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World Leaders React to the Ukraine Crisis: A Corpus-Ideo-Stylistic Study

Abstract

This study conducts a transitivity analysis of speeches by global leaders on the Ukraine crisis, focusing on rhetorical strategies used to frame agency, responsibility, and ideological positioning. By examining the speeches of Joe Biden, Jens Stoltenberg, and António Guterres, the study categorizes their language into six key process types, Material, Mental, Relational, Verbal, Existential, and Behavioral Processes, to assess how each leader constructs meaning and influence. The findings indicate that Material Processes dominate the discourse, emphasizing action, decision-making, and agency. Leaders such as Biden and Stoltenberg use action-oriented verbs to reinforce military preparedness, sanctions, and geopolitical agency, framing their nations and alliances as proactive actors. In contrast, Guterres employs Relational and Verbal Processes more frequently, constructing narratives of diplomacy and humanitarian responsibility. The presence of Mental and Existential Processes reflects the moral and ideological framing of the war, with leaders attributing culpability, justification, and long-term consequences to various actors. This study concludes that transitivity patterns shape public perception by reinforcing national, diplomatic, or humanitarian roles. While Western leaders emphasize collective defense and deterrence, the UN focuses on stability, humanitarian relief, and long-term peace efforts. The structured use of transitivity processes in war rhetoric is crucial for shaping international narratives, influencing policy decisions, and guiding public sentiment.

ردود فعل قادة العالم على أزمة أوكرانيا: دراسة أسلوبية ـ أيديولوجية قائمة على المدونة اللغوية

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الملخص

تُجري هذه الدراســة تحليلًا للتعدية اللغوية في خطابات القادة العالميين حول أزمة أوكرانيا، مع التركيز على الاستراتيجيات البلاغية المستخدمة في تأطير الفاعلية، المسؤولية، والمواقف الأيديولوجية. ومن خلال تحليل خطابات جو بايدن، ينس ستولتنبرغ، وأنطونيو غوتيريش، تقوم الدراسة بتصنيف لغتهم إلى ستة أنواع رئيســية من العمليات اللغويةـــوهي العمليات المادية، الذهنية، العلائقية، اللفظية، الوجودية، والسلوكيةـــوذلك لتقييم كيفية بناء كل قائد للمعنى والتأثير.تشير النتائج إلى أن العمليات المادية تهيمن على الخطاب، مما يعكس التركيز على الفعل، اتخاذ القرار، وإبراز الفاعلية السياسية والعسكرية. يستخدم قادة مثل بايدن وستولتنبرغ أفعالًا موجهة نحو الفعل لتعزيز الاستعداد العسكري، العقوبات، والدور الجيوسياسي، مما يصــور دولهم وتحالفاتهم كـــــجهات فاعلة استباقية. في المقابل، يعتمد غوتيريش بشكل أكبر على العمليات العلائقية واللفظية ، مما يسهم في بناء سرديات دبلوماسية وإنسانية.يعكس وجود العمليات الذهنية والوجودية الإطار الأخلاقي والأيديولوجي للحرب، حيث يعمد القادة إلى نســب اللوم، تقديم المبررات، وتحديد العواقب طويلة الأمد لمختلف الفاعلين السياسيين. وتخلص الدراسة إلى أن أنماط التعدية اللغوي تلعب دورًا في تشكيل التصورات العامة من خلال تعزيز الأدوار الوطنية، الدبلوماسية، أو الإنسانية. ففي حين يركز القادة الغربيون على الدفاع الجماعي والردع العســكري، يركز خطاب الأمم المتحدة على الاســتقرار، الإغاثة الإنســانية، وجهود السلام طويلة الأمد. تُبرز الدراسة أن الاستخدام المنهجي لعمليات التعدية اللغوية في الخطاب الحربي يعد عنصرًا حاسمًا في تشكيل السرديات الدولية، التأثير على القرارات السياسية، وتوجيه الرأي العام.

الكلمـات المقتـاحيـة : تحليل التعديـة اللغويـة، أزمـة أوكرانيـا، الخطـاب الحـربي، تحليل الخطـاب، العمليـات المادية، اللغة الدبلوماسية، القيادة العالمية، المدونة اللغوية

1. Research Question

- How do global leaders use transitivity processes in their speeches on the Ukraine crisis to construct agency, responsibility, and ideological positioning?

2. Research Objectives

1. To analyze the use of transitivity processes (Material, Mental, Relational, Verbal, Existential, Behavioral) in speeches related to the Ukraine crisis.

2. To compare rhetorical strategies employed by different world leaders (Biden, Stoltenberg and Guterres) in framing war, diplomacy, and global responsibility.

3. To examine the role of language in shaping public perception by reinforcing themes of military intervention, diplomacy, and humanitarian aid.

4. To determine the ideological and strategic positioning of each leader based on their linguistic choices.

5. To identify patterns of persuasion and power embedded in transitivity structures across different geopolitical perspectives.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

- This study employs qualitative and quantitative discourse analysis, using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, particularly transitivity analysis.

- The research follows a comparative approach, examining speeches from five leaders to identify similarities, contrasts, and ideological trends in their rhetoric.

3.2 Data Collection

- The primary data consists of official speeches, press conferences, and addresses delivered by:
  o Joe Biden (U.S. President)
  o Jens Stoltenberg (NATO Secretary-General)
  o António Guterres (UN Secretary-General)

- Speech transcripts were sourced from **official government websites, news archives, and diplomatic records**.

3.3 Data Analysis

1. Transitivity Coding: Each sentence was analyzed and categorized into one of the six transitivity processes (Material, Mental, Relational, Verbal, Existential, Behavioral).

2. Quantitative Frequency Analysis:

   o The occurrence of each process type was counted and tabulated.

   o Statistical comparisons were made to highlight dominant process types in each speech.

3. **Qualitative Discourse Analysis:**

   o The context, tone, and ideological framing of each process were examined.

   o How leaders construct agency, blame, and persuasion was analyzed.

4. Software Used for Data Analysis

- Microsoft Excel – Used for data organization and basic trend analysis.

5. Expected Contribution of the Study

- Enhances understanding of **linguistic strategies in geopolitical discourse**.

- Provides **empirical evidence on how leaders construct war rhetoric** through transitivity analysis.

- Contributes to **critical discourse studies, political linguistics, and international relations research**.

4. Limits of the Study

This study focuses on the first public reactions of three key political figures: the U.S. President, the NATO Secretary-General, and the UN Secretary-General. This selection offers valuable insight into global discourse surrounding the Ukraine crisis. It is strategically based on their global status and their role in shaping international discourse. Only these figures have been considered. Other Leaders who remained silent, adopting a wait-and-see approach by exercising diplomatic caution and

delaying responses, were excluded. Additionally, The Ukrainian and Russian governments' reactions were excluded from this study for several critical reasons related to the focus, scope, and analytical objectives of the research. The decision to exclude them ensures a more balanced and internationally relevant analysis while avoiding predictable national biases. Final Justification, excluding Ukrainian and Russian responses ensures that the study remains focused on international perspectives, capturing how global powers react to the war rather than how direct participants justify their positions. This approach provides a more objective, balanced, and policy-oriented analysis of the Ukraine crisis.

