

A Pragma-Dialectical Study of Argumentation Structure in Chomsky's interview "COVID-19 Has Exposed the US under Trump as a "Failed State"

Researcher: Ibrahim Enad Kadhim

Prof. Dr. Amin Ukaal Ghailan

Dep. of English, Collage of Education for Human Sciences, University of Basrah

Abstract:

This research studies the argumentative structure used by Noam Chomsky in his interview on Corona pandemic. The aim of the study is to analyse the types of argumentation structure and examine the significance of each type in conveying his messages. This study is carried out using Eemeren & Grootendorst's (1992a) model of argumentation structure. The study reveals that Chomsky uses a variety of argumentation structures in his interview and highlights the significance of using different argumentation structures in conveying the complexity of the discussion of Corona Pandemic. This study also sheds light on importance of evaluating information critically.

Key words: Pragmatics, Argumentation Structure (AS), Pragma-Dialectical (PD)

دراسة تداولية-جدالية للبناء الحجائي في مقابلة جومسكي " كوفيد-١٩ كشف امريكا بقيادة ترامب كـ
"دولة فاشلة"

الباحث: أبراهيم عناد كاظم

أ.د. امين عكال غيلان

جامعة البصرة - كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية - قسم اللغة الانكليزية

ملخص البحث:

يدرس هذا البحث بنية الجدل التي استخدمها تشومسكي في مقابله حول جائحة كورونا. تهدف الدراسة الى تحليل أنواع هياكل الجدل ومعرفة أهمية كل نوع في ايصال رسائله. يتم اجراء هذه الدراسة باستخدام نموذج ايميرن و كروتندورست (١٩٩٢ أ) لبنية الحجاج. تكشف الدراسة الحالية أن تشومسكي يستخدم مجموعة متنوعة من هياكل الجدل في مقابلاته و تبرز أهمية استخدام هياكل الجدل المختلفة في نقل تعقيد جائحة كورونا. تسلط كذلك هذه الدراسة الضوء على أهمية تقييم المعلومات بشكل نقدي.
الكلمات المفتاحية: التداولية، البناء الحجائي، التداولية-الجدلية .

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1 Introduction

"COVID-19 Has Exposed the US Under Trump as a "Failed State" is an interview between the well-known linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky and C.J. Polychromous from Truthout (Truthout is a nonprofit news organization) on April 29, 2020 in which Chomsky analyzes Trump's backing of "anti-lockdown" protests, attacks on the postal service and U.S. structural flaws. In this interview, it is clear from the start that the arguer (Chomsky) holds a negative view of the way the American government, led by Trump, has handled the Corona pandemic. The opposing viewpoints, between Chomsky as the protagonist who harshly criticizes and denies the way in which the American administration responds to the pandemic and the American administration as the antagonist that behaves in that way, is made clear. Chomsky believes that the U.S. is a failed state due to Trump and his administration. This belief is expressed from the very beginning by using the phrase "failed state" in the title of the interview and at various points throughout the interview. He presents this argument in an assertive manner, and it's clear that he firmly believes in this stance.

The arguer asserts that the U.S. under Trump poses a significant threat not only to its own citizens but to the entire world due to its inadequate policy choices. He describes Trump as a malignancy that poses a danger to human society on earth. He then goes on to discuss how Trump endangers the American people and the whole world by prioritizing his own power and political ambitions over the well-being of others. He also presents examples of how Trump's decisions and actions have made the situation worse, such as reducing the budget for fighting the pandemic, defunding disease control, and prevention centers, and defunding the World Health Organization (WHO), while increasing subsidies for fossil fuel industries.

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2. Pragma-Dialectics (PDs): An Overview

The Pragma-Dialectical (PD) theory of argumentation was first introduced by Frans van Eemeren and Rob Grootendorst (1944–2000) at the University of Amsterdam in the 1970s and it has significantly developed in the next four decades (Garssen, 2015, p.1). According to Eemeren (2015, p.226), the term "Pragma" refers to the pragmatic part of the theory whereas the term "Dialectics" refers to the dialectical part which highlights the rules of the rational discussion. The dialectical aspect of the theory relates to the normative perspectives borrowed from critical rationalism and formal dialectics, while the pragmatic aspect relates to descriptive perspectives taken from Speech Act Theory, Gricean philosophy of language, and discourse analysis (Eemeren et al. 2014, p. 518).

According to Eemeren and Grootendorst, building an acceptable theory of argumentation requires an approach that incorporates insights from philosophy, logic, linguistics, communication studies, psychology, and other disciplines (2004, P.3). Argumentation is defined, by Pragma-Dialecticians, as a method of speech that employed for conflict resolution: Argumentation is a phenomenon of verbal communication; it is explored as a kind of speech defined by the use of language to resolve a disagreement of opinion on merits.

The PDA aims at "resolving a difference of opinion in accordance with the critical norms of reasonableness" (van Eemeren and Grootendorst, 2004: 53). Bonevac (2003, p.451), states that PD is "dynamic, context-sensitive, and multi-agent; it promises theories of fallacy and argumentative structure". It is dynamic in that it tackles the pragmatic part and the sensible rules of discussion and it is context-sensitive as it considers the context as one of the most important aspects of the discussion. It is also multi-agent due to the fact that there must be two participants at least in the rational discussion.

Van Rees (2000, p. 119) views PDA as both "embedded in existing controversy" and involved with the "resolution of a difference of opinion". Likewise, Johnson (2000, p. 256) holds that "informal logic is pragmatic, meaning that it is concerned with the uses of argument". While informal logicians may deny the existence of any precise, established criteria for evaluating arguments, they advocate a technique that evaluates the effect of arguments based on their success in resolving disagreements.

3. Argumentation Structure (AS)

Generally speaking, AS refers to "the external organization of the argumentation". In the theory of argumentation, there are many ways by which arguments are combined resulting in different distinguishable types of argumentation structure that in turn can be used as a tool for identifying the type of standpoint (Eemeren et al., 2014, pp.21-22).

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Most models of argumentation structure differentiate, at least, between three forms of argument structure: (1) serial reasoning (also known as subordinate argumentation), (2) linked reasoning (also known as coordinate argumentation), and (3) convergent reasoning (also known as multiple argumentation). If one of the premises reinforces the other, the reasoning is serial. If the reasoning is linked, each of the reasons presented is directly related to the viewpoint, and the arguments function as a unit. The reasoning is convergent when each argument independently supports the stance (to some extent). All of these forms of argument structure, according to Henkemans, can be combined into a more complex argument (Henkemans, 2000, pp.447-8).

Even though argumentation theorists seem to concur on the aforementioned types and that the distinction between different types of argumentation structures is part of their duty, they disagree on the justification for doing so. Multiple terminological norms have been devised to identify different argument combinations, and the divisions are not necessarily identical. This explanation can be attributed to the fact that different argumentation theorists approach identifying argumentation structures from different perspectives

According to Eemeren et al., logicians, for instance, study how arguments result from the reasoning processes that underlie them. In other argumentation theories, theorists emphasize the functions that combinations of reasons operate during the argumentative process in which they are formulated. As a result, logic-oriented theorists study the logical patterns in argumentation structures while theorists, that follow the pragmatic orientation, study the functions of the reasons presented in argumentation structures (Eemeren et al., 2014, pp.21-22).

