# A Socio-Pragmatic Study of Position as Power Dynamic in the American Political Discourse

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**Abstract:**

In three randomly chosen American police interviews, position is examined as a significant social variable in the current study. Position has been studied as one of the primary discourse categories in political speeches. However, there hasn't been much investigation on the positions taken in American political speeches, especially from a sociopragmatic standpoint. By identifying position tactics and their manifestations in the under-review data, the current study aims to close this gap. The study aims Finding out the way speech act is utilized to reflect position differences in the political speech of the two American politicians, figuring out how politeness strategies assist these two American politicians in reflecting position differences in their political speeches, and identifying how position differences can be manifested through the use of the Grice's maxims in the political speech of the two American politicians. To achieve the aims and verify these hypotheses, the study develops a model consisting of three layers for the analysis. The first layer is composed of speech acts types according to the classification of Searle (1976). The second layer is based on Livenson's politeness strategies (1978) and the third layer based on the Grice's maxims (1975). A qualitative approach is used in data analysis that supported with tables of frequencies and percentages. Based on the findings, the study concludes that Regarding the utilization of speech act by both of the politicians the study concludes that, Biden uses the representative speech act the most, Positive politeness ids the most politeness strategy utilized by Biden and Relation maxim, which calls for speakers to make their points relevant, is the one that Biden uses the most.

## الخلاصة

في ثلاث مقابلات مع الشرطة الأمريكية التي تم اختيارها عشوائياً، يتم فحص الموضع كمتغير اجتماعي مهم في الدراسة الحالية. تمت دراسة الموقف كواحدة من فئات الخطاب الأساسية في الخطب السياسية. ومع ذلك، لم يكن هناك الكثير من التحقيقات حول المواقف التي اتخذت في الخطب السياسية الأمريكية، وخاصة من وجهة نظر اجتماعية. من خلال تحديد تكتيكات الموقف ومظاهرها في بيانات المراجعة تحت المراجعة، تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى سد هذه الفجوة. تهدف الدراسة إلى اكتشاف طريقة الكلام التي يتم استخدامها لتعكس الاختلافات في الموقف السياسي للسياسيين الأمريكيين، ومعرفة كيف يمكن أن تساعد استراتيجيات المداراة هذين السياسيين الأميركيين في عكس الاختلافات في الموقف في خطبهم السياسية، وتحديد كيف يمكن للاختلافات في الموقف تتجلى من خلال استخدام أقصى درجات غريس في الخطاب السياسي للسياسيين الأمريكيين. لتحقيق الأهداف، تطور الدراسة نموذجًا يتكون من ثلاث طبقات للتحليل. تتكون الطبقة الأولى من أنواع أعمال الكلام وفقًا لتصنيف Searle (1976). تعتمد الطبقة الثانية على

استراتيجيات ليفنسون (١٩٧٨) والطبقة الثالثة بناءً على (1975). Maxims Grice يتم استخدام نهج نوعي في تحليل البيانات المدعوم بجداول الترددات والنسب المئوية. استنادًا إلى النتائج، تخلص الدراسة إلى أنه فيما يتعلق باستخدام قانون الكلام من قبل كل من السياسيين، خلصت الدراسة إلى أن بايدن يستخدم قانون الكلام التمثيلي أكثر معرفات المداراة الإيجابية هي أكثر استراتيجية المداراة التي تستخدمها بايدن وعلاقة Maxim، التي تستدعي، التي تدعو لكي يجعل المتحدثون نقاطهم ذات صلة، هو الذي يستخدمه بايدن أكثر من غيره.

**Key words: Sociopragmatics, Political speech, social position.**

**دراسة اجتماعية – تداولية للموضع كقوة ديناميكية في الخطاب السياسي الأمريكي**

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## 1. Introduction

Language is a primary medium of communication, this medium of communication has been used by different social groups for sharing their thoughts, beliefs and ideas. Politicians as a social group usually use language to expose their judgments and viewpoints about other people, situations and things. While the majority of sociologists interchangeably use the words "position and status," others have made the distinction. Position in a role-structure relates to one's place in that structure, whereas status refers to how others perceive that position, whether they think it is high or low. It serves as an objective phrase in this sense (Merton ,1968).

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Sociopragmatics

### ٢.1.1 Definitions and Nature

Sociopragmatics, as (Angermuller et al., 2014, p. 259) mentions, is an approach of analyzing language and speech. Leech (1983) was one of the first linguists to recognize Sociopragmatics as a significant component of general pragmatics (see Figure 1). He defines general pragmatics as "The general conditions of the communicative use of language". He divides it into two categories: Pragmalinguistics and Sociopragmatics. The former refers to

**Figure 1**

*Leech's (1983) Classification of General Pragmatics*
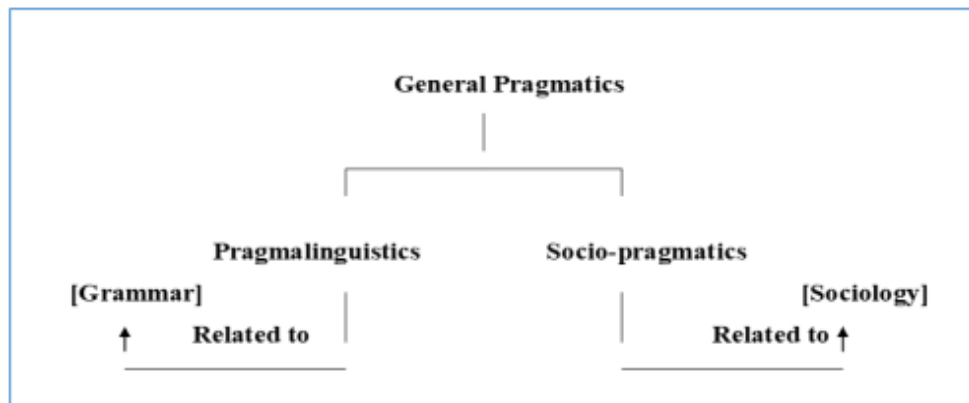


pragmatics' linguistic component, which consists of "the particular resources that a given language provides for conveying particular illocutions," i.e., the pragmatics-grammar interaction. The latter relates to the interaction between pragmatics and sociology, or the "sociological interface of Pragmatics."To put it another way, Sociopragmatics is primarily concerned with how discourse interacts with unique "local conditions on language use" such as social classes, gender, and power (pp.10-1).  Leech's (1983) classification of general pragmatics is demonstrated in Figure1.

