pathos) in their approach. However, the main issue with political discourse rhetoric (Nartey & Ernanda, 2020) and political discourse pragmatics (Arroyo, 2015) is that they both work towards the same goal: political rhetoric emphasizes the individual and situation-specific methods of persuasion and argumentation employed by politicians, while the pragmatics of political discourse focuses on analyzing and rebuilding the genre-specific processes of deliberation, adversariality, and power struggle that form the foundation of discursive practices in political institutions.

Literature Review

Both pragmatics and rhetoric are concerned with the application of discursive and extra-discursive strategies that aid in the negotiation and re-negotiation of meaning within a particular context. Furthermore, they encompass the cooperative execution of interpersonal and institutional relationships in connection to stated goals and anticipated outcomes. The resurgence of political rhetoric can be attributed to several factors, including prevailing socio-political patterns, the growing involvement of diverse media professionals and the local community in politics, the rise of participatory leadership, the prevalence of confrontational discussions on social networks, and notably the growing use of divisive exploitation, deceptive rhetorical techniques, the proliferation of false claims, and the repeated use of blatant misrepresentations, satirical rhetoric, and clichés (Ilie, 2018).

There are two important reasons why the current and developing research in the convergence of pragmatic and rhetorical political language studies must be critically examined. These two fields overlap in explaining the ways and reasons of political events and introducing new forms of political communication. At the same time, its academic agenda and analytical viewpoints are diversified by integrating empirical and theoretical research in a political debate into the widening fields of linguistics (Hou, 2020). This specific field of research has increasingly become essential in the systemic study (deconstruction and reconstruction) of the politically conducted contexts, norms, objectives, substance, and acceptance of speeches and practices.

The Pragmatics-Rhetoric Interface

Morris (1938) defines pragmatics as the intermediary between rhetoric and other sub-disciplines within language. His critique focused on the function of pragmatics as the examination of language usage and its significance to both speakers and listeners. This examination encompasses two distinct aspects: pragmalinguistic and sociopragmatic. A significant task of pragmatic research is the study of changes in the structure, transmission, deconstruction, and reconstruction of meanings in the actual use of the language, with special attention paid to the perception of context-sensitive multipurpose expressions, misunderstandings, and misconceptions. Pragmatics deals with mapping how the significance(s) of the utterances shift in relation to usage, the time and intent of the interaction, and the interlocutors' positions and relationships. Pragmatics is based on the factors regulating our choice, the use of interpersonal and social linguistic types and patterns, and the

impact of our choice on the speakers, their thoughts, and acts.

In comparison to pragmatics, rhetoric depends on a deliberately constructed cultural and ethical theoretical framework. The essential tasks of rhetoric may also include the divulgence of ties between rhetorical speeches and the interpersonal interactions they restore. Norrick (2018) provides explanations about the impact of various modes of argument in stressing the decisive role of different types of audiences in communicative engagement, postulating about their influence on collectively or individually selected intended recipients. Akbari (2019) considers rhetoric as “the strategic management of discourse” in the same vein, and he treats rhetorical success as utterance- in-action, following Austin and Searle.

To better include the dynamic and multifaceted aspects of context-specific language use, the integration of microlinguistically focused pragmatic approaches with macrolinguistically oriented rhetorical approaches can enhance the understanding of this phenomenon. The objective of both pragmatic and rhetorical approaches is to study the development and collaborative formation of meaningful interpersonal communication interaction (Hou, 2014). The central inquiry in pragmatics is to the language and discourse strategies employed by language users to convey their rationales, intentions, and effectiveness in functioning and attaining their goals. The core inquiries in rhetoric revolve around the reasons and methods by which language consumers employ or are seen to employ particular language/discourse strategies in order to accomplish particular goals.

Adopting a rhetorical perspective (Hou, 2011, 2014) on pragmatic research and implementing a pragmatic systematization of rhetorical practice would help to align the two methods. Considering the facts offered in research to date, the present study aims to dispel the fallacy that pragmatics only adopts a bottom-up perspective as opposed to a top-down perspective. Pragmatics is a versatile analytical method that integrates multidisciplinary theoretical approaches. It can combine a bottom-up perspective, which analyses global issues through local linguistic processes and strategies, drawing on philosophy and specifically epistemology, with a top-down perspective, which considers textual and discursive phenomena in relation to wider social, social, and political sciences. In summary, it may be asserted that pragmatics places emphasis on language as it is used by human beings, whereas rhetoric centers on human beings as language is used.