4. Eemeren and Grootendorst's (1992a) Model of Argumentation Structure

As it might be predicted, PD analysis of the AS adopts a pragmatic and dialectical point of view. Pragma-dialecticians attempt to understand how numerous arguments are presented in argumentation in response to skepticism or criticism from real or imagined interlocutors. According to HenKemans, AS is not studied in depth until the 1990s due to the fact that since the 1970s, many textbooks have been devoted to analyzing arguments and to displaying the findings in diagrams, thereby making it more conventional to analyze arguments in more detail. Nevertheless, in all cases, these books are written by informal logicians except for Eemeren and Grootendorst's (1992a) PD textbook. (Henkemans, 2000, p.455)

Eemeren and Grootendorst (1992a) build on the "basic argumentation structure of a single argumentation", which consists of a single stated "argument" (often composed of one premise and one unexpressed premise that functions as bridging premise) in support of a specific viewpoint. According to them, complex argumentation with several arguments may always be analytically reduced to a set of single ones, each of which has a unique relationship to the others and to the viewpoint being supported.

For Eemeren and Grootendorst, AS can be divided into two different levels: the Simple (SAS) which refers to a single argument that is presented straightforwardly, the Complex (CAS) which refers to the situation when an argumentation consists of more than a single argument that are put forward in defense of the same standpoint at issue depending on the arguer's assumption of the necessity for convincing the other party with his/her standpoint's acceptability. CAS includes Multiple Argumentation Structure (MAS), Coordinative Argumentation Structure (CoAS) and Subordinative Argumentation Structure (SuAS) (Eemeren et al., 2021, p. 37).

5. The Schematic Representation of AS

One key element of the PDA is the schematic representation of argumentation structure. This representation is used to visually organize and analyze the different components of an argument, including the main claim or thesis, the reasons and evidence supporting the claim, and the counterarguments and objections that may be raised against the claim. The schematic representation of argumentation structure is typically represented as a pyramid, with the main claim or thesis at the top, followed by the reasons and evidence supporting the claim.

6. Methodology

The current study is conducted through a set of procedures that will be mentioned in detail in this sub-section. First of all, the data of the study were downloaded from the official website of Noam Chomsky (<https://chomsky.info>) which contains all his books, articles, audio and video, interviews, talks, debates, and letters. Since the study material is an interview about Corona pandemic, the

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researcher previewed all Chomsky's relevant interviews. After careful examination of the interviews, the researcher opted for the current interview about the aforementioned subject.

After choosing the suitable data, the researcher examined the transcription in a written form line by line so as to firstly, understand the complex argumentation of each interview and secondly, to extract the most relevant individual arguments that support the complex argumentation of the interview. Here, it is worth mentioning that the interview contains many arguments that are neglected due to being irrelevant to the study. Since the study follows PDA, the analysis started with the following analytic procedures: identifying the differing opinion in each interview, identifying the conflicting parties of the critical discussion, and identifying both the expressed and unexpressed standpoints and premises in each argument in the interviews. Then the different stages through which the argumentation passes are also identified.

The next steps in the analysis are done according to Eemeren and Grootendorst's (1992a) model of AS. The structure of extracted arguments is analyzed in a way that shows how the standpoint in each argument is linked to its supporting evidence and how the supporting evidence is linked to each other so as to create a conclusive defense of the standpoint at issue by using notational and a schematic representation.

After knowing how standpoints are linked to evidence and how evidence is linked to each other, the type of each argument becomes obvious. After deciding the type of AS, an interpretation of the findings relevant to the significance of each type is offered to highlight the most important issues regarding the objective of the study.

7. Data Analysis and Discussion

According to van Eemeren et al., it is very crucial, when carrying out an analysis of argumentative discourse, to look at the different stages through which the process of disagreement resolution passes (2021, p.50). In his attempt to justify his position, to expose the failure of the US as a state, Chomsky's argument progresses through four distinct stages: the Confrontation stage, the Opening stage, the Argumentation stage, and the Concluding stage.

In the Confrontation stage, Chomsky asserts that the U.S. under Trump poses a significant threat to the entire world and that the administration's response to the pandemic has been inadequate in comparison to the size of the problem. He maintains that the U.S. is currently an example of a failed state.

In the Opening stage, Chomsky firmly establishes his opposition to President Trump and his administration. He asserts that the U.S. government is responsible for the deaths of thousands of people worldwide by defunding the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The arguer demonstrates that Trump uses China and WHO as scapegoats to cover for his crimes against the Americans and that Trump only cares about himself and not the well-being of others.

In the Argumentation stage, Chomsky provides ample evidence to support the acceptability of his position that the pandemic proves the U.S., particularly under Trump, as a failed state. He also argues that the decisions made by Trump's administration have proven the common understanding of the U.S. as a failed state, which not only endangers its citizens but also threatens life on earth. He provides more specific examples of how the U.S. under Trump has been a failed state. For example, he cited statistics regarding the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the U.S. compared to other countries, as well as the economic impact of the pandemic on the U.S.

Finally, in the Concluding stage, Chomsky solidifies his position by stating that Trump has committed himself to making the situation worse through a series of decisions, such as reducing the budget for fighting the pandemic, defunding disease control, and prevention centers, and defunding the WHO, while simultaneously increasing subsidies for fossil fuel industries.

In this study, nine relevant arguments are analysed and presented schematically into their basic structure as follows:

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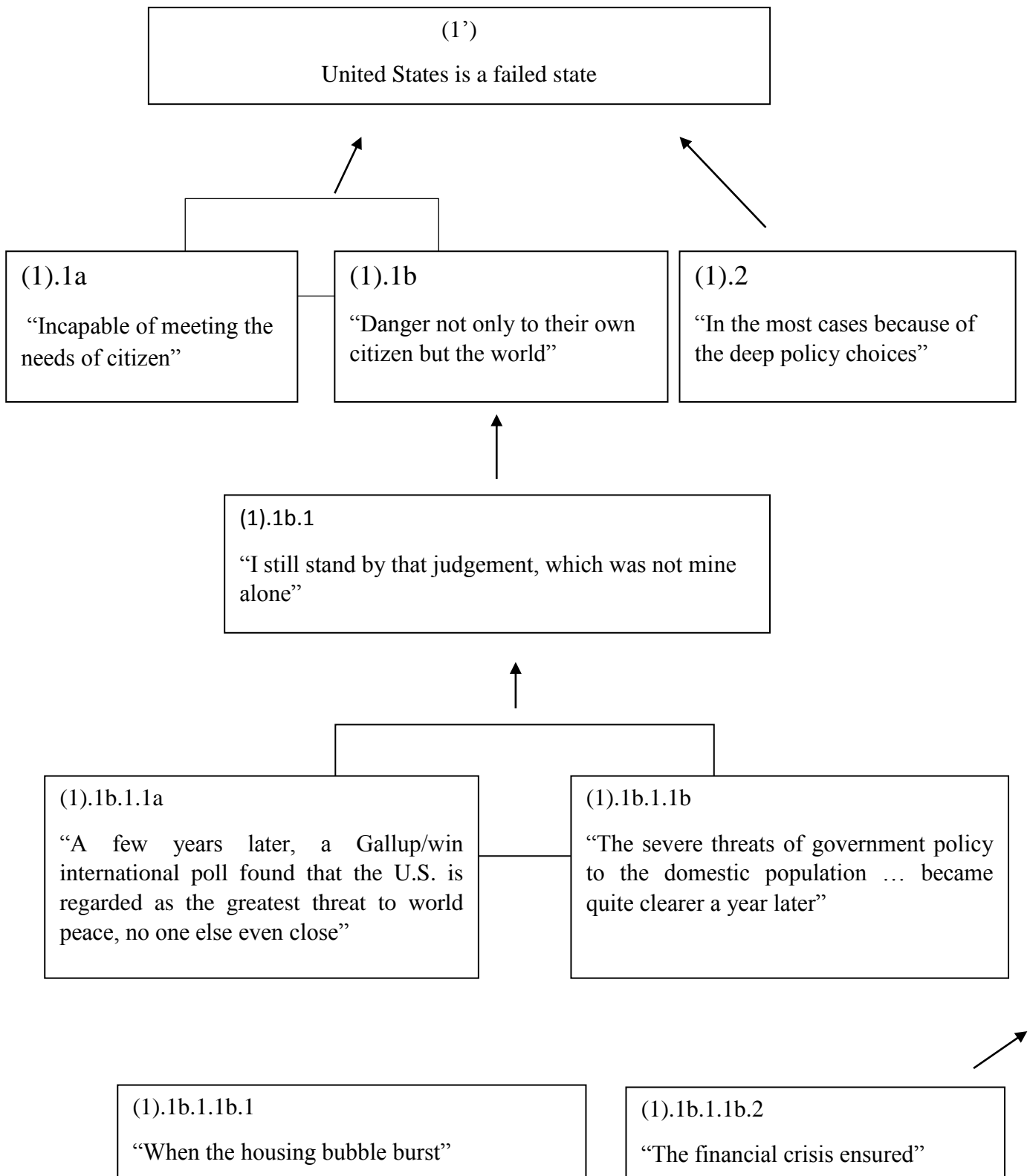


