



## Investigating Strategies Of American Political Assertion

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### Abstract

This study shows the strategies used by politicians through asserting their speeches to confirm this study three political texts selected given by George W. Bush, Barak Obama and the assertion is one of many acts that can perform in uttering words in communication. Assertion used daily in communication through directions, answer questions, offer opinions and it plays a major role in speech confirmation.

**Keywords:** strategy, America

التحقيق في استراتيجيات التأكيد السياسي الأمريكي

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### الملخص

توضح هذه الدراسة الاستراتيجيات التي يستخدمها السياسيون من خلال التأكيد في خطاباتهم إذ تتمحور هذه الدراسة في ثلاثة نصوص سياسية اختارها جورج دبليو بوش وباراك أوباما والتأكيد هو أحد الأفعال العديدة والتي بدورها تساعد في نطق الكلمات والتواصل. كما ويستخدم التأكيد يوميًا من خلال الإجابة على الأسئلة وتقديم الآراء، ويلعب دورًا رئيسًا في تأكيد الكلام.

**كلمات مفتاحية:** ستراتيجية ، امريكا

### 1-1- INTRODCUTION

The study of language and politics aims at understanding the role of linguistic communication in the functioning of social units, and how this role shapes language itself. The word "politics" is derived from the Greek word "polis" meaning 'city-state'. The city as an organized social unit depends on linguistic communication for its functioning. Politics is the art, and language is the medium, whereby politicians position themselves to get what they need, and beyond that, what they want.

Chilton and Schaffner contend that politics cannot be carried out without language, and that it could be the use of language in the composition of social groups that leads to what is called politics.

Since political language is variety of language that is different from other varieties by which politicians use certain effective aspects in their speeches, whether spoken or written, to bring about the effect they seek on their addressees, publically on TV



or radio. Therefore, assertion can be applied to be carried out through the language of politics in the sense that assertion is a speech act in which something is claimed to hold by, for instance: presidents, prime ministers, politicians, etc.

In addition, the concept of assertion has often occupied the central place in the philosophy of language, since it is often thought that making assertion is the use of language most crucial to linguistic meaning, and hence of importance for theories of knowledge and belief.

Such political texts are often manipulated to express different types of meaning among which knowledge, belief, facts, logical necessity, probabilities, etc. then, they must explicitly and implicitly indicate the exploitation of assertive meaning.

Pragmatically speaking, the speech act of assertion can be found numerously since most political texts and speeches tend to assert political issues, messages, decisions, attitudes, actions, etc. nevertheless, such pragmatic utilization of the speech act of

assertion may be realized in different syntactic forms alongside with the semantic interpretation. A problem which needs deeper linguistic investigation which this aims at.

## **1-2-Speech act of assertion**

Assertion can refer either to a proposition, such as that Venus is planet, or to a person's presenting that proposition as true, such as occurs when a speaker confidently utters the words, "Venus is planet". However, Frege (1984a, 1984b) argued that these two types of case should be firmly separated. As he points out, a proposition may be put forth by a speaker as true, but need not be: one may simply contemplate a proposition because of the novel thought it conveys or in order to determine its consequences. In neither case need one be putting forth that proposition as true. By contrast, an assertion may also be considered an event with a particular spatiotemporal location, whereas it would appear that propositions are abstract entities and thus not spatiotemporally located. Accordingly, philosophers now heed an "ing/ed" ambiguity in such terms as "assertion," which can either be used to refer to a spatiotemporally locatable asserting or to an abstract object that is asserted. What follows will focus on what is assertion and assertion as an act.

Frege (1984a, 1984b)

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com>



### 1-3- Assertion

To assert something is to perform a certain kind of act. This act is different in kind both from other speech acts, like toast buttering and inarticulate yodeling. (1)

The concept of assertion has a very long traditional position in the philosophy of language, which dates back to Aristotle and Plato who discussed this concept in terms of psychological, epistemic, logical, evidential and propositional. (2)

Frame gives a remarkable discussion about assertion or certainty. He says that assertion is a lack of any doubt at all about some state of affairs, for example, if I have no doubt that the earth goes round the sun, then I can be said to be certain of the fact. Like doubt, assertion can range from high to low levels or degrees. (3)