This paper conceptualizes the interface as the central point of dynamic interconnection and interdependence across different disciplinary perspectives. It involves multiple levels of intersections in an integrative analytical merging work. Given the conflicts that emerge from the comparison of different academic viewpoints, this interface functions as an innovative means of combining complimentary and/or overlapping analytical approaches.

Research Methodology

This study aims to analyze the inaugural speech of Shahbaz Sharif to reveal the usage of speech acts and modes of persuasion qualitatively. It follows the Speech Act Theory of Austin (1962) and Searle (1969) as well as the Aristotelian triangle of Rhetoric (Poggi, 2005) for the qualitative analysis of the selected speech. The combination of these theoretical underpinnings is called the Pragma-Rhetoric framework proposed by Larrazabal and Korta (2002) to identify communicative and persuasive intentions in the usage of speech acts. When any utterance is produced, some kind of intention is present in the mind of the speaker that may be either communicative or persuasive. Communicative intentions are the intentions through which the speaker intends only to inform the hearer. On the other hand, if the speaker uses any of the modes of persuasion, the speaker has a persuasive intention. One wants not only to inform but also to appeal to one's good character, and emotions of the audience or presents arguments to persuade one's audience. For analysis, Urdu speech is translated into English for the ease of English and international speakers. The following theoretical aspects are used because without detecting the speech, the qualitative analysis of speech acts cannot be performed.

Research Material

The inaugural speech of PM Sharif was obtained from the archive of the national television channel of Pakistan and was transcribed and translated (from Urdu) into English for the ease/convenience of international researchers/readers. The duration of the speech was 58 minutes.

Data Analysis Procedure

Thematic analysis is employed for identifying, scrutinizing, and commenting upon themes or specific points inside data. Broun and Clark's (2006) framework of thematic analysis is followed.



Figure 1: Thematic analysis (Broun & Clark, 2006)

ATLAS.ti software was used for qualitative analysis to report the major themes. After coding the speech into utterances and identifying the speech acts, the researchers presented the data into tables and elaborated the percentage of frequency of speech acts and modes of Rhetoric in Shahbaz Sharif’s speech in tables. The Overall Relative Frequency Percentages (ORFPs) was used to find out the percentage of frequency of different types of speech acts in the data. This method gives statistics of the frequency of variables in percentage which helps/supports readers to have a quick review of the qualitative data.

Data Analysis

There were 453 Speech acts including Representative, Commissive, Directive, Expressive and Declarative present in the speech including two types of intentions i.e., communicative and persuasive, which are detected through identifying the modes of rhetoric in the speech acts. The findings also identified the modes of rhetoric in the utterances of the speaker.

Representatives Speech Acts

The following table 1 presents the findings related to representative speech acts found in Sharif’s speech. It includes the frequency and percentage of speech act and rhetoric.

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage of Representative Speech Act and Rhetoric

Speech act	Rhetoric	Frequency	Percentage
Representative	N\A	153	34%
Representative	Ethos	21	4.6%
Representative	Pathos	33	6.85%
Representative	Logos	34	7.45%

