

Original Article

A Text Linguistic Analysis of President Donald Trump's 2025 Inaugural Speech

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ABSTRACT: *This study presents a text-linguistic analysis of the 2025 inaugural speech of Donald Trump. It focuses on the structural and stylistic features of the text. The study examines the patterns of cohesion and coherence, together with reference, substitution, conjunction, repetition, and lexical choice, in order to determine how unity is achieved in the text. Also, attention is given to sentence structure, thematic progression, modality, and rhetorical devices such as parallelism and contrast. The findings reveal that Trump's speech makes extensive use of inclusive pronouns, declaratives, and patterned repetition in order to reinforce authority, project confidence, and promote a sense of collective national identity. The investigation concludes that certain deliberate linguistic choices helped to enhance the persuasive force of the address and demonstrate how textual organisation contributes to meaning, emphasis, and ideological positioning in modern presidential discourse.*

KEYWORDS: *Text Linguistics, Cohesion, Coherence, Stylistics, Political Discourse, Inaugural Speech.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Most presidential election victories are accompanied by inaugural speeches on the day of inauguration. It is also a fact that Political inaugural speeches play a prominent role in democratic governance. This is so because they signify the transfer or continuation of political power or authority, whereby a leader articulates his or her vision for the nation they seek to govern. Inaugural speeches, as a form of political discourse, are often carefully structured texts which are designed to persuade, unify, and legitimize power. Text linguistics is a branch of linguistics which explains how linguistic elements are textured in a text to create meaning beyond the sentence level. It therefore provides an appropriate framework for the study of such speeches. It focuses on the ideas of not only cohesion, coherence and thematic progression, but also on the interaction between form and meaning in extended discourse (Halliday & Hasan, 1976).

President Donald Trump's 2025 inaugural speech provides a significant and appropriate case for a text-linguistic investigation. The speech represents not just a ceremonial rhetoric, but also functions as a strategic communicative act aimed at reinforcing the ideological positions of his new government and his idea of national identity against the backdrop of a highly charged and highly divided political climate in the United States of America. Text linguistics as a discipline enables the examination of how certain lexical patterns, pronoun usage, modality, and rhetorical structures in a text contribute to building coherence and the consequent persuasive impact it is meant to convey on the listener or reader. Scholars of discourse analysis, such as van Dijk (1998), maintain that political speeches often construct social realities through specific linguistic choices by the text producer. This study therefore seeks to examine how textual organization and linguistic strategies are manipulated by President Donald Trump to shape meaning and project his 'America first' ideology in his 2025 inaugural address to the American Nation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Certain scholarly engagements in text linguistics or even political discourses can provide the theoretical background for analyzing any presidential inaugural speech, such as that of President Donald Trump of the United States of America. Several researchers have come to regard certain linguistic concepts such as cohesion, coherence, ideology, and rhetorical structure as the basic central features of political texts. These perspectives by the researchers are what will guide this investigation of President Donald Trump's 2025 inaugural speech.

Halliday & Hasan (1976) view cohesion as the semantic relations that join clauses and sentences into a unified whole. They classify cohesive devices into reference, lexical cohesion, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. Their analysis reveals that textual unity often depends on certain systematic grammatical and lexical ties rather than on isolated sentences. It is understood that Political speeches often employ not only repetitive strategies, but also referential chains and connective markers in order to maintain and sustain their thematic focus. This type of framework can provide clear categories for identifying how ideas in a text are linked across a given paragraph in a text. It also provides us with the tools for investigating how continuity and emphasis are achieved through the deployment of some patterned linguistic choices that structure meaning across an entire text.

Beaugrande & Dressler (1981) provided some specific standards of textuality, which are: cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality. This model appears to extend text analysis beyond the limits of grammatical structure to that of communicative purpose as well as contextual relevance. In many nations, inaugural speeches are often followed by not just ceremonial context or national transition, but also public anticipation. In this regard, a political speech qualifies as a text, especially when it meets audience expectations within a particular historical moment. This type of framework allows text analysts to assess how effectively a presidential speech can function within a given political setting. It also lends support to how meaning is constructed and evaluated through the networking of certain structures, purpose, and also the shared background knowledge between interlocutors.

Van Dijk (1998) attempts to investigate the interface between discourse and ideology and discovers that language reveals social power and group identity. He goes further to give an outline of some strategies, which are: positive self-representation and the representation of opponents in less favourable terms. It is further understood that specific lexical choices, thematic organisations, and syntactic emphasis often contribute to ideological meaning. His idea of a socio-cognitive perspective connects textual structure with mental models which, in most cases, are shared within a society. In inaugural speeches, leaders define national identity and outline political direction through such linguistic strategies. This approach assists in identifying how ideological positions are embedded within pronoun usage, thematic focus, and evaluative expressions across the speech.

In a similar vein, Fairclough (1995) locates discourse within the framework of social practice. He further asserts that language, as an instrument, helps to shape and maintain power relations. His three-dimensional framework considers textual features, production processes, and social context. The analysis of modality, transitivity, and nominalisation reveals how responsibility and authority are represented through language. Political speeches, according to him, often foreground certain actors while backgrounding others through grammatical choices. In a presidential inaugural address, these are often the linguistic patterns that shape the projection of leadership and policy direction. This view encourages close examination by text analysts of how structural features can support political legitimacy and construct images of governance within an inaugural speech.

In another view, Chilton (2004) examines how political communication is enhanced through linguistic categories such as deixis, modality, and spatial representation. For example, pronouns are used to establish relationships between the speaker and the listeners, while modal verbs convey obligation, commitment, and certainty. Also, spatial and temporal references seek to position leaders within national narratives and historical continuity. These are the elements that play central roles in most inaugural speeches, where unity and shared purpose are emphasised. This framework by Chilton provides the analytical tools that can be used to investigate how inclusive language, certainty markers, and symbolic positioning often shape audience perception and reinforce the authority of the text giver.

