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"K L A D" IS A STUDENT JOURNAL FIRST PUBLISHED AT M. NARIKBAYEV KAZGUU UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS. THIS JOURNAL IS AIMED AT ENHANCING STUDENTS' INVOLVEMENT INTO SCIENCE AND RESEARCH.

"K L A D" JOURNAL ADMITS FOR PUBLICATION VARIOUS TYPES OF ARTICLES: ORIGINAL RESEARCH, REVIEW ARTICLES, SHORT REPORTS OR ESSAYS, REFLECTIONS, CASE STUDIES, METHODOLOGIES AND CASES IN ENGLISH; CONTAINING THE RESULTS OF FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY AND IDENTITY, HISTORY OF KAZAKHSTAN, PEDAGOGY, LINGUISTICS AND METHODS OF TEACHING LANGUAGES, TRANSLATION, AND TOURISM.

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M. NARIKBAYEV KAZGUU UNIVERSITY
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Research Articles

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“PECULIARITIES OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE”*Beysembekov Yerzhan***Abstract**

The question of politics has constantly been encountering heated debates. In order to fully perceive and evaluate the current political situation, the field of politics should be studied from all possible angles. This small-scale research provides a particular amount of data regarding the political discourse from a linguistic perspective. The study is devoted to examining the unit of political speech from three linguistic aspects. The collected information will lead to specific patterns and conclusions in the political discourse in the English language. To sum up, the conclusions were drawn by this study may be the foundation for other academics who are pursuing the investigation in the analogous area. Furthermore, this is the pioneering research conducted in this direction. Of course, there were other studies on political discourse, but there is no research that was held from this narrow angle. To be more accurate, this paper is the first paper to examine political discourse from three linguistic paradigms. Therefore, this discussion of peculiarities of political discourse may fill in the literature gap and contribute to enlarge the scientific database. In fact, it concluded that the main peculiarities of political discourse include being straightforward, simple, comprehensible, and audience-oriented.

Introduction

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world" - has been once said by a glorious Austrian philosopher – Ludwig Wittgenstein (Watson, 2020). Truly, one cannot perceive the world if one cannot perceive the language of the world. Any changes and developments that take place in society are reflected in the language, like a mirror. Thus, the language that we use nowadays can be considered to be shaped by the world, and therefore it is the ever-evolving treasure that has survived the long history of humankind. Nowadays, even one single language is used differently in different spheres of our life. By investigating and analyzing the language in a particular field, we can find out a lot about the nature and structure of the field. As for this research paper, its ultimate goal is to determine the characteristics of political discourse by applying analysis on different levels. The political discourse in the English language will be analyzed employing performing three types of analysis: 1) Morphological 2) Syntactic 3) Lexical. After performing this research, we will access the massive amount of data which will be our tool to create the image of the political discourse by identifying current trends and making conclusions. The implementations of this study are panoptic. On the one hand, with the help of a literature review, we will compare current patterns with some older trends, which will lead to making predictions about the forthcoming changes and developments. On the other hand, the data demonstrated in the research will be of good use for other academics whose studies involve languages and characteristics of political discourse. The uniqueness of this study is that by applying several linguistic analyses, it approaches the political discourse from a brand new, very narrow perspective. In a way, this particular study serves the function of an avenue for further investigations and developments in Language and Politics.

Methodology and background information**1.1 Definition of the term "Political discourse."**

To begin with, the definition of political discourse has to be strictly identified and concretely announced. Therefore, many sources with different approaches to defining this term have been meticulously analyzed, and

the most appropriate and exact one chosen for this research. The first option was one by van Dijk (1998, p.2): Political Discourse: "The text and talk of professional politicians or political institutions, such as presidents and prime ministers and other members of government, parliament or political parties, both at the local, national and international levels, includes both the speaker and the audience". On the one hand, it is stated very formally and denotes the main point behind the discussed term. On the other hand, it seems too broad and needs some more focus on the specific aspects of political discourse. Thus, it does not proclaim what is unique about this term. Another option was given by Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T. (2000, p.4), "Political discourse is the formal exchange of reasoned views as to which of several alternative courses of action should be taken to solve a societal problem." This definition did not pass, as it lacks the binding to the linguistics study, which had to be the approach we are going to take.