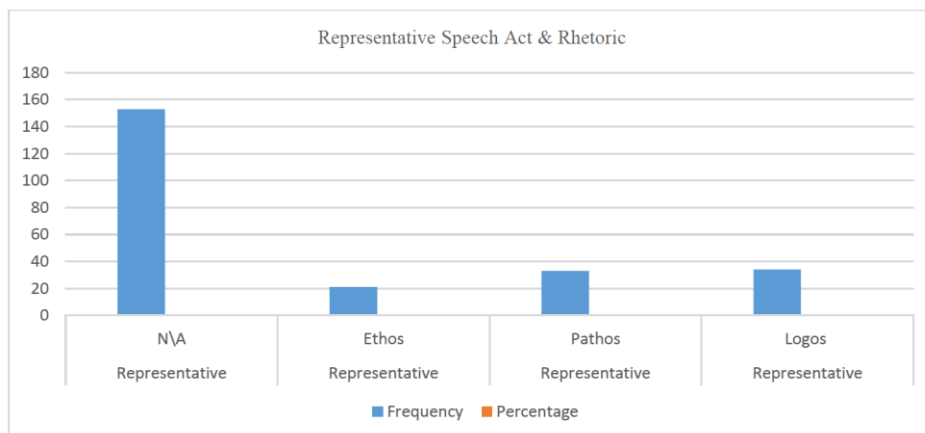


Figure 2: Percentage of Representative Speech Act and Rhetoric

(i) Representatives without Rhetoric

There were 153 representatives without any mode of rhetoric and the percentage of frequency of this type of speech act was 34% in the speech. It was the highest percentage in the quantitative analysis of this study. The data showed that this type of speech act had the highest occurrence in Sharif's speech. There was always some truth-value in a speech act of a Representative and this is

why representatives without rhetoric have the highest percentage. The speaker simply used this type of speech act to assert some facts which may also be falsified. Most of the speech contains representatives without rhetoric.

(ii) Representatives with Ethos

There were 21 speech acts of representatives with ethos. The percentage of occurrence of this kind of speech act was 4.6 which was comparatively least of all. The speaker tried to persuade the audience by giving facts and appealing through his good character.

(iii) Representatives with Pathos

The speaker used representatives with pathos in his speech 33 times, and the percentage of occurrence of this kind of speech act was 6.85. The analysis showed that the percentage of this type of speech act was higher than the previous type of speech act. On the other hand, the percentage of this type of speech act was also comparatively lower than the first type of speech act in table 1. The speaker presented facts to make his audience accept those facts by appealing to their emotions, sympathetic imagination and beliefs.

(iv) Representatives with Logos

The speech acts of representative with logos were used 34 times by the speaker in the whole speech and the percentage of this type of speech act was 7.30. The percentage of this type of speech act was comparatively identical to the previous type of speech act in table 4.1. As the representatives carry truth-value, therefore, the speaker used it to persuade his listeners by using logos. He presented his arguments using representatives.

Commissive Speech Act

A total of 120 commissive speech acts are found in Shahbaz Sharif's inaugural speech. Table 2 reports the frequency and percentage of commissive speech acts.

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage of Commissive Speech Act and Rhetoric

Speech act	Rhetoric	Frequency	Percentage
Commissive	N\A	12	2.45%
Commissive	Ethos	89	19.60%
Commissive	Pathos	10	2.20%
Commissive	Logos	9	2.25%

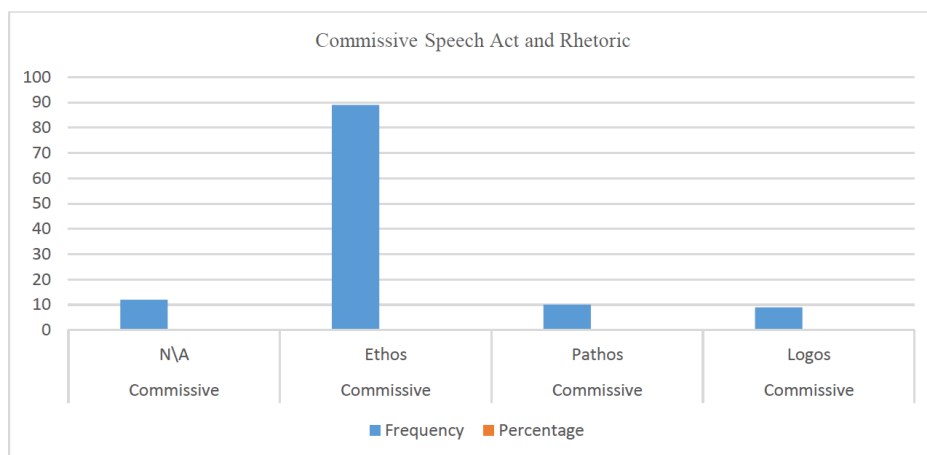


Figure 3: Percentage of Commissive Speech Act and Rhetoric

(i) Commissives without Rhetoric

Ilie (2018) elucidates that while uttering commissive the speaker commits to perform some future course of action. The speaker expresses intentions

to perform some tasks in future. There were only 11 commissive without rhetoric used by the speaker and the percentage of this type of speech act was 2.45. The data showed that commissive without rhetoric were comparatively fewer than other commissive. In the speech, the speaker showed intentions to perform different course of action for the audience without any mode of persuasion. He made promises to audience like maintaining good governance in the country, eradicating corruption, and giving jobs to the unemployed youth.

