

MARTIN LUTHER'S SPEECH CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF IN SOCIO-POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Hafsa Ruba, Ammara Ameer, Zarmeena Peraiz & Iqra Ghaffar
Research Scholar, University of Lahore, Sargodha Campus, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Current study deals with the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of the first part of King Martin Luther's speech "When I Have a Dream". We will analyze the text of our study in socio-political context of applying the model of the Fairclough 3D model. The main objective of the research is to highlight the social, political and cultural activities.

KEYWORDS: CDA, Socio-Political Perspective, 3D Model, Racial Discrimination, Dominance, Social Inequalities

INTRODUCTION

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA, henceforth), as part of discourse analysis, has lately become advanced rapidly in abroad and has gained great

importance in the past twenty years (Wang, 2010). As Language is a wide phenomenon and it is used for multipurpose. The term "discourse" refers to anything that is in written or spoken form. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) describes language as

"A form of social practice" (Fairclough, 1995, 2010).

As with the use of language we perform different social functions. The objective of CDA is to recognize language use as social practice.

Language users do not function in isolation, but they work in a set of cultural, social and psychological frameworks. CDA studies this social context and also makes a connection between these textual structures. CDA explores the relationship between the textual structures and describes how these textual structures work in a social context.. CDA generally shows that social practice and linguistic practice both have a great influence on each other and lays great emphasis on this phenomena "that's how societal power relations are constructed and reinforced through language use" (Fairclough, 1995, 2010). The major focus of Discourse Analysis is the use of language in social context. On the main aim of CDA is also to expose the hidden ideologies that are found in a text

Fairclough describes an ideology as a struggle for power between different social classes. In his works (1989, 1995, 2001 and 2010) ideology has been considered as a crucial theme in social and linguistic research.

"Ideology is tied to action, and ideologies are judged in terms of their social effects rather than their truth values" (Fairclough, *ibid*, p. 62). So he claims that ideologies are created and transformed into actual discursive events.

“Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context.” (Van Dijk, 2001, p. 352)

So the main aim of critical discourse analysis is to disclose the dominating powers which can be in any form i.e in the form of organizations or can be found at an individual level. It also highlights the how some community powers dominate over others.

According to van Dijk (1996),

“One of the central tasks of CDA is to account for the relationships between discourse and social power”(p.84). For Van Dijk (2000),

"If there is one notion often related to the ideology, it is that of power" (p.25). “

Social power refers to the hold of one group, be it an organization or an institution, over another. Whatever we say, we each and every utterance has a particular knowledge hidden inside it”

Surface or apparent meanings are always different from the real meanings of the text and the purpose of discourse is to bring forth how speech patterns are working in a specific framework and how are they being used in the society.

This article presents a Critical Discourse Analysis of the famous speech by Martin Luther king, Jr. “I Have a Dream” by applying Fairclough 3D Model.

CDA of the selected speech highlights the relationship between language and power. It makes this thing clear that how Martin Luther in front of Washington DC challenges Americans. The analysis of the study highlights the persuasive nature of the speech. Martin Luther stimulates the audience by using language of getting freedom and prepares them to fight against the racial discrimination

3. Research Questions:

- What type of textual/stylistic strategies is used in the text?
- How is the ideology of King Martin Luther is reflected in his speech?
- How do the stylistic features characterize the wider socio-cultural and political relationship between the white and the black community in America?

All These questions are reachable because the focus is on the analysis of the language used in the speech. The researcher analyzed the linguistic choices which are used by the speaker.. Language is the main tool through which power is exerted by the dominate groups. This project lays emphasis on how speaker tried to raise voice against the unequal and unjust attitude of white against the black with the help of language. He tries to make his ideology clear in front of the black oppressed people by the powerful white. The researcher looks an overview of the stylistic devices like metaphors that are used by the speaker. Power relations between the black and the white are analyzed from wider socio-economic and political perspective that how white exert power on the black by analyzing the speech through CDA.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Speech of King Martin Luther would be analyzed by applying Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). It would analyze this thing that the lexical representation, syntactic organization and coherent speech have an influence on the cognition of the listeners or not. Researcher's contribution is the analysis of the textual/stylistic strategies and interpretation of relational, expressive and representative values in the speech with a special focus on wider socio-political and economic perspectives. It would analyze the speech on the basis of three perspectives linguistics choices, discursive practices, and socio-cultural practices. Also, analyze that how the coherence of such linguistic structures help the speaker to propagate his/her ideologies effectively and make others accept heartily.

