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"A structural analysis of Praise Expressions in Donald Trump's Speech during His 2025 Visit to Saudi Arabia"

A B S T R A C T

In this study, the praising expressions used in Donald Trump's speech during his visit to Saudi Arabia in 2025 are structurally analyzed. With an emphasis on declarative and exclamative sentence types, the study looks at how particular syntactic forms are employed to express political acclaim.

The grammatical structure of 26 praise expressions was examined using a qualitative-quantitative methodology. The primary purpose of declarative phrases was to confirm political affiliation and common beliefs, but exclamative forms were employed to convey praise and elicit strong feelings. To show how each type is distributed and what its purpose is, a frequency table was created then the occurrence percentage. The results show that praise functions as a strategic language instrument in political speech, increasing diplomatic relations and influencing public opinion.

The study emphasizes how syntactic structure influences political language's expressive aim in addition to stylistic variance.

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تحليل بنيوي لعبارات المديح في خطاب دونالد ترامب خلال زيارته الى السعودية عام ٢٠٢٥

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وزارة التربية/ مديرية تربية ذي قار

المستخلص:

في هذه الدراسة ، عبارات المديح المستخدمة في كلام دونالد ترامب خلال زيارته السعودية عام ٢٠٢٥ قد خللت تحليلاً بنيوياً. من خلال التركيز على الجمل التعجبية والجمل الخبرية ، الدراسة تهدف الى فهم كيفية استخدام تعابير بنيوية معينة في المديح السياسي. البنية النحوية لـ (٢٦) تعبير مدحي قد حُدد في كلام ترامب مستخدماً المنهج الكمي - النوعي .

بينت الدراسة ان الغرض الأساسي من العبارات الخبرية المستخدمة في المديح هو تأكيد الانسجام السياسي والمعتقدات المشتركة، بينما استُخدمت صيغ التعجب للتعبير عن المديح وإثارة المشاعر الجياشة. ولتوضيح كيفية توزيع كل نوع والغرض منه، أنشئ جدول تكراري ومن ثم النسبة المئوية. تُظهر النتائج أن المديح يعمل كأداة لغوية استراتيجية في الخطاب السياسي، مما يُعزز العلاقات الدبلوماسية ويؤثر على الرأي العام. وتُركز الدراسة على كيفية تأثير البنية النحوية على الهدف التعبيري للغة السياسية، بالإضافة إلى التباين الأسلوبي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المدح، دونالد ترامب، خبري، تعجبي، المملكة العربية السعودية

1. An Introduction

Leaders use political speech as an important instrument to convey messages, influence public opinion, and shape diplomatic ties. In this situation, political speech is a powerful tool used by leaders to communicate messages, shape public perception, and build diplomatic relationships. Within this context, praise expressions play a great role in reinforcing alliances, appealing to audiences, and projecting positive sentiment. Studying the syntactic structure of such expressions provides valuable insights into how language functions in political discourse beyond surface-level meaning. Praising gratitude is crucial for fostering relationships, attracting audiences, and conveying a positive attitude. Beyond their obvious meaning, the grammatical form of these statements offers important insights into how language works in political debate.

Ferguson (2013) says that one method that springs to mind as a tool for managing good behavior is praising. Early to what Ferguson claims, Kormilisin and Shamenova (1999) state that if the person needs a polite effective communication, primary factors must be there: They are: a) being willing to treat the other person with respect, empathy, kindness, attention, and assistance; b) having self-control when expressing negative opinions and feelings and examining one's own attributes; and c) abiding by the socially acceptable standards of conduct. Praise is included in all those factors mentioned by Kormilisin and Shamenova that make speech more polite, pleasant and palatable.

Zimbali (2015) states that giving someone praise is a special and proactive way to influence them. A number of elements contribute to the formation of the praise genre: the object of praise (the thing being praised), the subject of praise (the one receiving the praise), the addressee of praise (the praiser), and the purpose (why the praise was given), the type of praise (verbal, nonverbal, word form, parameter), comprehension of the praise, and outcome.

He adds that praise brings interlocutors closer together, clarifies the emotional description of communication, expresses and shapes an attitude toward an item, and draws attention to the communication's content.