(ii) Commissive with Pathos

There are 10 occurrences of commissive with pathos and the percentage of occurrence of this type of speech act was 2.20. The data showed that the frequency of occurrence of this type was fairly less than other types of commissive. The speaker did not try to appeal to the emotions of the audience very frequently while uttering commissive rather he used to appeal to his good character more frequently while uttering Commissive.

(iii) Commissive with Logos

There were 120 speech acts of Commissive with logos in the whole speech of Sharif and he uttered only 11 commissive with logos and the percentage of this type of speech act was 2.45. Table 2 showed that the frequency of this type of speech act was also less than commissive with ethos. Though it remained equal to commissive with pathos and commissive without rhetoric.

Directives Speech Acts

As regards directive speech acts, there are found a total of 80 directive speech acts in the speech of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, as can be seen in table 3.

Table 3: Frequency and Percentage of Directive Speech Acts and Rhetoric

Speech act	Rhetoric	Frequency	Percentage
Directive	N\A	12	2.66%
Directive	Ethos	21	4.50%
Directive	Pathos	34	7.52%
Directive	Logos	13	2.87%

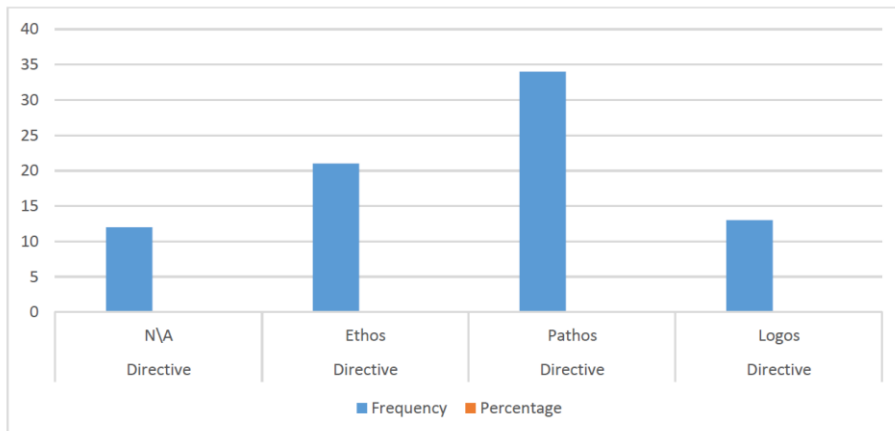


Figure 4: Percentage of Directive Speech Act and Rhetoric

(i) Directives without Rhetoric

Ilie (2018) states that while uttering directives, speakers attempt to get the recipient to do something. They express their desires to make hearers do something. There was a total of 80 speech acts of directives and the speaker uttered 12 directives without any mode of persuasion and the percentage of this type of speech act was 2.66 in the whole speech. Directives were used more frequently with modes of rhetoric than any other mode of persuasion, and this is why there was less frequency of occurrence of this type of speech act than other types in table 3 of this study.

(ii) Directives with Ethos

There were 21 directives with ethos out of 80 directives and the percentage of this type of speech act was 4.65. The data in table 3 showed that there was less frequency of directives with ethos. The speaker uttered directives with pathos more than the directives with ethos. According to the data in table 3, the speaker appealed to his good character less frequently while uttering directives.

(iii) Directives with Pathos

There were 34 directives with Pathos and the percentage of its frequency was 7.52. The data in table 3 showed that directives with pathos had the highest frequency in the whole speech of the speaker. This analysis showed that the speaker appealed to the emotions of the audience most frequently while uttering directives. The data of table 3 showed that there were 80 directives in the whole speech of the speaker and the directives with pathos were most frequently uttered by the speaker. This reveals

that the intention of the speaker was persuasive.

(iv) Directives with Logos

The speaker uttered 13 directives with logos in his speech and the percentage of frequency of this type of speech act was 2.87. The data showed that the occurrence of this type of speech act was like directives without any mode of Rhetoric. The speaker tried to persuade the addressee by appealing to arguments in directives less frequently, but he appealed to the emotions of his audience more frequently while uttering directives. Therefore, it showed that Shahbaz Sharif was not much interested in persuading his audience through logos while uttering directives.