Some linguists elucidate further the distinction between Pragmalinguistics and Sociopragmatics. Pragmalinguistics is the interface between linguistics and pragmatics, according to Richards and Schmidt (2002), focusing on the linguistic approaches used to achieve pragmatic aims, such as asking how to convey a compliment in a certain language. In contrast, Sociopragmatics is concerned with "the relationship between social factors and pragmatics". For example, to introduce the conditions and techniques that can be used for creating compliments in that language, such as "the social relationship between speaker and hearer" (p. 411). While Stranzy (2005) defines Pragmalinguistics as "the structural resources of language." Sociopragmatics is concerned with language use, whereas Sociolinguistics is concerned with language use and "relative social situations" (pp. 870 - 872).

### 2.2 Position

### 2.2.1 The Concept of Social Position

Most of the sociologists use the two terms "position and status" synonymously, but some have made distinction between these terms. "Position' denotes one's situation in the role-structure, while 'status' refers to the evaluative aspect of position whether others see it as 'high' or 'low'. In this sense, it is an objective term (Merton ,1968).

Johnson (1960) distinguishes the three related concepts, 'role', 'status' and 'position'. He defines a social position as something filled by an individual member of a social system. Accordingly, position consists of two main elements:

(1) Expectations and obligations held by other members concerning the behavior of the position incumbent.

(2) Right or the legitimate expectations of the position incumbent concerning the behavior of other members. The first element Johnson calls the role of a position, while the second element he calls the status of a position, it denotes the prestige of a position or an individual (Johnson, 1960).

The position conceptions compose a typical kind of the different position conceptions, according to which social position is, in a certain sense, the position held in the system or network of social relations (Farkas,2021 pp.7-8).

However, just as the representatives of the various conceptions interpret the concept of social relation in different ways, they also interpret the concept of social position in different ways if their conception is consistent. Social position means the position of the given individual (or group) in the system of social relations, which includes the position in the system of interest relations, and the position in the system of social power relations. This term is used in three analytical contexts with quite different meanings. In the analysis of social structure and differentiation, social status refers to:

(1) A position in social relations (for example student, parent, or priest) that is socially recognized and normatively regulated. This usage is often contrasted with a more specific one, associated with sociological studies of in equalities, and meaning,

(2) A hierarchical position in a vertical social order, an overall social rank, standing, and social worth. In this context, individual statuses are associated with privileges and discriminations. Finally, in contemporary studies of social stratification, especially those inspired by Max Weber, social status refers to

(3) An aspect of hierarchical location in the social order derived from established cultural conventions (traditional beliefs and popular creeds). It is contrasted with class (market position in the economic order) and party (authority or command position in the political/organizational order) (Turner, 2006. pp. 583-584).

Commenting on the term system in the above definition, that is used in a wider sense, and it means a specifically organized totality or whole, rather than a functional system. The subjects of social positions can be not only individuals, but, in a certain sense, they can also be social groups. Thus, the social position of the given individual can be examined within a given social group, in the system of social relations within the given group; but it can also be examined in the given sphere of social life or in a narrower circle of individuals(Farkas,2021).

Moreover, social relations are constituted of interest relations and social power relations. The concept of social position in this sense contains the two components of social position: the position in the system of interest relations and the position in the system of social power relations. (p.7).

As a result, social position is the position within the system of social relations, so the determining features of social position are the same as the ones that determine social relations. These features which in the traditional class theoretical conception are expressly taken into consideration (like property, occupation and qualification, authority, power etc.) as the determining factors of social position or as factors that are, to a certain degree, in correlation with the factors determining social position (Farkas, 2017, pp. 63-65).

## 2.٢.2 Political Speech

Many studies of political speech, some of which are discourse-analytic, focus on the language of professional politicians and political institutions (Chilton, 2004, p. 14). The players or creators of political speech, i.e. politicians, are recognized. In this context, politicians refer to a group of persons who are paid for their (political) activities and who are elected or appointed to positions of power in politics. However, diverse recipients, such as the public, the people, and citizens, should be included in political communication events. All of these individuals and groups, as well as their organizations and institutions, may participate in the political process, and many of them do so actively (Van Dijk, 1997, p. 13).

Political representations have been affected by the organizing of public life around style-oriented service and consumer activities. It is no wonder, however, that politicians are using a more individualized language of choice and lifestyle values to express their political messages to voters (Simpson & Mayr, 2010, pp. 42–43).

Political debate is about more than just articulating public viewpoints. It is a political issue. It is all about using words to accomplish goals. The political body is influenced by words. Lexical items may be chosen not only because they effectively emphasize political attitudes and opinions, manipulate public opinion, manufacture political consent, or legitimate political power, but also because they effectively emphasize political attitudes and opinions, manipulate public opinion, manufacture political consent, or legitimate political power.

