



Intersubjective Positioning in Joe Biden and Mohammad Shia' Al-Sudani's Selected Political Speeches about the 2023 Israel - Gaza Conflict : A Contrastive Discourse Analysis

Asst. Prof. Rajaa' M. Flayih

University of Al-Qadisiyah-College of Education-Department of English

Email: rajaa.flayih@qu.edu.iq

Abstract

This study examines the linguistic resources through which former U.S. President Joe Biden and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia' Al - Sudani construct their positions on the 2023 Israel - Gaza conflict in selected political speeches. It applies Martin and white's (2005) Engagement System, focusing on monoglossic and heteroglossic resources, and van Dijk's (2006) Ideological Square to provide a qualitative analysis of intersubjective positioning. The study explores how each leader linguistically and ideologically negotiates relationships with their audiences, opponents, and themselves, revealing their ideological stances through the voices they evoke and engage with. Findings reveal that Biden alternates between monoglossic and heteroglossic engagement resources, reflecting a balanced intersubjective positioning. In contrast, Al - Sudani predominantly relies on heteroglossic engagement strategies, signaling a more dialogically engaged positioning. These contrasts highlight culturally embedded discourse practices and demonstrate how engagement resources function as tools for managing authority, solidarity, and ideological alignment in conflict - related discourse. The study contributes to contrastive discourse analysis by illustrating how political speech reflects broader geopolitical and cultural dynamics through strategic language use.

Keywords: intersubjective positioning, engagement, heteroglossic, monoglossic, contraction, expansion, ideology.

التموضع التفاعلي في خطابات سياسية مختارة لجو بايدن و محمد شياع السوداني حول صراع إسرائيل -
غزة عام 2023: تحليل خطاب تقابلي

ا.م. رجاء مردان فليح

جامعة القادسية - كلية التربية - قسم اللغة الإنجليزية

rajaa.flayih@qu.edu.iq الايميل

المستخلص

تتناول هذه الدراسة الموارد اللغوية التي من خلالها يشكل الرئيس الأمريكي السابق جو بايدن ورئيس الوزراء العراقي محمد شياع السوداني مواقفهم تجاه صراع إسرائيل - غزة لعام 2023 كما وردت في خطاباتهم. تطبق الدراسة نظام التفاعل الحواري لمارتن وايت (2005)، مع التركيز على الموارد الأحادية الصوت و متعددة الاصوات، مربع الايديولوجيا لفان دايك (2006)، لتقديم تحليل نوعي للتموضع التفاعلي. تستكشف الدراسة كيف يتفاوض كل من القائدين لغويا وايديولوجيا على علاقاتهم مع جماهيرهم وخصومهم



وانفسهم، كاشفة عن مواقفهم الأيديولوجية من خلال الاصوات التي يستحضرونها ويتفاعلون معها. تكشف النتائج ان بايدن يتنقل بين استخدام الموارد الاحادية والمتعددة الاصوات، ما يعكس تموضعا تفاعليا متوازنا في حين يعتمد السوداني في الغالب على استراتيجيات التفاعل المتعددة الاصوات مما يشير الى تموضع اكثر انخراطا حواريا. تبرز هذه التباينات ممارسات خطابيه متجذرة ثقافيا، وتظهر كيف تعمل موارد التفاعل كأدوات لإدارة السلطة والتضامن والاصطفاف الأيديولوجي في الخطاب المرتبط بالصراعات. وتسهم الدراسة في التحليل الخطابي المقارن من خلال اظهار كيف يعكس الخطاب السياسي الديناميكيات الجيوسياسية والثقافية الاوسع من خلال الاستخدام الاستراتيجي للغة.

الكلمات الدالة: التوضع التفاعلي، التفاعل، التعدد الصوتي، احادي الصوت، تقليص التعدد الصوتي، توسيع التعدد الصوتي، الفكر الايديولوجي.

1. INTRODUCTION

This research mainly relies on the engagement framework proposed by Martin and White (2005), which offers a tool for examining how speakers express their stance on a given topic and how they negotiate alignment or misalignment with their audience. Rather than focusing on formal grammatical categories, the engagement system emphasizes the communicative function of linguistic choices.

Martin and White's approach locates itself in a tradition where all utterances are viewed as somehow stanced. In line with Stubbs' perspective, this view holds that speakers and writers inherently convey their stance whenever they produce language (Stubbs, 1996, p.197). It also draws upon the concepts of dialogism and heteroglossia as introduced by Bakhtin and Voloshinov, which propose that all forms of verbal communication—spoken or written—are inherently dialogic. That is, any utterance is shaped by prior discourse and, at the same time, anticipates the reactions of real or imagined audiences.

This dialogistic perspective leads to an exploration of the relationship that the speaker/writer has with 'prior utterances in the same sphere' – with those other speakers who have previously taken a stand regarding the subject under discussion, particularly when they have established a socially significant community of shared beliefs or values. To this end, van Dijk's (2006) Ideological Square is used to support the analysis.

Thus, this study examines how Joe Biden and Mohammad Shia Al-Sudani engage with listeners, audiences, or prior speakers. It focuses on whether they present themselves as supporting, opposing, undecided, or neutral regarding these other speakers and their value positions. Simultaneously, it considers whether the value position is presented as one that can be taken for granted by the audience, one that is novel, problematic, or contentious, or one that is likely to be questioned, resisted, or rejected.