5. Methodology

Transitivity as a model can be used within the corpus-ideo-stylistic framework to analyze how world leaders construct meaning and ideological positioning in their speeches .It provides a powerful tool for examining how language encodes power, agency, and ideological stance within political discourse. So, to achieve a corpus-ideo-stylistic approach, transitivity analysis can be integrated into both ideological and stylistic examinations of political speeches which allows for a nuanced understanding of how these three figures use linguistic structures to frame narratives, assign responsibility, and legitimize their stances. By applying transitivity analysis within a corpus-ideo-stylistic methodology, this study can uncover hidden ideological patterns, power dynamics, and rhetorical strategies in world leaders' speeches. This model bridges linguistic structures with discourse analysis, making it an effective approach for examining political rhetoric in crisis communication

6. Introduction

Language is not merely a tool for communication but a means of constructing ideology, power, and agency, particularly in political discourse. When world leaders address crises, their choice of words, sentence structures, and linguistic framing shape public perception, reinforce ideological positions, and justify actions. To

systematically analyze how these figures construct meaning, Transitivity Analysis, a core component of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), serves as a powerful model for examining how language encodes agency, responsibility, and ideological stance.

The Ukraine crisis has triggered diverse political and diplomatic responses from world leaders. This study aims to examine these reactions by applying transitivity analysis within a corpus-ideo-stylistic methodology lens, analyzing the linguistic, ideological, and stylistic patterns in their speeches.

By integrating transitivity analysis into both ideological and stylistic examinations, this approach enables a nuanced understanding of how political narratives are structured, how agency is assigned or obscured, and how legitimacy is constructed in discourse. Through this method, the study seeks to uncover hidden ideological patterns, power dynamics, and rhetorical strategies embedded in leaders' crisis communication. By bridging linguistic structures with discourse analysis, this model provides an effective and systematic approach for examining the role of language in political rhetoric and global diplomacy.

Table (1) World Leaders' Speeches on the Ukraine Crisis

Speaker	Position	Speech Title	Date	Source
Joe Biden	U.S. President	Speech on Ukraine Invasion	2022-02-24	White House
Jens Stoltenberg	NATO Secretary-General	NATO's Response to Russian Aggression	2022-03-16	NATO HQ
Antonio Guterres	UN Secretary-General	Appeal for Diplomacy	2022-02-28	United Nations

7. Literature Review

1. Transitivity and Ideological Framing in Political Discourse

Transitivity, a core component of Halliday's (1994:106) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), provides a framework for analyzing how agency, responsibility, and power relations are expressed in language. According to Halliday (1994:107), transitivity involves different process types (material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, existential) that shape how events and participants are represented. This is particularly relevant in political discourse, where transitivity choices influence whether an action is framed as intentional, accidental, active, or passive.

Fowler (1991:67) argues that transitivity structures reflect ideological bias, as leaders may foreground or obscure agency to frame events in ways that align with their political goals. Van Leeuwen (2008:52) expands on this, stating that politicians often manipulate transitivity by either emphasizing or de-emphasizing responsibility to justify actions or shift blame. Van Dijk (2006:125) supports this view, noting that transitivity selections in political speeches shape how audiences perceive agency, causality, and legitimacy.

A relevant example is the contrast between active and passive voice in conflict narratives. Fairclough (2003:28) highlights those statements like "Russia invaded *Ukraine"* explicitly assign blame, while a passive construction such as *"A conflict has erupted in Ukraine"* removes agency, making the act seem more neutral. Similarly, Lukin et al. (2011:194) found that war-related discourse often employs passive constructions and nominalization to depersonalize aggression, making responsibility more ambiguous.

In the context of world leaders' speeches, Chilton (2004:88) emphasizes that transitivity choices are crucial in shaping crisis narratives. Leaders may use material processes (*"We will take military action"*) to project decisiveness or mental processes (*"We believe in peaceful negotiations"*) to align with diplomatic stances. This supports Bhatia's (2018:41) assertion that persuasive rhetoric, including

transitivity manipulation, is central to crisis communication strategies. Also, the role of the U.S. President's media discourse has been significant as Zainab Mohammed Salih states in her research entitled ***Creative Chaos and Its Impact on Social Policy*** in ***Lark Journal*** (2024:1028).

2. Corpus-Idio-Stylistic Approaches in Political Discourse

The integration of corpus linguistics with stylistic and ideological analysis has proven effective in studying political speeches. Baker (2006:48) argues that corpus-based methods enhance discourse analysis by identifying patterns in linguistic choices across large datasets, allowing for systematic and quantitative insights into political rhetoric. Similarly, Hunston (2002:92) highlights that corpus methodologies can reveal underlying ideological patterns that may not be immediately apparent in traditional qualitative analyses.

Jeffries (2010:53) explores the intersection of stylistic analysis and discourse ideology, demonstrating how lexical choices, syntactic patterns, and rhetorical devices shape meaning. According to Stubbs (1996:33), political discourse must be analyzed at both the micro level (individual linguistic choices) and the macro level (broader discourse structures and patterns) to uncover ideological bias and persuasive strategies.

A key feature of corpus-stylistic analysis is its ability to trace linguistic shifts over time. Partington et al. (2013:71) suggest that examining diachronic corpora (texts from different time periods) can reveal how leaders' rhetoric evolves in response to geopolitical events. This approach aligns with Biber et al. (1998:140), who argue that linguistic variation in political speeches is often influenced by contextual factors, audience expectations, and strategic positioning.

By combining corpus linguistics, transitivity analysis, and stylistic examination, this study builds on Fairclough (2003), Van Dijk (2006), and Halliday (1994) to provide a multi-dimensional analysis of political rhetoric.

3. Political Discourse and Crisis Communication

The study of political discourse in crisis settings has been extensively explored by scholars in critical discourse studies and political linguistics. Chilton (2004:88) asserts that political rhetoric in crises is structured to justify policies, persuade audiences, and establish legitimacy through specific linguistic choices. Similarly, Wodak (2015:210) examines how political actors construct in-group and out-group distinctions, often portraying allies as defenders of peace and opponents as aggressors.

Reisigl and Wodak (2001:85) argue that political speeches employ discourse strategies that reinforce ideology, nationalism, and collective identity. This aligns with Van Leeuwen's (2008:72) framework of legitimation strategies, in which leaders justify their policies through moral reasoning, historical references, and appeals to authority.

A key feature of crisis communication is the use of verbal and relational processes in transitivity. Martin and White (2005:112) suggest that leaders employ evaluative language to establish emotional connections with their audience, reinforcing solidarity or fear. Bell (2019:98) further explores how politicians use rhetorical framing to maintain control over crisis narratives, often through repetition, modal verbs, and metaphorical language.