The pragmatic regulation of speech actions and interactional-self presentation may be similar. To put it another way, while political speech structures are seldom mutually exclusive, normal and successful discourse in political contexts may likely have favored forms and techniques that are useful in the effective execution of political acts in political situations.

Studies on presidential addresses as a kind of political discourse have been conducted from a variety of angles. Political discourse has, without a question, been a prominent sector of language usage that has piqued the interest of scholars for a long time. This is because political speech is a complex human activity that warrants careful examination, especially given its prominent role in society's organization and control.

In addition, ideas and ideologies must be transmitted through language in political speeches so that they are accepted by the receivers as well as anyone who may read or hear parts of the speech later in the media. Words and phrases are used or removed in many ways to impact meaning. Furthermore, political speeches are written by a team of experienced speech writers who have been trained in compelling language. The success of a political speech is not always determined by its accuracy; rather, it may be determined by how well it presents ideas (Bread, 2000, p. 18). For example, before an election, several speeches are given to the public; these speeches are referred to as Pre-election special addresses, especially during rallies.

Moreover, the message being communicated or the speech act being performed, the participants involved, their intention, knowledge of the world, and the impact of these on their interactions, what they have taken for granted as part of the context, the deductions they make on the basis of the context, what is implied by what is said or left (Leech, 1983, p. 20; Watson & Hill, 1993, p. 146; Thomas, 1995, p. 7). The majority of politicians are ignorant that there is a connection between what is said, what is intended, and the action that is transmitted by what is stated.

## 3. The Eclectic Model

The model of the study consists of three basic linguistic strategies; all of which are based on Searle's (1979) classification of speech acts, Levinson's (1978) politeness strategies, and the Gricean Maxims that are presented by Grice (1975). The researcher has considered these language strategies and has used them as the basis of the analytical framework of the study.

Three strategies have been chosen to be studied by demonstrating their appearances in the political speeches presented by the American president, Biden, and the defense minister in America, Austin. The three strategies are the foundation upon which the eclectic model is firmly based.

The composition of the eclectic model is fundamental to manifest position differences in the American political speeches presented by the above mentioned leaders. All of the three components are elaborated in the following sections.

### 3.1 Searle's Classification of Speech Acts

Searle suggests five macro-classes of illocutionary act:

1- **Representation**: Yule (I996, p. 53) indicates that representatives are these kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the ease or not. Statements of facts, assertions, conclusions, and descriptions are examples of the speaker representing the world as he/she believes it is. For example:

**5-The earth is round**

      **6-Chomsky didn't write about peanuts.**

2- **Directives**: They are all attempts made by the speaker to get the hearer to do something. In this class, the speaker wants to achieve a future situation. Directives includes not only "order" and "request", but also "invite" dare" and "challenge" Coulthard (1985, pp.22-4). Yule (1996, p. 54) state that directives are these kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. They express what the speaker wants. They are commands, orders, requests, suggestions, and they can he positive or negative. For example:

**7-Don't touch it.**

**Open the door, please.**

3- **Commissive**: A category taken from Austin, are like detectives concerned with committing the speakers to achieve a future action, but this time, the point is to commit the speaker himself to acting and it necessarily involves intention Coulthard (1985, pp.22-4). Yule (1996, p.54) states that these kinds are those speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future actions. They express what the speaker intends. They are promises, threats, refusals, pledges. They can be performed by the speaker alone, or by the speaker as a member of a group. For example:

**8-I'll be back will not do that.**

4- **Expressive**: It is much less well defined; Searle (1979, p. 15) suggests that expressive is often represented the most difficult category, expressing the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the propositional content". As example he offers "thank", "apologize" and "deplore". In addition, cutting (2002, p. l7) says that the expressive group includes acts which the words state what the speaker feels, such as "apologizing", "praising", "congratulating", "deploring", and "regretting". For example: **9-A man without a wife is like a radio without a wave.**

**10- I'm rich and I'm poor- rich is better.**

5- **Declarations**: Yule (I996, p. 53) indicates that declarations are these words and expressions that change the world by their very utterance. The speaker has to

have a special institutional role in a specific context in order to perform a declaration appropriately. For example:

**11-I hereby pronounce you man and wife.**
**١٢- This court sentences you to ten years.**

### 3.2 Levinson's (1987) Politeness

There are many theories that are introduced by a group of famous scholars and linguists such as Lakoff (1975), Leech (1983) and Levinson (1987). The following section is limited to Levinson (1987) as it is the one adopted in the current study. Brown and Levinson (1987), offer five politeness super-strategies for dealing with FTAs:

1) Bald on-Record.
2) doing face-threatening acts.
3) Off-Record (indirectness)
4) Positive Politeness
5) Negative Politeness

### 1-Performing FTA without Redress (Bald on Record)

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), this strategy entails carrying out FTA "in the most direct, clear, unambiguous, and concise manner possible" (p. 69). According to Austin (1987), bald on record strategies are "the most likely of all the strategies to be perceived as rude" because they pay "little consideration to hearer's face demands," and are utilized when power imbalance is extreme (p. 45). Furthermore, according to Verschueren (2003), this strategy is "totally open and direct, without any attempt to allow the addressee to preserve some sense of freedom of action or equality" (p. 45). It repeats, for example, acts that "tend to include the imperative without any mitigating measures," that is, acts that lack mitigation and indirectness (Cutting, 2008, p. 46):

() "Tell me where you were that night" (Bruijnes et al., 2015, p.228).