Expressive Speech Acts

In the current study, there were only 14 expressive speech acts used by the prime minister. Table 4 presents the frequency and percentage of the data.

Table 4: Frequency and percentage of the data.

Speech act	Rhetoric	Frequency	Percentage
Expressive	N\A	8	1.77%
Expressive	Ethos	2	0.44%
Expressive	Pathos	4	0.88%
Expressive	Logos	0	0.0%

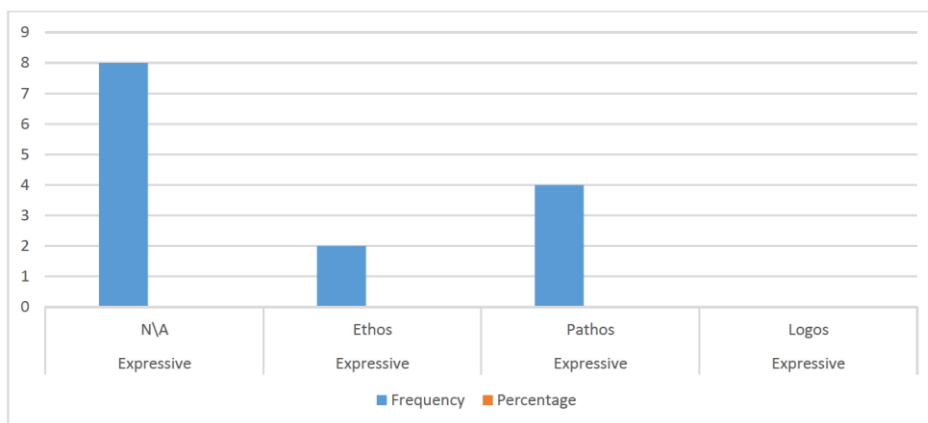


Figure 5: Percentage of Expressive Speech Act and Rhetoric

(i) Expressives without Rhetoric

Ilie (2018) argues that while uttering expressive speech acts, the speakers

express a psychological state of mind or sudden feelings such as happiness, mourning, sorrow, and likes/dislikes. There were 8 expressive without rhetoric acts out of a total of 14, and the percentage of this type of speech act was 1.77. The data in table 4 showed that Expressive without Rhetoric has the highest frequency.

(ii) Expressives with Ethos

The speaker uttered only expressive with ethos and the percentage of frequency of this kind of speech act was 0.44. The data in table 4 showed that expressive with ethos had the lowest percentage of frequency. The speaker did not use appeal to his good character widely while uttering expressive.

(iii) Expressives with Pathos

The speaker uttered 4 expressive with pathos and the percentage of frequency of this type of speech act was 0.88. The data in table 4 showed that the percentage of frequency of expressive with pathos was two times more than expressive with ethos.

(iv) Expressives with Logos

There were 14 expressives in the speech and there was no instance of expressive with logos. The speaker did not use appeal to logic while uttering Expressive.

Declaratives Speech Acts

In the current study, the speaker did not use declarative speech acts in his speech, as can be seen in the table.

Table 5: Use of declarative speech by speaker

Speech act	Rhetoric	Quantity	Percentage
Declaratives	N\A	0	0.0%
Declarative	Ethos	0	0.0%
Declarative	Pathos	0	0.0%
Declarative	Logos	0	0.0%

For the declaratives to be successful, they depend on extra linguistics institutions. There were no declaratives in Sharif's speech. Although the speaker was the then Prime Minister of the country, he may have brought about changes in the situation of the country, he did not consciously or

unconsciously utter any declaratives in his inaugural speech. Therefore, table 5 showed no data of this kind of speech acts.

Communicative Intentions and Persuasive Intentions

Communicative intentions are overt in their nature and the listeners are only informed about different facts and figures. When a speaker has a communicative intention, he or she only intends to convey what is in his or her mind without appealing to his or her good character, to the emotions of the audience, or to present logical arguments. Therefore, speech acts without any mode of persuasion have communicative intention.

