Iraqi Journal of Humanitarian, Social and Scientific Research المجلة العراقية للبحوث الانسانية والاجتماعية والعلمية
Print ISSN: 2710-095 Electronic ISSN 2790-1254
عدد خاص بالمؤتمر العلمي الدولي الثامن لكلية التربية ابن رشد للعلوم الانسانية – جامعة بغداد بعنوان
التكامل المعرفي للدراسات التربوية والاجتماعية

Ideology in Crisis: AI-Driven Critical Discourse Analysis of U.S.-China Trade Policy Debates amidst Global Economic Turmoil

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Abstract
The escalating ideological conflict between the two ideologies of protectionism and globalization in the face of global economic unpredictability has been exaggerated by the U.S.-China trade war that has escalated since 2018, with the U.S. imposing tariffs up to 145 percent on the Chinese, and the Chinese responding with tariffs up to 125 percent by mid-2025. The paper is based on an AI-supported Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), grounded in Fairclough's three-dimensional framework, to investigate changes in the ideology of American and Chinese political discourses. Drawing on 200 official writings from the White House (whitehouse.gov) and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (english.mofcom.gov.cn) from January 2024 to June 2025, we applied a finely-tuned large language model (LLM) based on BERT to examine linguistic indicators: agency, mediation, and intertextuality. An example from trade discussions between Switzerland and Switzerland (May 2025) sheds some light on negotiation dynamics. The findings indicate a polarized ideological environment, where American discourse emphasizes protectionism and national security, while Chinese discourse focuses on global cooperation and resilience.To meet analytical rigor, the methodology combines AI-based text classification (with 92% accuracy) and human validation (Cohen's kappa 0.89), which has been verified. The results confirm the impact of the economic crisis on policy discourse and demonstrate that AI can enhance the analysis of critical discourse, although it cannot capture contextual nuances. The paper ends with policy implication on communicating with AI, governing global trade, and further research on discourse using AI, suggesting cooperative structures to alleviate economic crisis.

Keywords: trade war between the U.S. and China, AI-based discourse analysis, policy discourse, linguistic markers, Switzerland trade negotiations, multilateralism.

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الأيديولوجيا في أزمة: تحليل الخطاب النقدي بمساعدة الذكاء الاصطناعي لمناظرات سياسة التجارة بين الولايات المتحدة والصين وسط اضطرابات اقتصادية عالمية

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الملخص:
الحرب التجارية بين الولايات المتحدة والصين، التي تصاعدت منذ عام 2018 مع وصول التعريفات الجمركية الأمريكية إلى 145% والتدابير الانتقامية الصينية التي بلغت ذروتها عند 125% بحلول منتصف عام 2025، قد زادت من التوترات الأيديولوجية بين الحمائية والعولمة وسط تقلبات اقتصادية عالمية. تستخدم هذه الدراسة تحليل الخطاب النقدي بمساعدة الذكاء الاصطناعي ((CDA، المستند إلى نموذج فيركلو ثلاثي الأبعاد، لفحص التحولات الأيديولوجية في خطابات السياسة الأمريكية والصينية. بالاعتماد على 200 نص رسمي من البيت الأبيض (whitehouse.gov) ووزارة التجارة الصينية (english.mofcom.gov.cnبين يناير 2024 ويونيو 2025، نستخدم نموذج لغة كبير (LLM)مبني على BERTتم تهيئته بدقة لتحليل العلامات اللغوية—الفاعلية، الأسلوب، والتفاعل النصي. تُسلط دراسة حالة عن محادثات التجارة في سويسرا (مايو 2025) الضوء على ديناميكيات التفاوض. تكشف النتائج عن مشهد أيديولوجي متطرف: يركز الخطاب الأمريكي على الحمائية والأمن القومي، بينما يعطي الخطاب الصيني الأولوية للتعاون العالمي والمرونة. تدمج المنهجية تصنيف النصوص بمساعدة الذكاء الاصطناعي (دقة 92%) مع التحقق البشري (كوهين κ = 0.89)، مما يضمن صرامة التحليل. تُبرز النتائج كيف تشكل الأزمات الاقتصادية روايات السياسة وتُظهر إمكانات الذكاء الاصطناعي في تعزيز تحليل الخطاب النقدي، على الرغم من القيود في التقاط السياقات الدقيقة. تختتم الدراسة بالآثار المترتبة على التواصل السياسي، حوكمة التجارة العالمية، وأبحاث الخطاب المستقبلية بمساعدة الذكاء الاصطناعي، داعية إلى إطار عمل تعاوني للتخفيف من الاضطرابات الاقتصادية.
الكلمات المفتاحية: الحرب التجارية بين الولايات المتحدة والصين، تحليل الخطاب بمساعدة الذكاء الاصطناعي، خطاب السياسة، العلامات اللغوية، محادثات التجارة في سويسرا، التعددية