### 2- Performing FTA with Redress (Positive Politeness)

Positive politeness is defined as "redress directed to the addressee's positive face" where his/her wants are thought of as desirable and taken into consideration (Brown & Levinson,1987, p.101). It seeks to establish a positive relationship between the speaker and the hearer, for example, when the speaker expresses his approval of the hearer's behavior as in:

**16-** "I think it's decent of you that you try to support your family financially" (Bruijnes et al., 2015, pp.228-9)

Likewise, the S can take into account the H's wants as in:

**17-** "Would you like to tell me where you were that night?" (Bruijnes et al., 2015, pp.228-9).

According to Brown and Levinson (1987, pp. 102-29), the strategies of positive politeness include three broad mechanisms along with fifteen sub-strategies as follows:

First: Claim common ground :( 1-8 strategies).

Second: Convey that speaker and hearer are cooperative: (9-14 strategies).

Third: Fulfil H's wants: (only one strategy:15).

## 3-Performing FTA with Redress (Negative Politeness)

Negative politeness is a "redressive action geared to the addressee's negative face: his need for unrestricted activity and unrestricted attention" (Brown & Levinson, 1987, p.129). That is, when the speaker employs negative politeness, he or she is attempting to avoid, or at the very least reduce, the imposition of a certain FTA on the hearer. Harris (2003) claims that negative politeness is used to "reify existing power structures" in institutional settings. This is accomplished through depersonalizing and isolating the participants' relationship in order to prevent explicit conflicts or potential communication breakdowns (p. 33), for example:

() "I hope having this chat with you isn't too bothersome."

(64) "Could you tell me where you were that night if it's not too bothersome for you?" (Bruijnes et al.,2015, p.229).

## 3.3 Gricean Maxims

The Gricean maxims can be used to describe the relationship between utterances and what is inferred from them (Betti,2021, p. 3). The concept is meant as a description of how people generally behave in conversation, despite the fact that it is framed as a prescriptive mandate. Grice's maxims, according to Jeffries (2010), "encapsulate the assumptions that we prototypically hold when we engage in speech" (Jeffries and McIntyre, 2010.p.106). Meanwhile, statements that appear to flout them on the surface may indicate implicatures that contribute to the meaning of the speech (Betti and Khalaf, 2021).

### 3.3.1 Observing the Conversational Maxims

As mentioned above, cooperation in interaction requires the observance of these maxims. These maxims run briefly as follows:

## A. Maxim of Quantity (Content Length and Depth)

In Grice's (1975, p. 45) words, the quantity maxim encompasses two submaxims that are supposed to be followed:

1- Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purpose of the exchange).
2- Do not make your contribution more or even less informative than is required.


### B. Maxim of Quality (Truth)

This maxim is stated as follows by Grice (1975, p.46):

1- Do not say what you believe to be false.
2- Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

### C. Maxim of Relation (Relevance)

There is just one sub-maxim in the relation maxim, which requires the speaker to make his or her contribution "relevant" (Yule, 1996, p.37). To put it another way, speakers should say things that are "relevant to the topic or aim of communication" (Widdowson, 2007, p. 61).

### D. Maxim of Manner (Clarity)

The fourth maxim is about how things are expressed and how they are most likely to be said. It comprises the supermaxim "be perceptive," as well as the following submaxims:

1. avoid ambiguity, avoid obscurity of expression — i.e., avoid language that is difficult to understand,

2. be brief i.e., avoid unnecessary prolixity,

3. be orderly i.e., provide information in an order that makes sense and

4. Avoid obscurity of expression (Grice, 1975, p. 46).

### 3.3.2 Non-Observing the Conversational Maxims

### 3.3.2.1 Flouting the Maxims

The Gricean maxims are so frequently deliberately flouted by politicians and authors, who may hide the entire truth and chose their words for the story's effect and the reader's enjoyment. Speakers that flout the maxims do so with the intention of their audience understanding their underlying implicature. In the instance of the clumsy buddy, he will almost certainly recognize that the speaker is not actually complimenting him (Betti, 1990, p. 91).

Therefore, cooperation is still taking place, but no longer on the literal level. When speakers flout a maxim, they still do so with the aim of expressing some thought. Thus, the Gricean maxims serve a purpose both when they are followed and when they are flouted (Grice, 1975, pp. 41–58).

### 3.3.3.2 Violating the Maxims

In circumstances of violation, a speaker purposely breaches a maxim in order to produce a false implicature, i.e., the objective of breaching any maxim is to deceive the audience. In other words, the speaker may deceive listeners by offering confusing, irrelevant, and inadequate information, causing "the hearer to incorrectly think that they are collaborating" (Cutting, 2002, p. 40).

Thomas (1995) also points out that "pragmatically incorrect statements of this sort are frequently seen in particular activity types such as trials, legislative speeches, and debates" (pp. 73-4). As a result, examples of CP violations might be found in the data being examined.

The following instances provide information on various topics, and in each of them, the speakers break one of the maxims:

48-A- How are you today?

49- Well, my car is broken and to tell you the truth I have no money to pay my sandwich this evening.

50-      A- The leaves danced in the breeze.

51-      John Major spoke in his usual forceful fashion.

52-      A- I do think Mrs. Jenkins is an old windbag, don't you? Huh, lovely weather for March, isn't it?