2.Literture Review

2.1 Definitions of Praise in dictionary and linguistics

The verbs "preisen" and "praisen," which derive from the Late Latin "pretiare," which means to value or prize, and the Latin "pretium," which means price, are the sources of the Middle English term "praise" (Mifflin, 2000). Fowler in Oxford Learner's Dictionary (1964 , p.955) gives an explanation of the word " *praise* " as:

(A): Praise: To show your sincere admiration or approval of.

1- "We can't praise Chris enough – he did a brilliant job His latest movie has won high praise from the critics. "

(B): Commend: To publicly praise someone or something.

2- "She was commended on her handling of the situation."

3- " His designs were highly commended by the judges."

(C): Boast: to speak in a manner that conveys your excessive pride in something you own or are capable of.

4- "I don't want to boast, but I can actually speak six languages."

According to Dictionary of Merriam Webster, "Praise" means:

(A) : Accolade: To express a praise, like:

5-"A movie that has drawn accolades from both fans and critics."

(B) Praise: to convey a positive assessment of, like:

6-"My parents always praised me when I did well at school."

(C) Flatter:

To give someone compliments in an attempt to make them seem important or appealing, sometimes without being honest.

7-"I knew he was only flattering me because he wanted to borrow some money."

(D) Tribute

Something you say, write, or gift that expresses your appreciation and regard for someone, particularly during a formal setting.

8-"The minister paid tribute to the men who had fought the blaze."

Linguistically, Miles, & Huberman (1992) state that praise is an act of speech that expresses gratitude for someone else, either directly or indirectly, and is typically given in response to a good deed or significant accomplishment.

Dreiser T. and Carrie S. (1990) say that praise for doing and praise for being. One can use the first kind to show that they are good and valuable. The following Psalm, which is addressed to our God because God is deserving of praise.

9-"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. (Psalm,106, p.7)"

The second kind entails complimenting someone on a job well done. This kind expresses satisfaction with one's actions and endeavors. The following is an illustration of this kind:

10-"You worked really hard on that project."

From the semantic perspective, since a wide variety of adjectives can be employed to express praise, speakers choose to use a very small number of them.

Dreiser and Carrie (1990, p.147) state that there are words to describe the human appearance. They elicit these words in the following passage:

“He is just what a young man ought to be,” said she, “sensible, good-humoured, lively; and I never saw such happy manners! So much ease, with such perfect good breeding!”

The following categories comprise this text's praise vocabulary:

1-Sensible:

- (A) Conscious
- (B) A healthy thinker
- (C) Practitioner

2-Good-humored:

- (A) Friendly
- (B) Good mood.

3-Lively:

- (A) Lively.
- (B) Vibrant.

Dreiser and Carrie (1990) claim that the speaker can describe the appearance of the other person using a variety of additional adjectives in English communicative culture, such as "beautiful," "pretty," "wonderful," "graceful," "sweet," "gorgeous," "nice," "fun," etc.

11-"You look absolutely stunning," Sabrina remarked, grinning. What a lovely girl she was."

“Yes, there will,” Sabrina said gently. “You’re just as beautiful and smart and nice as you were before. None of that has changed.”

They also state that comparative and superlative adjectives are wildly used to refer to the praise.

12- "She is a most charming young lady, indeed. Lady Catherine herself says that, in point of true beauty, Miss de Bourgh is far superior to the handsomest of her sex; because there is that in her features which marks the young woman of distinguished birth."

From the syntactic point of view, Fairclough (2001) states that according to structural linguistic theory, praise is frequently created by:

A-Exclamation “What a great country!”

B-Superlatives: "The greatest collaboration in history."

C-Parallelism and repetition: "Great people, great values, great vision."

The main persuasive elements of these patterns are message emphasis, rhythm, and memorability.

Like Fairclough, Al-abodi et al. (2007) state that praise can be described either by the exclamatory sentences or using the declarative ones.

1- They (2007) list some exclamatory patterns used to express the praise. Strong emotions or excitement are shared by exclamatory sentences. Though the words are delivered with greater emotion, they are identical to declarative statements in that they both contain declarations. Because they are strong sentences, they always end with an exclamation mark :

(A)- "What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."

13-"What a poet!"

(B)- "How + an Adjective or Adverb."