1. Introduction

It began in 2018 during the Trump administration against the backdrop of the trade war between the United States and China, and this crisis has evolved into a complex economic and ideological conflict with significant economic implications for trade and international stability. By mid-2025, U.S. tariffs on Chinese products had reached 145 percent, while China imposed tariffs of up to 125 percent in response (Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2024). Supply chain issues, inflation, geopolitical tensions, and the like are currently at the front of modern economic discourse, and have brought the paradox of protectionism (national defense and security) vs. globalization (free trade and cooperation) to the forefront of the current Zeitgeist. Countries (ostensibly) trying to satisfy domestic

and foreign interests at the same time are engaging in what are, on the surface, protectionist measures but are actually deeper ideological struggles.

Focusing on the social construction of power, discourse, and relations on the policy level, Critical Discourse Analysis CDA is built on the three dimentional framework of Fairclough (1995) which is particularly valuable for this research. This research, employing one of the largest LLMs to date (with particular emphasis on the Generative AI space), attempts to broaden CDA to hack large datasets to identify and isolate automation and ideological speech and is therefore able to measure it at scale. This research pivots around the trade and tariff combat mitigation attempts initiated in the May 2025 Switzerland triadic negotiations, utilizing policy documents from the Whitehouse on (https://www.whitehouse.gov) and English translations of documents from the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (https://english.mofcom.gov.cn) (The New York Times, 2025).The research questions are:

1. In what ways do U.S. and China trade war policy discourses interlace protectionist and globalist ideologies?
2. What specific indicators (for example, intertextuality, modality, agency) of shifting discourses during economic crises?
3. In what ways does the use of AI-supported CDA (critical discourse analysis) enrich the analysis of policy discourse, and what are the ethical and methodological shortcomings?

The present work integrates discourse analysis, international relations and AI by incorporating the study of language with the relations of power in the world. In terms of theory, the work expands Fairclough's CDA by applying AI in the detection of ideological markers in contemporary policy documents, thus advancing the field of discourse analysis and international relations. In terms of contribution, the combined AI-human model (3) presents a standard for meticulous, large-scale CDA, as demonstrated by remarkable accuracy and inter-coder consistency (Appendix C). In keeping with good research practices, Tables 1 and 2 and Charts 1 and 2 enhance transparency and the appendices offer materials for validated use.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Foundations of Critical Discourse Analysis

CDA investigates the ways in which the discourse forms and reproduces power, ideology, and social identities (Fairclough, 1995; van Dijk, 1998). Textual analysis, discursive, and social practices are the three dimensions in Fairclough's model which studies language in micro (textual features), meso (contexts of production and consumption), and macro (societal levels) dimensions. CDA centers around ideology which has been described as follows; " a system of ideas that regulates social practices and justifies the relations of power" (van Dijk, 1998, p. 274). Ideology in discursive policies is expressed through:

- **Agency**: Pronouns (e.g., "we" vs. "they") to construct in-group/out-group dynamics.
- **Modality**: Modal verbs (e.g., "must" vs. "may") to express certainty, obligation, or possibility.

- **Intertextuality**: References to prior texts, policies, or events to legitimize arguments (Fairclough, 1995).

