

The Importance of Metaphor on Bush's Speech: An Analysis Using Corpus Linguistics

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Abstract

Recently, corpora have been shown to be invaluable instruments for the analysis of metaphors (Deignan, 2005). In this poster, I want to look at metaphors in the speeches of president George W. Bush. Metaphors are important elements in the creation and maintenance of a politician's public figure (Charteris-Black, 2006). In this way, we hope to show which metaphors are key in the president's public image, and which messages are conveyed metaphorically.

And how the metaphors influence the presidential speeches of Bush, as well as how we can infer ideology from his thoughts and attribute meanings to his actions. Moreover, we can perceive through the metaphors how this politician conceptualise the world and what type of message they want to convey to our society. Our research is based on the belief that the metaphor "is infiltrated in the daily life, not only in the language, but also in the thought and the action" (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980: 45).

This investigation was carried using Corpus Linguistics tools and methods. A corpus of speeches of the president was collected and then analyzed with WordSmith Tools KeyWords, as well as concordances.

Finally we bring the most frequent metaphors emerged from these selected speeches and we draw up some conclusions of what could be inferred from them.

References

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