Finally, the definition of political discourse which has been most clearly presented was the one by Rustam Usmonov (2018, p.1): "Political discourse, due to its multifunctionality, is of particular importance in the framework of cognitive linguistics, where language acts as a mechanism for ensuring the interaction of man and the world: the world is not given to man directly ("objectively"), but is created and interpreted (subjectively)." and "The specificity of the social functionality of political discourse in relation to other types of discourse is manifested in its basic instrumental function (struggle for power), which is expressed in the basic concepts of political discourse (Usmonov, 2018, p.1)." In other words, it is the type of a discourse in which the intention to make specific references to get to specific results, such as "acquiring power," may be present. To sum up, bearing in mind how this definition uncovers the very nature of political discourse, I have selected this one as the most overarching definition, which is appropriate to serve during my whole research.

1.2 Methodology. "Morphological, Syntactic and Lexical aspects of Political discourse" is by far a very massive and colossal domain, which is impossible to fit into the small-scale research paper. Therefore, specific optimizations and adjustments will be made. There is an overwhelming amount of types of linguistics analysis, made for different purposes and serving varied functions. However, in the practical part of this paper, we will focus on particular approaches to analyzing the given texts.

All in all, three linguistic paradigms will be included in this paper. The morphological, syntactic, and lexical analysis will be paid most attention to during this research. In the practical part, I will meticulously describe which sub-type of analysis will be made, how deep it will be and what spheres it will include. In a theoretical part, existing aspects of these paradigms will be presented.

First of all, we will go through the Morphological Analysis. On a basic level, it identifies morphemes of a word, type of word-building, which may be major (derivation, composition, conversion, contraction), and minor (onomatopoeia, reduplication, reversion, blending). Next, affixes are separated in terms of their origin, productivity and aim. Going further, the distributional analysis is conducted. To be precise, this is the description of phonemic and morphemic distribution, and this process consists of dividing a word into morphs and then identifying its environmental features. Here, a morph is a segment consisting of phonemes. Distribution types may be contrastive, non-contrastive, and complementary. Finally, morphemes are classified into several types according to the degree of self-dependence, linear characteristics, formal presentation, grammatical alternation, and segmental relation. According to the degree of self-dependence, morphemes may be free, bound, or semi-bound. According to the formal presentation, they may be overt or covert. As for the Segmental relation, morphemes are classified as segmental and supra-segmental. According to grammatical alternation, they are either additive or replacive, and as for the linear characteristic, they are continuous or discontinuous.

All in all, this was the quick revision of how fully complete large-scale research would be organized. Now I will briefly preview which exact part of the complete morphological analysis will be implemented in this very research. In the practical part, we will conduct the following analyses: 1) The words will be categorized according to their type of word-building 2) the morphemes in the given text will be examined according to their

origin and degree of self-dependence. As a result, there will be a table showing us the percentage of each type of word-building and classification of morphemes in terms of their etymological classification and degree of self-dependence in the given text. This will allow us to calculate and compare the presence of differently originated morphemes and the quantity of free, bound, and semi-bound morphemes in the political discourse. It should also be pointed out that the text will not be graded according to the segmental relation since we are working with written and not spoken language.

Secondly, the syntactic aspect will be fully presented. On a basic level, we identify the principal parts (subject, predicate), subordinate parts (adverbial modifier, attribute, and object). Also, we normally point out if the sentence has similar parts, participle clauses, infinitive clauses, addresses, and parentheses. Next, there is a theme and rhema according to the actual division of a sentence. Four communicative types of a sentence: Declarative, interrogative, inducive, and intermediary. A sentence may be exclamatory or non-exclamatory, depending on its intonation. According to the structure, it may be simple, compound, or complex. Thus, when conducting a full syntactic analysis, we define the structure of a sentence and only then define a type of a sentence according to its communicative classification, intonational classification, and structural classification. Again, this was the description of a whole and completed the syntactic analysis, and in the practical part, some piece of this analysis will be conducted in terms of optimization. To be precise, the practical part will include the following procedures: 1) I will categorize the sentences according to their communicative classification and present the quantity of each type in percentage. In that way, we will have an opportunity to draw patterns and know which communicative types of sentences are used the most and the least in the given texts. 2) We will categorize the sentences according to their structure: simple, compound, complex. Logically, the results will be presented in percentage, and it will help us see the characteristics of political discourse in terms of the structures of the sentences.