Fig. (1): A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument One

7.1 Argument One Analysis

In Argument One, (Fig. 1), it seems obvious that the arguer (i.e. Chomsky) uses a combination of different AS to defend his standpoint which is not stated explicitly (implicit standpoint). His standpoint is presented notationally by number (1') which appears between two parentheses with a comma to indicate that this standpoint is unexpressed. To defend his standpoint, Chomsky uses a combination of coordinative, multiple, and subordinative AS.

At first, he uses CoAS to defend the standpoint presented as (1') "*United States is failed state*" by advancing two reasons: (1').1a and (1').1b. This is mainly because each one of them cannot stand by itself as sufficient defense of the standpoint in hand. Therefore, using such AS would erase any anticipated objection that might be raised as a result of being too weak separately.

Next both 1.1a and 1.1b together along with (1').2 constitute a MAS since each of them can stand alone as a conclusive defense of the standpoint in hand (i.e. (1')). By using MAS, the arguer advances more than one reason to defend the same standpoint in an attempt to overcome the disparity of degree of acceptability of each argument that might appear in the audience's response to each one of them. In the next step, the arguer resorts to using another type of AS which is SuAS by advancing the substandpoint (1').1b.1. By doing so the arguer provides an argument for an argument. In other words, the argumentation consists of layers each of which backs up one another.

Then, the arguer uses CoAS, advancing both (1').1b.1.1a and (1').1b.1.1b together to constitute a conclusive defense against any possible objection. Finally, the arguer, once again, resorts to using MAS to support the subargument (1').1b.1.1b by advancing the two independent arguments: (1).1b.1.1b.1 and (1).1b.1.1b.2 as alternative defenses of the same subargument (1').1b.1.1b. Each one of these arguments can stand on its own and constitutes a conclusive defense.

Overall, the use of these different types of AS in this argument helps to provide a comprehensive defense for the viewpoint and makes the argument more convincing and robust. By using different types of AS, the arguer is able to provide multiple reasons and evidence for their stance, anticipate and refute counterarguments, and create layers of arguments to further strengthen the argument.

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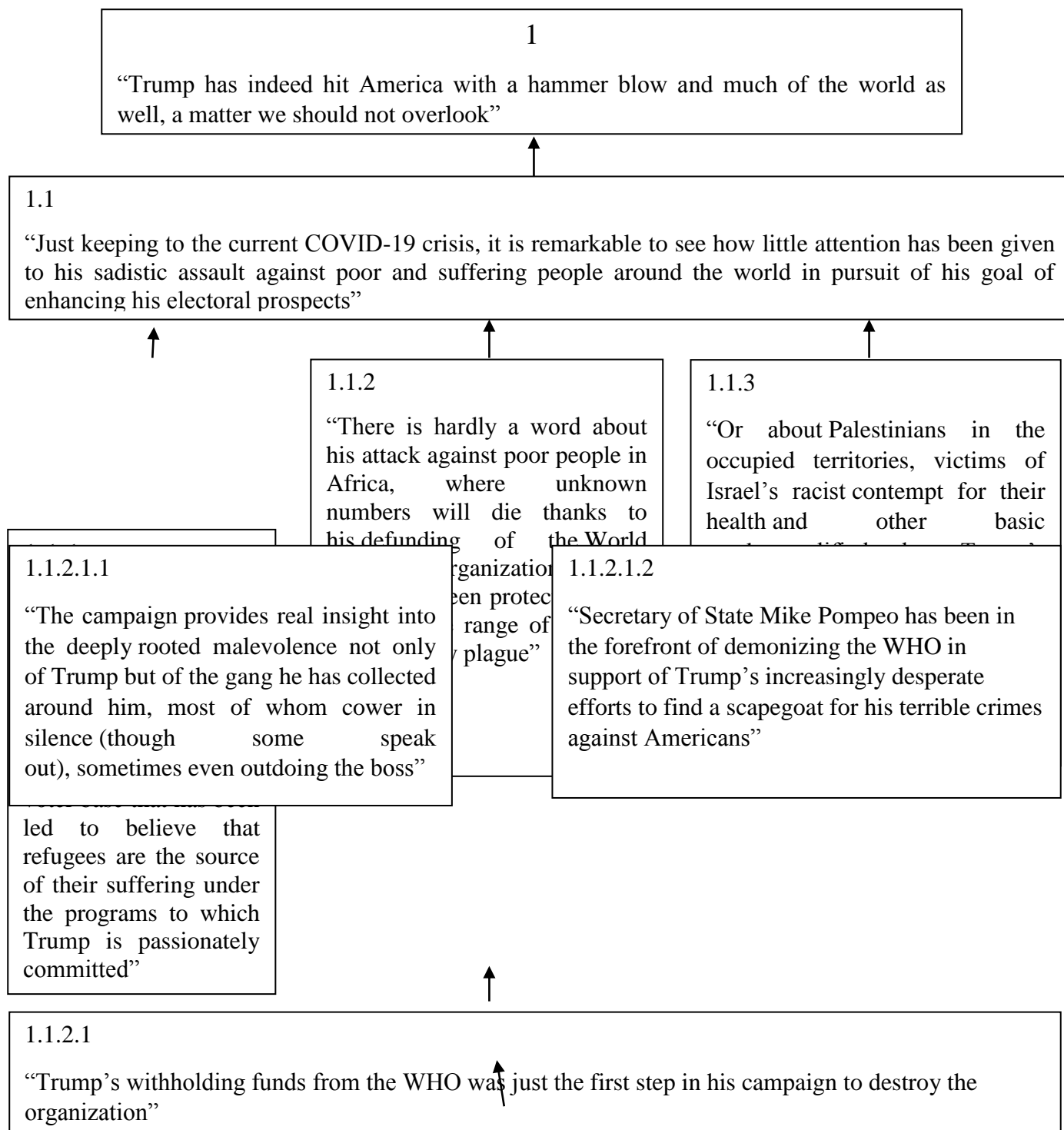


Fig. (2): A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument Two

7.2 Argument Two Analysis

In Argument Two, Fig. (2), Chomsky uses a combination of two different AS, SuAS and MAS, to defend his viewpoint, 1. *"Trump has indeed hit America with a hammer blow and much of the world as well, a matter we should not be overlooked"*. To begin with, Chomsky uses a SuAS by providing a subargument (i.e.1.1). This subargument serves to strengthen the main viewpoint by adding another layer of evidence.