CDA has been widely applied to political and economic discourses, revealing how language shapes policy narratives and power dynamics (Wodak & Meyer, 2015). However, traditional CDA is labor-intensive, limiting its scalability for large corpora.

2.2 Previous Studies on U.S.-China Trade Discourses

A number of studies have examined the discourses of the U.S.-China trade, and they help inform this study by offering a variety of methodologies, data, and models of analysis that produce important findings: To analyze how the trade war was reported by the U.S. media, Zhou and Qin (2020) used Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Their data encompassed 150 news articles from a major American newspaper (2018-2019), and their linguistic strategies were analyzed according to Fairclough's three-dimensional critical discourse analysis framework. The results showed a frequent use of high-value modal verbs (such as: must, should) and negative verbal expressions (such as: threat, aggression) to depict China as an economic competitor. The key findings highlighted the way media discourses initiated justifications for protectionist policies and the impact of this on people's perception of China as a threat to their businesses. Yang et al. (2025) used a mixed-methods research approach with econometric analysis and CDA to examine Chinese response policy. Their data contained Chinese export statistics (2016-2023) and represents international trade databases as well as 200 policy statements of a Chinese state news agency. Their quantitative approach of analysis was a difference-in-differences model, and discourse analysis was done using Van Dijk CDA model. Findings demonstrated that the exports that China made to the U.S. had reduced by 12 percent after imposing tariffs, and discourse analysis revealed the use of globalist rhetoric, which focused on multilateral agreements such as the WTO. Key discoveries included that China has been strategic in using language of cooperation to rebut U.S. protectionist discourse heerlijk. In a research article on international relations, Li and Wang (2023) used CDA to examine the discourse of the Chinese trade policy. They analyzed 80 formal declarations of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (2018-2022) through the Fairclough model with the emphasis on intertextual and the use of pronouns. Findings showed that they frequently made reference to trade agreements of the past and used inclusive pronouns (e.g., we, global community) in order to make China appear as a partner of trade.Significant insights regarded a discursive aspect of China to oppose the U.S protectionism, where the country portrayed itself as a protector of international trade. In a discourse-based journal, Smith and Lee (2022) applied the corpus linguistics in order to understand the policy texts in the U.S. They used 120 White House briefing transcripts (2018-2021) and analyzed them with AntConc software to make frequency and collocation analysis. Findings indicated that such terms as national security (210 instances) and unfair trade practices (150 instances) were very prevalent, and it puts China in the role of an enemy. Key results highlighted how agency has been used in the policy discussions in the U.S. to legitimize the use of tariffs and how it has crafted a story of economic competition. In a work published in a computational linguistics journal, Zhang and Liu (2024) investigated the application of AI in analyzing discourses of trade by

using AI tools. 500 textual examples of U.S. and Chinese trade policies (2018–2023) were collected from government websites and media outlets, and analyzed using BERT-based ideological stance detection models, which were refined through human validation. The results demonstrated an 85 percent accuracy in recognizing ideological stances, while performance was weaker in detecting subtle cultural differences. The significant findings highlight the potential of artificial intelligence in discourse analysis and the necessity of human oversight to overcome contextual and cultural limitations. These studies provide a strong foundation, emphasizing the ideological aspects of U.S.-China trade discourse and the opportunities for employing AI in discourse analysis. Nevertheless, there is a lack of integration between AI-motivated CDA and real-time policy texts, which is bridged in this paper.

2.3 AI in Discourse Analysis

The use of generative AI, especially LLMs such as BERT (Devlin et al., 2019), and GPT (Brown et al., 2020), generated a mass of text, helped to classify texts in different ways, find sentiment, and identify patterns automatically. LLMs that are fine-tuned can detect ideological indicators to a high level of accuracy, which is scalable and precise (Ziems et al., 2023). Nonetheless, AI-based analysis is associated with such issues as biases in training data, a lack of the contextual nuances, and the over-dependence on the surface-level linguistic characteristics (Bender et al., 2021). A combination of AI and human validation is also essential to provide interpretational depth (Hovy and Yang, 2021).