The data are collected from the historical speech of King Martin Luther delivered on August 28, 1963. The title of this spellbinding speech was 'When I Have Dreams' which reveals the ambitions and demands of all blacks. This research is only delimited to the first part of the speech which consists of 31 sentences. A quarter of million people, gathered in Washington DC from all racial backgrounds to support the American blacks for the equality of rights.

In this research, the 3D model and framework proposed by Norman Fairclough(1992) would be applied. He has introduced three aspects in his model for the critical analysis of any discourse or text. This has following aspects textual practices, socio-cultural practices and discursive practices in a society. The topic carries variables like social, cultural, political inequality and ideology which are the fundamental issues discussed by CDA. This theoretical framework offers a complete base and standing for the analysis of above-mentioned variables in the speech of King Martin Luther.

The research is purely qualitative in its nature as the speech is analyzed on the basis of Fairclough's 3D Model

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LITERATURE REVIEW

This study section in which researcher has to observe 20 references regarding the main and different variables ,including the study and Research questions. Researchers make this ground clearance for a further better understanding of the research. In the Work of different researchers and theorists, CDA has applied aptly.

According to Vandijk (1998a), CDA can be viewed of spoken or written texts.

Fairclough (1993) says that “ CDA is a kind of analysis which brings the relationships between social and ethnographic”

He focuses text and sequential events He explores how power is exercised in a society through hegemonic attitude and ideological text of the elite. Fairclough (1992) explains the three stages for CDA. In first stage CDA analyses experience and knowledge of the speaker by keeping in view his beliefs.

Secondly, how social relations affect the discourse and thirdly, the speaker realizes about the reality and identity. He is of the view that language shapes the discourse. This shows that there is a strong relationship between the social and linguistic variables. The main aim of CDA is to analyze the text in the light of social theory of language functioning of ideological and political processes.

According to Brown and Yule (1985)

“ Language is not only used for the description of things, but it is also used for doing things as well. CDA analyses the use of the language in a real context and how language reveals their cultural, social and ethnic backgrounds. They are of the view that choice of lexical and syntactic features of a language represents the broad socio-cultural background of the speakers. Critical discourse analysis focuses on how their language reflects discursive practices in the binary relations”

Halliday’s (1978) view regarding this concept is same that language is considered to be a social activity because people communicate in a social setup. It is the language (text) which shapes and constructs our identities. Same is the case in our context.

People who are fluent in English are considered socially and culturally dominant because they speak the language of socially and politically dominant people.

According to Fairclough (1995b) “ linguistic analysis of discourse practice in the socio-cultural background is known intertextual analysis. Here the analysis of the text at lexical, syntactic, grammatical and vocabulary”

Level. Cohesion, coherence, and organization of the text are also included in this analysis. This analysis focuses on the text by keeping in view all discourse practices.

Fairclough (1992) defines intertextuality as the characteristic of any text in which the text carries the chunks of other texts which become a part of that text. The chunk was taken from other text become a complete part of the original one whether it refutes the idea given in the original text or accepts. He divides intertextuality into two types which are ‘manifest intertextuality’ and ‘constitutive intertextuality’. The first type refers to the use of quotations in the texts in order to validate and authenticate the argument. Fairclough says that this kind of text can be analyzed by doing its linguistic analysis.

Fairclough (1989) described his approach in the perspective of the analysis of the text as ‘critical language study’. His main focus was to unfold the discrimination of social relations and discursive practices which exploits the rights of the masses with the help of language used in society. He is the view that language is used as a tool for exercising power and hegemony. The text is the dress of thoughts through which people exert dominance.

Wodak and Fairclough (1995a, 1996) are of the view that

“ Language as a practice of creating hegemony, power and dominance are being used in a society. It seems to be a complete reflection of social practices like a mirror. The types of language used between the members of society reveal the social relations like communication of a director of a company with a clerk or peon would clearly draw a lines and the linguistic choice of director would reveal his/her hegemonic attitude. Historical perspective of discourse plays a vital role in getting the meanings of the text. Every text carries certain historical perspectives and contexts which clarify the meanings in that particular context.”

Gee (1990) and Sampson (1980) put an argument that CDA systematically “interprets discourses with the help of various approaches by keeping in view socio-political and economic contexts. Here, social semiotics plays significant role in the interpretation of discourse because the analysis would be done on the basis of social factors in that specific context.”