Table 6: Pragmatic Intentions

Intention	Frequency	Percentage
Communicative	184	41%
Persuasive	268	59%

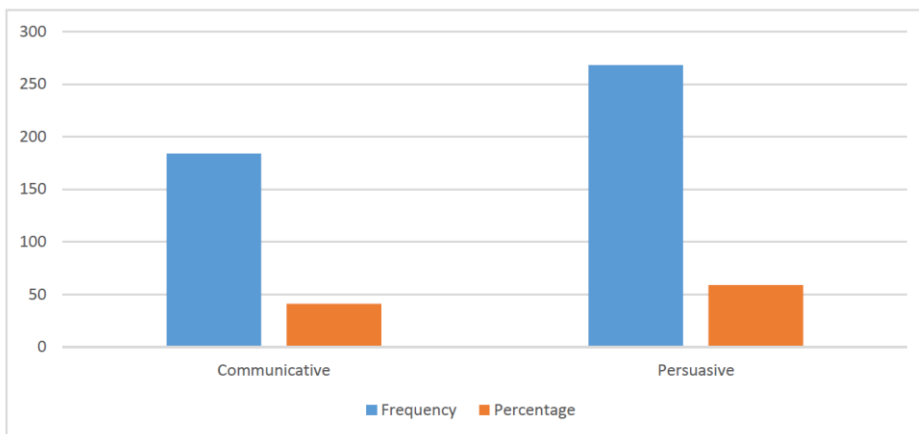


Figure 6: Pragmatic Intentions

On the other hand, the speech acts that had one of the modes of persuasion manifest persuasive intention, and most of the time, the persuasive intentions are covert. Persuasive intentions can be decoded by detecting the mode of persuasions in the utterances. Table 4.6 shows that there are 184 speech acts that have communicative intentions, and their percentage of frequency is 41% in the whole speech of Shahbaz Sharif. However, the speaker uttered 268 speech acts with persuasive intentions and their percentage of frequency is 59%.

Discussion

The current study was undertaken to find out the usage of language in political contexts as political discourse can be seen as the language of the

persuaders who use different rhetorical devices to gain the support of their target audience. The use of rhetorical devices (Baider, 2019) such as repetition, positive self-presentation, and negatively presenting others can abundantly be seen in the speeches of politicians and the scholars of political discourse have studied them from CDA perspective, but this study is different from other studies in different ways because it has employed a distinctive framework in order to explore and investigate the political language in society.

The Pragma-Rhetoric analysis was utilized to find out the usage of speech acts and modes of persuasion in the utterances of politicians. In the present case, these representatives make 53% of the whole speech and it is the highest percentage of any of the speech acts in the data. There are 34% representatives without any mode of rhetoric and the speaker presented only facts and details without trying to persuade the hearers as can be seen in this utterance “*Ye asal me do qism ki siyasat ha, aik wo jo insan karta ha apna career bananay k lye; dosri wo jo mere role model Quad- i-Azam M Ali Jinnah aik mission k lye politics karte han/ in reality there are two types of politics, one through which one focuses on one's own career, second, the one adopted by my leader Quad- i-Azam M Ali Jinnah, who followed a mission to serve humanity*”. Akinwotu (2021) explains that while uttering representatives the speaker presents propositional statements that carry truth-value; therefore, these statements can also be falsified.

On the other hand, there are 19% representatives with ethos, pathos, and logos in the whole speech, and in these types of representatives, not only did the speaker commit to express a proposition and the speech act that carry truth-value but also the speaker presented his good character, aroused emotions of the hearers and articulated logical arguments to persuade the listeners. This is why these types of speech acts reflect persuasive intention. In other words, the percentage of representatives which carry persuasive intention is 19.

As regards commissive, there are 27% commissive and this is the second-highest percentage of the frequency of speech acts and out 27% commissive, 3% are without rhetoric which means that these speech acts do not contain persuasive intentions, and the speaker only committed to perform some action without trying to persuade his hearers (Hou, 2020). On the other hand, 24% are commissive with ethos, pathos and logos. They are perceptible in this utterance “*ab me ap ko btata hon karna kya ha/now I tell you what to do*”. The political leaders (Alkhawaldeh, 2020; Du & Chen, 2022) desire to cultivate a favorable perception of themselves

and their political dedication, as the communication of this statement *“jidhar hum kharre han me ap ko muqabala kar k dikhaon ga hum kese niklen ge is burhans me se/the critical situation which our country is facing at the moment, I’ll fight this situation courageously and will lead my country to progress and development”*, by augmenting their positive ethos appeal (moral credibility) and by employing pathos (emotion evoking force) to evoke audience reaction and support.