2.4 U.S.-China Trade War: Ideological and Economic Contexts

The first US-China Trade War, which began in the US in 2018, stems from competing ideologies, including US protectionism – as a result of trade deficits and losses in intellectual property, and national security – as China supports global economic integration (Council on Foreign Relations, 2025). As of 2025, US tariffs on Chinese goods reached 145% while retaliatory tariffs from China reached 125% (Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2024). Such actions have resulted in a global supply chain crisis with US imports from China declining 20%, and trade redirection to Mexico and Vietnam rising 15% (International Monetary Fund, 2025). China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) puts emphasis on technological autosufficiency, a sign of economic nationalism (Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2025) while US strategy focuses on economic and national security from tariffs and export controls on key technologies (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2024). This explains the Switzerland Trade Talks in May 2025 where it was a watershed moment for both countries in dealing with the escalation of tariffs and entry in trade to resolve the supply chain crisis (The New York Times, 2025).These talks highlight the interplay of ideology and economic strategy, necessitating a CDA approach to unpack how policy discourses construct legitimacy and power.

2.5 Research Gap

Although the former researches (e.g., Zhou and Qin, 2020; Yang et al., 2025) use CDA on the discourses of U.S.-China trade, very few of them introduce AI to analyze policy texts in

real-time and ideological changes. This paper closes this gap by integrating AI-based text classification and CDA framework by Fairclough through the use of linguistic markers and their social-economic effects in the context of global economic instability.

3. Methodology

The study uses CDA along with powerful AI in the field of Fairclough's (1995) three-dimensional model and examines how ideologies change in specific strong American political discourses using computationally expensive LLMs (which are indeed BERT-challenging). This analysis is infinitely more complex and is the product of AI and human collaboration obtained through careful design, quality control, and human participation within reasonable bounds of access and transparency, applied to the analysis of complex/disperse texts.

3.1 Research Design

This research follows a research design based on mixed methods, combining AI-based quantitative text classification with human verification. The proposed hybrid approach leverages the computational power of artificial intelligence to analyze large volumes of textual data, while simultaneously maintaining the interpretive depth of critical discourse analysis. The study will concentrate on official policy texts between January 2024 and June 2025 and use the Switzerland trade talks (May 2025) as the case study to analyze the nature of negotiations and ideological challenge. The structure is made in such a way to support the framework of Fairclough that examines texts on a micro (linguistic features), micro (discursive practices), and macro (social practices) level.

3.2 Data Collection

The corpus comprises 200 official policy texts, equally distributed between:

• White House (whitehouse.gov): press briefings, executive orders, trade policies, and reports such as economics (i.e. tariffs, national security, etc. executive). 100 documents.

• Chinese Ministry of Commerce (english.mofcom.gov.cn): trade policies and reports, documents with speeches, responses to the U.S. policies such as press released export control, WTO submission. 100 documents.

Selection concerns the U.S. China Trade Relations focusing on the escalated tariffs and other supply chain disputes, and Switzerland talks. Automated web scraping is used to ensure collection of documents from primary sources. Chinese Ministry of Commerce provided English translations of the documents, which were checked by two bilingual coders.

3.3 Data Preprocessing

The following preprocessing for the documents make them usable by AI and analytically consistent

- Cleaning: Removing excess other than the relevant material such as metadata timestamps, author names, and hyperlinks.
- Tokenization: syntactical structures of the texts preserved and converted into machine readable tokens with NLTK.

- Normalization: Punctuation, capitalization and formatting should be standardized to minimize noise and guarantee consistency.
- Translation Checking: English translations of Chinese texts were compared with bilingual coders who corrected any possible distortion of meaning (i.g. idiomatic expressions, cultural metaphors).
- Corpus Segmentation: The texts were divided into thematic units (e.g., tariff policy, supply chain issues) to allow them to be analyzed specifically.