2. Discussion of Donald Trump's "Save America" speech.

In this part, one piece of political discourse will be examined. The sample we will analyze in this part is the transcription of Donald Trump's "Save America" speech. The text will be examined from the three main aspects: 1) morphological 2) Syntactic 3) lexical.

The observation of each aspect will be numbered accordingly.

2.1 Morphological analysis

From the morphological aspect, we examine the words according to their word-building types and categorize the morphemes according to their degree of self-dependence. A total of 100 words and their morphemes were examined and classified according to the mentioned characteristics. The results will be presented one by one. The analyzed words will be divided and presented in statistics, firstly, according to the word-building types, secondly, according to the degree of self-dependence, and finally, according to the origins of the morphemes, accordingly.

According to the word-building types of words in Donald Trump's "Save America" speech, the results are as follows: The highest proportion of the analyzed words (45%) were the result of the derivation, 25% were made by conversion, 10% - composition, and 15% of the words were the root-words of either native or foreign origin (Appendix A). The left 5% consists of the words with different word-building types, which included contraction, reversion, and abbreviations. Since the goal of this small-scale research is to see the big picture of characteristics of political discourse, the level in which this analysis was conducted proved itself to be sufficient. Therefore, no further investigation of different sub-types and specific cases was initiated.

As for the degree of self-dependence, in the total of 100 analyzed words, 35% of them were free morphemes, without the addition of bound morphemes, while the other 65% of observed words were built by adding bound morphemes to free morphemes (Appendix B). Below, ten words were presented as a piece of example; 4 of the

examples are free morphemes: "chance", "brilliant", "cancel", and "people". The other six words are made with the help of adding the bound morphemes to the free morphemes: "years", "elections", "lawyers", "happening", "Democrats", "watched". To summarize, half of the used words are of a derivation, and conversion composition and root-words share the second half of the used words, and more than half of words are bound morphemes, while the quarter is free morphemes.

2.2 Syntactic Analysis As a syntactic outlook on the text, we conduct an analysis in which we identify the communicative types of a sentence: declarative, interrogative, inductive, and intermediary and provide the calculated proportion of each type in percentage. In the process of observation of Donald Trump's "Save America" speech, a total of 100 sentences has been examined, and as a result, 92% of the used sentences turned out to be of a declarative type. The left 8% turned out to be interrogative (Appendix C). Here, the example is presented. A little part of the whole transcription is demonstrated below, and the communicative type is pointed right after each sentence: They'll knock out Lincoln, too, by the way. (Declarative) 2) They've been taking his statue down, but then we signed a little law. (Declarative) 3) You hurt our monuments, you hurt our heroes, you go to jail for ten years, and everything stopped. (Declarative) 4) Did you notice that? (Interrogative) 5) It stopped. (Declarative) 6) It all stopped. (Declarative) 7) They could use Rudy back in New York City. (Declarative) 8) Rudy, they could use you. (Declarative) 9) Your city is going to hell. (Declarative) 10) They want Rudy Giuliani back in New York. (Declarative) 11) We'll get a little younger version of Rudy. (Declarative) 15) Is that okay, Rudy? (Interrogative)"

Basically, what we have here is the illustration of how frequently the declarative type of a sentence is used in the political discourse. In this example, among the total of 15 sentences, 13 are declarative, and two are interrogative. In percentage, it is the majority (87.7%) of declarative sentences and the minority (13.3%) of interrogative sentences. All in all, this unit of political discourse demonstrates that interrogative sentences are hardly used in political speeches, while declarative sentences are used most of the time.

2.3 Lexical analysis

In the lexical part, our investigation was centered on the types of synonyms used during the speech and the usage of euphemisms by political speakers. This part of the research will be concentrated on political euphemisms as they are believed to be the main feature of political discourse. In the following paragraphs, firstly, the synonyms will be classified according to their types. It is important to point out that this research paper will be applying five classifications of synonyms and categorize the words according to them (terminological, referential, contextual, and functional). As for the euphemisms, they are presumed to be mostly of a political area of usage. Thus, they will not be classified according to the area of use. However, the euphemisms will be categorized depending on their types of formation. The main types of formation for euphemisms include periphrases, litotes, slang, and abbreviations, and the proportion of each type present in the given text will be presented in percentages.