The engagement framework has been applied in a variety of research contexts, including internet advertising campaigns (Tan, 2009), communication between doctors and patients (Körner, 2010), analyses of English-language medical research articles (Fryer, 2012), as well as studies on how humor is produced and interpreted in intercultural communication (Moalla, 2017), in the introduction sections of international journal articles (Rahman, 2018), and in Barack Obama's victory speeches (Respati & Setyaningsih, 2020). All that has been presented demonstrates that, to the researcher's knowledge, no study has so far analyzed contrastively Joe Biden and Al Sudani's political speeches about the 2023 war on Gaza using the system of Engagement, the focus of the present study.

The engagement framework proves especially effective in the analysis of political speeches, as it uncovers the subtle linguistic strategies speakers use to align themselves with, or distance themselves from, various viewpoints and value systems in an effort to connect with their audience (White, 2003, p. 275).

In order to examine how Biden and Al-Sudani engage with their audience using the Engagement framework, the study poses two key research questions:

1. What monoglossic and heteroglossic resources are employed by Biden and Al-Sudani in their speeches?
2. What does the preference for certain resources over others reveal about the ideologies of Biden and Al-Sudani?

The study aims to analyze the engagement system in the political speeches of Joe Biden and Mohammad Shia' Al-Sudani regarding the Israel – Gaza war. To achieve this aim, the following objectives have been put forward:

1. Identifying the monoglossic and heteroglossic engagement resources used by Joe Biden and Mohammad Shia' Al – Sudani in their selected speeches.
2. Identifying the frequencies and percentages of monoglossic and heteroglossic engagement resources and their subcategories.
3. Highlighting the ideology revealed by specific resources.

To answer the research questions and achieve its aim, the present study will follow these procedures:

1. Surveying the relevant literature on the engagement system.
2. Selecting one political speech for Biden and one for Al-Sudani addressing the Israel – Gaza war.
3. Analyzing selected political speeches qualitatively, following Martin and White's (2005) and van Dijk's (2006) theoretical frameworks.
4. Discussing the analysis findings and drawing conclusions.



2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Engagement system

The framework developed by Martin and White (2005) classifies as ‘engagement’ all expressions that allow the authorial voice to take a stance in relation to, and thereby interact with, alternative viewpoints or voices, and, in Bakhtin’s terms, the backdrop of alternative positions construed as being in play in the current communicative context. Engagement concerns speaker positioning in terms of the interrelated notions of monoglossia and heteroglossia. ‘Monoglossic’ utterances make no reference to other voices and viewpoints, while ‘heteroglossic’ ones do invoke or allow for dialogistic alternatives. (Martin and White, 2005, p.100)

Heteroglossic engagement involves recognition of alternative viewpoints, though the extent of this acknowledgment can differ significantly. It may function to dialogically contract—by rejecting, challenging, or dismissing opposing perspectives—or to expand—by entertaining, recognizing, or showing openness to them. Under the contraction category, two main subtypes are distinguished: Proclamation, where the speaker presents a proposition as authoritative and well-founded, and Disclamation, where the speaker explicitly distances themselves from competing or conflicting viewpoints. (Martin & White, 2005, p. 102)

The resources used to realize Proclamation within contractive engagement include three primary types. First, Pronouncements involve explicit authorial presence and intensification, often through statements like I contend..., The truth is..., or We can only conclude that..., as well as clause-level intensifiers such as really and indeed. Second, Concurrences reflect alignment between the speaker and the audience, implying shared knowledge or agreement through expressions like of course, certainly, naturally, or through rhetorical questions. These expressions suggest that the proposition is self-evident or widely accepted. Third, Endorsements involve citing external sources in a way that the authorial voice presents their claims as reliable or authoritative. This is often achieved using reporting verbs such as demonstrate, prove, show, find, or point out. (Martin & White, 2005, p.126).

Within Disclamation, two main strategies are identified. The first is Denial, where a proposition is directly negated, thus acknowledging an opposing view only to reject it. The second is Countering, which introduces a contrasting or unexpected perspective, often through conjunctions and transitional markers such as however, although, but, and yet, or through adverbials like surprisingly, even, only, still, and just, all of which signal a shift from anticipated positions (Martin & White, 2005, pp. 118-21).



As for Expansion, it comprises two subcategories: Entertain and Attribute. Entertain indicates that the speaker or writer is presenting their view as one among several possibilities, using modal expressions such as may, might, could, or adverbs like perhaps, probably, and definitely. It also includes subjective expressions such as in my view, I think, I believe, or it seems that, signaling openness to alternative perspectives. Attribute, on the other hand, involves assigning a proposition to an external voice rather than the speaker. It has two forms: Acknowledge, where the external source is reported neutrally using verbs like say, report, state, or argue; and Distance, where the speaker subtly distances themselves from the attributed statement, implying a lack of full endorsement (Martin & White, 2005, pp. 110-11).

Attribute includes formulations that disassociate the proposition from the text's internal authorial voice by attributing it to an external source. Attribute is divided into 'acknowledge' and 'distance.' Acknowledgement refers to locations where there is no overt indication of the authorial voice's stance regarding the proposition. This is conveyed by reporting verbs such as say, report, state, declare, announce, believe, think, describe, argue, etc. (Martin & White, 2005, p.112)

Distance refers to instances where the authorial voice deliberately separates itself from the reported content. This distancing is often achieved through the reporting verb claim, which, as noted by Caldas-Coulthard (1994, p. 295), enables the speaker to shift responsibility away from themselves. Additionally, scare quotes may be used to further signal this separation. The use of claim, in particular, explicitly marks the external source as distinct from the speaker's own stance (Martin & White, 2005, p. 113).