Fowler (1996) says the perspective of CDA is to produce the knowledge of exploitation and knowing, conscious rising “

Discussions and Analysis

The data for the research has been collected from the speech of Martin Luther King ‘When I Have A Dream’. First 31 lines which are comprised of almost 648 words are interpreted by applying Fairclough’s 3D model which describes the expressive, relational and educational values of the text. The whole text is analyzed on three levels at both macro and micro level; which are related to the analysis of linguistic choices (text), discourse practices in the back scene of that particular text and socio- cultural practices keeping in view mainly social, economic and political factors. This text describes the unequal social power distribution, racial discrimination or other discursive practices by looking at the text from socio-cultural perspective. The research is critical and explanatory in its nature. Faircloughs model elaborates the whole text in a systematic manner and gives a full description of the linguistic and structural devices that are used in the text and also explains the relationship of the text in context with social context.

Text Analysis

The text is given much importance in a faircloughs model. The text is related to the real -life situation of people that how they behave in their social lives. Textual analysis deals with the lexical semantic grammar cohesion and coherence of the text that describes the broader social -political perspectives. This socio- political analysis leads us above the syntactic level.

Text analysis can be divided into two main parts. In the first part, we would analyze the text within the clauses or sentences that would highlight the Theme, Rheme, Given and New Information about the text.

In the second section, we would analyze the relationships of sentences or clauses with each other by giving importance to four types of thematic progression.

Informative Structure is developed through a series of Theme, Rheme, Given and New Information. This creates a thematic organization in the sentences of the speech. It also creates cohesion and coherence to the speech. In this way, we become able to generate sentences grammatically and thematically correct by using the informative and thematic structure. The cohesion of the text would increase the effect of the message and feelings used by the speakers. The use of this strategy would help the speaker to attain power and very deep control over the mind of the listeners. It would create a logical sequence of the sentences. This strategy would also make the speech very effective. It would serve as a bridge between both the speaker and the listener. Similarly, coherence and coherent strategy would also help to make a thematic organization in the sentences and to make speech effective.

With the use of this thematic organization, we can say that every part of the speech is well knitted and well organized. The main idea of the speech is focused on the speaker and he uses accurate and appropriate words. With the help of his speech and by using different techniques he tries to capture the mind of the audience and to persuade them to make them free from the bondage of slavery. Only Constant Theme Pattern is used in this speech the rest of the three patterns are not used in the speech. Constant Theme Pattern technique helps in maintaining the emotional impact on the audience by focusing on the main idea or theme.

Throughout the speech, Dr. King applies a strategy to repeat the words and sentences again and again. He uses the

art of repetition very skillfully.

If we study the selected part of the speech more cautiously, it is easy for us to find many other examples of repetition used:

“One hundred years later, the life of the Negroes still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination”. (Luther King, 1963)

“One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity”. (Luther King, 1963)

In this part the phrase “one hundred years later” is repeated four times, clearly shows that for a long period of time African-Americans are suffering from the menace of discrimination and inequality but still striving for equality and freedom.

The other syntactic strategy that is used in the speech is the art of parallelism, but it is different from common repetition. Parallelism can be simply defined as the balancing of sentence elements that are

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Grammatically equal. In his speech, Martin Luther King uses this technique of parallelism to create a very strong rhythm to help the audience line up his ideas. Here are a few examples:

“...By the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination... (Par.2, two parallel noun phrases)”

The noun freedom is used by the king 20 times during his speech in his speech, which indicates that Freedom and inequality are the major themes are used in the speech by keeping in view socio-political background of the speech. Other pronouns like ‘We’, ‘Ours’ and ‘You’ have been used 30, 17 and 08 times in a speech congruently which shows the closeness between the speaker and the audience. Other lexemes are also used like nation, America and justice several times, which shows that King’s speech carried the message of justice, equality and unity as one nation.

The stylistics device metaphor is also skillfully used by him that makes a connection between the abstract and concrete ideas. Metaphorical language is used by the king in his speech which connects with the concrete images and here in this speech ,certain contraceptive concrete metaphors have been used to enhance the beauty of the speech.

For example, to contrast segregation with racial justice, King contrasted the metaphors of **“dark and desolate valley”** (of segregation) and sunlit path (of racial justice).