(1)- John Macfarlane - September 8,2009

(2)- General Remarks - Chapter Two

(3)- Frame (2005:1-3)

There are many types of assertion; the first is psychological assertion in which a belief is psychologically certain when a speaker who has a certain belief is completely and supremely convinced of its truth. It is often said that the concept of psychological assertion is similar to the concept of incorrigibility in that, a belief can be certain without being incorrigible, for example, suppose that the speaker who has a belief and he is convinced by its truth. When he acquires and perceives very compelling information of counterevidence to his previously certain belief, he and because of that reason, can change his belief according to the new clear evidence and information. (1)

The second type of assertion is what philosophers call a moral assertion. Desecrate said that "some things are regarded as morally certain because they have adequate assertion in ordinary life". Desecrate also adds that moral assertion is assertion because it is sufficient to organize our behavior in our ordinary life, i.e., the conduct of life that one never doubts. It is possible that this normal behavior may be false. In this sense, a belief is morally certain and asserted when it has a high degree of subjunctive rationality. (2)

(1)-Reed,2008: 2



(2)-Reed ,2008: 2-

Psychological assertion is expressed by the simple declarative sentence and called a categorical or plain assertion. (1)

The third type is empathic assertion, recognition of other person's situation or feelings followed by another statement standing up for speaker's rights. For example, "I know you are feeling angry and frustrated while you wait for a response. But the best I can do is give you a ballpark estimate of how long it will take". (2)

The fourth type of assertion is epistemic. A belief here, is epistemic ally certain if it has the highest possible epistemic status, i.e., degree of justification or warrant. Epistemic assertion is often said to be supported by psychological assertion in the sense that whatever level of assertion is required for epistemic assertion must be a level that gives us a psychological confidence.

In this type of assertion, a speaker who has a belief is not completely sure or certain of its truth, i.e., the speaker may feel less than the full confident of his epistemic assertion whether it has enough justification or not. This type is usually expressed by 'modality'. (3)

(1)- Downing and lock, 2006: 181-2

(2)- <https://ubwp.buffalo.edu>

(3)- Stanley, 2008: 1

The fifth type is escalating assertion, start with a "minimal" assertive response... Other fails to response. Gradually escalate the assertion? increasingly firm without being aggressive. Example: From the first example, " I know what you have to say is important but I really want to finish what I was saying " "I really want to finish before you being to speak “. (1)

The last type is the language assertion, it involves the first-person pronoun " I “, and is useful for expressing negative feelings.

Nevertheless, it constructively leys emphasis on a person's feelings of anger such as:

." When I don't get enough sleep, it effects my nerves and I feel irritated. Therefore, I try to go to bed earlier ".



"When you speak harshly, I cannot work with you because I feel annoyed. Therefore, I want you to speak nicely and then assign me a task".

(1)- <http://ubwp.buffalo.edu>

(2)- <https://literarydevices.net/assertion>

#### 1-4- Politics

Politics, in its broadest sense, is the activity through which people make, preserve and amend the general rules under which they live. Although politics is also a cadmic subject (Sometimes indicated by the use of 'politics' with a capital P). Politics is thus inextricably linked to the phenomena of conflict and cooperation.

On one hand, the existence of rival opinions, different wants, competing needs and opposing interest guarantees disagreement about the rules under which people live. On the other hand, people recognize that, in order to influence these rules or ensure that they are upheld, they must work with others - hence Hannah Arendt's definition of political power as 'acting in concert'. (1)

This is why the heart of politics is often portrayed as a process of conflict resolution, in which rival views or competing interests are reconciled with one another. However, politics in this broad sense is better thought of as a search for conflict resolution than as its achievement, as not all conflicts are or can be, resolved. (2)

(1)- Macmillan International Higher Education- Chapter 1 what is politics?

(2)-(ibid).