In contrast to the heteroglossic types previously discussed, monoglossic statements—also known as bare assertions—do not acknowledge or engage with alternative perspectives (Martin & White, 2005, p. 99). These utterances construct the communicative context as single-voiced, treating the proposition as unchallenged and not subject to dialogic negotiation. Within monoglossia, a distinction is drawn between propositions that are “currently under discussion” and those treated as “taken for granted” (Martin & White, 2005, p. 100). The latter type reflects statements presented as unquestionable facts, containing presuppositions that do not invite argument and remain intact even when negated (Simon-Vandenberg et al., 2007, p. 35). By using such formulations, speakers encourage their audience to regard the assertions as widely accepted or common knowledge, and thus not open to challenge (Simon-Vandenberg et al., 2007, p. 32). On the other hand, propositions “currently at issue” are introduced as central points for debate or evaluation, signaling their relevance to ongoing discussion (Martin & White, 2005, p. 101).

2.2. Ideology



Ideology can be understood as a type of social cognition—beliefs that are collectively held and communicated among members of a social group. For these beliefs to be shared effectively, they need to hold social significance, meaning they should relate to how individuals perceive and engage with important social events, actions, and their interactions with other groups. Consequently, different groups may construct distinct ideologies concerning topics such as war, authority, labor, the environment, human existence, gender, and sexuality (van Dijk, 2012, p.5).

van Dijk (1998, P.8) defined ideologies as the basis of the social representations shared by members of a group. This suggests that ideologies enable group members to organize the multitude of social beliefs regarding what is the case, good or bad, and right or wrong for them, guiding their actions accordingly.

In the present study, van Dijk's (2006) concept of the ideological square is utilized as a component of the analytical framework. This model highlights the discursive polarization between the in-group ("Us") and the out-group ("Them"), where language is used strategically to emphasize or downplay certain traits. More precisely, such polarization is evident across all linguistic levels of a text and operates through two key strategies: (a) Positive-Self Representation, where the in-group is portrayed favorably by foregrounding its strengths and minimizing its flaws; and (b) Negative-Other Representation, where the out-group is portrayed unfavorably by highlighting its weaknesses and minimizing its strengths (van Dijk, 2006, p. 734).

2.3 Review of Related Studies

Korner (2010) examined how semantic patterns reflect alignment and misalignment in intersubjective relationships between doctors and patients. The study also explored how patients sometimes contested the stances taken by their physicians. The analysis showed that biomedical discourse did not always align with patients' lived experiences—while some patients accepted it, others diverged from it.

Tan (2010) analyzed internet-based advertising campaigns through the lens of the engagement system, focusing on dialogicity, heteroglossia, and intertextuality. His findings illustrated that the engagement system serves as an effective analytical framework to understand how multimodal texts—combining visual, verbal, and interactive components—construct shared positions between the text and its audience. The study also revealed significant diversity in the engagement strategies used.

Fryer (2012) applied the engagement system, a component of the appraisal framework within systemic functional linguistics, to a corpus of English medical research articles. The focus was on how writers position themselves intersubjectively through discourse. The results highlighted substantial variation in



the kinds and distributions of engagement resources, both across different research articles and within various sections of each article.

Moalla (2017) explored the ways in which intercultural humor is jointly constructed and interpreted by speakers of British English and Tunisian learners of English. Using face-to-face interactions and detailed interviews, the study investigated how evaluative stances influence humor comprehension in intercultural settings. The findings emphasized the use of dialogically expansive language, indicating the participants' openness to engage with cultural differences.

Rahman (2018) aimed to investigate the Engagement system in the introduction sections of international journal articles. Engagement is used to analyze how journal article writers engage with other viewpoints in constructing their ideas in the introduction sections. The study's findings showed that out of 409 clauses, 104 were categorized as monogloss, meaning the writers of the articles show no engagement with other viewpoints in their sentences. The remaining 305 clauses were categorized as heterogloss.

Respati and Setyaningsih (2020) conducted a descriptive analysis to explore how engagement and power are manifested in Barack Obama's victory speeches from 2008 and 2012. Their study draws on the engagement system outlined by Martin and White (2005) and Fairclough's (1989) conception of power. The researchers examined how monoglossic and high-graded heteroglossic expressions function as indicators of power, proposing that the greater the degree of engagement gradability, the stronger the associated power. Their findings showed that over half of the engagement instances in both speeches were of high gradability, suggesting Obama's strong rhetorical influence.

Hemmati and Validi (2023) carried out a comparative study on the use of heteroglossic engagement resources in the discussion sections of MA theses written by Iranian EFL students majoring in TEFL. The corpus consisted of 24 theses from four Iranian universities, categorized into two groups based on their academic ratings: "good" and "excellent." These classifications were determined by the students' scores and evaluations provided by expert raters.

Previous studies on political discourse show that the engagement system is rarely utilized to advance similar studies in Arabic contexts, particularly when examining the development of contrastive studies. It is hoped that this study may broaden the applicability of the Engagement System.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Data Collection

The data for this study consist of two political speeches addressing the same topic. The first speech was delivered by Joe Biden, the former U.S. President, on the Israel-Hamas war as Gaza faced a barrage of missiles on October 11, 2023. The speech and its script were downloaded from

<https://www.rev.com/transcripts/biden-delivers-remarks-on-israel-hamas-war-as-gaza-faces-barrage-of-missiles-transcript>. The second speech was delivered by Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia' Al-Sudani at the Cairo Peace Summit on October 21, 2023, addressing the war on Gaza. The speech is available at the following YouTube link <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=R2RCwj--AT8>, and the media office of the Prime Minister's Council published its full text. These two speeches were purposefully selected as they addressed the same topic: the Israel – Gaza war.