Next, Chomsky constructs a MAS by advancing three arguments (1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3) that all support the same point, which is aimed at anticipating and addressing any counterarguments that may be raised against his viewpoint. This strategy allows Chomsky to tackle different potential objections and provide alternative defenses for his main viewpoint.

After that, Chomsky uses SuAS again by adding a subargument (i.e. 1.1.2.1) that supports the previous argument (i.e. 1.1.2) and serves as additional evidence. This further strengthens his argument by providing more detailed and specific information that supports the main viewpoint. Finally, Chomsky uses MAS again by providing two defenses (i.e. 1.1.2.1.1 and 1.1.2.1.2) of the same subargument (1.1.2.1), aiming at creating a conclusive defense of his main viewpoint. This final step serves to solidify his argument and leaves little room for counterarguments.

In conclusion, Chomsky's argument is well-structured and effectively uses a combination of different argumentation strategies to provide a strong defense of the main viewpoint. The use of SuAS and MAS anticipates and addresses counterarguments, making for a convincing argument. It's clear that Chomsky has put a lot of thought into his argument and has worked to provide a comprehensive defense of his viewpoint.

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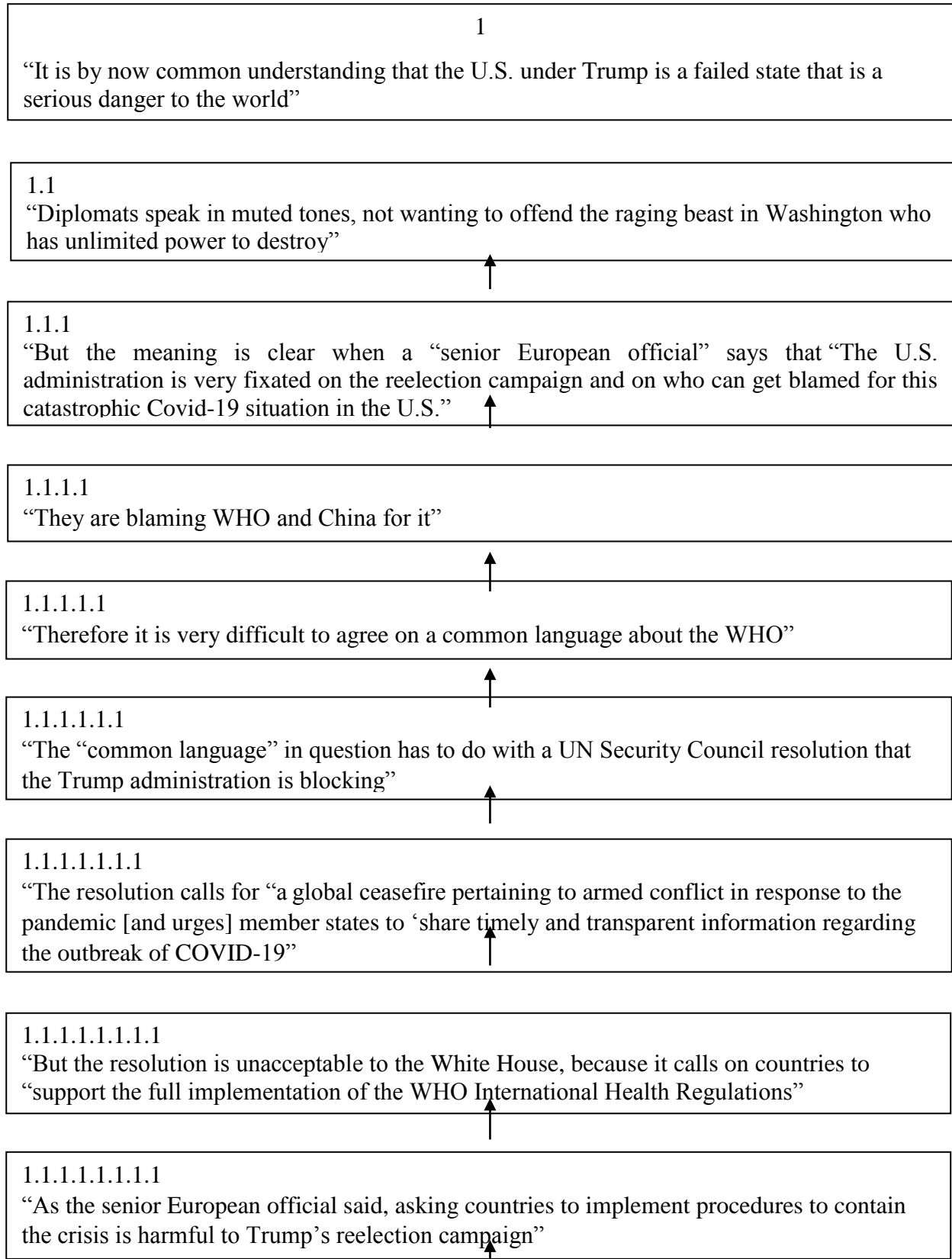


Fig. 3: A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument Three

7.3 Argument Three Analysis

In Argument Three, Fig. (3), Chomsky uses a SuAS to defend his main claim, 1. *"It is by now common understanding that the U.S. under Trump is a failed state that is a serious danger to the world"*. By using this structure, Chomsky is able to provide multiple layers of argumentation to create a strong defense of his claim. The use of SuAS allows Chomsky to present a main claim and then provide supporting evidence via subarguments and sub-subarguments. The SuAS is characterized by the use of subarguments and sub-subarguments. A subargument is a secondary argument that provides additional support for the main argument or claim. A sub-subargument is a further elaboration of a subargument, providing even more detailed and specific information to support the main claim. This creates a hierarchical structure where each layer of argumentation builds upon the previous one, ultimately leading to a more comprehensive and convincing argument.

In this particular argument, Chomsky's use of the SuAS is particularly effective because it allows him to provide a detailed and nuanced defense of his main claim. He is able to anticipate and address potential counterarguments by providing multiple layers of evidence and argumentation. This makes his argument more robust and less likely to be dismissed.

In conclusion, the use of the SuAS strengthens this argument. It allows Chomsky to build a detailed and comprehensive defense of his main claim by anticipating and addressing counterarguments providing multiple layers of evidence and argumentation. The hierarchical structure of the argumentation makes it more convincing and less likely to be dismissed.