Inter textuality is again one of the important features found in the speech of the king. It refers to the text taken from some other source in order to validate one’s perspective. It can be explicit as well as implicit in its nature. The reference is given by Martin Luther; **“Five score years ago...”** [Paragraph 2] refers to Lincoln’s famous Gettysburg Address which began **“Four score and seven years ago...”** This refers to the point that King was speaking in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

Analyzing Context

This vaulting speech of Martin Luther King carries a complete contextual background with it. The black people were deprived of their rights and racial discrimination was at its peak. He struggled for the rights of Afro-American people

and launched 'Civil Rights Movement' which became the basis of this unforgettable speech. His struggle became a huge movement to fight against the discriminatory attitude of the whites. As they were considered inferior politically, economically and socially. He wished to have equality for the Negroes in every field so that they could work for the progress of nations ultimately. This speech, especially highlights the exploitation of the whites. Luther King tried to make people aware of their rights and that of the discriminatory and hegemonic attitude of the whites.

Analysis of Discourse Practices and Socio-Political Aspect of Speech

According to Fairclough (1992), discourse practices, and socio-political and cultural perspective has great importance. Discourse practices refer to the accomplishment of social practices through discourse. As it is true that Discourse is always socially constructed and vice versa. On the other hand, socio-cultural and political aspects also have great importance because they provide a complete overview of the circumstances in which discourses are being constructed. The analysis of discourse practices, and socio-political aspects are divided into three major areas which can be described as **Genre, Discourse analysis ,and style**. Researcher discusses each major area with reference to speech and how they are linked to each other in this particular speech.

Genre analysis deals with the analysis of text which relates to the lexical choices used in this speech with broader socio-cultural context. It also identifies the particular identification of patterns in the speech.

In the first paragraph "flames of withering injustice" shows to the harsh and cruel attitude of the white. The words flame means the "fire "and "withering" refers to the gloomy and desolate picture of the blacks. Their faces showed the marks of continuous slavery and in their necks. The word "vast ocean" refers to the great economy and possession of the Americans. Here, the king is of the view that his nation does not have the same rights as the whites were enjoying. They were politically and culturally backward in spite of living in such a developed country. The word nation is used by him many times in his speech which shows that his stance was that the blacks and the whites are one nation without any discrimination.

Expressive Style of the speaker also carries importance in the critical analysis of any discourse. Through Expressive value personal experience of the speaker is represented. As The speaker was himself a Negro and he experienced the same deprivation and indifferent attitude of the white. His contribution and eagerness show that his words are expressions of all Negroes.

Relational value throws light upon the relationship between the speaker and audience. He was evoking audience because he was a part of those who were a sufferer and were oppressed. The use of the pronoun 'We' and 'Ours' many times in the speech which eventually indicate that the speaker considers himself of being a member of that group. A speaker with the help of these lexical choices gets involved in the sentiments of the oppressed ones.

Representational value is reflected as the speech has economic, social and political background and it shows the derivation of the Negroes and they were refused by all rights by the government of the whites.

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

The limitations of the study are linked with the data for the analysis on the interpretative paradigms of the

research. First five parts of the speech is analyzed during the research as it is very difficult to tackle the whole speech and it becomes complicated.

Stylistics and textual devices are very skillfully used by the speaker while his speech to achieve some specific purpose. Speech contains all those devices which a speaker can use to propagate his ideologies to the audience. The speech is syntactically and grammatically well organized and has semantic values as it conveys the meanings of liberty, equality and fraternity to the Negroes and to make them realize about their basic rights and to strive against the tyranny of the whites and their discriminatory attitude. The speech is covered with simple, plain and small words in sentences. The language is used everyday language and very simple to understand, but hidden meanings, which may be tasteless for more educated people. Use of simple language is an instrument which decreases that distance between him and his audience. Also in this way, he can explain his thoughts more beautifully and elucidate (expressive values). Sentences use in speech are short and are linked by conjunctions “and ” and “ but ’. These sentences are very powerful and impressive. They are most effective. This is the easiest way to tell the power to the people because they can understand him easily. He tries to cover in his discourse (experiential value). He tries to show himself very appealing and liable (relational, experiential and expressive values) to the main Luther king very strikingly and effectively with the help of metaphors and other devices identify the relationship between the powerful and oppressed. He very convincingly succeeds attaining the strength and support of the powerless without creating any conflict with the powerful. His speech very peacefully sheds light on the established social inequalities.

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APPENDIXS

“Martin Luther King's Speech: 'I Have a Dream' - The Full Text

By The Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. Aug. 28, 1963

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.

But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition.

In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check -- a check

that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand's of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.”