Further, the data shows that directives are 18% in the whole speech, and they are the third highest in the percentage of the speech acts. Out of all the directives, directives without any mode of rhetoric are only 3% and in this type of speech act, the speaker wants to get the addressee to do something without presenting his good character, arguments, and appealing to emotions of the hearers (Jiang, 2014). 15% directives were with ethos, pathos, and logos and these types of speech also contain persuasive intentions, as can be observed in the following utterance *“lekin ap ne mere sath kharre hona ha kyon k hum ne ye mulk bachay ga, ye corrupt log nai bachen ge, to is lye tayyar ho jayen/but you got to stand by me because we need to protect this country, and we will not spare these corrupts, that’s why get ready to save your country from corruption”*. Allami and Barzegar (2020) suggest that in such circumstances the speaker tries to persuade the audience by appealing to the emotions of his audience more frequently while uttering directives.

In terms of expressive speech acts, there were only 3% expressives which was the lowest percentage of all the speech acts. There are only 8% expressive without rhetoric in the speech and the speaker only expressed his psychological state of mind such as gratitude without trying to persuade his hearers (Bagattolli & Brandão, 2019; Hou, 2020). There are only 1.2 % expressive with ethos, pathos, and logos, as is detectable in the following utterance *“lekin agar mujhe koi kahe k kisi bahir wale mulk se ja k paisa mango mujhe bhi sharam aye gi aur ap k lye kitna bura ho ga/if someone asks me to get a loan from another country, I’ll be feeling ashamed, and my country men will also get embarrassed at home as well as abroad”*. It is also observed that there were no expressive with logos. The speaker simply expressed his psychological state of mind without any argumentation.

As regards declarative, it is very interesting to note that there were no declaratives in the whole speech because declarative cannot occur without proper elaborative extralinguistic institutions for their successful performance (Jacobs & Tschötschel, 2019). Even though the speaker was the elected Prime Minister, yet he did not utter any declarative in his speech.

Hence, it is interesting to note that the speaker was inclined to assert facts and figures to the audience and, at the same time, made promises and threatened his opponents to reveal his future intentions. The speaker also made use of directives in order to persuade his audience. The main function of the Speech Act Theory is to elucidate what the speaker does with words (Grimaldi, 2019). From the cognitive pragma-rhetoric analysis, one can clearly perceive that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif uttered the illocutionary acts of representatives, commissive, expressive and declarative which were used for stating, affirming, assuring, promising, threatening, and requesting. The percentage of persuasive intentions was 59% and the percentage of communicative intentions was 41%. The difference shows that speech acts embedded with persuasive intentions were more than the speech acts with communicative intentions. It is a clear indication that the speaker wanted to persuade his audience using speech acts for getting their support after assuming office. In the speech, the speaker was delivering the inaugural speech to gain the support of his target audience. It is, therefore, interesting to note that he stated facts and figures more than making promises.

Conclusion

The study especially examined the influence of the pragma-rhetorical approach, which is an integrative analytical method at the interface of pragmatics and rhetoric, on the analysis of political speech. Synthesizing two methodologies entails combining a rhetorical perspective of pragmatic analysis with a pragmatic systematization of rhetorical inquiry. A fusion of pragmatics and rhetoric is logical when considering that pragmatics examines language in its usage by human beings, while rhetoric concerns itself with human beings using language. Therefore, we can deduce that the rhetoric of political discourse centers on the persuasive methods and argumentative mechanisms employed by political actors involved in articulate, impactful, and/or competitive verbal communication. The pragmatics of political speech focuses on the processes of constructing, deconstructing, and reconstructing deliberative, confrontational, and adversarial exchanges that form the basis of the political power struggle. Therefore, this paper displays the significance of examining discourses on colonialism and imperialism within a PDA framework by using this method to analyze a text that has not been before analyzed. As a result, it enhances our empirical knowledge of topics such as solidarity, postcolonial discourse, and the involvement of (post- independence) leaders in political decolonization.

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