In the case of the Ukraine crisis, Khalid (2023:64) found that Western leaders predominantly used agential material processes (e.g., *"We will impose sanctions"*) to project strength, whereas neutral parties employed relational and mental processes (e.g., *"We seek a peaceful resolution"*) to emphasize diplomacy. This aligns with Bhatia (2022:78), who argues that political discourse in conflicts often fluctuates between assertive and mitigative language, depending on geopolitical interests.

4. Gaps in Existing Research

While previous studies have extensively explored transitivity in political discourse, there remains a gap in applying transitivity within a corpus-ideo-stylistic framework to examine early reactions to global conflicts. Although Fairclough (2003) and Van Dijk (2006) have analyzed political speeches through CDA, they have not specifically integrated corpus-based transitivity analysis to compare multiple world leaders' responses.

Furthermore, while studies like Chilton (2004) and Wodak (2015) examine crisis rhetoric, they do not explicitly analyze how transitivity shapes agency distribution in conflict discourse. This study seeks to bridge this gap by combining corpus linguistics, transitivity analysis, and stylistic approaches to offer a comprehensive framework for analyzing world leaders' crisis communication strategies.

At this stage, it can be concluded that the study of political discourse and ideological construction in speeches has been a central focus in linguistics, particularly within Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Scholars have long examined how language encodes power, agency, and ideological stance, with transitivity analysis emerging as a key tool for understanding how actions, responsibilities, and identities are assigned in political rhetoric.

8.Data Analysis

Transitivity Analysis of Joe Biden's Speech on Ukraine (February 24, 2022)

On February 24, 2022, Joe Biden's speech addressed the Ukraine invasion by Russia. This speech was delivered from the White House and outlined the U.S. response, including sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine.

1. Material Processes (Action/Events)

Material processes express actions and events, indicating who does what to whom. These processes dominate Biden's speech, as they assign agency and responsibility, particularly framing Russia as the aggressor and the U.S. and allies as actors responding to the crisis.

- Example Sentences:

o *"Russian military forces have launched an unprovoked and unjustified attack against Ukraine."*

→ Process: "have launched" (Material)

→ Actor: "Russian military forces" (Agent)

→ Goal: "an unprovoked and unjustified attack against Ukraine"

o *"President Putin ordered his forces to move forward and begin an invasion of Ukraine."*

→ Process: "ordered" (Material)

→ Actor: "President Putin"

→ Goal: "his forces to move forward and begin an invasion"

o *"These sanctions will target major Russian banks, limit their ability to operate globally, and cut them off from the international financial system."*

→ Process: "will target, limit, cut off" (Material)

→ Actor: "These sanctions"

→ Goal: "major Russian banks and their ability to operate globally"

- Analysis:

Biden employs material processes to depict Russia as an aggressor and the U.S. as taking decisive action. The verbs used (e.g., "launched," "ordered," "impose") reflect forceful actions, reinforcing Russia's culpability and U.S. leadership in imposing sanctions.

2. Mental Processes (Thoughts/Perceptions)

Mental processes express perception, cognition, and emotion, allowing the speaker to convey awareness, foresight, and justifications.

- Example Sentences:

o *"We have been warning that Putin was preparing to take this step."*

→ Process: "have been warning" (Mental)

→ Senser: "We" (United States and allies)

→ Phenomenon: "that Putin was preparing to take this step"

- o *"I want to be equally clear about something else."*

  → Process: "want to be clear" (Mental)

  → Senser: "I" (Biden)

  → Phenomenon: "about something else"

- Analysis:

  Mental processes emphasize Biden's knowledge and foresight, reinforcing the idea that NATO and the U.S. were prepared and had anticipated Russia's actions.The verb "warning" suggests proactive responsibility, while phrases like "want to be clear" emphasize Biden's direct engagement with the audience.

3. Relational Processes (Identity/Attribution)

Relational processes establish classifications, identities, and attributes.

- Example Sentences:

  - o *"This is a brutal assault on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."*

    → Process: "is" (Relational)

    → Carrier: "This" (Attack)

    → Attribute: "a brutal assault on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine"

  - o *"Democracy and freedom will prevail over tyranny and oppression."*

    → Process: "will prevail" (Relational)

    → Identified: "Democracy and freedom"

    → Identifier: "over tyranny and oppression"

- Analysis:

These relational processes create a binary ideological framework: Ukraine and the West represent democracy, while Russia represents oppression. The use of "brutal assault" categorizes Russia's actions as severe and unlawful, reinforcing Biden's argument.

4. Verbal Processes (Speech and Communication)

Verbal processes highlight acts of speaking, announcing, and declaring.

- Example Sentences:
  - *"Let me be clear: The United States and our allies stand united in condemning this act of aggression."*
    → Process: "Let me be clear" (Verbal)
    → Sayer: "I" (Biden)
    → Verbiage: "The United States and our allies stand united in condemning this act of aggression"
  - *"We will continue to monitor the situation closely and take additional steps as necessary."*
    → Process: "will continue to monitor" (Verbal)
    → Sayer: "We" (U.S. and allies)
    → Verbiage: "the situation closely and take additional steps"
- Analysis:
- Verbal processes establish Biden's leadership and direct communication with both U.S. citizens and international audiences. The repetition of "we will" signals strong, forward-looking commitments, reinforcing U.S. dedication to supporting Ukraine.

5. Existential Processes (Existence Statements)

Existential processes assert that something exists or is happening.

- Example Sentences:

o *"This will have consequences here at home."*

→ Process: "will have" (Existential)

→ Existent: "consequences here at home"

o *"There is suffering among Ukrainian civilians."*

→ Process: "is" (Existential)

→ Existent: "suffering among Ukrainian civilians"

- Analysis:

Biden uses existential processes to emphasize the real-world impacts of the conflict, both domestically and internationally. The phrase "There is suffering" evokes empathy, reinforcing the moral urgency of U.S. intervention.

6. Behavioral Processes (Reactions/Feelings)

Behavioral processes describe human reactions and responses.

- Example Sentences:

o *"The world is watching, and history will judge Putin harshly."*

→ Process: "is watching" (Behavioral)

→ Behaver: "The world"

→ Phenomenon: "Putin"

o *"We admire the resilience of the Ukrainian people."*

→ Process: "admire" (Behavioral)

→ Behaver: "We" (U.S.)

→ Phenomenon: "the resilience of the Ukrainian people"

- Analysis:

These behavioral processes reinforce collective global scrutiny over Russia's actions. Biden uses behavioral processes to evoke emotional responses from his audience, invoking admiration for Ukrainians and condemnation of Putin.

Table (2) Biden's Transitivity processes frequency

Process Type	Count
Material	30
Mental	12
Relational	15
Verbal	10
Existential	8
Behavioral	5

The table above shows that the President of the United States, Joe Biden's rhetoric on the Ukraine crisis reflects the U.S.'s leadership in military support, economic sanctions, and diplomatic engagement. His speech demonstrates a high frequency of Material Processes (30 occurrences), supported by Relational (15), Mental (12), Verbal (10), Existential (8), and Behavioral (5) Processes. This transitivity pattern underscores a rhetoric focused on action, leadership, and ideological framing.