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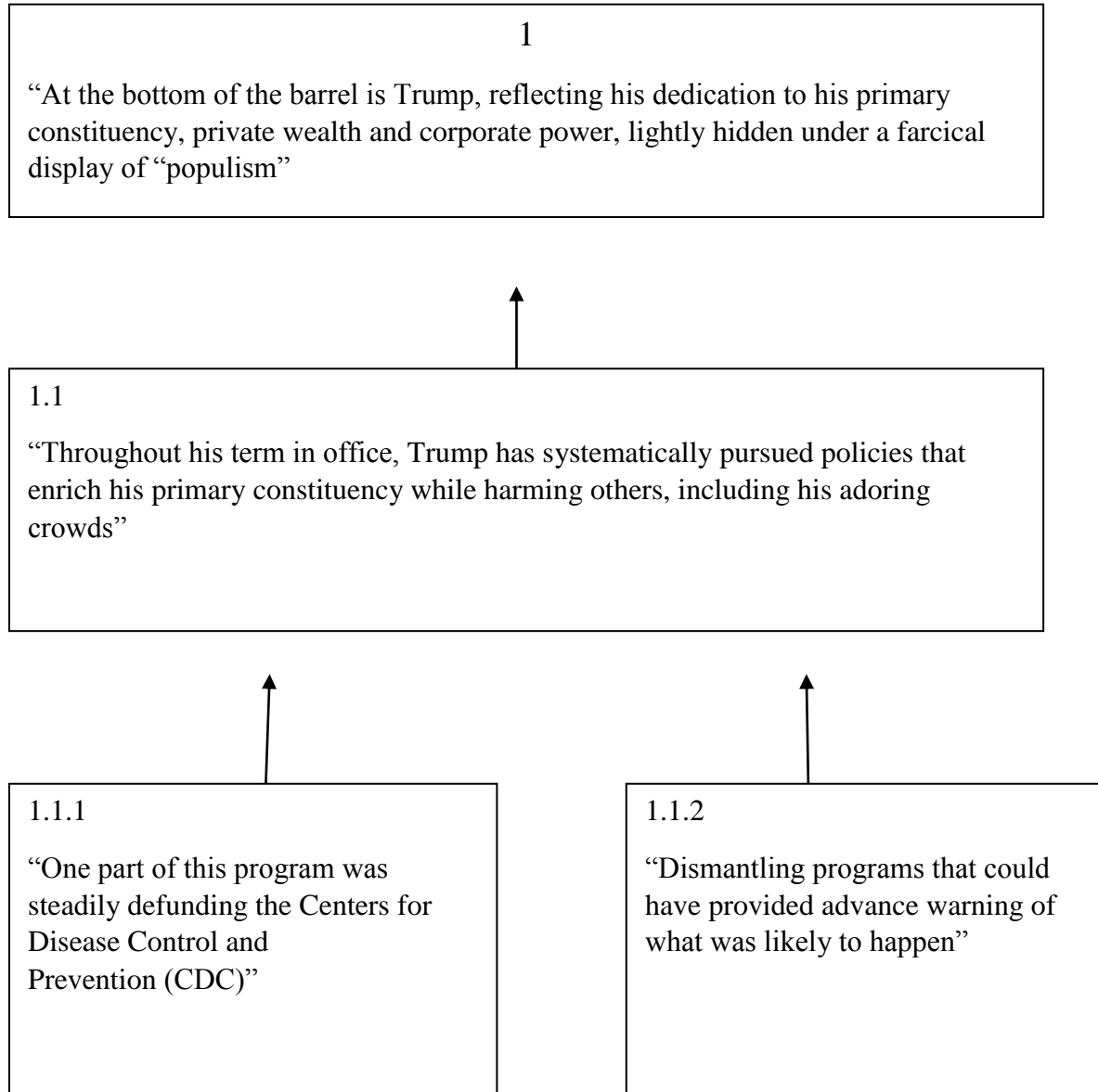


Fig. 5: A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument Four

7.4 Argument Four Analysis

In Argument Four, Fig. (4), Chomsky uses a combination of two different argumentative structures, SuAS and MAS, to defend his main position 1. *"At the bottom of the barrel is Trump, reflecting his dedication to his primary constituency, private wealth and corporate power, lightly hidden under a farcical display of "populism"*

Firstly, Chomsky uses SuAS by providing the subargument (1.1) that serves as additional support to the main claim. This argument creates an additional layer of argumentation that helps to solidify the main viewpoint and make it more convincing. Secondly, Chomsky uses MAS by providing two alternative defenses (1.1.1 and 1.1.2) of the subargument (1.1). This move allows him to anticipate and address potential counterarguments by providing multiple perspectives and evidence. Furthermore, by providing multiple alternative defenses, Chomsky tries to overcome the difference in acceptability degree against each evidence by adding an alternative that supports it and enhances its acceptability.

The use of SuAS and MAS in this argument is effective. It allows Chomsky to provide a detailed and comprehensive defense of his main viewpoint by adding an additional layer of argumentation as well as anticipating and addressing potential counterarguments. The use of multiple alternative defenses of the subargument enhances the acceptability of the evidence and makes the argument more convincing.

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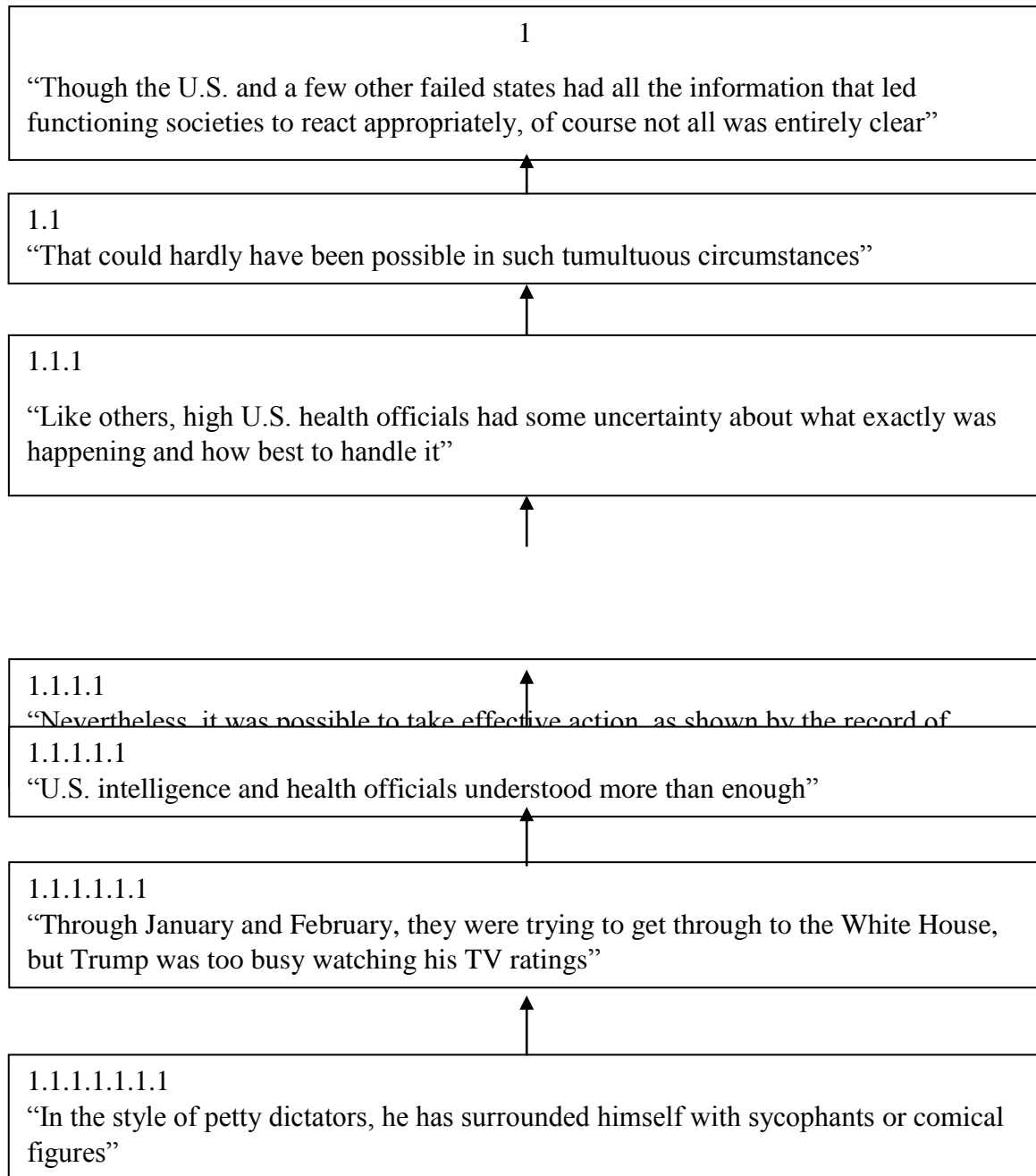