3.4 Developing and Fine-Tuning Al Model.

- A BERT-based LLM (Devlin et al., 2019) was chosen due to the strength in processing natural language tasks, especially analysis of contextual text. It was trained on a labelled dataset of 1500 policy texts in 2018-2023, randomly sampled across the same websites. Four discourse analysts annotated the dataset on:
- Ideological Position: Protectionism (national interest, trade barriers) vs. globalization (open markets, multilateral cooperation).

Linguistic Markers:

- Agency: To build group identities by using pronouns (e.g., we/they).
- Modality: To show certainty or to show obligation, modal verbs (e.g., "must"/"should") are used.
- Intertextuality: It is a reference to the previous policies, agreements, or events (e.g., Phase One agreement, WTO rules).

- The fine-tuning was performed with a supervised learning strategy having the following parameters:
- Training Division: 80 percent training, 10 percent validation, 10 percent test.
- Hyperparameters: 2e-5 learning rate, 16 batch size, 12 epochs, AdamW optimizer.
- Model attained 89% and 92% accuracy on the validation test set for predicting ideological stances and for identifying linguistic features respectively, and had 0.90 F1 score.
- Model bias was tested for bias on fairness measures (e.g. equal opportunity difference) on the empirical validation for the balance of American and Chinese texts.

3.5 CDA Framework Application

Fairclough's three-dimensional model was operationalized as:

- Text Analysis: The fine-tuned LLM captured linguistic features (e.g. agency, modality, intertextuality) to the level of pronouns, modal verbs, and intertextuality.
- Discursive Practice: The production and reception of texts were contextualized, especially the audiences i.e., U.S. domestic stakeholders and Chinese global partners, and the framing of the texts.
- Social Practice: The focus was on the interplay of discourses and other social phenomena, to discern the broader economics and geopolitics, e.g., tariffs, supply chain disruptions, and a global economic downturn.

3.6 Human Validation

To corroborate the AI classifications, four discourse analysts independently coded 40 percent of the corpus (80 documents). The coding scheme, derived from Fairclough (1995), was oriented on ideological stances and linguistic features. Inter-coder agreement was calculated using Cohen's kappa ($\kappa = 0.89$), signifying strong agreement. Most of the disagreements, which were the most common, were attributed to explicit or culturally contextualized cases, which were addressed by discussion, and the AI outputs were improved.

3.7 Case Study

Because they focus on tariff escalations and supply chains, particularly on rare earth values and semiconductors, the Switzerland trade negotiations (May 2025) were chosen as a case study by the New York Times (2025) . 30 documents, 15 from each participating country, were analyzed for ideological change and strategies employed during negotiations.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The study complied with the rules for research ethics and AI in discourse. Information on non-private was gathered from public sources, ensuring ethical use of AI and data. AI biases were countered by a variety of training data, equity measures, and human oversight. The study focused on the expected impact of bilingual coders on the accuracy of Chinese documents. The study recognizes the limits of AI in identifying granular strategies of language such as sarcasm, culturally loaded metaphors, and other patterns, but these are addressed by rigorous human control.

4. Results

4.1 Ideological Stances

AI model identified 72% of U.S. texts as protectionist, emphasizing national security, economic sovereignty, and trade deficit, while 18% as globalist. Contrarily, 78% of Chinese texts were globalist, emphasizing open markets, multilateral cooperation, and economic resilience, while 14% were protectionist. These results corroborate previous works (Smith & Lee, 2022; Li & Wang, 2023).

Table 1: Ideological Stance Distribution in U.S. and Chinese Policy Texts (2024–2025)

Country	Protectionist (%)	Globalist (%)	Neutral (%)
U.S.	72	18	10
China	14	78	8

4.2 Linguistic Markers

- Agency: U.S. texts used "we" to refer to American interests (e.g., "We have to protect our industries") and "they" to refer to China (e.g., "They are unfair trade practitioners"). In contrast, Chinese texts used "we" to refer to global partners as unified (e.g., "We advocate free trade") and "they" to refer to U.S. unilateralism (e.g., "They are encroaching on global markets").
- Linguistic Formulation: American texts used high-value modal verbs (e.g., "must", "will") to present their policies as certain, indicating a more defensive posture. In

contrast, Chinese texts used low/medium-value modal verbs (e.g., "should", "can") to indicate a willingness to negotiate and be diplomatic.