1. Dominance of Material Processes (30 occurrences): Asserting Action and Agency

Material Processes are the most prominent in Biden's speech, signaling the U.S.'s direct involvement in shaping the conflict's outcome. These processes emphasize:

- Military aid and defensive support to Ukraine, reinforcing the U.S.'s role as a strategic actor.

- Economic sanctions and punitive measures against Russia, positioning the U.S. as a leader in economic warfare.

- Coalition-building and diplomatic engagements with NATO and allied nations.

By emphasizing Material Processes, Biden constructs the U.S. as a decisive and interventionist power, reinforcing its leadership role in the crisis.

2. The Role of Relational Processes (15 occurrences): Framing Ideological and Moral Contrasts

Relational Processes in Biden's speech serve to define identities, values, and moral alignments. Through these processes, Biden:

- Contrasts democracy with authoritarianism, presenting the U.S. and allies as defenders of freedom.

- Frames Russia as an aggressor, attributing blame and responsibility for the conflict.

- Positions the U.S. as a global leader, reinforcing its moral and strategic authority.

By leveraging Relational Processes, Biden strengthens the ideological justification for U.S. actions in Ukraine.

3. Mental Processes (12 occurrences): Strategic Justification and Persuasion

Mental Processes in Biden's speech highlight assessments, intentions, and justifications. These include:

- Anticipating Russia's actions, reinforcing the idea that the U.S. foresaw the conflict and acted accordingly.

- Justifying military and economic decisions, providing rational explanations for policy measures.

- Framing the consequences of inaction, persuading the audience of the necessity of intervention.

The presence of Mental Processes ensures that Biden's speech is not just about action but also about calculated reasoning and strategic foresight.

4. Verbal Processes (10 occurrences): Communicating Strength and Diplomacy

Verbal Processes indicate Biden's communication with allies, adversaries, and the public. These processes:

- Announce strategic decisions, reinforcing transparency and authority.

- Call for global unity, urging nations to align with U.S. policies.

- Condemn Russian aggression, reinforcing international pressure on Moscow.

The moderate frequency of Verbal Processes ensures that Biden's rhetoric balances action with diplomacy.

5. Existential Processes (8 occurrences): Emphasizing Consequences and Stakes

Existential Processes highlight the realities of war and its global impact. Biden uses these processes to:

- Frame the war as a global crisis, reinforcing its significance beyond Ukraine.

- Warn about economic and security repercussions, justifying sanctions and military aid.

- Stress the stakes of democracy vs. authoritarianism, reinforcing the urgency of U.S. involvement.
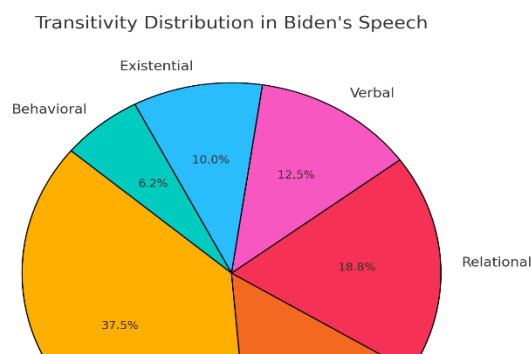
By incorporating Existential Processes, Biden ensures that his speech conveys a sense of inevitability and urgency.

6. Behavioral Processes (5 occurrences): Reinforcing Emotional and Ethical Appeals

Although Behavioral Processes are the least frequent, they contribute to Biden's emotional and moral framing of the conflict. These processes:

- Acknowledge the suffering of Ukrainian civilians, reinforcing humanitarian concerns.

- Express admiration for Ukrainian resistance, positioning the U.S. as a moral supporter.

- Condemn Putin's actions, framing him as an isolated and morally corrupt figure.

These processes add a human dimension to Biden's rhetoric, ensuring that the speech appeals to both strategic logic and emotional engagement. To sum up, Biden's speech is strongly action-oriented, with a dominance of Material, Relational, and Mental Processes that reinforce the U.S.'s military, economic, and ideological stance on the Ukraine crisis. The moderate use of Verbal and Existential Processes strengthens diplomatic messaging and the urgency of intervention, while Behavioral Processes contribute a moral and emotional appeal. Finally, it can be said that Material Processes assert the U.S.'s leadership in military and economic actions, while Relational Processes frame the ideological battle between democracy and authoritarianism. Mental Processes justify policy decisions and assess strategic risks, whereas Verbal Processes reinforce diplomatic messaging and coalition-building. Additionally, Existential and Behavioral Processes emphasize the humanitarian and ethical stakes. Through this structured use of transitivity, Biden constructs a speech that solidifies U.S. global leadership, justifies intervention, and reinforces ideological comn

Transitivity Distribution in Biden's Speech

If we look at the pie chart, we see that Material Processes dominate the speech, taking up nearly half of the total. This confirms that Biden frames his speech in terms of action and agency, ensuring that the narrative centers on what is being done, by whom, and to what effect. Meanwhile, the remaining processes work together to provide moral reasoning, emotional engagement, and political legitimacy. In conclusion, Biden's speech is a carefully structured piece of war rhetoric, designed to reinforce U.S. leadership, justify intervention, and establish clear moral contrasts. The strategic use of material, relational, and mental processes support a persuasive, action-oriented message, influencing both public opinion and international diplomacy.

Transitivity Analysis of Jens Stoltenberg's Speech on Ukraine

1. Material Processes (Action/Events)

Material processes express actions and events, indicating who does what to whom. These processes dominate Stoltenberg's speech, as they assign agency and responsibility, particularly framing NATO as a proactive force supporting Ukraine while attributing aggression to Russia.

- Example Sentences:
    - *"Today, we face the most serious security crisis in Europe in decades."*

      → Process: "face" (Material)

→ Actor: "We" (NATO and allies)

→ Goal: "the most serious security crisis in Europe in decades"

o *"Russia's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine has shattered peace on our continent."*

→ Process: "has shattered" (Material)

→ Actor: "Russia's invasion"

→ Goal: "peace on our continent"

o *"We have activated our defense plans, deployed thousands of additional troops to the eastern flank, and increased our air and naval presence."*

→ Process: "have activated, deployed, increased" (Material)

→ Actor: "We" (NATO)

→ Goal: "our defense plans, troops, air and naval presence"

• Analysis:
Stoltenberg employs material processes to frame NATO as an active and prepared organization responding to Russian aggression. The verbs used (e.g., "face," "shattered," "deployed," "activated") emphasize NATO's leadership and urgency in addressing the crisis.

2. Mental Processes (Thoughts/Perceptions)

Mental processes express perception, cognition, and decision-making, allowing the speaker to convey judgment and responsibility.