Fig.6: A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument Five

7.5 Argument Five Analysis

In Argument Five, Fig. (5), Chomsky resorts to a SuAS, to defend his main claim 1. *"Though the U.S. and a few other failed states had all the information that led functioning societies to react appropriately, of course not all was entirely clear"*. This structure allows him to provide a comprehensive defense of his claim by presenting multiple layers of argumentation, each building upon the previous one.

In this argument, Chomsky's SuAS is particularly effective because it allows him to provide a detailed and nuanced defense of his main claim. By using this structure, Chomsky is able to present a main claim and then provide supporting evidence in the form of subarguments and sub-subarguments. This creates a hierarchical structure where each layer of argumentation builds upon the previous one, ultimately leading to a more comprehensive and convincing argument.

In conclusion, the SuAS in this argument creates a strong defence of the main claim. It allows Chomsky to provide a detailed and comprehensive defense of his main claim by anticipating and addressing counterarguments through multiple layers of evidence and argumentation. The hierarchical structure of the argumentation makes it more convincing and less likely to be dismissed. This structure helps to overcome objections, presents a clear and logical flow of reasoning, and makes it easy for the audience to follow and understand the argument.

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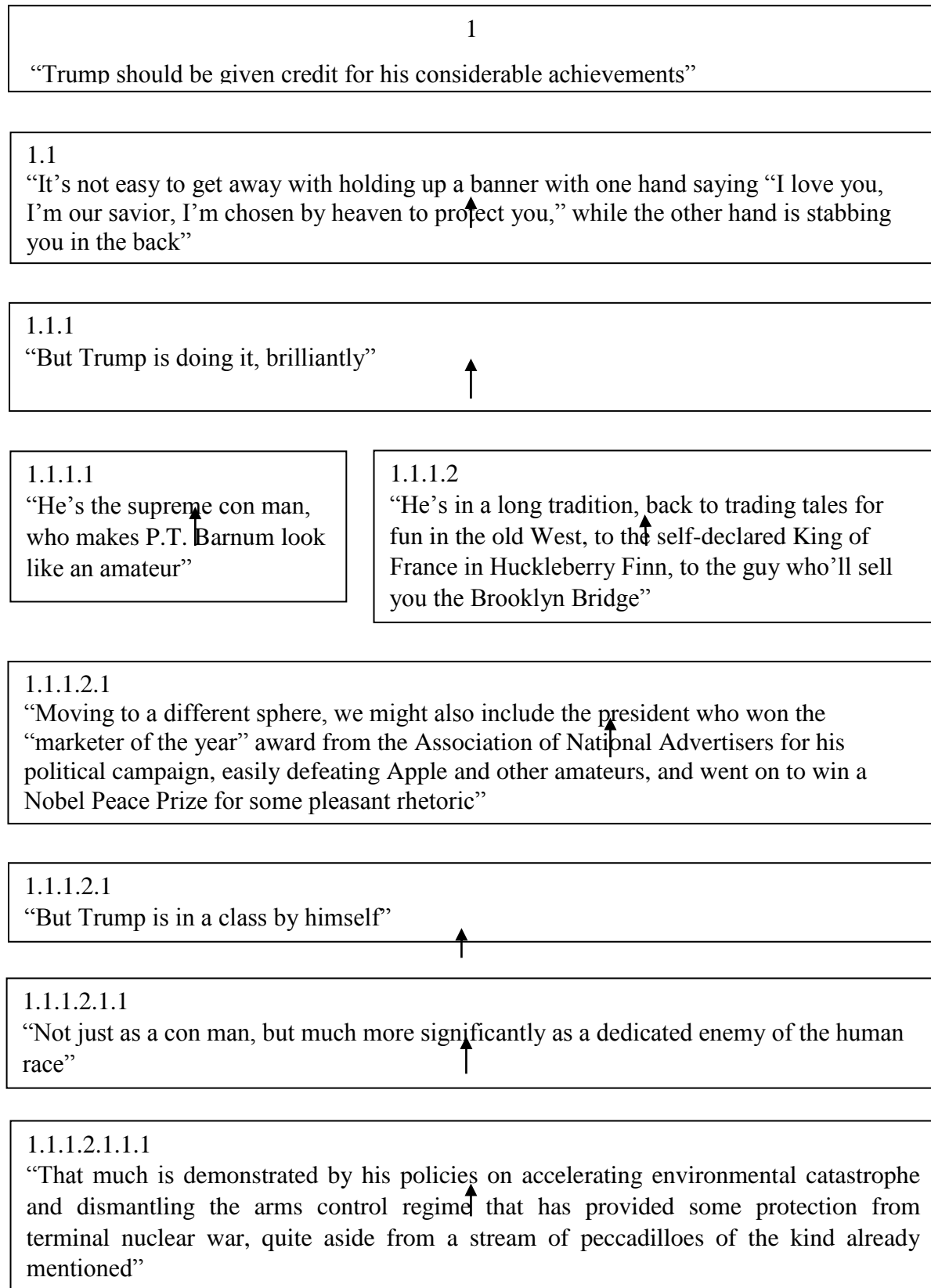


Fig. (6): A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument Six

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7.6 Argument Six Analysis

In Argument Six, Fig. (6), Chomsky combines two different argumentation structures, SuAS and MAS, to defend his main position in 1. *"Trump should be given credit for his considerable achievements"*

To start with, Chomsky employs SuAS by presenting two subarguments (i.e. 1.1 and 1.1.1) that serve as a supplementary support to the main viewpoint, thus creating additional layers of argumentation that help to strengthen the main viewpoint and make it more convincing. Later, he uses MAS and provides two alternative defenses (i.e. 1.1.1.1 and 1.1.1.2) for the subargument (1.1.1). This allows him to anticipate and address potential counterarguments by providing multiple perspectives and evidence. Additionally, by providing multiple alternative defenses, Chomsky endeavors to overcome the disparity in acceptability of each evidence by adding an alternative that supports and enhances its acceptability. After that, Chomsky opts for a SuAS again by adding the subarguments (i.e. 1.1.1.2.1, 1.1.1.2.1.1, and 1.1.1.2.1.1.1.) that support the previous argument (i.e. 1.1.1.2) and serve as additional evidence. This further strengthens his argument by providing more detailed and specific information that supports the main viewpoint

Ultimately, the use of SuAS and MAS in this argument is effective. It allows Chomsky to provide a detailed and comprehensive defense of his main viewpoint by adding an additional layer of argumentation and anticipating and addressing potential counterarguments. The use of multiple alternative defenses for the subargument enhances the acceptability of the evidence and makes the argument more convincing.