14-"How fast!"

(C)- "How + an Adjective + of +Noun / Pronoun + to –infinitive."

15-"How nice of her to smile! "

(D)- "Such or such (a /an) and so."

16-"Such a nice girl!"

(E)- " **Exclamation with a Negative Question Form.**"

17-"Wasn't it a marvelous concert!"

(F)- **Non-sentence**

18-"Good Idea!"

2- In addition to exclamatory sentences mention above , declarative sentences are therefore employed to carry out both the explicit and implicit act of praising. Sentences that are declarative provide information. We utilize them to communicate statements and facts, or to make announcements. Actually, we most likely utilize this kind of language the most on a daily basis.

19- "I praised the speech you gave yesterday."

2.2 The rhetorical and persuasive roles of Praise

Aristotle (2007) states that praise ,as a rhetorical strategy, is an effective way to gain the audience's favor, elicit the strong feelings, and increase the speaker's credibility (ethos). It enables the speaker to identify with ideals, people, or countries that are highly regarded by the audience. One of the three main types of rhetoric, according to Aristotle's Rhetoric, is epideictic speech, which combines both praise and condemnation. It is particularly employed to uphold collective identity and affirm shared ideals.

Cockcroft & Cockcroft (2005) claim that the three rhetorical appeals are all used in praise:

-Ethos (credibility): Expressing respect for others makes the speaker appear modest, considerate, and emotionally astute.

-Pathos (emotion): Giving praise makes the listeners feel proud, thankful, and inspired.

-Logos (logic): Praise can be linked to policy positions when it is organized logically (for example, highlighting a country's achievements to support cooperation).

3.Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The purpose of this study is to examine the structural forms and purposes of the praising expressions that Donald Trump used in his address in Saudi Arabia in 2025 using a qualitative-quantitative method. In particular, only declarative and exclamative praise forms are analyzed, and they are looked at from a structural and functional standpoint.

3.2 Source and Selection of Data

The official transcript of Donald Trump's public statement from his May 2025 diplomatic visit to Saudi Arabia makes up the data. The address, which was taken from reputable government and media sources, is a rich source for rhetorical and structural analysis because it marks a significant turning point in U.S.-Saudi relations.

3.3 The analysis limitations

Although it provides insight into their structure and rhetorical application, the study is restricted to two syntactic types of praise (*Exclamative and declarative*).

3.4 The model of analysis

Al-abodi et al. (2007) is used as a model to analyze the structural forms of praise used by Donald Trump.

3.5 Data Analysis

Table (1) : *The syntactic praise (Exclamative and declarative) used by Trump during his visit to KSA in May 2025*

No	The speech	Type of praise
1.	"What a great place! What a great place!"	Exclamative "What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."
2.	"But more importantly, what great people!"	Exclamative "What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."
3.	"He's an incredible man."	Declarative
4.	"There's nobody like him."	Declarative
5.	"Such extraordinary generosity and warmth!"	Exclamative "Such or such (a /an) and so."
6.	"Talk about a great man. That is a great man, that is a great man."	Declarative
7.	The graciousness of the royal family and the Saudi people is really unsurpassed no matter where you go.	Declarative
8.	"What a good number!"	Exclamative "What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."
9.	"We have tremendous spirit again."	Declarative
10.	"There's a great spirit in the United States right now."	Declarative
11.	"It hasn't been anything like this because for many years it was the wrong track."	Declarative
12.	"Wouldn't that be a terrible thing if I made that full statement!"	Exclamative " Exclamation with a Negative Question Form."
13.	"But we had such a very, very good meeting with both of those countries."	Exclamative "Such or such (a /an) and so."
14.	"The companies are pouring into our country like we've never seen before. There's never been anything like."	Declarative
15.	"What a job you've done!"	Exclamative "What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."
16.	"That's not easy to beat. But what a job you've	Exclamative

	done!"	"What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."
17.	"Nobody makes military equipment like us. We have the best military equipment."	Declarative
18.	"It's amazing what a rising market will do!"	Exclamative "What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."
19.	"It's an explosion of investment and jobs and great companies are coming in. Never seen anything like it."	Declarative
20.	"A beautiful place!"	Exclamative Non-sentence
21.	"So exciting. So exciting!"	Exclamative Non-sentence
22.	"What a job!"	Exclamative "What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase."
23.	"Such a thing has I don't think ever happened before!"	Exclamative "Such or such (a /an) and so."
24.	"you have the biggest leaders in business anywhere in the world standing right before us."	Declarative
25.	"I've never seen anything at that scale happen before."	Declarative
26.	"Some of the exhibits that I was shown by Mohammed, if what I've seen there is just an amazing, it's amazing process, an amazing genius."	Declarative