53-      Speaking about something irrelevant to A's utterance,

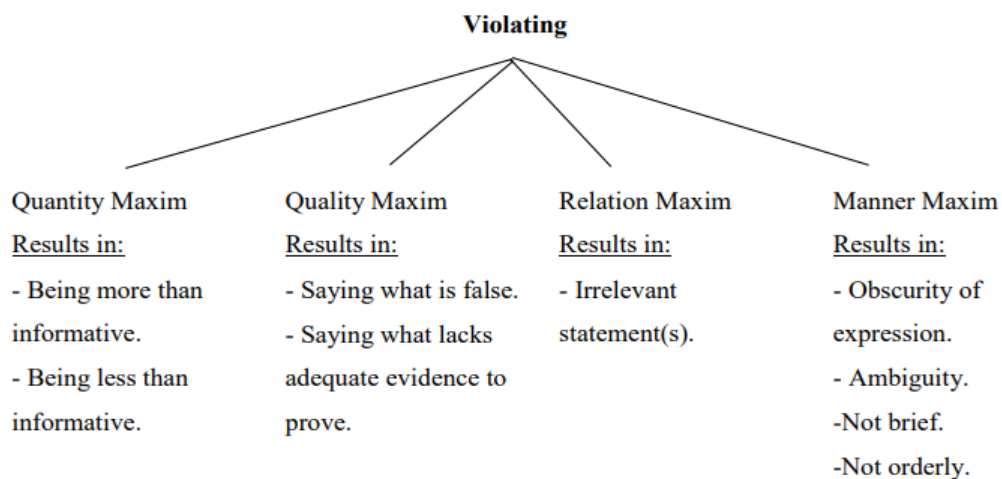54-      A- "How much did that new dress cost, darling?"

55- tiny fraction of my salary, though probably a bigger fraction of the salary of the woman that sold it to me".

In (1) (b) violates quantity maxim as she has not made her contribution as informed as it is required, (2) (b) violates the quality maxim only if she gives incorrect information, (3) violates the relation maxim as she changes the conversation topic to avoid responding to his question, and, eventually, (d) violates the manner maxim by not being brief enough.

To sum up, the results of the violation of maxims are summarized in the following figure

**Figure 1:**

*Violating Grice's Maxims (1975)*

**Violating**

| Quantity Maxim | Quality Maxim | Relation Maxim | Manner Maxim |
|---|---|---|---|
| Results in: | Results in: | Results in: | Results in: |
| - Being more than informative. | - Saying what is false. | - Irrelevant statement(s). | - Obscurity of expression. |
| - Being less than informative. | - Saying what lacks adequate evidence to prove. | | - Ambiguity. |
| | | | -Not brief. |
| | | | -Not orderly. |

To conclude, the components of the model are summarized in the figure below:
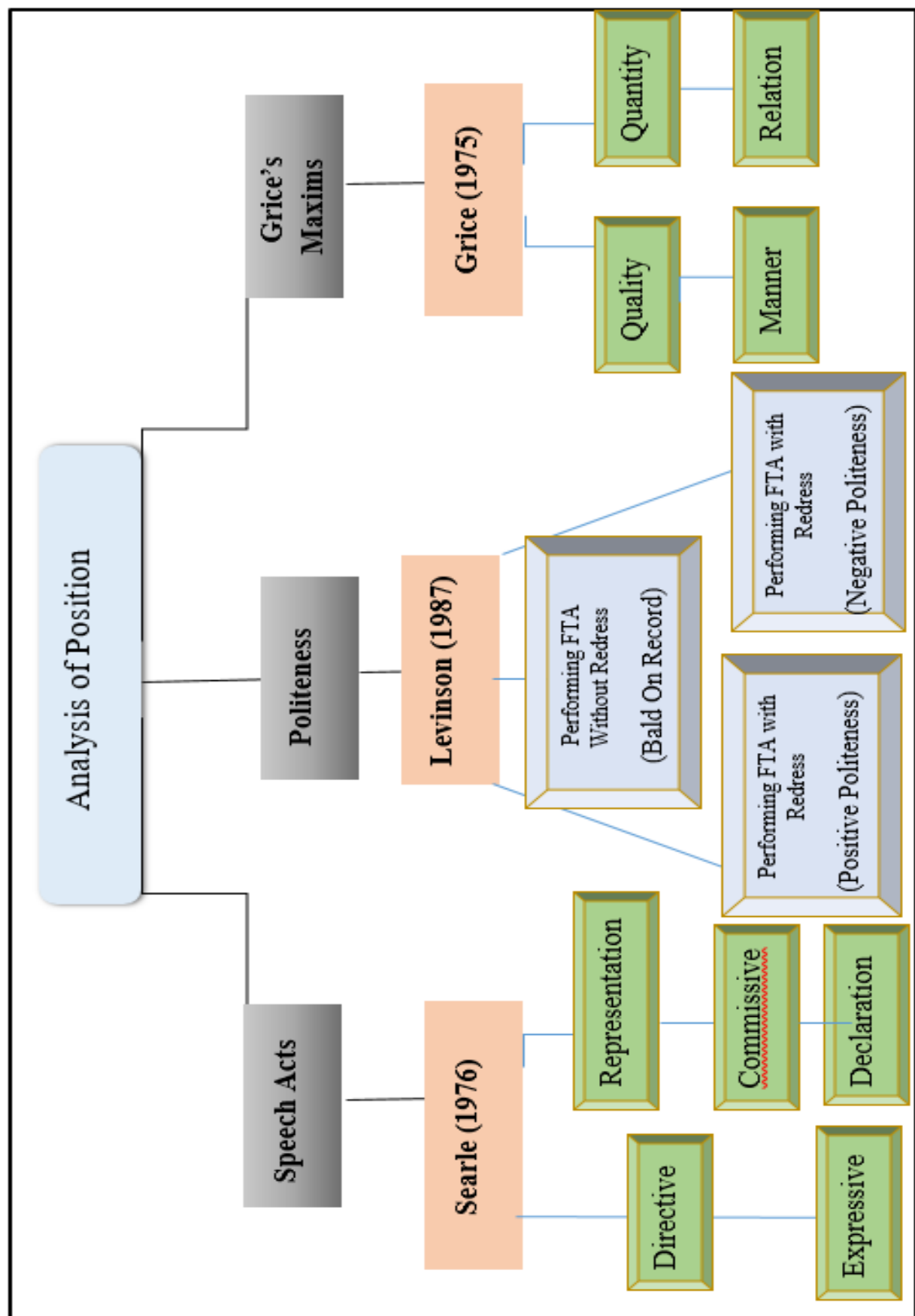
*The Model of Analysis /*



**Figure 2: Model of Analysis**

## 4. 1Results and Discussions

### 4.1.1 Analysis of Extract 1

The President Joe Biden holds news conference at NATO Summit in Madrid in 6/30/2022. He discusses the most important American issues and comments on the Ukrainian invasion by Russia. Biden starts the conference with greeting the reports and asks them to start asking their questions.