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1
 "The privatized profit-driven health system in the U.S. was an international scandal long before Trump, with costs about twice as high as comparable countries and some of the worst outcomes"



1.1a
 "On the eve of the pandemic, the costs of this dysfunctional system were estimated at \$450 billion in wasted expense"

1.1b
 "68,000 deaths annually by *The Lancet*, one of the world's leading medical journals"

1.2
 "Beyond that, the neoliberal business model dictates that hospital care must be "efficient": the minimum number of nurses and hospital beds to just get by in normal times — not much fun for patients even in normal times even at the world's best hospitals, as many can attest"

Fig. (7) A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument

Seven

7.7 Argument Seven Analysis

In Argument Seven, Fig. (7), Chomsky combines two different forms of AS, namely CoAS and MAS, to defend his main claim that 1. *"The privatized profit-driven health system in the U.S. was an international scandal long before Trump, with costs about twice as high as comparable countries and some of the worst outcomes"*

Firstly, Chomsky employs CoAS by advancing two dependent arguments: 1.1a and 1.1b. These dependent arguments cannot stand alone as conclusive defenses to the main standpoint, but when combined, they provide sufficient evidence to support the main argument. CoAS allows Chomsky to present multiple pieces of evidence that, when taken together, strengthen the overall argument. This is particularly useful in situations where a single piece of evidence may not be enough to convince an audience, but multiple pieces of evidence can be more convincing.

Secondly, Chomsky employs MAS by advancing the independent argument, 1.2, in addition to the two dependent arguments. This creates an alternative defense of the main standpoint and provides additional support for the main argument. The use of MAS allows Chomsky to present multiple lines of reasoning that strengthen the overall argument. This allows him also to address different perspectives and counterarguments, and to provide a more comprehensive defense of his position.

In conclusion, the use of both CoAS and MAS allows Chomsky to present a more complex argument that is too hard to refute. By providing multiple pieces of evidence and multiple lines of reasoning, Chomsky is able to anticipate and address potential counterarguments and provide a more robust defense of his views.

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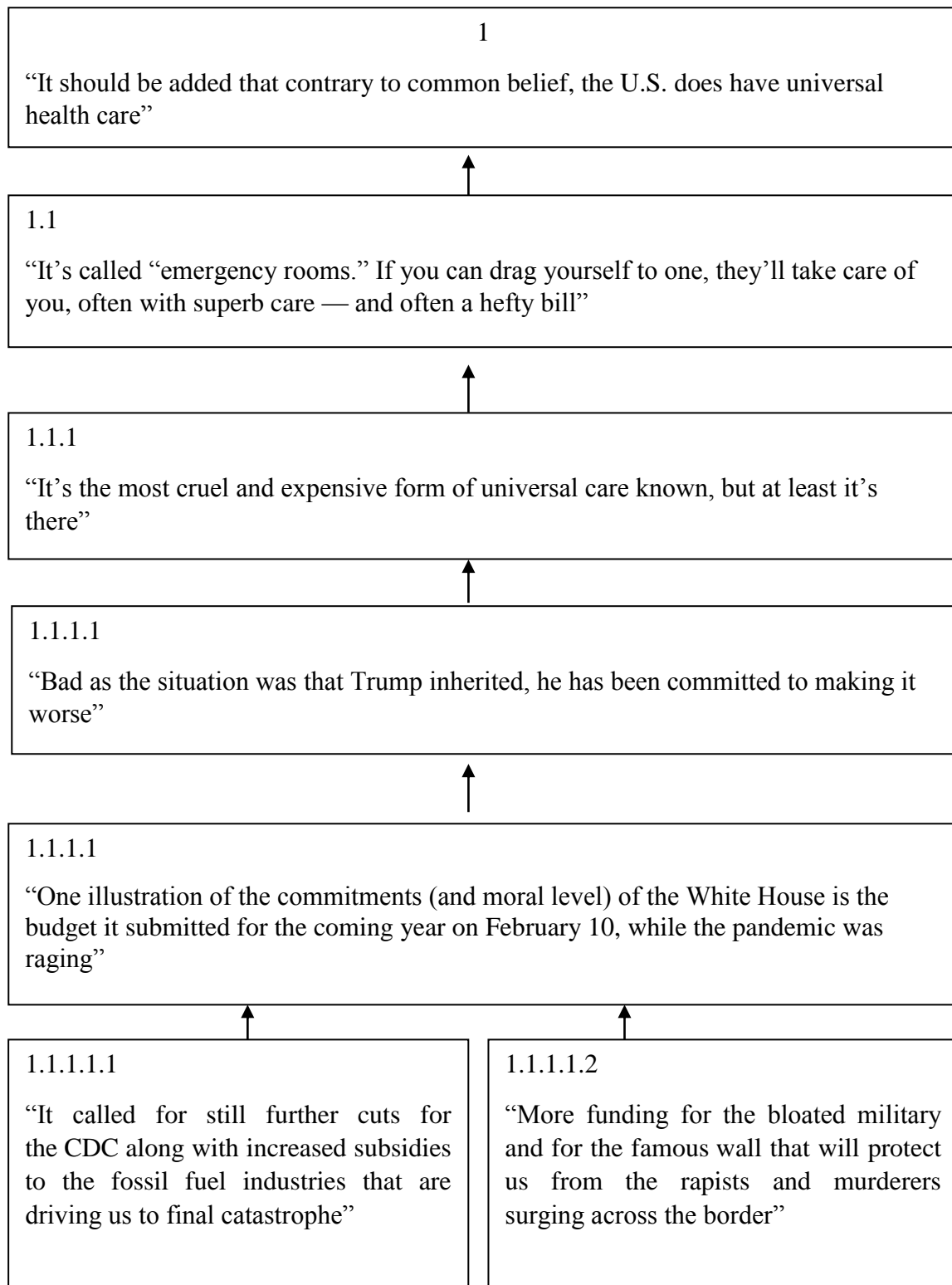


Fig.

(8): A Schematic Representation of the Structure of Argument Eight

7.8 Argument Eight Analysis

In Argument Eight, Fig. (8), Chomsky combines two different types of AS, namely SuAS and MAS, to defend his main claim in 1. *"It should be added that contrary to common belief, the U.S. does have universal health care"*

Firstly, Chomsky resorts to a SuAS by advancing multiple layers of evidence that support each other in order to create a conclusive defense of the standpoint. SuAS allows Chomsky to present a main argument and then provide supporting evidence to back it up, making the argument stronger and more convincing. The use of multiple layers of evidence allows Chomsky to build a stronger case for his position, and to address potential counterarguments by providing evidence that refutes them.

Secondly, Chomsky employs an MAS by advancing two independent arguments that serve as alternative defenses of the subargument and contribute to the overall strength of the argument. This creates an alternative defense of the main standpoint and provides additional support for the main argument.

