

LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SPEECHES OF DONALD TRUMP AND SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV

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Political discourse serves as a powerful tool for shaping public opinion, constructing national identity, and legitimizing political authority. This study investigates the linguistic and stylistic features of political discourse in the speeches of two contemporary political leaders: Donald Trump and Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The research analyzes lexical choices, rhetorical devices, and persuasive strategies used in Trump's 2025 inaugural speech and Mirziyoyev's address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan. The study employs discourse analysis and stylistic analysis to identify key linguistic patterns in both speeches. The findings demonstrate that both politicians employ rhetorical repetition, inclusive pronouns, evaluative vocabulary, and national identity constructions to influence their audiences. However, the speeches differ significantly in tone and communicative focus: Trump's discourse emphasizes political struggle, national revival, and confrontation with perceived challenges, while Mirziyoyev's speech highlights economic development, social reforms, and collective progress. The results contribute to a deeper understanding of

cross-cultural political discourse and the role of language in political persuasion.

1. Introduction

Political speeches represent a central form of institutional discourse through which political leaders communicate ideological positions, present policy agendas, and influence public perception. In modern linguistics, political discourse is studied as a complex communicative phenomenon that combines rhetorical strategies, ideological narratives, and persuasive language aimed at shaping social attitudes.

Political discourse has been widely examined within the framework of discourse analysis and critical linguistics. Scholars emphasize that language in political communication functions not only as a medium of information but also as a mechanism for constructing power relations and ideological positions. According to Teun A. van Dijk, political discourse is characterized by strategic language use aimed at influencing public cognition and shaping collective attitudes toward political events. Van Dijk argues that political speeches employ specific linguistic patterns such as ideological polarization, positive self-presentation, and negative other-presentation in order to legitimize political authority and persuade audiences. Similarly, Norman Fairclough notes that political discourse should be analyzed as part of broader social practices, where linguistic choices reflect institutional power structures and ideological frameworks. From this perspective, political speeches are not merely rhetorical texts but also instruments through which political actors construct social realities and influence public perception of political processes.

Another important approach to political discourse focuses on the role of rhetoric and persuasion in political communication. Jonathan Charteris-Black highlights the significance of metaphor and rhetorical devices in shaping political messages. According to Charteris-Black, political leaders frequently employ metaphorical language and emotionally charged expressions to simplify complex political ideas and make them more accessible to the audience. These rhetorical strategies help create persuasive narratives that resonate with shared cultural values and national identity. In addition, Paul Chilton emphasizes that political discourse is structured around strategic framing of issues, where language is used to construct particular interpretations of political reality. Through lexical choices, syntactic structures, and rhetorical repetition, politicians guide audiences toward specific ideological perspectives and policy interpretations.

Critical discourse studies also underline the importance of examining political discourse within its sociocultural and ideological context. According to Ruth Wodak, political speeches often rely on discursive strategies such as nomination, predication, argumentation, and intensification in order to legitimize political actions and construct collective identities. Wodak argues that political discourse frequently appeals to shared historical narratives, cultural traditions, and national values in order to establish solidarity between political leaders and citizens. Such linguistic strategies contribute to the formation of collective political identity and strengthen the persuasive power of political speeches. Therefore, the analysis of rhetorical structures and discourse strategies provides valuable insight into how political leaders communicate ideological positions and mobilize public support.

Researchers emphasize that political discourse is inherently persuasive and strategic. Political leaders rely on carefully constructed linguistic choices to establish authority, mobilize public support, and construct collective identity. Such discourse frequently includes rhetorical devices such as repetition, metaphor, parallel constructions, and emotionally charged vocabulary.

Comparative studies of political discourse are particularly valuable because they reveal how linguistic strategies vary across political cultures. English political rhetoric has historically been characterized by strong persuasive traditions and expressive rhetorical structures. In contrast, Uzbek political discourse reflects national cultural values, collective identity, and the priorities of state development.

This study examines political discourse in the speeches of Donald Trump and Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Trump's inaugural speech focuses on national renewal, political transformation, and restoring American strength. Mirziyoyev's address to the Oliy Majlis emphasizes economic reforms, technological modernization, and social development in Uzbekistan. The aim of this research is to identify and compare the linguistic features of political discourse in the speeches of these two political leaders.