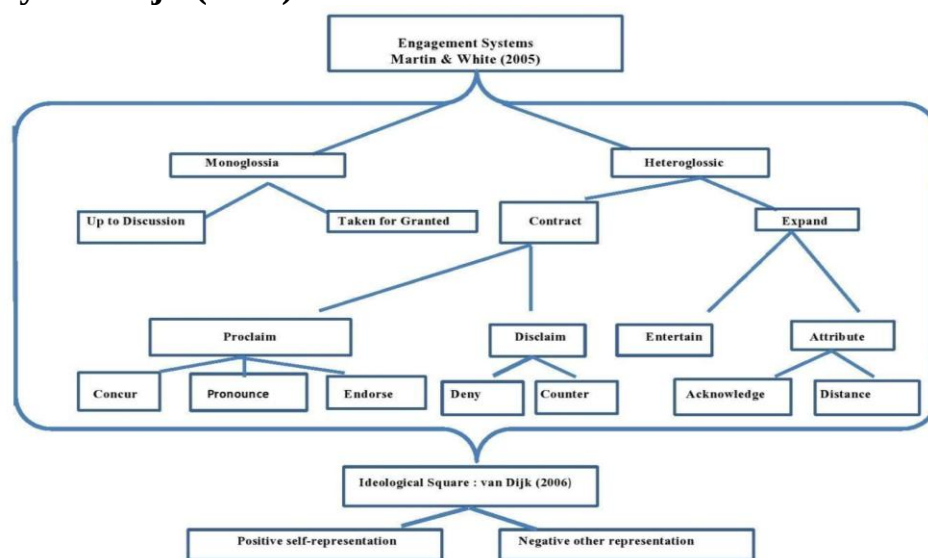
3.2. Data Analysis

The qualitative examination of engagement resources can follow either a top-down or bottom-up approach. A top-down approach begins with identifying overarching prosodic patterns and tracing them down to their specific linguistic realizations, whereas a bottom-up approach starts by analyzing concrete linguistic realizations and infers the general discursive tone or “mood” of the text (Martin & White, 2005, p. 70). In the current study, the top-down approach was adopted. The researcher read the written transcriptions and segmented them into sentences. Then, she identified monoglossic and heteroglossic engagement resources in each sentence. These sentences were analyzed further to identify the subcategories of each monogloss and heterogloss and their realizations.

3.3. Model of the Study

Figure 1

Engagement Systems by Martin and White (2005) and the Ideological Square by van Dijk (2006)



4. ANALYSIS

A. Analysis of Joe Biden's Speech



Biden started his speech with a series of monoglossic engagement of the *taken for granted* functions as in the following excerpt:

There are moments in this life, and I mean this literally, when pure, unadulterated evil is unleashed on this world (monogloss: taken for granted).. The people of Israel lived through one such moment this weekend (monogloss: taken for granted). The bloody hands of the terrorist organization, Hamas, a group whose stated purpose for being is to kill Jews (monogloss: taken for granted)., this was an act of sheer evil(monogloss: taken for granted).

Biden, in this excerpt, describes the status of both the people of Israel and Hamas by using monoglossic resources of the *taken for granted* functions. By choosing the 'taken for granted' option, Biden positions his audience to treat his assertions as agreed upon or already known, and hence as uncontentious. This excerpt is construed as single voiced, i.e. Biden presents his proposition as one which has no dialogistic alternatives which need to be realized, or engaged with, in this communicative context. Whenever he describes the people of Israel and Hamas, Biden resorts to monoglossic propositions of the taken for granted function to indicate that what he is speaking about is shared with his audience and away from any discussion or argumentation. Another section of Biden's speech is almost entirely monoglossic, interspersed only with one heteroglossic resource of expansion:

Terrorists purposely target civilians, kill them (monogloss: taken for granted) . We uphold the laws of war, the law of war (monogloss: taken for granted). It matters (monogloss: taken for granted). There's a difference(monogloss: taken for granted).Today, Americans across the country are praying for all those families that have been ripped apart (monogloss: taken for granted). A lot of us know (heterogloss: expand : entertain) how it feels.

Such excerpts are presented as reflecting a single authoritative voice, one that the speaker expects the audience to accept and align with. Biden, in this instance, operates under the assumption that certain beliefs are commonly held and need no further justification. Rather than articulating a specific argument regarding the United States' position on Israel, he frames the issue as self-evident and not open to debate. For example, Biden implicitly assumes that Hamas, as a terrorist organization, deliberately targets and kills civilians, and he conveys unwavering American support for the people of Israel.

Biden employs monoglossic propositions—statements that present information as unquestionable truths—even when addressing topics that are, in fact, open to



debate. For instance, he asserts certain claims without acknowledging alternative perspectives, thereby closing down space for dialogic engagement, for instance;

“My team has been in near constant communication with our Israeli partners and partners all across the region and the world from the moment this crisis began (monogloss: up to discussion). We’re surging additional military assistance, including ammunition and interceptors to replenish the Iron Dome” (monogloss: up to discussion).

In this excerpt, Biden is trying to put such issues in focus and attract his audience’s attention to the fact that America with its partners in the region is standing with Israel giving them all required assistance. Biden in this excerpt presents himself as proactive and engaged through his team framing Israel as partners which implies a relationship of cooperation and the audience is drawn into such an ongoing engagement, reinforcing the idea that America is responsibly managing this relationship.

Biden’s heteroglossic engagements vary between being expansive and contractive. He entertains dialogic expansions in propositions presented in the following excerpts:

‘So in this moment, we must(heterogloss: expand: entertain) be crystal clear, we stand with Israel. We stand with Israel (monogloss: taken for granted). And we will (heterogloss: expand: entertain) make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself, and respond to this attack.