Speaker 1: Thank you, Mr. President. Two questions, please.

Joe Biden: of course.

Speaker 1: America is back being your motto at the first NATO summit last year. And you've come to this summit here and the one in Germany. After the US Supreme Court overturned constitutional protections for abortion, after the shootings in Buffalo and Texas, at a time of record inflation, and as new polling this week shows that 85% of the US public thinks the country is going in the wrong direction. How do you explain this to those people who feel the country is going in the wrong direction, including some of the leaders you've been meeting with this week who think that when you've put all of this together, it amounts to an America that is going backward?

Joe Biden: They do not think that. ***You haven't found one person, one world leader to say America's going backward. America's better positioned to lead the world than we ever have been.*** **We have the strongest economy in the world.** Our inflation rates are lower than other nations of the world. The one thing that has been ***destabilizing*** is the outrageous behavior of the Supreme Court of the United States in overruling not only Roe V Wade, but essentially challenging the right to privacy. We've been a leader in the world in terms of personal rights and privacy rights. ***And it is a mistake in my view for the Supreme Court to do what it did.***

In this part the president uses one of the crucial types of speech acts which is representation (statement). This type reflects the idea that the president tries to fit his words to the world and incorporates his believes. Biden in his utterance confirms the importance of someone's position within the country who have the right to talk about America's position in the world "***You haven't found one person, one world leader to say America's going backward. "***

Furthermore, Biden supports his speech by utilizing another type of speech act that is expressive (praise) when he says **We have the strongest economy in the world.** The purpose of using this type of speech act is to reflect what the speaker feels. Biden utilizes this important type as a strategy he used to deal with in order to add more feelings and positivity to his speech. This makes his speech strong, understandable, uses language skillfully, and he has good communication management. He uses this speech act to make the American

people, American allies, and even the American enemy more aware of the positive aspects of America, which he describes as the leader of the world and possessing the world's strongest economy. This is one of the most significant factors that influences other people to believe that America cannot be defeated.

In addition, he states that U.S. was grappling with fallout from last week's Supreme Court decision ending the constitutional right to abortion, which Biden condemned Thursday as _**"destabilizing."**_ Biden faces both the lowest approval ratings of his presidency and rising pessimism about the direction of the country.in this utterance, Joe Biden laid out his foreign policy vision for America when he says _**America's better positioned to lead the world "**_ America will according to the president's words lead by example and rally the world to meet common challenges that no one nation can face on its own, from climate change to nuclear proliferation, from great power aggression to transnational terrorism, from cyberwarfare to mass migration.

To intensify the sense of cooperativeness and shed light on certain aspects, the president adheres to negative politeness that manifests 'impersonalize' strategy. For example, Biden utilizes expressions like "_**it is a mistake in my view for the Supreme Court to do what it did.**_ "Furthermore, within the same line the president adheres to bald on record politeness which is another strategy of politeness. Biden here uses the most direct, open and clear manner to talk about the Supreme Court decision that he describes it as "_**a mistake"**_ since it ends the constitutional right to abortion.

Additionally, the utterance above reflects the maxim of quantity because the president here tries to be as informative as is required the convey the idea that America that is not going" _**backward."**_ He rises pessimism about the direction of the country. The president's utterance also includes on one hand, the maxim of relation since his respond is relevant to the aim of the communication. On the other hand, it also includes the maxim of manner since the president avoids ambiguity and answers orderly. Meanwhile, Biden violates the maxim of quality because he says what lacks adequate evidence to prove avoiding the fact that the reporter depends on "a poll" when he asks his question.

Table 1

The Analysis of Position in Extract 1

| Type | | | | Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Speech act** | *Representation (statement)* | *Number* <br> *1* | *Expressive ( praise)* | *1* |
| **Politeness** | *negative* | | *Bald on record* | ١ |
| **Grice's maxims** | **Observance** | **Number** | **Non observance** | **Number** |
| | **Quantity** <br><br> **Manner** <br><br> **Relation** | 1 <br><br> 1 <br><br> 1 | **Quality** | *1* |

Extract 2:

Speaker 1: my second question is G7 leaders this week pledged to support Ukraine "For as long as it takes." And I'm wondering if you would explain what that means to the American people, "For as long as it takes." Does it mean indefinite support from the United States for Ukraine? Or will there comes a time when you have to say to President Zelensky that the United States cannot support his country any longer? Thank you.