Classification of Synonyms. In this part, the synonyms used in the "Save America" speech by Donald Trump are classified according to their types. The results will be presented in the following way: first, the percentage of the particular type used, and then several examples will be presented so as to help the reader create patterns and see the trends. When it comes to the results per se, 67% of the synonyms used in the "Save America" speech are of a contextual type (crowd-people; false-fake; the press-media). 33% of the synonyms were of a referential type (a president – Joe Biden) (Appendix D). The usage of functional, terminological, or dialectal synonyms was not encountered during an analysis of the "Save America" speech.

Types of Euphemisms. In this part, the euphemisms will be divided according to their types of formation. The findings will be demonstrated in percentage. On the whole, the text had about 90 euphemisms in total. Various examples of euphemisms were encountered: "third-world countries" – a euphemism for poor or undeveloped countries; "cut him loose" – a euphemism that means to fire someone (cut someone loose). Now the euphemisms are to be categorized according to their type of formation. More precisely, the quantity of each type of formation of euphemisms will be demonstrated in percentage: periphrases, litotes, slang, and abbreviations. 65% of the euphemisms were periphrases (to cut someone loose – to fire someone; mentally-challenged people – low IQ people; senior citizens – older people ;). 35 % were litotes – (I am no fool – I am smart; He may not be wrong – He is right; Not unlike – Like.) (Appendix E). Apparently, no abbreviations nor slang was spotted during the examination of the texts.

In conclusion, only one-third of synonyms from "Save America" speech are referential. The majority of synonyms used are contextual. In addition, among euphemisms, periphrases account for 65% of euphemistic expressions, and the minority is litotes.

2.4 Conclusion for Practical Part

Now that the observation results are presented before us, it is safe to make certain conclusions and identify specific trends. The transcription of Donald Trump's "Save America" speech is a typical example of a political speech and, therefore, can serve as a representative unit of political discourse. In the practical part, the observation of the text has been conducted. The text was analyzed from three central perspectives: morphological, syntactic, and lexical. The inference from each aspect will be presented one by one:

From the morphological perspective, the clear conclusion is that most of the words used by the politician were of two types of word formation, almost half of the words used were of a Derivation type of word formation, and the conversion constituted for precisely a quarter of the total examined words. This brings us to the inference that the spoken language in political discourse consists mainly of words made by primary word-formation types (conversion and derivation). In contrast, the secondary word-formation types remain hardly used in the political discourse. The logical presumption to be derived from these findings is that the politicians try and sound confident and crystal clear. Thus, the usage of basic and primary word-building types is justified by their will to be unambiguous and avoid misunderstandings or misinterpretations of their statements. Also, the observation showed us that there are no bold distinctions between the number of free morphemes and the bound morphemes in political discourse. Apparently, each of the degrees of self-dependence is present, and there is no clear tendency of frequent usage of one or the other. Thereby, it is concluded that the usage of free and bound morphemes is not one of the significant characteristics of political discourse in the English language.

As for the syntactic aspect, the observation focused on identifying the proportion of each communicative types of a sentence used by Donald Trump during the "Save America" speech. The results tell that the vast majority of the sentences are of a declarative type. This fact may be interpreted in several ways. Firstly, this may be because the declarative sentences are by themselves the most used type of sentence in linguistic corpora. Secondly, this may have been engendered by the fact that the political speeches need to sound confident, reassuring, and promising. Therefore, the minimal usage of interrogative sentences may be explained by the context of the speech, and the situation, which required the speaker (Donald Trump) to convince the audience and not to request anything in any form from them.

The lexical observation has brought up considerable findings too. From the lexical perspective, the analysis was concentrated on identifying the proportion of each type of synonyms and the formation types of euphemisms in the transcription of the speech. Most of the synonyms used were either of a contextual type (67%) or a referential type (33%). This helps us build the conclusion that other types of synonyms are simply rarely used in the political discourse. Presumably, terminological synonyms are not used because the speaker usually speaks to a large audience, which includes ordinary working-class people, who are not into the