From a dialogic perspective, these utterances contribute to constructing a heteroglossic backdrop by explicitly anchoring the propositions in Biden’s personal and subjective viewpoint. This framing acknowledges that each statement represents just one possible interpretation among many within the broader communicative context. In doing so, Biden adopts a distinctly personal stance toward the events. He utilizes modality markers such as must, will, and can to indicate an awareness that his perspective may not be universally accepted, particularly regarding developments in Gaza.

Biden uses an expansive attributive (distance) proposition when quoting the words of Golda Meir, an Israeli politician who served as the fourth prime minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974, *“We have no place else to go. We have no place else to go.”*

In this excerpt Biden distances himself from the propositions framed by this quote, representing it as still open to questions. Such distancing formulation can be seen as dialogically expansive, as opening up the dialogic space for alternatives positions.



The other category of expansive attribute, ‘acknowledge’, is also found in Biden’s speech. It is mainly carried out by the use of reported verb ‘said’ as in the following excerpt:

*“She leaned over and whispered to me, she said(**heterogloss: expand: attribute: acknowledge**) , “Don’t worry, Senator Biden, we have a secret weapon here in Israel.”*

The utilization of *said* as a reporting verb in this context acts to dissociate the authorial voice from the current proposition. There is no overt indication as to where Biden stands with respect to this proposition.

Dialogic contractions are also present in Biden’s speech. Biden uses contractive disclaim resources more than those of contractive proclaim. He uses disclaim(deny) in propositions like:

*There’s no (**heterogloss: contract: disclaim: deny**) justification for terrorism.
There’s no (**heterogloss: contract: disclaim: deny**) excuse. Hamas does not (**heterogloss: contract: disclaim: deny**) stand for the Palestinian people’s right to dignity and self-determination.*

Biden employs disclaim (counter) in a proposition like, *This is terrorism, but (**heterogloss: contract: disclaim: counter**) sadly for the Jewish people.* This disclaim is carried out by the use of *but*. In this context, the counter-expectational use of the conjunction *but* serves to position the textual voice in opposition to an anticipated assumption within the communicative setting—namely, the justification or normalization of terrorism against Jewish people. Through this contrastive construction, the speaker rejects or distances themselves from that presumed stance, effectively disavowing any acceptance of such actions.

Only one sub – category of proclamation, pronounce, is employed by Biden as shown in the following excerpt:

*Like every nation in the world, Israel has the right to respond, indeed (**heterogloss: contract: proclaim: pronounce**) has a duty to respond to these vicious attacks.*

Pronouncement is carried out by using *indeed*. This proposition is dialogically contractive in that Biden puts on display his personal investment in the viewpoint being advanced, that Israel has the right to respond to Hamas attack, and accordingly increases the interpersonal cost for anyone who would advance some dialogic alternative.

Biden’s monoglossic and heteroglossic engagements indicate ideological alliances and support for Israel. The choice of words shows a clear kind of partiality for the ‘partisan principle of ideological square’. Biden presents Hamas as a terrorist organization whose stated purpose for being is to kill Jews. He uses



negative descriptions of the out – group members, being Hamas, associating it with such words as brutality, blood thirstiness, bloody hand, Terrorists, sheer evil, terror, bloodshed, vicious attacks, hatred and violence. In contrast, Biden presents Israelis positively calling them as partners and their action is to defend their citizens. He chooses such lexical words as the people of Israel, Jewish, the democratic state of Israel. He describes them as civilians who are suffering unspeakable losses. These lexical choices frame Hamas as aggressive and Israel as defensive, which aligns with traditional Western narratives of Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism.

The in – group and out – group polarization is created by using pronouns. Biden uses the plural pronouns of **they** and **we** to deeply root the (dis) engagement and intentionally press on the idea of identity and the group membership. Biden utilizes the plural pronoun *they* to address Hamas so as to distance himself, representing America, from them. In the same vein, he uses the pronouns *we* and *our* to generate an image of unity of America and Israel coming together against Hamas. The pronoun *we* constructs a collective American identity, aligning Biden, the American government, and the American public into one unified subject. Biden presents Israel as a victim and deserving ally and implicitly positions those who question such an alliance outside. By reinforcing the *US with Israel* position, Biden constructs the *other* as outside such support.

B. Analysis of Mohammad Shia Al – Sudani's Speech

Al- Sudani started his speech with the following monoglossic proposition:

أتقدّم إلى الشقيقة مصر، بالعرفان والتقدير، لدعوتها إلى هذا الاجتماع في ظرفٍ عصيبٍ شديد الوطأة، يتعرض فيه الشعب الفلسطيني الصابر المُحتسب إلى عملية إبادةٍ جماعيةٍ باستهداف المدنيين في المجمعات السكنية والكنائس والمستشفيات، كان أبرزها مجزرة مستشفى المعمدانية، التي أظهر فيها الاحتلال الصهيوني وجهه الحقيقي ونواياه التي تجاوزت كلّ الخطوط الحمراء (*monogloss: taken for granted*)

I extend my gratitude and appreciation to the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt for its invitation to this meeting convened under extremely difficult and pressing circumstances. At this critical juncture, the resilient and steadfast Palestinian people are currently facing an ongoing campaign of genocide, marked by the deliberate targeting of civilians in residential areas, churches, and hospitals of which the most heinous was the massacre at the Al – Ahli Baptist hospital, through which the Zionist occupation revealed its true face and intentions crossing all red lines.

As he presented a status quo, the monoglossic proposition is of taken for granted function. It is the only available monogloss which is used to indicate such a function. All other monoglossic propositions presented by Alsudani in his speech are of up to discussion function. By referring to the Palestinians as ' patient and



steadfast' and describing the Israeli's action as a ' process of genocide', Al – Sudani does not present these as debatable claims, but as self – evident truths, hence presupposing that the audience share such a moral and political view, they already agree or should agree.