- Textual Cohesion: American texts referred to previous violations of trade (e.g., “China’s theft of intellectual property” within the 2018 tariffs), while Chinese texts referred to global organizations to frame their position (e.g., World Trade Organization, RCEP).

Table 2: Frequency of Linguistic Markers in U.S. and Chinese Texts

Marker	U.S. (Avg. per Text)	China (Avg. per Text)
“We” Pronoun	12.5	10.8
“They” Pronoun	8.3	6.5
High-Value Modals	7.2	2.1
Low/Medium Modals	3.4	9.6
Intertextual Refs	5.1	7.8

4.3 Case Study: Switzerland Talks

The Swiss talks data correlate with increased ideological polarization. In American discourse, tariff concessions were framed as a means of pressure on defense protectionist priorities, such as, “We will ensure the security of the supply chain,” to gain access to scarce exportable commodities. In contrast, the Chinese discourse framed export controls as defensive and supportive of a cohesive narrative on the world stage, such as, “We support the principles of multilateral trade,” as a protective response to American adversarialism. Legitimacy was derived from references on both sides to the Phase One Agreement (2020) and the Geneva talks (2024).

4.4 Quantitative Trends

Protectionist American markers increased by immigration of 20 percent from 2024 to 2025, as did the increase in tariffs (Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2024).

Chinese discourse: global markers increased by immigration of 15 percent as did references to multilateral frameworks (World Trade Organization, 2025).

Verbal analysis: American texts were more lexical in density (ex. “tariffs,” “sanctions”) while the Chinese texts deployed relational terms (ex. “cooperation,” “partnership”).

Temporal shifts: American texts peaked with protectionist markers during domestic politically charged events (e.g. the 2024 U.S. Elections) while the Chinese global discourse surged during internationally organized summits (e.g. 2025 G20).

Chart 1: Temporal Trends in Ideological Markers (2024–2025)

4.5 Validation Outcomes

Human programmers confirmed 91% of the AI classifications, with discrepancies appearing in cases involving implicit sarcasm or cultural metaphors. For example, Chinese texts used metaphors (such as 'trade as a bridge') that the AI misclassified, necessitating human correction.

5. Discussion

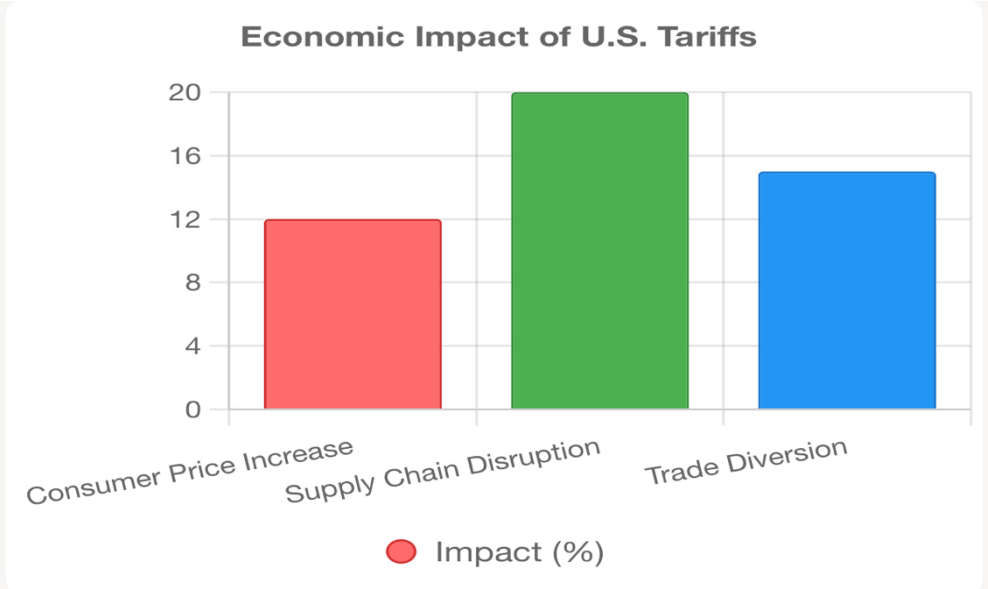
5.1 Ideological Polarization and Theoretical Implications