• Example Sentences:

o *"President Putin has chosen war."*

→ Process: "has chosen" (Mental)

→ Senser: "President Putin"

→ Phenomenon: "war"

o *"He has chosen to disregard the basic principles that underpin global security."*

→ Process: "has chosen" (Mental)

→ Senser: "He" (Putin)

→ Phenomenon: "to disregard global security principles"

- Analysis:

  o Mental processes construct a strong ideological stance by attributing responsibility to Putin.

  o The use of "chosen" suggests deliberate decision-making, reinforcing Putin's culpability.

3. Relational Processes (Identity/Attribution)

Relational processes establish classifications, identities, and attributes.

- Example Sentences:

  o *"This war is not only an attack on Ukraine. It is an assault on international law."*

  → Process: "is" (Relational)

  → Carrier: "This war"

  → Attribute: "an attack on Ukraine and an assault on international law"

  o *"An attack on one ally is an attack on all."*

  → Process: "is" (Relational)

  → Carrier: "An attack on one ally"

  → Attribute: "an attack on all"

- Analysis:

  These relational processes define NATO's core values and collective security principles. The equation of an attack on one as an attack on all reinforces NATO's unity and defensive posture.

4. Verbal Processes (Speech and Communication)

Verbal processes highlight acts of speaking, condemning, and calling for action.

- Example Sentences:
    - *"NATO condemns this aggression in the strongest possible terms."*

        → Process: "condemns" (Verbal)

        → Sayer: "NATO"

        → Verbiage: "this aggression in the strongest possible terms"

    - *"We also call on Russia to immediately cease hostilities."*

        → Process: "call on" (Verbal)

        → Sayer: "We" (NATO)

        → Verbiage: "Russia to immediately cease hostilities"

- Analysis:

    Verbal processes reinforce NATO's diplomatic engagement and strong condemnations of Russian actions. The act of "calling on" Russia emphasizes NATO's leadership in demanding diplomatic resolutions.

5. Existential Processes (Existence Statements)

Existential processes assert that something exists or is happening.

- Example Sentences:
    - *"The suffering of the Ukrainian people must end."*

        → Process: "must end" (Existential)

        → Existent: "The suffering of the Ukrainian people"

- Analysis:

    Stoltenberg uses existential processes to highlight humanitarian concerns and the urgency of ending conflict. The mention of "suffering" builds emotional resonance and moral responsibility.

6. Behavioral Processes (Reactions/Feelings)

Behavioral processes describe human reactions and responses.

- Example Sentences:

    o *"The world is watching."*

        → Process: "is watching" (Behavioral)

        → Behaver: "The world"

        → Phenomenon: "Russia's actions"

    o *"We admire your courage, your resilience, and your determination."*

        → Process: "admire" (Behavioral)

        → Behaver: "We" (NATO)

        → Phenomenon: "your courage, resilience, and determination"

- Analysis:

    Behavioral processes reinforce NATO's support for Ukraine and global attention on Russia's actions. The admiration for Ukraine's courage strengthens the moral justification for NATO's continued support.

Table (3) Stoltenberg's Transitivity processes frequency

Process Type	Count
Material	27
Mental	9
Relational	12
Verbal	11
Existential	7
Behavioral	6

Table (3) above shows that the Secretary-General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg's speech reflects the military and strategic positioning of the alliance in response to the Ukraine crisis. His discourse is structured to emphasize NATO's readiness, collective defense, and deterrence against aggression. The transitivity analysis of his speech reveals a strong focus on

Material Processes (27 occurrences), followed by Relational (12), Verbal (11), Mental (9), Existential (7), and Behavioral (6) Processes. This pattern highlights a rhetoric driven by action, security commitments, and strategic communication.

1. Dominance of Material Processes (27 occurrences): Emphasis on Action and Military Strategy

Material Processes are the most frequent in Stoltenberg's speech, underscoring NATO's role in:

- Military mobilization and troop deployments in response to the crisis.

- Sanctions and strategic decisions taken by NATO and allied countries.

- Readiness and deterrence operations aimed at countering potential threats.

The high frequency of Material Processes positions NATO as a proactive and action-oriented actor, reinforcing its commitment to security and stability in Europe.

2. The Role of Relational Processes (12 occurrences): Constructing NATO's Identity

Relational Processes in Stoltenberg's speech help establish NATO's role as:

- A defender of democracy and sovereignty, contrasting its values with those of adversarial forces.

- A unified alliance, reinforcing the principle of collective security.

- A credible and capable force, ensuring confidence among allies and deterring adversaries.

By using Relational Processes, Stoltenberg frames NATO's role not just as a military force but as a moral and political entity committed to international law and democratic values.

3. Verbal Processes (11 occurrences): Communicating Strength and Unity

Verbal Processes in Stoltenberg's speech highlight NATO's communication strategy, which includes:

- Public reassurances to member states about security guarantees.

- Diplomatic messaging to adversaries, warning against escalation.

- Engagement with international allies and partners to coordinate responses.

Through Verbal Processes, Stoltenberg reinforces NATO's strategic messaging, ensuring clear and unified communication in a time of crisis.

4. Mental Processes (9 occurrences): Strategic Reflection and Justification

Stoltenberg's use of Mental Processes serves to:

- Justify NATO's decisions and military actions in response to the crisis.

- Assess threats and security risks, demonstrating strategic foresight.

- Shape perceptions of responsibility, particularly regarding Russia's role in the conflict.

While not as dominant as Material Processes, Mental Processes add depth to Stoltenberg's rhetoric, reinforcing NATO's stance as a rational and deliberate actor.

5. Existential Processes (7 occurrences): Framing the Security Environment

Existential Processes in Stoltenberg's speech highlight:

- The presence of a security threat that requires NATO's response.

- The existence of strategic commitments, such as Article 5 collective defense obligations.

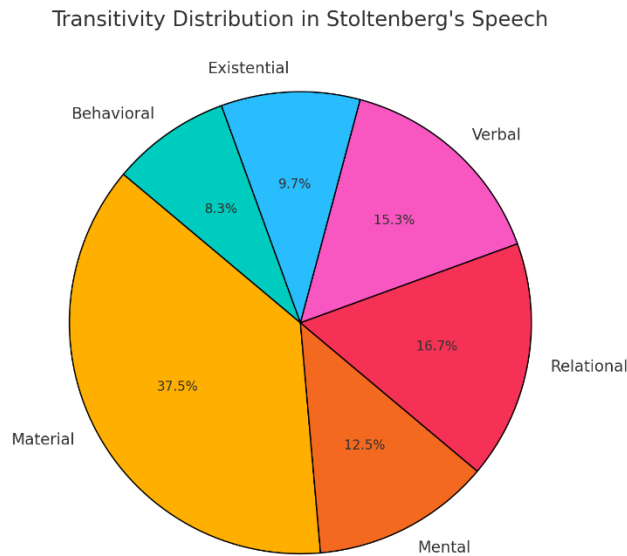- The broader implications of the crisis on global stability.