إن غزّة اليوم تشكّل امتحاناً جديداً للنظام العالمي، الذي فشل مراتٍ عدةٍ في تطبيق ما ينادي به من قيم الإنسانية والعدل والحرية (monogloss: up to discussion)

Gaza today stands as a new test for the international system which has repeatedly failed to uphold the values it claims to champion: humanity, justice, and freedom.

إنّ الكيان الصهيونيّ اليوم مستمرّ في خرق القوانين بما فيها قوانين الحرب (monogloss: up to discussion)

The Zionist entity continues to violate international laws including the laws of war.

كما إنه مستمرّ في خرق اتفاقية جنيف الثالثة الخاصة بأسرى الحروب، والاتفاقية الرابعة التي توفر الحماية للمدنيين في الأراضي المحتلة، إلى جانب خرقه للعهد الدولي الخاص بالحقوق المدنية والإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان، وأكثر من ثمانية وسبعين قراراً لمجلس الأمن متعلقاً بالقضية الفلسطينية. (monogloss: up to discussion)

And it persists in its breaches of the Third Geneva Convention concerning prisoners of war, and the Fourth Convention which provides protection for civilians in occupied territories. In addition, it has violated the international covenant on civil and political rights, and more than seventy eight United Nation Security Council resolutions related to the Palestinian case.

The proposition إنّ الكيان الصهيونيّ اليوم مستمرّ في خرق القوانين is monoglossically declared, Al – Sudani then goes on to supply a series of arguments إنه مستمرّ في خرق اتفاقية جنيف الثالثة الخاصة بأسرى الحروب، والاتفاقية الرابعة التي توفر الحماية للمدنيين في الأراضي المحتلة، إلى جانب خرقه للعهد الدولي الخاص بالحقوق المدنية والإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان، وأكثر من ثمانية وسبعين قراراً لمجلس الأمن متعلقاً بالقضية الفلسطينية in support of the value position construes it as very much at issue and the focus of a debate. Viewed dialogically, Al – Sudani does not refer to any other voices. He presents such monoglossically asserted propositions as very much in the spotlight , as focal points for discussion and argumentation. Implicitly, Al – Sudani positions his audience within a moral community founded on shared ethical principles, appealing to collective conscience as basis for political alignment.

Heteroglossically, on the other hand, Al –Sudani actively makes allowances for dialogically alternative positions and voices (dialogic expansion) in the following excerpts :

إنّ الكيان الصهيونيّ اليوم مستمرّ في خرق القوانين بما فيها قوانين الحرب ، وهو ما سيؤثر في الأمن الدولي واستدامته (heterogloss: expand: entertain) ، وقد يمتدّ الصراع إقليمياً بما يهدّد إمدادات الطاقة إلى الأسواق العالمية



The Zionist entity continues to violate international laws, including the laws of war – this will impact global security and its sustainability, and may escalate the conflict regionally, threatening energy supplies to global markets .

The subcategory of 'entertain' is achieved by the modals' will and may. Here the propositions that *the continued violation of laws by the Zionist entity will affect international security and its sustainability and the regional expansion of the conflict threatens energy supplies to markets* are clearly introduced as simply possibilities, as positions which are worth considering but to which Al- Sudani is not committed. These resources can be considered dialogic insofar as the authorial voice actively signals the plausibility or potential presence of alternative viewpoints. Al-Sudani engages with such possibilities, thereby situating the current claims within a context marked by heteroglossic variation.

أما أن لنا وقف معاناة هذا الشعب المكافح الصامد؟ الذي يصفه بعض الأصدقاء في كلماتهم بأن أعماله إرهابية! بينما الجرائم المدمرة الممنهجة للاحتلال الصهيوني هي دفاع عن النفس! على وفق القانون الدولي
(heterogloss: expand: attribute: acknowledge))

Isn't it time to put an end to the suffering of these resilient and struggling people? Whom some friends describe in their statements as engaging in acts of terrorism, while the systematic and destructive crimes of the Zionist occupation are acts of self – defense under international law. .

Acknowledgement as a subcategory of 'expansive attribute' is carried out by the use of the verb يصفه (describe). Alsudani here is referencing to other voices (بعض (الأصدقاء). His acknowledgement is obviously dialogic in that it disassociates his proposition from voices and/or positions which are external to that of the text itself and present his voice as separate from the cited, external voices who adopts Western or pro – Israeli framings that label Palestinian resistance as terrorism and Israeli aggression as self – defense. In this context, there are indicators that Al – Sudani rejects the value position being advanced and critiques the selective application of international law.

Al -Sudani uses Dialogic contraction more than that of expansion. He employs contractive disclaim (deny) in propositions as the following which can be analyzed as (heterogloss: contract: disclaim: deny)

ما يحدث يومياً من أعمالٍ فظيعةٍ لا تنقطع ومذابح لا تتوقف

What is happening daily of horrific acts that do not cease and massacres that do not stop.

بأن الظلم لا ينتج سلاماً مستداماً *Injustice does not produce sustainable peace*

وليس من مكانٍ للفلسطينيين إلا أرضهم. *There is no place for the Palestinians except their own land*

دولة لا تمرقها المستوطنات *A state not fragmented by settlements*



Contractive disclaim (counter) is manifested in propositions like:

وكانت ومازالت فلسطينُ شاهداً حياً على هذا القتل (heterogloss: contract: disclaim: counter)
Palestine has long stood, and still stands as a living witness to this ongoing failure

The counter expectancy is carried out here by the use of the word مازالت . This lexical choice signals that something expected to change or end has not. In this excerpt, Al – Sudani expects that the suffering of Palestine , as a witness to failure, would have ended by now. By using مازالت, Al – Sudani tacitly challenges that expectation.