terminological language, and since the speaker's intention is to convince the audience, he or she uses the appropriate language. The reason for the dialectal synonyms to be absent may be because the political speaker tries to look all patriotic and therefore almost always uses the language of the region he is located in. When it comes to the euphemisms, the periphrases constituted 65% of the total number of euphemisms and 35% for the litotes. This creates an impression that the slangs and the abbreviations are not used as a means of being politer in political discourse. Instead, Donald Trump used more periphrases and a little fewer litotes. The reason for not including slang may seem pretty clear. Political speech is mainly an official speech. Thus, by adding slang in the speech, a speaker might have sounded childish and not serious. As for the abbreviations, my conclusion is that there is a very small number of abbreviation synonyms in the English Language, and therefore there is none in this particular text. As for the periphrases, they were used mostly because they facilitate the speech and make the speech much politer and more considerate. This is crucial in political discourse because the speaker is to be heard by almost the whole nation, and in order to keep the authority, respect, and support of people, a good politician needs to be both concrete as well as polite. This might be the reason why the litotes were also used. They soften the language and express uncomfortable truths in a more neutral or positive way.

General conclusion

The whole process of conducting this study resulted in a comprehensive amount of data and appeared to be a valuable piece of work from both theoretical and practical perspectives. The main focus of the theoretical part was on identifying the concrete definition for the discussed term. The "Political discourse" is a pretty straightforward paradigm but still can be perceived ambiguously. Therefore, the most appropriate and accurate term by Usmanov was selected for this paper. In addition, the general information chapter covered the types of analysis which can be possible to apply to the examined texts. As is observed, the morphological, syntactic, and lexical analyses might be very long and overwhelming. This fact has been noted for future research papers of a large volume, but for this small-scale research, a narrower approach was taken. To be precise, only specific and most essential types of analyses were used in this paper. As a second but equally significant part, the analyses of the political speech have been conducted. The purpose of conducting morphological, syntactic, and lexical analyses was to create the overall picture of political discourse in the English language. As a result, it was seen that the politicians often use primary word-building types, including derivation and conversion. It means the politicians try to make their statements clear and comprehensible. Thus, they avoid minor word-building types in order not to sound ambiguous. As for the syntactic analysis, most sentences were declarative, which probably implies that the political discourse is more about stating, explaining, and declaring rather than asking. The lexical analysis helped to discover that there are almost no dialectal nor terminological synonyms. Probably, it is a sign that politicians try to be straightforward and audience-oriented, and therefore do not use scientific or dialectal synonyms. Overall, the linguistic portrait of the political discourse has been concluded to be as follows: Straightforward, simple, comprehensible, and audience-oriented.

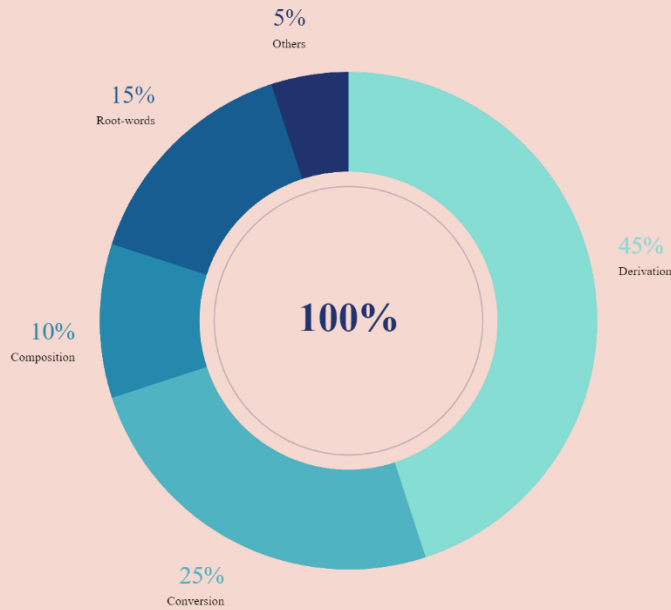
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Appendices

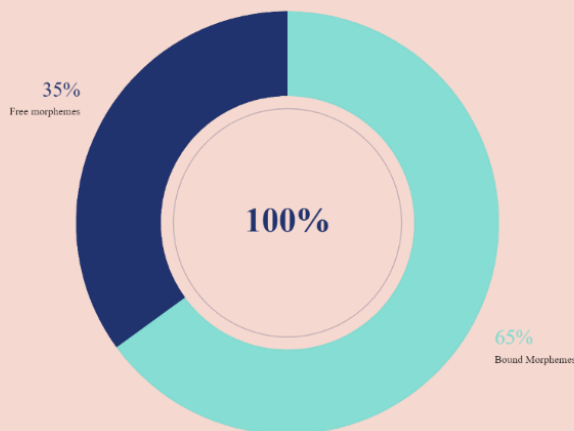
Appendix A. (Donut chart)