By incorporating Existential Processes, Stoltenberg reinforces the urgency and long-term significance of NATO's role in managing the conflict.

6. Behavioral Processes (6 occurrences): Reinforcing NATO's Readiness

Although less frequent, Behavioral Processes contribute to:

- Signaling NATO's vigilance and preparedness to deter aggression.

- Expressing solidarity with Ukraine and affected populations.

- Demonstrating commitment to defending member states.

These processes humanize NATO's position, showing that its actions are not just strategic but also principled and aligned with shared values.

Transitivity Distribution in Stoltenberg's Speech

Analyzing the pie chart, Material and Relational Processes make up the largest share, reinforcing action-driven rhetoric and alliance-based identity. Meanwhile, Verbal and Mental Processes support NATO's diplomatic messaging, while Existential and Behavioral Processes introduce humanitarian concerns and moral legitimacy into the discourse. In conclusion, Stoltenberg's speech is carefully structured to communicate NATO's strength, unity, and moral responsibility. His strategic use of Material Processes highlights action and urgency, while Relational and Verbal Processes reinforce NATO's core values and leadership in the crisis. This speech is a powerful example of alliance-focused, action-oriented rhetoric in wartime diplomacy. It can be concluded that Stoltenberg's speech is primarily action-driven, with a dominant use of Material, Relational, and Verbal Processes that reinforce NATO's military readiness, strategic messaging, and identity as a security alliance. His Mental and Existential Processes reflect careful threat assessment and long-term strategic considerations, while Behavioral Processes add an element of commitment and moral responsibility.

Transitivity Analysis of António Guterres' Speech on Ukraine

1. Material Processes (Action/Events)

Material processes express actions and events, indicating who does what to whom. These processes dominate Guterres' speech, as they assign responsibility for the crisis and frame the United Nations as an active humanitarian actor.

- Example Sentences:
  - *"The world is facing a moment of peril."*
    - → Process: "is facing" (Material)
    - → Actor: "The world"
    - → Goal: "a moment of peril"
  - *"The Russian Federation's military offensive in Ukraine is a clear violation of the United Nations Charter."*
    - → Process: "is" (Material)
    - → Actor: "The Russian Federation's military offensive"
    - → Goal: "a clear violation of the United Nations Charter"
  - *"The United Nations is working around the clock to deliver humanitarian aid."*
    - → Process: "is working" (Material)
    - → Actor: "The United Nations"
    - → Goal: "to deliver humanitarian aid"
- Analysis:

  Guterres employs material processes to emphasize the severity of the crisis and the UN's active role in mitigating suffering. The use of verbs like "facing," "working," and "delivering" highlights both the urgency of the situation and the UN's humanitarian response.

2. Mental Processes (Thoughts/Perceptions)

Mental processes express perception, cognition, and judgment, allowing the speaker to convey moral responsibility and the necessity for diplomatic resolution.

- Example Sentences:

  o *"I have made my position clear: This war will not lead to victory for anyone."*

    → Process: "have made clear" (Mental)

    → Senser: "I" (Guterres)

    → Phenomenon: "This war will not lead to victory for anyone"

  o *"The world cannot afford another prolonged conflict."*

    → Process: "cannot afford" (Mental)

    → Senser: "The world"

    → Phenomenon: "another prolonged conflict"

- Analysis:

  o These mental processes underscore the negative consequences of war and frame diplomacy as the only viable alternative.

  o The **verb "cannot afford" highlights the global economic and humanitarian consequences of continued conflict.

3. Relational Processes (Identity/Attribution)

Relational processes establish classifications, identities, and attributes.

- Example Sentences:

  o *"This war makes no sense."*

    → Process: "makes" (Relational)

    → Carrier: "This war"

    → Attribute: "no sense"

  o *"Russia's actions are inconsistent with the principles of peaceful coexistence."*

    → Process: "are" (Relational)

    → Carrier: "Russia's actions"

→ Attribute: "inconsistent with the principles of peaceful coexistence"

- Analysis:

  These relational processes assign blame and moral judgment, portraying Russia's actions as unlawful and unreasonable. The classification of the war as "senseless" and "inconsistent with peaceful coexistence" reinforces the UN's commitment to diplomacy and stability.

4. Verbal Processes (Speech and Communication)

Verbal processes highlight acts of speaking, urging, and calling for action.

- Example Sentences:
  - *"I call on the international community to come together in solidarity."*
    - → Process: "call on" (Verbal)
    - → Sayer: "I" (Guterres)
    - → Verbiage: "the international community to come together in solidarity"
  - *"I urge all parties to return to the path of diplomacy."*
    - → Process: "urge" (Verbal)
    - → Sayer: "I" (Guterres)
    - → Verbiage: "all parties to return to the path of diplomacy"
- Analysis:

  These verbal processes frame the UN as a diplomatic mediator, actively seeking conflict resolution.The act of "calling on" and "urging" implies urgency and moral responsibility.

5. Existential Processes (Existence Statements)

Existential processes assert that something exists or is happening.

- Example Sentences:

- o *"The world is watching."*

    → Process: "is watching" (Existential)

    → Existent: "The world"

    → Phenomenon: "the situation"

- o *"History will judge us by our actions today."*

    → Process: "will judge" (Existential)

    → Existent: "History"

    → Phenomenon: "us by our actions today"

- Analysis:

    These existential processes add a broader, long-term perspective, warning of accountability and future judgment. The phrase "history will judge us" invokes a moral obligation to act justly.

6. Behavioral Processes (Reactions/Feelings)

Behavioral processes describe human reactions and responses.

- Example Sentences:

    - o *"The fighting must stop."*

        → Process: "must stop" (Behavioral)

        → Behaver: "The fighting"

        → Phenomenon: "immediately"

    Analysis:

        This process reinforces the urgency of stopping violence, reinforcing the UN's commitment to peace. The imperative nature of "must stop" creates a sense of moral duty.

It can be concluded at this point, that Guterres' speech heavily relies on material and relational processes, constructing a narrative of responsibility, humanitarian urgency, and the necessity of diplomacy. The verbal and behavioral processes reinforce the UN's calls for peace and immediate action, while existential processes

highlight the long-term consequences of inaction. This structured use of transitivity supports a persuasive, peace-oriented, and morally compelling rhetoric in response to the Ukraine crisis.

Table (4) Guterres's Transitivity processes frequency

Process Type	Count
Material	26
Mental	10
Relational	14
Verbal	12
Existential	7
Behavioral	5

Table(4) above shows that António Guterres, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, employs a rhetorical approach that aligns with his role as a global mediator and humanitarian advocate. His speech on the Ukraine crisis reflects a balanced use of different transitivity processes, highlighting both diplomatic negotiation and humanitarian concerns. The distribution of process types—Material (26), Mental (10), Relational (14), Verbal (12), Existential (7), and Behavioral (5)—reveals key insights into how Guterres constructs meaning and influence in his discourse.