Two subcategories of contractive proclamation (concur and pronounce) are manifested in Al – Sudani's speech.

ألم يحن الوقتُ لوضع حدٍ لهذا الاحتلال البغيض؟ (heterogloss: contract: proclaim: concur)
Has the time not come to put an end to this abhorrent occupation?
أما أن لنا وقفٌ معاناةٍ هذا الشعبِ المكافح الصامد؟ (heterogloss: contract: proclaim: concur)
Has the time not come to end the suffering of these resilient and struggling people?

Here the questions lead the audience to an 'obvious' answer. The audience (listeners) are positioned to supply, بلا قد حان الوقت لوضع حد لهذا الاحتلال البغيض. Al – Sudani assumes the audience knows the Palestinians' suffering is unjust and has the capacity to intervene. Thus, this excerpt is dialogic in that it represents Al – Sudani's voice as taking up a 'common sense' viewpoint, the view of the audience. By the employment of rhetorical questioning and inclusive pronouns, Al – Sudani intersubjectively positions his audience within a collective group , urging them to act , to take responsibility in ending the hated occupation and to alleviate Palestinian suffering. A dialogic interaction is established wherein Al-Sudani and the audience are portrayed as being in agreement. Nevertheless, the rhetorical strategies employed here also point to a different heteroglossic direction. Notably, these instances present arguments that counter narratives promoted at the time by certain governments supporting Israel's justification for its war on Palestine. The rhetorical questions used thus function primarily to challenge and discredit that opposing pro-war stance. As such, the discourse is dialogic in nature, recognizing the presence of competing perspectives while simultaneously aiming to refute them.

The use of 'pronounce' relates to emphasis or authorial intensity. For instance, by employing the term "حقاً" (truly) in the excerpt, Al-Sudani emphasizes the emotional and ideological commitment behind the claim, directly confronting opposing viewpoints.

إنه لمن الصعب حقاً أن نصوّر بالكلمات ما يحدث يومياً... (heterogloss: contract: proclaim:)
(pronounce)



It is indeed difficult to capture in words what is happening daily...

Throughout examining Al - Sudani's speech , it is evident that he utilizes "the positive self- representation and negative other representation category" . Besides, such a representation indicates a radical, critical stance to challenge the alternative voices . However, making use of the positive lexical components as *الشعب المكافح الصامد، الشعب الفلسطيني الصابر المُحتسب، اصحاب الارض والقضية، شهداء غزة* , Al – Sudani presents Palestinians positively. By employing negative lexical words *الاحتلال الصهيوني، الاحتلال البغيض، الكيان الصهيوني، تجاوزت كل الخطوط الحمراء* , he represent Israel negatively. He describes the Baptist Hospital explosion and other Israeli actions in the strip in emotionally negative charged ways using such words as *إبادة جماعية، مجزرة، جريمة حرب، خرق القوانين، الجرائم المدمرة الممنهجة* , Al – Sudani presents Israel as a violator of international and humanitarian laws that is engaged in crimes against the Palestinian people in Gaza. In his speech, Al – Sudani shows strong anti-Israel sentiments and increased support for Palestinian statehood reinforcing the popular narrative of a strong and aggressive Israeli state and the victimized Palestinians.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In analyzing each speech, the researcher assessed the proportion of monoglossic versus heteroglossic statements. The data revealed that Biden tended to use straightforward assertions more frequently than Al-Sudani. Specifically, monoglossic expressions made up 47.1% of Biden's propositions, in contrast to just 28.6% in Al-Sudani's speech. Interestingly, nearly half of Biden's remarks lacked engagement with alternative views. Further investigation would be needed to determine whether this pattern is typical of Biden's political rhetoric in general. This relatively high reliance on monoglossic framing might suggest a rhetorical strategy aimed at asserting authority and assuming audience agreement. Moreover, Biden's speech often contains extended passages composed almost entirely of monoglossic content, with minimal inclusion of heteroglossic strategies. In many cases, his paragraphs flow as uninterrupted sequences of assertions, occasionally punctuated by entertain or disclaim moves

Conversely, Al-Sudani demonstrated his stance on the war in Gaza by referencing alternative viewpoints; he relied heavily on heteroglossic resources. His heteroglossic utterances constituted 68.1% of his total propositions, as shown in Table 1. Furthermore, no lengthy sequences of monoglossic statements were evident in Al-Sudani's speech.



Table 1

Distribution of Engagement resources used by Biden and Al-Sudani

Types of engagement	Biden		Al- Sudani	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	percentage
Monoglossic	41	47.1%	14	31.8%
Heteroglossic	46	52.9 %	30	68.1%
Total	87	100%	44	100%

In his use of monoglossic engagement, Biden tended to employ taken-for-granted monoglossic more frequently than those serving a function of discussion. 85.4% of Biden's monoglossic propositions are of the taken-for-granted function, while those indicating a function of discussion account for only 14.6%. This reflects that Biden's ideological position reinforces America's prevailing ideology of global dominance, as he offers little space for alternative voices.