Joe Biden: ***We're going to support Ukraine as long as it takes. Look at the impact that the war on Ukraine*** has had on Russia. They've had to renege on their national debt for the first time since the beginning… Almost well over 100 years. They've lost 15 years of the gains they made in terms of their economy. ***They're in a situation where they're having trouble because of my imposition of dealing with what can be exported to Russia.*** In terms of technology, they're going to have trouble maintaining oil production because they don't have the technology to do it. They need American technology. And they're also in a similar situation in terms of their weapons systems and some of their military systems. ***So they're paying a very, very heavy price for this.***

In this part the president uses three types of speech acts first, he uses commissive (promise). This type of speech act reflects the idea that the speaker tries to commit himself to some future action and it expresses what the speaker intends to

do. Biden in his utterance commits himself to help Ukraine in her war with Russia. The president here talks about the American government's intention for the future to help Ukraine and the Ukrainian People "***We're going to support Ukraine as long as it takes.***"

Biden in this utterance uses the personal pronoun "***We*** "referring the American government and confirming the idea that the president represents the higher position within the government who have the rights to talk about the American government's decisions. The second type of speech act appears in the same line of the president's speech that is directive (request), when he says, ***look at the impact that the war on Ukraine has had on Russia. The*** purpose of utilizing this type of speech act is to attempt to persuade the recipient to take action. When the speaker asks the listener to do something for him or her, the directive speech act is utilized. Biden urges the world, the American people, the Ukrainian people, and even the Russian people to pay attention to the war's effects on Russia in the military, economic, and humanitarian aspects. This is in accordance with his stance as the United States president. Biden wants to convey that America supported the beleaguered country of Ukraine and cared about its future. But there was more than just economic suffering being sent to Russia. Moreover, he adds that the US and its allies will battle to protect "every square mile of Nato countries".

Biden also addressed Americans in an effort to convey the concept that this war is having a negative influence on American culture as a whole and that we should be concerned about the chance that US forces may be put in danger during the fight in Ukraine. While outlining the US's responsibilities to Nato partners, he also made clear that US forces "are not involved and will not engage in confrontation with Russian forces in Ukraine."

In addition, he follows that talking about the circumstances of the war on Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in terms of their economy. Within the utterance Biden confirms the position of America as a leader of the world when he talks about the United States, in partnership with its allies, has hit Russia with some of the most sweeping export restrictions ever imposed, barring companies across the world from sending advanced technology in order to penalize President Vladimir V. Putin for his invasion of Ukraine ***They're in a situation where they're having trouble because of my imposition of dealing with what can be exported to Russia.*** The restrictions are aimed at cutting off the flow of semiconductors, aircraft components and other technologies that are crucial to Russia's defense, maritime and aerospace industries, in a bid to cripple Mr. Putin's ability to wage war. The third type of speech act appears in this utterance is representation (conclusion) when Biden concludes using ***So*** that the price of the war will be higher for both Ukraine and Russia ***So they're paying a very, very heavy price for this.***

To intensify the sense of cooperativeness and shed light on certain aspects, the president adheres to positive politeness that manifests 'promise' strategy. For example, Biden utilizes expressions like "**_We're going to support Ukraine_** "trying to establish positive relationships between both Ukraine and America. Furthermore, within the same line the president uses the word **_support_** which refers to the idea, that if you support someone or their ideas or aims, you agree with them, and perhaps help them because you want them to succeed.

Additionally, the utterance above reflects the maxim of quantity because the president here tries to be as informative as is required he conveys the idea that America that is not going" **_backward._** He rises pessimism about the direction of the country. The president's utterance also includes on one hand, the maxim of relation since his respond is relevant to the aim of the communication. On the other hand, it also includes the maxim of manner since the president avoids ambiguity and answers orderly. Meanwhile, Biden violates the maxim of quality because he says what lacks adequate evidence to prove avoiding the fact that the reporter depends on "a poll" when he asks his question.

Table 2

The Analysis of Position in Extract 2

| Type | | | | Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Speech act** | *Commissive* <br><br> *( promise)* | *Number* <br> *1* | *Representation* <br><br> *( conclusion )* | *1* |
| **Politeness** | *Positive* | | | ١ |
| **Grice's maxims** | **Observance** | **Number** | **Non observance** | **Number** |
| | **Quantity** <br><br> **Manner** <br><br> **Relation** | 1 <br><br> 1 <br><br> 1 | **Quality** | *1* |

Table 3

Speech Acts Utilized by Biden

| Speech act | Fr. | Pr. |
|---|---|---|
| Representative | 66 | 34.38% |
| Commissive | 48 | 25% |
| Directive | 14 | 7.30% |
| Declarative | 53 | 27.60% |
| Expressive | 11 | 5.72% |
| Total | 92 | 100% |

## 1- Representative

This type of speech act is utilized by Biden 66 times (34.38%) because firstly, this kind expresses the notion that the president includes his beliefs while also trying to make his words fit the world. In his statement, Biden reaffirms the significance of a person's position inside the nation who has the authority to discuss the place of the United States in the international arena.

## 1- Declarative

This type of speech act is utilized by Biden 14 times (7.30%) because Such speech acts are used to convey the impression that the speaker has a distinct institutional position within a certain setting in order to make an acceptable assertion. In other words, declarations are speech actions that depend on complex extra linguistic institutions and utterances that immediately alter the institutional condition of affairs. the president, who stands for a higher position within the government, and the U.S. assistance provided to Russia, which reflects the American government's perspective on this conflict.

## 3-Commissive

This type of speech act is utilized by Biden 48 times (25%) because this kind of speech act conveys what the speaker plans to accomplish and suggests that the speaker is attempting to commit himself to some action in the future. In his speeches, Biden pledges to work with the American people to improve their quality of life and address all societal issues. The president's discussion of the American government's plans for the future supports the notion that the president stands for the highest position within the executive branch and is thus authorized to discuss such matters.

**4-Directive**

This type of speech act is utilized by Biden 14 times (7.30%) because purpose of utilizing this type of speech act is to attempt to persuade the recipient to take action. When the speaker asks the listener to do something for him or her, the directive speech act is utilized. Biden urges the world, the American people, the Ukrainian people, and even the Russian people to pay attention to the war's effects on Russia in the military, economic, and humanitarian aspects. This is in accordance with his stance as the United States president.