The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

What linguistic strategies are used in the political speeches of Trump and Mirziyoyev?

Which rhetorical devices are most frequently used in their political discourse?

What similarities and differences can be observed in their persuasive strategies?

2. Methods

The research employs qualitative discourse analysis and stylistic analysis to investigate the linguistic characteristics of political speeches.

The **data corpus** consists of two political speeches:

1. The inaugural address delivered by Donald Trump in Washington, D.C., on January 20, 2025.

2. The address of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan delivered in December 2025.

The analysis focuses on the following linguistic aspects:

- lexical choices and evaluative vocabulary;
- rhetorical devices such as repetition and parallelism;
- use of inclusive pronouns and collective identity markers;
- metaphorical and symbolic expressions.

The selected speeches were examined through close textual analysis in order to identify recurring linguistic patterns and persuasive strategies. Comparative analysis was used to determine similarities and differences between the two political discourses.

3. Results

The analysis revealed several prominent linguistic features shared by both speeches, including repetition, national identity constructions, and the use of inclusive language.

Repetition and rhetorical emphasis

Both political leaders employ repetition as a persuasive rhetorical strategy.

In Trump's speech, repetition is used to create strong emotional emphasis and reinforce political promises. For example, he repeatedly uses the phrase:

“We will be prosperous, we will be proud, we will be strong.”

Such parallel constructions strengthen the emotional impact of the speech and present a vision of national revival.

Similarly, Mirziyoyev uses repetition to emphasize collective achievements and future goals. For instance, he repeatedly refers to national progress using expressions such as “biz” (“we”) and “xalqimiz” (“our people”), highlighting collective participation in national development.

Inclusive pronouns and collective identity

Both speeches rely heavily on inclusive pronouns to construct unity between the political leader and the audience.

Trump frequently uses expressions such as “we” and “our nation,” emphasizing national solidarity: “We will not forget our country, we will not forget our Constitution, and we will not forget our God.” This linguistic strategy positions the speaker as part of a unified national community.

Similarly, Mirziyoyev consistently uses inclusive language when referring to national development: “So‘nggi to‘qqiz yilda biz sizlar bilan, el-yurtimiz bilan birgalikda katta taraqqiyot yo‘lini bosib o‘tdik.” This construction emphasizes cooperation between the government and citizens.

Evaluative and ideological vocabulary

Another important linguistic feature in both speeches is the use of evaluative vocabulary. Trump frequently uses emotionally charged expressions such as “golden age,” “great nation,” and “thrilling new era,” which create a strong sense of optimism and national pride. Mirziyoyev’s speech, in contrast, uses evaluative expressions connected to development and reform, such as “taraqqiyot,” “islohotlar,” and “barqaror o‘shish.” These lexical choices reflect the policy priorities emphasized by each leader.

4. Discussion

The comparative analysis reveals both similarities and differences in the political discourse of Trump and Mirziyoyev. Both leaders rely heavily on rhetorical strategies that strengthen persuasion and create emotional engagement with the audience. The frequent use of repetition, inclusive pronouns, and evaluative language demonstrates the importance of constructing a shared national identity in political speeches. However, the communicative orientation of the two speeches differs significantly.

Trump’s discourse is characterized by strong emotional rhetoric, dramatic language, and references to national struggle and renewal. His speech frequently frames political issues in terms of conflict and restoration of national strength.

In contrast, Mirziyoyev’s discourse is more institutional and policy-oriented. His speech emphasizes economic reforms, social programs, and long-term national development. The tone is generally more formal and focused on collective progress rather than political confrontation.

These differences reflect broader cultural and political traditions in the United States and Uzbekistan.

5. Conclusion

The present study examined linguistic and stylistic features of political discourse in the speeches of Donald Trump and Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The analysis demonstrated that both leaders employ similar rhetorical strategies, including repetition, inclusive pronouns, and evaluative vocabulary, to strengthen persuasion and construct national identity.

At the same time, the comparative analysis revealed notable differences in discourse style. Trump’s speech relies heavily on emotionally charged rhetoric and narratives of national

revival, while Mirziyoyev's speech focuses primarily on policy achievements and developmental goals. The findings confirm that political discourse reflects not only individual rhetorical styles but also broader cultural and political contexts. Future research may expand the corpus of political speeches and apply corpus-based methods to further investigate cross-cultural differences in political communication.

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