When it comes to how Al-Sudani uses monoglossic engagement, it is actually the opposite. Monoglossic propositions for discussion (85.7%) are more prevalent than those of taken-for-granted functions (14.2%). This verifies Al-Sudani's position, which calls for unified action that transcends all tensions, political rifts, and disparities; nonetheless, they still represent the kind of engagement that leaves no room for other voices in the scene. The distribution of monoglossic engagements is presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Distribution of Monoglossic engagement used by Biden and Al -Sudani

Type of Monoglossic Engagement	Biden		Al – Sudani	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Taken for granted	35	85.4%	2	14.2 %
Up to discussion	6	14.6 %	12	85.7%
Total	41	100%	14	100%

Table 3

Distribution of Heteroglossic Engagement used by Biden

Types of heteroglossic engagement	Sub – category	Frequency	percentage
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Contract	Proclai	Concur	0	2	4.3%
	m	Pronounce	2		
		Endorse	0		
	Disclai	Deny	18	24	52.2%
	m	Counter	6		
Total of contractive resources			26		56.5%
Expand	Entertai		13	13	28.3%
	n				
	Attribut	Acknowled	6	7	15.2%
	e	ge			
		Distance	1		
Total of expansive resources			20		43.5%
Total of heteroglossic engagement resources			46		100%

Table 4
Distribution of Heteroglossic Engagement used by Al - Sudani

Types of heteroglossic engagement		Sub – category	Frequency		percentage
Contract	Proclaim	Concur	3	4	13.3%
		Pronounce	1		
		Endorse	0		
	Disclaim	Deny	11	18	60%
		Counter	7		
Total of contractive resources			22		73.3%
Expand	Entertainment		7	7	23.4%
		Attribute	1	1	3.3%
		Acknowledge Distance	0		
Total of expansive resources			8		26.7%
Total of heteroglossic engagement resources			30		100%

Concerning heteroglossic engagement, both Biden and Al-Sudani use a mix of contractive and expansive resources in their speeches. However, as is evident in Table 3 and Table 4, Biden and Al-Sudani vary in their employment of heteroglossic engagement resources. Biden fluctuates between using contractive and expansive heteroglossic engagement in his speech. Out of the total heteroglossic engagement resources employed, 56.5% were contractive, while



43.5% were expansive. Such a distribution indicates a tendency towards limiting alternative voices and reinforcing authorial position; however, an important portion of the speech still allows for dialogic openness and acknowledgement of diverse viewpoints. On the other hand, Al-Sudani's dominant use of contractive heteroglossic resources (73.3%) suggests a strong authorial position that seeks to close down alternative voices. Conversely, the lower use of expansive heteroglossic resources (26.7%) implies limited dialogic openness, meaning there is less room for contestation or acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints.

The choice of certain engagement resources over others reflects the ideological and geopolitical discrepancies between Biden and Al-Sudani. Biden constructs Israel as a defender against terrorism, emphasizing its right to security and self-defense while utilizing positive lexicons to describe its actions. Conversely, he presents Hamas as a terrorist organization and maintains a firm and unequivocal position against it and its actions. This portrayal aligns with America's geopolitical interests by framing the conflict through the lens of national security and the global fight against terrorism, aiming to position America as a responsible global actor in international affairs. Al-Sudani, on the other hand, frames Israel as a source of global instability, positioning it as a systemic violator of international law and presenting Israeli forces as aggressors beyond acceptable norms. By contrast, he presents Hamas in a more sympathetic light, focusing on the humanitarian impact of the conflict and the legitimacy of Palestinian resistance, portraying them as victims.

6. CONCLUSIONS

1. In answering the first question, What monoglossic and heteroglossic engagement resources did Biden and Al-Sudani employ in their speeches?, Biden's use of engagement resources showed a swing between monoglossic and heteroglossic forms, with monoglossic resources accounting for 47.1% and heteroglossic for 52.9%. Al-Sudani, on the other hand, relied more heavily on heteroglossic resources, with 68.1% heteroglossic and 31.8% monoglossic. Within the monoglossic engagement type, Biden predominantly employed resources with a taken-for-granted function (85.4%), while only 14.6% reflected an up-to-discussion function. Al-Sudani, by contrast, showed the opposite case: 85.7% of his monoglossic resources were of up-to-discussion function, while only 14.2% reflected the taken-for-granted function. Concerning their use of heteroglossic engagement resources, both speakers employed a mix of contractive and expansive resources. Biden fluctuates between the two, with 56.5% being contractive and 43.5% expansive. Al-Sudani, on the other hand, dominantly uses contractive (73.3%), while only 26.7% are expansive.



1. Regarding the second question, what does the preference of certain resources over others reveal about the ideologies of Biden and Al-Sudani? Biden's nearly even split between monoglossic and heteroglossic engagement indicates a moderately dialogic stance. By relying on both monoglossic and heteroglossic resources, he positions himself as open to other viewpoints while still asserting his own. This displays a balanced intersubjective positioning, where the speaker both informs and negotiates meaning with the audience. Al-Sudani's higher reliance on heteroglossic resources suggests a stronger orientation toward engaging with alternative viewpoints or external voices. Despite his contractive tendencies, he frames his speech in relation to other viewpoints, either to challenge, incorporate, or align with them. This positions him as more dialogically engaged, even though the engagement is critical or confrontational.

3. Biden and Al-Sudani deploy contrasting dialogical strategies to construct their narratives around the Israel-Gaza war, each mirroring their nations' ideological and geopolitical biases. Biden's engagement resources imbue Israel with legitimacy and a moral high ground, often highlighting the existential threats it faces and emphasizing the need for security measures while legitimizing military actions. He positions America as a steadfast partner to Israel. In contrast, Al-Sudani adopts a more critical and confrontational stance toward the use of force, highlighting the humanitarian crisis and the plight of the Palestinian people in a way that questions the morality of Israel's military responses. His intersubjective positioning is built on solidarity with Palestine and condemnation of Israeli actions. He positions Iraq as a defender of Palestinian rights and an opponent of Israeli occupation.

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