Table (2) : *The Frequency and the occurrences percentages of the types of the syntactic praise used by Trump during his visit to KSA in May 2025*

No	The sentence type that has praise	Frequency	The occurrence percentage
1.	Exclamative	13	50%
2.	Declarative	13	50%

Table (3) : *The Frequency and the occurrences percentages of the types of the exclamatory praise used by Trump during his visit to KSA in May 2025*

No	The pattern of the exclamatory sentence	Frequency	The occurrence percentage
1.	"What+(a/an)+Noun Phrase"	7	53%
2.	"Such or such (a /an) and so."	3	23%
3.	Non-sentence	2	15%
4.	Exclamation with a Negative Question Form."	1	9%
5.	"How + an Adjective or Adverb."	0	0%
6.	"How + an Adjective + of +Noun / Pronoun + to –infinitive."	0	0%

3.6 Results and Discussions

Thorough linguistic study of praise expressions used in a specific speech situation is provided by the data gathered, these statements fall into two main categories: declarative and exclamative. Other grammatical patterns include "Such or such (a/an) and so" and "What + (a/an) + noun phrase." This categorization provides important information about the speaker's emotional tone, communication goal, and rhetorical technique.

The Exclamatory Praise

The frequent usage of exclamatory sentences, which are used to express intense feelings and fervent adoration, is a noteworthy pattern in the data. As an illustration, consider statements like "What a great place!" (No. 1), "What a job you've done!" (No. 15), and "So exciting." All of them exhibit an emotionally charged delivery, including "So exciting!" (No. 21). These phrases, which emphasize the subject of praise and amplify the sentiment, frequently follow familiar syntactic patterns like "What + noun phrase."

In public speaking, this type of praise works especially well because it energizes the audience, draws attention to accomplishments, and presents the speaker as passionate and captivating. Additionally, statements such as "Wouldn't it be awful if I made that entire statement!" Negative question forms are used to increase rhetorical power and subtly persuade in (No.12).

The Declarative Praise

Declarative sentences like "We have the best military equipment" (No.17) and "He's an incredible man" (No.3), on the other hand, convey a more collected, assured, and factual tone. Declaratives convey authority and conviction and are frequently employed to accentuate facts or establish credibility, even though they might not have the same emotional flair as exclamatives. This implies a deliberate balance: the speaker switches between expressing appreciation and asserting facts, which strengthens the speech's overall persuasiveness.

Praise with Rhetorical Devices

The data demonstrates a combination of rhetorical figures and praise. For instance, parallelism in "Talk about a great man" and repetition in "What a great place! What a great place!" (No. 1) both heighten emphasis. I must say, that man is just amazing. (No.6) improves rhythm and memorability. These stylistic decisions support the speech's main points and heighten its emotional impact.

Also, when used with the appropriate tone and context, even fragmented or truncated statements can be effective tools of praise, as demonstrated by the usage of non-sentential words like "A beautiful place!" (No.20) and "What a job!" (No.22).

The Use of "Such" and "So"

Expressions such as "Such warmth and generosity!" (No.5) and "I don't believe this has ever happened before!" (No.23) expresses surprise and distinctiveness by using the "such + noun" pattern. These forms help to make an impression of unmatched perfection and elevate the object of appreciation.

4. Conclusions

In summary, the results show that President Trump employs a wide range of exclamatory and declarative praise structures that are carefully modified to fulfill many communication purposes. Declaratives provide boldness and credibility, but exclamatives convey zeal and admiration. This combination not only strengthens the speech's emotional impact but also advances its motivational and persuasive objectives. By using the appropriate form at the appropriate time, Trump's rhetorical talent turns the praise from a complement into a very powerful tool.

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