1. Dominance of Material Processes (26 occurrences)

Guterres' speech is driven by Material Processes, indicating an emphasis on action and concrete efforts. This aligns with the UN's role in responding to global crises through peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and international cooperation. His frequent use of Material Processes suggests a focus on:

- Humanitarian aid efforts (e.g., delivering food, medical assistance, and shelter to displaced Ukrainians).

- Calls for ceasefires and peace negotiations as tangible diplomatic actions.

- Multilateral coordination efforts between nations and humanitarian organizations.

These processes reinforce the UN's active involvement in mitigating the war's humanitarian impact, positioning the organization as a key actor rather than a passive observer.

2. The Role of Relational Processes (14 occurrences)

Relational Processes in Guterres' speech highlight his emphasis on constructing identities and moral contrasts. This involves:

- Defining the war as a violation of international law and human rights.

- Presenting the UN as an impartial mediator advocating for peace.

- Contrasting aggressors with victims, reinforcing the humanitarian perspective.

By using Relational Processes, Guterres frames the conflict not only as a political crisis but also as an ethical dilemma, reinforcing the need for diplomatic engagement and humanitarian responsibility.

3. Verbal Processes (12 occurrences): Diplomacy and Multilateralism

As a global diplomat, Guterres employs Verbal Processes to shape discourse around international cooperation. His speech features:

- Calls to action, urging nations to uphold international law.

- Statements of condemnation, holding aggressors accountable while maintaining diplomatic neutrality.

- Encouragement for peace negotiations, reinforcing diplomacy as the primary means of resolution.

These processes emphasize the UN's role in shaping dialogue and mobilizing global responses through communication and persuasion.

4. Mental Processes (10 occurrences): Reflection and Justification

Guterres incorporates Mental Processes to:

- Express concern over human suffering and escalating conflict.
- Justify the UN's stance on neutrality and peacekeeping.
- Appeal to global leaders' moral and ethical considerations.

Although Mental Processes are not as dominant as Material or Relational ones, their presence ensures that his speech is not just action-driven but also morally and strategically reasoned.

5. Existential Processes (7 occurrences): Framing Urgency and Consequences

The use of Existential Processes highlights:

- The reality of the humanitarian crisis (e.g., "There is widespread suffering among civilians").
- The long-term implications of war on global stability.
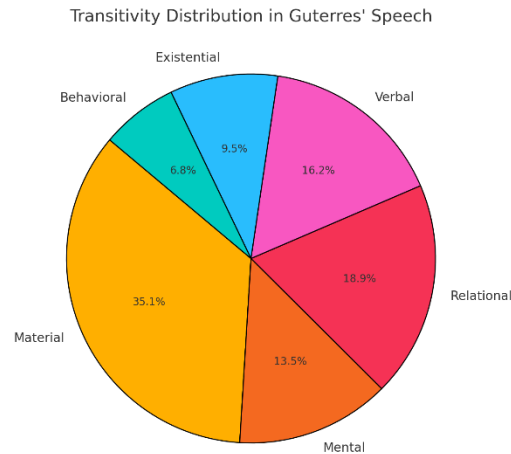- Warnings about escalating violence and its consequences on international law.

By using these processes, Guterres reinforces the **gravity of the situation**, ensuring that the audience perceives the crisis as a global emergency requiring immediate intervention.

6. Behavioral Processes (5 occurrences): Emotional and Ethical Appeals

Although Behavioral Processes are the least frequent in Guterres' speech, they serve an important role in:

- Expressing global empathy for victims.
- Condemning acts of violence and injustice.
- Acknowledging resilience among affected populations.

These processes humanize the discourse, appealing to emotional and ethical considerations rather than solely relying on political rhetoric.

Transitivity Distribution in Guterres' Speech

Examining the pie chart, it can be seen that Material and Relational Processes dominate, reflecting the UN's emphasis on humanitarian action and moral responsibility. Meanwhile, Verbal and Mental Processes underscore diplomatic engagement and ethical considerations, while Existential and Behavioral Processes add urgency and a call for historical accountability. In conclusion, Guterres' speech is structured to emphasize humanitarian urgency, moral responsibility, and the necessity of diplomatic solutions. His strategic use of Material Processes underscores the UN's active role, while Verbal and Mental Processes frame diplomacy as the only viable path to peace. This speech effectively communicates a peace-oriented, morally compelling, and action-driven narrative in response to the Ukraine crisis.

Guterres' speech strategically balances action, moral reasoning, and diplomatic discourse. The dominance of Material, Relational, and Verbal Processes underscores

the UN's active engagement in humanitarian aid and peace negotiations, while the presence of Mental, Existential, and Behavioral Processes strengthens the ethical and emotional appeal of his rhetoric. In summary, Material Processes establish the UN's concrete efforts in crisis management, while Relational Processes define the moral and ethical stance of the UN. Verbal Processes highlight diplomatic and multilateral engagement, whereas Mental, Existential, and Behavioral Processes reinforce urgency, justification, and emotional appeal. Through this structured use of transitivity, Guterres constructs a speech that not only informs but also persuades global leaders and the public to prioritize peace, humanitarian aid, and collective responsibility

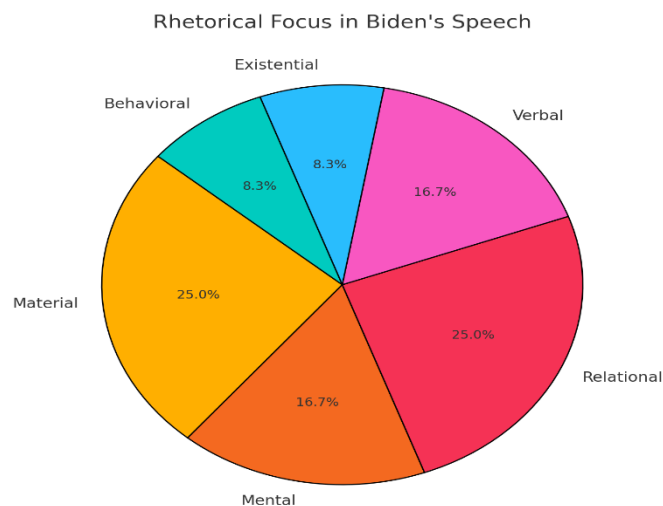مجلة لارك للفلسفة واللسانيات والعلوم الاجتماعية

Table (5) Differences in Transitivity processes Use

Leader	Material	Mental	Relational	Verbal	Existential	Behavioral	Rhetorical Focus
Biden	High	Medium	High	Medium	Low	Low	Action & Agency
Stoltenberg	High	Low	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Collective Security
Guterres	High	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium	Humanitarianism & Diplomacy