In summary, Chomsky uses SuAS and MAS to present a comprehensive and robust defense of his position that the United States does not have ideal health care. The use of SuAS allows him to present multiple layers of evidence that support each other to create a conclusive defense of the standpoint, while MAS allows him to present multiple lines of reasoning that strengthen the overall argument. This helps Chomsky to anticipate and address potential counterarguments, and to provide a more convincing argument.

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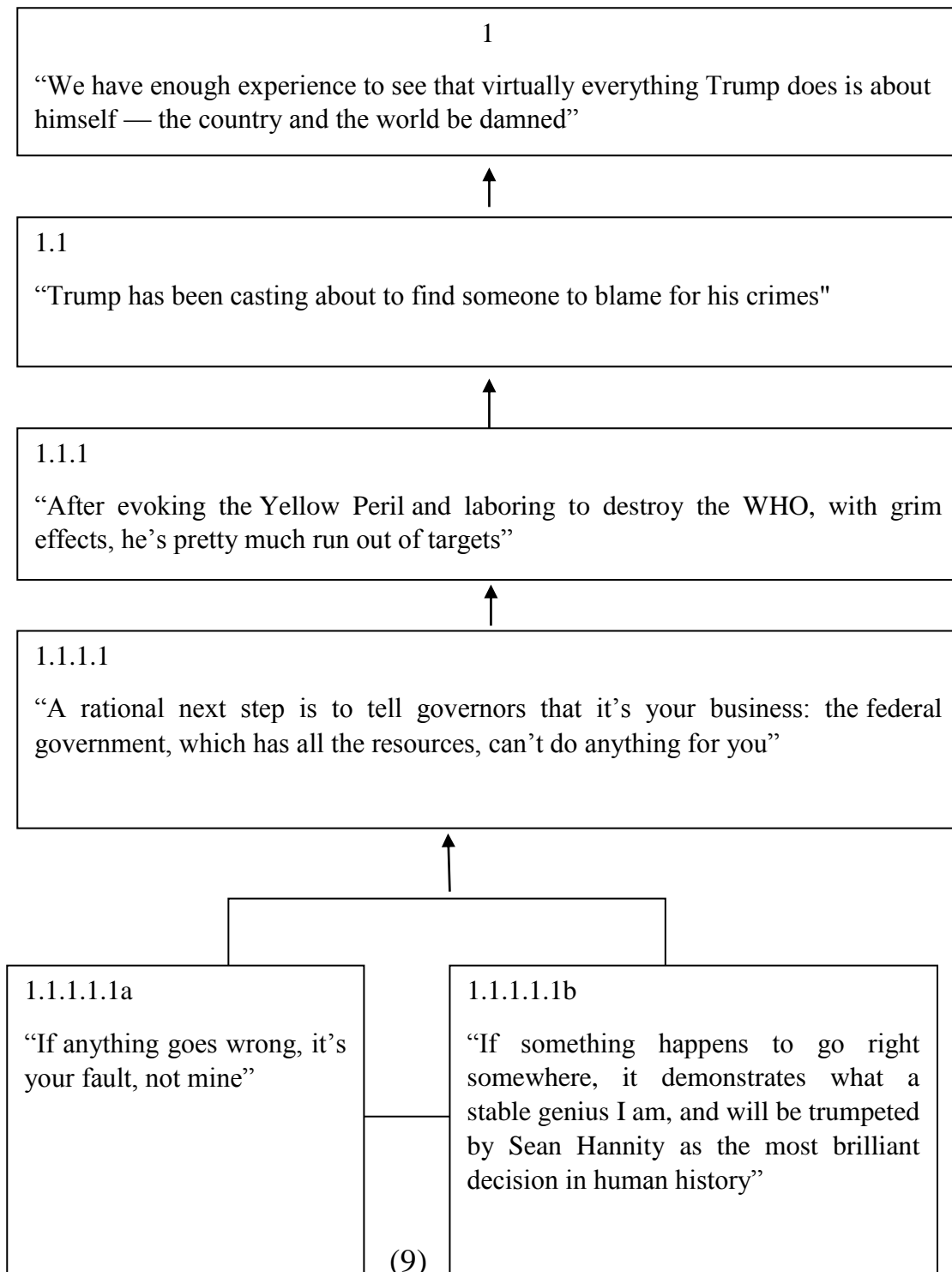


Fig.

(9)

A

Schematic Representation of the Structure of Arguments Nine

7.9 Argument Nine Analysis

In Argument Nine, Fig. (9), Chomsky uses two different types of CAS, namely SuAS and CoAS, to defend his main claim, 1. *"We have enough experience to see that virtually everything Trump does is about himself — the country and the world be damned"*

In the beginning, Chomsky makes use of SuAS by advancing multiple layers of evidence that support each other to create a conclusive defense of the standpoint. SuAS allows Chomsky to present a main argument and then provide supporting evidence to back it up, making the argument more convincing and stronger. The use of multiple layers of evidence helps Chomsky to build a stronger case for his position, and to address potential counterarguments by providing evidence that refutes them.

After that, Chomsky employs CoAS by advancing two dependent arguments: 1.1.1.1.1a and 1.1.1.1.1b. These dependent arguments cannot stand alone as conclusive defenses of the main standpoint, but when combined, they provide sufficient evidence to support the main argument. The use of CoAS allows Chomsky to present multiple pieces of evidence that, when taken together, strengthen the overall argument. This is particularly useful in situations where a single piece of evidence may not be enough to convince the audience, but multiple pieces of evidence can be more convincing.

In conclusion, the use of both SuAS and CoAS makes it possible for Chomsky to present a more complex argument that is harder to refute. By providing multiple layers of evidence and a combination of two dependent arguments, Chomsky is able to anticipate and address potential counterarguments and provide a more robust defense of his standpoint.

8. Conclusions

This research paper has analysed the argumentation structure used in one of Chomsky's interviews on the Corona pandemic. The analysis revealed that Chomsky makes use of a combination of different argumentation structures, including CoAS, MAS, and SuAS. The use of each type serves a particular purpose in response to the argumentative situation.

The use of CoAS allows Chomsky to present multiple pieces of evidence that, when taken together, strengthen the overall argument. This is particularly useful in situations where a single piece of evidence may not be enough to convince an audience, but multiple pieces of evidence can be more convincing. The use of MAS allows Chomsky to present multiple independent lines of reasoning that support the same main argument. The use of SuAS enables Chomsky to provide multiple layers of argumentation to create a strong defense of his claim. This allows him to address different perspectives and counterarguments, and to provide a more comprehensive defense of his position.

Furthermore, the use of a combination of different argumentation structures helps Chomsky to anticipate and address potential counterarguments, and to provide a more robust defense of his position. This is particularly important in the context of a pandemic, where there is often a lot of misinformation and conflicting information circulating. By using a variety of argumentation structures, Chomsky can present a clear and well-supported position on the pandemic, making it more difficult for his opponents to refute his argument and more convincing to the audience.

In shortly, this research paper has shown that the use of a combination of different argumentation structures in Chomsky's interview on the Corona pandemic is an important aspect of his argumentative strategy. By utilizing different structures, Chomsky is able to present a comprehensive and robust defense of his position, making it more convincing to the audience and more difficult for his opponents to refute. This highlights the importance of mixing different argumentation structures in order to speak effectively about complex issues like pandemics.

*A Pragma-Dialectical Study of Argumentation Structure in
Chomsky's interview "COVID-19 Has Exposed the US under
Trump as a "Failed State"*

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