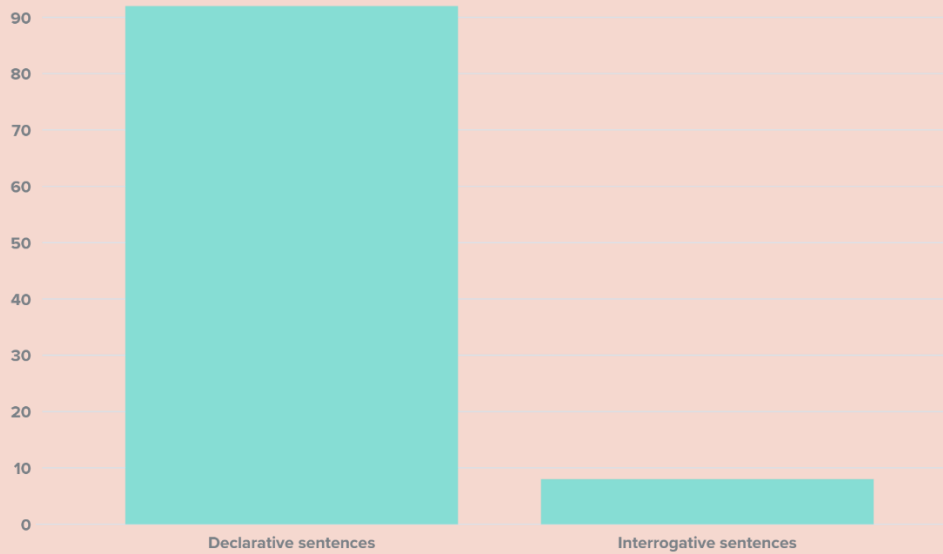
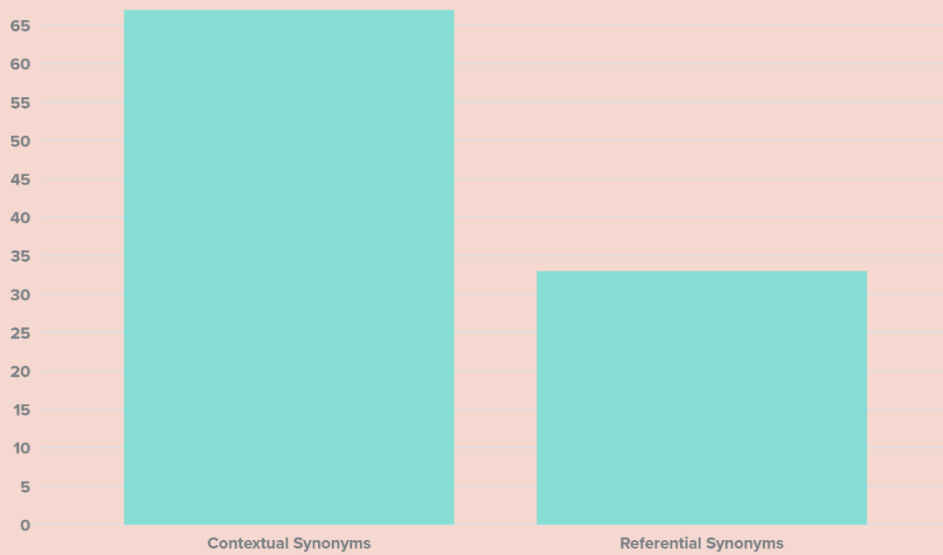
Word-building types used in Donald Trump's "Save America" speech transcription



Appendix B. Bar chart

Classification of words according to their degree of self-dependence. "Save America" speech by Donald Trump



*Appendix C. Bar chart***Communicative classification of sentences in "Save America" speech by Donald Trump***Appendix D. (Bar chart)***Types of synonyms used in "Save America" speech by Donald Trump**

Appendix E. (Pie chart)

Types of euphemisms used in "Save America" speech by Donald Trump