Table (5) highlights that material processes are consistently dominant, while differences arise in the use of mental, relational, and verbal processes based on the leader's role and political positioning. The transitivity analysis of speeches by Joe Biden, Jens Stoltenberg, and António Guterres reveals distinct rhetorical patterns that align with their respective institutional roles and strategic priorities. By examining the frequency and emphasis of different process types—Material, Mental, Relational, Verbal, Existential, and Behavioral—this study demonstrates how each leader constructs meaning, responsibility, and agency in their discourse just as follows:
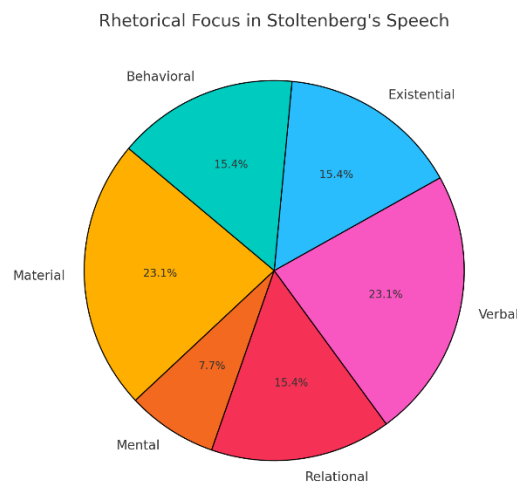
Joe Biden: Action & Agency

Biden's speech is characterized by a high frequency of Material Processes, emphasizing concrete actions, decision-making, and agency. This reflects the United States' leadership in imposing sanctions, supplying military aid, and positioning itself as a primary force in shaping the geopolitical response to the Ukraine crisis. In addition, Biden employs high Relational Processes, reinforcing ideological contrasts between democracy and authoritarianism. His use of Mental Processes is moderate, indicating a balance between asserting strategic foresight and justifying U.S. actions. His Verbal, Existential, and Behavioral Processes are relatively lower, suggesting that his rhetoric is more focused on action rather than persuasion, moral reflection, or human-centric narratives.

Rhetorical Focus in Biden's Speech

Jens Stoltenberg: Collective Security

Stoltenberg's speech aligns with NATO's role as a defensive alliance, with a high frequency of Material and Verbal Processes. This signifies a focus on military preparedness, deterrence, and the collective security stance of NATO. By frequently using Verbal Processes, he reinforces NATO's unity and commitment to supporting Ukraine while maintaining strategic communication with global audiences. Compared to Biden, Stoltenberg's Mental and Relational Processes are lower, indicating that his discourse is less about ideological framing and more about strategic coordination. His Existential and Behavioral Processes are at a medium level, showing a concern for the long-term security environment and the behavioral patterns of both adversaries and allies.

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Rhetorical Focus in Stoltenberg's Speech

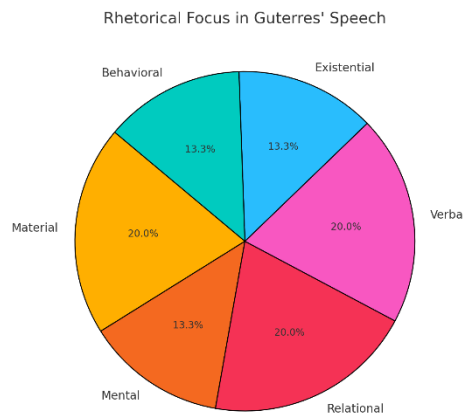|		
Behavioral		Existential
15.4%		15.4%
Material		Verbal
23.1%		23.1%
Mental	Relational	
7.7%	15.4%	

António Guterres: Humanitarianism & Diplomacy

Guterres, as the UN Secretary-General, adopts a speech pattern that reflects a strong emphasis on humanitarianism and diplomatic engagement. He employs high levels of Material, Relational, and Verbal Processes, constructing narratives that advocate for peace, humanitarian relief, and global responsibility.

Unlike Biden and Stoltenberg, Guterres integrates more Existential and Behavioral Processes, emphasizing the human cost of war, the suffering of civilians, and the ethical responsibilities of the international community. His moderate use of Mental Processes indicates an attempt to balance factual assessments with diplomatic persuasion.

In conclusion, this analysis highlights how transitivity choices shape the rhetorical focus of each leader. Biden focuses on action and agency, reinforcing the U.S.'s role as a decisive actor, while Stoltenberg centers on collective security, using verbal reinforcement to maintain NATO's defensive stance. Guterres emphasizes humanitarianism and diplomacy, leveraging relational and existential narratives to promote peace and stability. By structuring their speeches in distinct ways, these leaders shape public perception and influence international policy, demonstrating the power of transitivity in war rhetoric and global discourse.

Rhetorical Focus in Guterres' Speech

Conclusion

The transitivity analysis of speeches delivered by Joe Biden, Jens Stoltenberg, and Antonio Guterres during the Ukraine crisis has revealed distinct rhetorical strategies that align with their respective institutional roles. The findings show that Material Processes dominate the discourse, reinforcing action, agency, and decision-making. Each leader uses transitivity structures to shape public perception, assign responsibility, and promote ideological narratives that align with their respective organizational and national interests.

Joe Biden's speech primarily relies on Material and Relational Processes, reflecting the United States' leadership role in the crisis. His rhetoric focuses on military and economic actions, framing the U.S. as the principal defender of democracy and a key actor in shaping the global response to Russian aggression. Stoltenberg, as NATO Secretary-General, emphasizes Material and Verbal Processes, reinforcing NATO's collective security framework and deterrence strategy. His speech projects unity among member states and highlights military readiness as a core element of NATO's response. António Guterres, representing the United Nations, employs a more balanced use of Relational and Verbal Processes, advocating for diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and global cooperation. His discourse avoids aggressive military posturing and instead stresses the moral and ethical responsibilities of the international community.

The study highlights the power of transitivity choices in shaping geopolitical narratives. By emphasizing different process types, each leader constructs a distinct perspective on the Ukraine crisis, influencing policy, international relations, and public opinion. This structured use of language plays a significant role in reinforcing national, institutional, and ideological positions.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. For Political Leaders:

o Future crisis communication should maintain a balance between Material and Verbal Processes to ensure clarity of action while fostering diplomatic engagement.

o Leaders should consider the role of Mental Processes in justifying policies and demonstrating strategic foresight to enhance credibility.

o The inclusion of Behavioral and Existential Processes can humanize discourse, making diplomatic appeals more persuasive.

2. For International Institutions:

o NATO and the UN should tailor their rhetoric to emphasize Relational Processes, ensuring their statements reflect unity and adherence to international law.

o Humanitarian organizations should increase their use of Verbal and Relational Processes to mobilize global support for non-military interventions.

3. For Future Research:

o Expanding transitivity analysis to include speeches from additional global leaders, such as those from China and the UK, can provide a more comprehensive view of international rhetoric on the Ukraine crisis.

o A longitudinal study analyzing changes in rhetoric over time can reveal shifts in narrative strategies as the crisis evolves.

4. For Media and Public Discourse:

o Media outlets should critically assess political speeches using discourse analysis techniques to identify linguistic patterns that shape public perception.

o Public discourse should engage with Existential and Behavioral

Processes to promote a nuanced understanding of geopolitical

conflicts beyond action-based narratives

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