In addition to that, the language of politicians particularly when they are speaking in public, is an interesting mixture of old and new: it shows much of the ritual phraseology and consciousness of precedent, associated with religion or law, and it makes use of many of the rhetorical and dramatic techniques linked to advertising or the media. (1)

Charteris -Black (2005: 10) state that, in order to create a successful communication, a politician has to express attitudes and emotions that are mutually



known to the participants in a particular context. At that time, the listeners realize that their beliefs and opinions are understood and supported. (2)

MAZRUI (1975: 170) defines 'politics' as a 'constant search for methods of resolving conflicting interest'. Politics cannot be conducted without language, and it is probably the case that the use of language in the organization of social groups leads to what is called 'politics' in a broad sense. Language and politics are

related in that; a verbal communication system of politics is associated with every system that is called 'government'. (3)

(1)- Crystal, (1995: 378)

(2)- CHARTERIS- Black (2005: 10)

(3)- MAZRUI (1975: 170)

### **Assertion in American political texts**

The following is a pragmatic analysis of three excerpts taken from American political speeches given by George W. Bush, Barak Obama:

Text (1)

"Many nations, however, do have resolve and fortitude to act against this threat to peace, and a broad coalition is now gathering to enforce the just demands the world."

(Int.1. <http://presidentialrhetoric.com>).

This Excerpt is given by George W. Bush for Saddam Hussein and Sons 48 hour to leave Iraq. President Bush told an international television audience March 17, 2003; Washington and the source was from US DOS.

President's speech came hours after the United States, Britain and Spain announced they would not put their draft U.N. Security council resolution on Iraqi disarmament to vote in council. The act of assertion has been offered in the beginning at the Bush text. The assertion acts here can be utilize to indicate direct speech act of assertion.

Text (2)

"Eight September have come and gone. Nearly 3,000 days have passed -almost one for each of those taken from us. But no turning of the seasons can diminish the pain



and the loss of that day. No passage of time and no dark skies can ever dull the meaning of this moment."

(Int.1. <http://presidentialrhetoric.com>).

This expert is given by Barak Obama for the anniversary of 11 Sep. Remarks at the Pentagon memorial, Arlington, Virginia, September 11, 2009. the president Obama on the ceremony morning laid a wreath of white flowers at the Pentagon memorial for those killed there in the Sept.11 attacks, sating the passage of time cannot "diminish the pain and the loss of that day". The act of assertion has been offered in the end of Obama text. The assertion acts here can be utilize to indicate indirect speech act of assertion.

It seems clear from the above texts that there are different formal configurations indicating the illocutionary force of assertion, i.e., do-the emphatic from, can-the model verb. Moreover, what makes it more sophisticated is that sometimes such speech act highly overlaps with other related speech act through the use of 'model verbs' (e.g., obligation, permission, prohibition, warning, request, etc.), as shown in the following example:

Text (3)

"Our security will require modernizing domestic agencies such as the FBI, so they're prepared to act, and act quickly, against danger. Our security will require transforming the military you will lead - a military that must be ready to strike at a moment's notice in any dark corner of the world." (ibid).

This excerpt is given by George W. Bush for the Military Academy commencement addressed to the United States Military Academy in West point at 9:33 a.m. in Michie Stadium West point, New York, June 1,2002. the act of assertion has been offered at the end of Bush text. The assertion acts here can be obligation utilized to indicate direct speech act of assertion.

Here, this utterance can be interpreted as an assertion of the "military to be ready to strike" as an obligation of the "military to be ready to strike". Pragmatically, is it possible to consider a political text as a speech act of assertion or obligation?

Furthermore, the speech act of assertion which is directly and typically made by the declarative sentence type can be also made indirectly by other sentence types as interrogative and imperative sentences which are typically used for making the speech acts of questioning and directing, for example:





Who cares? (Interrogative sentence functioning as an assertion =

No one cares).

Have a good journey (Imperative sentence functioning as an assertion = hope you have a good journey).

The two examples, therefore the need for considering a model in order to highlight the appropriate steps for identifying the indirect speech act of assertion.

### 1-5- conclusion

The study has been focusing on assertion, and assertion is one of many acts we can perform in uttering words. We find assertions everywhere in our daily discourse when we give directions, answer questions, offer our opinions, and when we make arguments. Assertion is a lack of any doubt at all about some state of affairs, for example, if I have no doubt that the earth goes round the sun, then I can be said to be certain of that fact. Then we knew that the assertion has many types; psychological assertion, moral assertion, empathic assertion, epistemic assertion, escalating assertion and language assertion and I talked about each type. In addition to that I made illustration on how the assertion act came in the political text in the three American political text.

Despite the difficulties that I faced due to the lack of resources in writing this research

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