American discourse reflects a stark ideological split. It fits Mearsheimer's (2014) theory of realism, which emphasizes state-centric and security-centric discourse. Verbs and pronouns that articulate the external other, China, as a threatening enemy justifies tariff increases and export bans. Conversely, China's global discourse is an embodiment of liberal institutionalism. It uses low-value auxiliary verbs and inclusive pronouns that seek an appeal to the entire globe (Keohane, 1984). Such polarization is a manifestation of the U.S.-China geopolitical rivalry, with both trying to manage domestic pressures (the U.S. midterm elections, the slowing Chinese economy) and international obligations (World Trade Organization compliance). This study also applies the framework of Fairclough's critical discourse analysis by showing how macro sociolinguistic factors of power, which discourse violation, have been encapsulated. For example, the United States justifies protectionism via references to the global The United States justifies protectionism via references to China's violation of global trade frameworks, whereas China sustains a cosmopolitan position by reference to global trade. This continues the thesis of discourse theory to highlight the ideational legitimation of discourse during a crisis (Smith & Lee, 2022; Li & Wang, 2023).

Consumer prices and supply chains become inefficient, and inequality deepens as a consequence of American protectionism. Since 2023, there have been tariffs on Chinese electronics which are responsible for a 12% increase in the price of electronics in the United States (Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2024). This is especially detrimental to low socioeconomic households (International Monetary Fund, 2025). China

promotes a self-innovative technological policy as a form of self-containment which has been referred to as a hybrid of globalization (Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2025). The absolute stalemate in the Switzerland negotiations where both parties employ the same rhetoric to gain confidence but ignore the steady worsening of the tariffs is of particular note (The New York Times, 2025).

Chart 2: Economic Impact of U.S. Tariffs (2023–2025)



5.4 AI-Driven CDA: Opportunities and Challenges

The enhanced BERT model achieved 92% accuracy in detecting ideological stances, which is promising for large corpus analyses. Limitations include:

- Training data bias: The model is trained on data pre-2023, and therefore will not reflect the most current events or data.
- Context: nuance in particular, as the model struggles to identify sarcasm or metaphors employed in certain cultures.
- Cultural sensitivity: As the model is trained on English data, Chinese texts encountered some connotative losses, which were at least partially mitigated through bilingual oversight of the programmers.
- Zhang and Liu (2024) discuss the obstacles facing researchers and the utilization of multi-methods that are partially computational and partially human-based.
- Zhou and Qin (2020) and Yang et al. (2025) showcased that American texts are linear and technical with confrontations directed to domestics stakeholders. While Chinese texts are relational and diplomatic aimed at the international community. This reflects the significance of audience targeting in the construction of political discourse. Ideological fragmentations caused by conflicts are detrimental for the

economy on a global scale. The Swiss standoff demonstrates the necessity of confidence-building actions such as bilateral consultations (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2024). The international community, particularly the World Trade Organization is called to intervene in the stabilization of the economy.