**5-Expressive**

This type of speech act is utilized by Biden 11 times (5.72%) When Biden states, "We have the best economy in the world," he is using another expressive speech act to bolster his argument. This kind of speech act is used to express the speaker's feelings. In order to infuse his speech with greater emotion and optimism, Biden uses this significant kind as a method. Because of this, he speaks clearly, utilizes language carefully, and manages his conversation well.

**4.1.2 politeness utilized by Biden**

Table 4

Politeness Utilized by Biden

| Politeness | Fr. | Pr. |
|---|---|---|
| Positive | 100 | 54.48% |
| Negative | 44 | 25.29% |
| Bald on record | 30 | 17.24% |
| Total | 174 | 97.01% |

**1-Positive politeness**

This strategy is utilized by Biden 100 time (54.48%) because in his statements, Biden makes a direct effort to build rapport with members of American society. By sending the message that his government will work to address all of the "long-term challenges," as he calls them, that the society was dealing with under the administration of previous President Trump, he is attempting to forge trust with the public.

**2-Negative politeness**

This politeness strategy is utilized by Biden 44 times (25.29%) because When discussing any choice or movement, both inside and outside of America, Biden used to do so in the most straightforward, honest, and transparent way possible. For instance, he criticizes the Supreme Court ruling, calling it "a blunder" since it eliminates the fundamental right to an abortion. Additionally, he makes an effort to prevent, or at the very least minimize, the imposition of Russia and works to solidify his image as the American leader who understands the significance of the economic concerns for any country engaged in a conflict.

**3-Bald on record**

This strategy is utilized by Biden 30 time (17.24%) Because the majority of his statements are made in the most straightforward, honest, unequivocal, and simple way imaginable, they pose a direct danger to Russian President Vladimir Putin. This confirms the power of position as a leader without taking into account the history of relations between the two nations (America and Russia), or even Putin's position as president of the greatest country in the world who enjoys widespread support among his countrymen. As a result, these statements are based on future actions, that if you (Putin) do so, we (the U.S. government) will do so.

### 4.1.3 The Grice's Maxims utilized by Biden

The tables below are shown in order to answer the first question of the study. They are arranged from top to down:

| The Grice's Maxims | | |
|---|---|---|
| Observance | | |
| Type | Fr. | Pr. |
| Quantitative | 10 | 18.18% |
| Qualitative | 9 | 16.36% |
| Relation | 18 | 23.27% |
| Manner | 18 | 23.27% |
| Total | 55 | 81.08% |

Table 24

The Grice's Maxims utilized by Biden

| The Grice's Maxims |
|---|
| Non-Observance |

| Type | Fr. | Pr. |
|------|-----|-----|
| Quantitative | 10 | 24.40% |
| Qualitative | 15 | ٣٦.59% |
| Relation | 0 | 0% |
| Manner | 16 | 39.02% |
| Total | 41 | 100.19% |

### 1-Relation

Biden utilizes this maxim 32 times (31.69 %), because this maxim requires the speaker to make his contributions relevant. In other words, the speaker should say things that are relevant to the topic of the communication. This maxim has a big frequency in Biden's speech because it reflects one of the characteristics if his policy that is to keep relevant to the actions and keep positive relationships with the reporters in special and his audience in general and he achieves this through being relevant in his speech. Meanwhile, he violates this maxim 0 times (0%) because in all of his speeches Biden tries to be relevant to the problem even if he doesn't give enough information about the problem.

### 2-Manner

Biden utilizes this maxim 26 times (26.74%), because this maxim reflects the idea about how things are expresses and how they are most likely to be said. Biden in most of his speeches answers directly, avoids ambiguity and difficult language because this presents one of his speech strategies that he uses to when he wants to send an important message to the American people and the outside world, meanwhile, he violates this 16 times (39.02%) because in some of his speeches Biden doesn't' answer briefly or orderly he uses this style as a strategy when he wants to not give his direct opinion about the problem.

### 2- Quantitative

Biden utilizes this maxim 25 times (24.76%), because this maxim reflects the idea that the speakers are required to convey sufficient information while speaking and this idea used to appear in his speeches especially when Biden's speech aims to declare something or call someone. meanwhile, he violates this maxim 10 times (24.40%) because in some of his speeches Biden gives more details in his answers than are essential.

### 4-Qualitative

Biden utilizes this maxim 18 times (17.82%), because this maxim reflects the idea that the speakers are required to supply truthful information and refrain from giving

any false information while answering any question and this idea used to appear in his speeches especially when Biden's speech aims to declare something serious relates with his decisions against the enemy of America. meanwhile, he violates this maxim 15 times (36.59%) because in some of his speeches Biden says what he believes in without giving any adequate evidence.

### 5.1 Conclusions

The study concludes that:

1- Regarding the utilization of speech act by both of the politicians the study concludes that Biden uses the representative speech act the most because it initially conveys the idea that the president incorporates his opinions while also attempting to make his words match the world. In his remark, Biden reiterates the relevance of a person's position within the country who is qualified to speak about the United States' standing in the international community.

2-Regarding the utilization of politeness by both of the politicians the study concludes that Positive politeness ids the most politeness strategy utilized by Biden, he employs this strategy because, in his remarks, he makes a conscious attempt to establish a relationship with people of American society. He is aiming to build confidence with the populace by stating that his administration will work to solve all of the "long-term difficulties," as he refers to them, that the society was facing during the previous president Trump's administration.

3-Regarding the utilization of the Grice's maxims by both of the politicians the study concludes that Relation maxim, which calls for speakers to make their points relevant, is the one that Biden uses the most. In other words, the speaker should make statements that are pertinent to the communication's subject. This adage appears frequently in Biden's speeches because it captures one of his policies, which is to stay relevant to his audience and maintain good connections with reporters in particular and the broader public. He accomplishes this by being current in his speeches.

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