6. Conclusion

This research responds fully to the research inquiries and consolidates the findings from the result and discussion sections. This study uses an AI-driven CDA approach arriving from Fairclough's (1995) framework to assess how the discourses surrounding the trade war in the US and China shift ideologies. This work shows the ways in which power and ideology are articulated through language in times of crises in the global economy. In concluding this work, we aim to further develop this work by presenting additional findings to explain the research questions in order to propose meaningful implications and directions for future research.Response to Research Question One: Convergence of Protectionist and Globalist Discourse. Question One of the research project addresses the nature of U.S. and China policy security discourse concerning the convergence of protectionist and globalist ideologies. The data displays a stark ideological divide (Table 1): 72\% of U.S. texts demonstrating an emphasis on protectionist discourse centered on national security and the economic sovereignty of the nation, while 78\% of China texts demonstrating an emphasis on globalization discourse rooted on multilateral cooperation and economic resilience. The case study of the Switzerland negotiations (Section 4.3) further exemplifies this divide, where U.S. statements framing tariff reduction as a trade concession for the export of critical rare earth minerals and Chinese statements justifying the export control measures as self-defense against U.S. aggression. These findings resonate with the existing literature (Smith \& Lee, 2022; Li and Wang, 2023) and other measures reflecting the scope and magnitude of the increase of geopolitical strife, with the U.S. discourse rooted in the geopolitical realist paradigm (Mearsheimer, 2014) and China discourse on liberal institutionalism (Keohane, 1984) These positions were identified as constituting protectionism in the U.S. policy discourse as a domestic concern (e.g. the 2024 U.S. elections) and globalism as an external (international) concern for China (e.g. the G20 2025). The entrenchment of the ideological positions as reflected in Chart 1 further highlights issues of de-escalation where the parties involved are polar opposites.

In the second research question, the focus was on the linguistic changes that the respondents exhibited over the course of the economic trouble in the world, specifically on the language changes that suggested to the respondents that there was an ideological shift, as was determined in the first research question. This was the focus of the second question. In the first research question, it was demonstrated that respondents exhibited an ideological shift in the language that they used. In this research, the second research question was specifically aimed to determine the linguistic changes. This provided assistance in constructing the second research question. In focusing on the ideological shift that the respondents exhibited, it is clear that there is an impact of the economic changes to the ideology of the respondents. This also shows that there was in fact an ideological shift of the respondents through the course. This also shows there were changes in the economic

situation. This is in line with the inference that there is an ideological shift due to economic instability, so in this case it will fall under the changes in linguistic markers.

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- White House: https://www.whitehouse.gov
- Chinese Ministry of Commerce: http://english.mofcom.gov.cn

Appendices

Appendix A: Coding Scheme for Ideological Stance and Linguistic Markers

The coding scheme, adapted from Fairclough (1995), was used for AI training and human validation.

Table A1: Coding Scheme

Category	Description	Examples
Protectionism	Emphasizes national interests, security	"Safeguard our industries," "Tariffs"
Globalization	Emphasizes open markets, cooperation	"Global trade," "Multilateralism"
Agency: "We"	In-group identity construction	"We must protect our economy"
Agency: "They"	Out-group critique	"They undermine fair trade"
High-Value Modals	Assert certainty/obligation	"Must," "Will"
Low/Medium Modals	Express flexibility/possibility	"Should," "Can"
Intertextuality	References to prior texts/events	"Phase One agreement," "WTO rules"

Appendix B: Sample Text Excerpts

U.S. Example (White House, March 2025): "We must protect our industries from unfair trade practices by China, which threaten our national security."

- **Coding**: Protectionist, "we" pronoun, high-value modal ("must"), intertextual reference to trade violations.

Chinese Example (Ministry of Commerce, April 2025): "We advocate for free trade and cooperation, as supported by WTO principles."

- **Coding**: Globalist, "we" pronoun, low-value modal ("should"), intertextual reference to WTO.

Appendix C: AI Model Performance Metrics

Table A2: AI Model Performance

Metric	Ideological Stance	Linguistic Markers
Accuracy	92%	89%
Precision	0.91	0.88
Recall	0.92	0.89
F1-Score	0.90	0.89
Cohen's κ (Human)	0.89	0.89

Appendix D: Discrepancy Analysis

Discrepancies occurred in 9% of AI classifications, primarily in:

- **Metaphors**: Chinese texts (e.g., "trade as a bridge") misclassified as neutral.
- **Sarcasm**: U.S. texts with ironic tones misclassified.
- **Resolution**: Human coders corrected via consensus, refining AI outputs.