From a figurative viewpoint, Charteris-Black (2011) examines how metaphor is deployed in political rhetoric, thereby demonstrating how figurative language helps to structure the interpretation of meaning by the audience. Metaphors help to convey complex political ideas into certain familiar experiences, such as national journeys, rebuilding of national goals, or overall societal struggles. Such conceptual patterns, more often than not, influence how audiences perceive and also understand the policies and national goals of a particular administration. In presidential inaugural messages, metaphors are often used to reinforce themes of renewal and collective effort. Paying attention to metaphorical structure can enable the identification of deeper ideological meanings within a text. This perspective reveals how figurative expressions can function not just as cohesive and persuasive devices, but also serve to enhance the thematic development and emotional resonance in a communicative text.

Campbell & Jamieson (2008) classify inaugural addresses under the rhetorical genre with its own established conventions. In their investigation, they identified features such as calls for unity, affirmation of democratic values, and forward-looking vision. They further explain that inaugural speeches typically acknowledge political continuity through the setting out of future priorities. The genre-based approach provides the criteria for the investigation of the structural organization, as well as the thematic emphasis in a text. It also provides the ground for comparing contemporary inaugural speeches with earlier traditions within American political history. Their study supports the assessment of how presidential inaugural speeches conform to recognised ceremonial and rhetorical expectations.

Wodak (2009) advocates for the discourse-historical approach, which connects textual analysis with political and historical context. She connects intertextuality and references to collective memory, which serve as tools for legitimisation. In her view, Political speeches build on past events in order to frame present challenges and aspirations of a people. It is understood that inaugural addresses, most times, rely upon national history to strengthen continuity and authority of any new administration. This approach supports the investigation of how historical references usually function within a speech and also how contextual knowledge shapes interpretation. It promotes the linking of linguistic evidence with the broader social and political developments.

Jowett & O'Donnell (2012) analyse how persuasive strategies are used in political communication, thereby highlighting repetition, symbolism, and emotional appeal. They discovered how recurrent phrases reinforce major themes and aid memorability. Also, their study reveals how emotional language strengthens identification, as well as national values and collective goals. Another fact put forward by them is that inaugural speeches usually depend on symbolic expressions to inspire confidence and unity among the people. Their findings help in identifying how rhetorical reinforcement often operates in structured political discourse. They serve to clarify the relationship that exists between how a text is organised and also reveal the persuasive intention in a given presidential address.

A closer observation of Donald Trump's recent rhetoric would reveal some recurring linguistic patterns such as repetition, direct declarative constructions, and strong evaluative vocabulary. Meanwhile, some scholars have noted the frequent use of inclusive pronouns and certain simplified syntactic structures aimed at enhancing clarity and emphasis. These stylistic tendencies reveal some elements of thematic focus and ideological positioning. An investigation of these features would offer a useful background for examining the textual nature of his 2025 inaugural speech and place it among contemporary presidential discourse.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Text Linguistics provides the basic theoretical framework for this study because it investigates how language functions as a textually unified, meaningful whole. It is the linguistic analysis and description of extended texts, either written or spoken. It differs from sentence-level analysis or grammar because it focuses on how extended texts manifest cohesion, coherence, and communicative purpose. Within the context of presidential inaugural speeches, it allows researchers to investigate how thematic development, lexical choice, and syntactic patterns team up to produce structured meaning. President Donald Trump's 2025 inaugural speech can be examined through this approach so as to reveal how these linguistic features contribute towards clarity, emphasis, and persuasive effect. Text linguistics also avails researchers with the tools for investigating how ideas get interconnected and how rhetorical strategies are often used to support ideological objectives in texts (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981).

Cohesion, as explained by Halliday & Hasan (1976), is key to any text-linguistic analysis. Cohesion has to do with how semantic and grammatical links are used to connect sentences and clauses to form coherent discourse. Several linguistic devices, such as reference, lexical cohesion, ellipsis, conjunction, and substitution, create continuity, which enables listeners to comprehend the ideas used across extended texts by text producers. In political speeches, cohesive elements are often used to reinforce repeated themes. They are also used to establish relational connections between speaker and audience and to sustain logical progression. Inclusive pronouns, thematic repetition, and conjunctive markers ensure that a speech maintains a unified structure when used in a text. Applying the cohesion theory to President Trump's 2025 inaugural address will give a detailed explanation of how he uses these linguistic patterns to strengthen his thematic continuity, and also reveal how he emphasises key policy messages and constructs a sense of collective national identity among his people.

Another relevant framework for this study is Beaugrande & Dressler's (1981) standards of textuality, which provide insight for understanding the functional aspects of political texts. Beyond devices such as cohesion and coherence, these standards also emphasise intentionality, acceptability, situationality, informativity, and intertextuality. Inaugural speeches are known to carry highly intentional purposes. They are mostly delivered with some clear goals and intentions which are designed to align the audience with the particular political vision of the president. The notion of situationality is particularly relevant because speeches occur within some formal, historically significant contexts which are expected to adhere to ceremonial and cultural norms of the society. Utilizing these principles enhances an assessment of how well Trump's 2025 speech communicates, not only its intended messages, but also engages its audience, and meets some contextual expectations. This approach also enables the analysis of how linguistic choices shape the interpretation of the message by the audience.

Equally important is van Dijk's (1998) socio-cognitive approach, which adds an ideological perspective to the analysis. In this view, language is perceived as an instrument for the representation of social power and group identity. It uses lexical selection, syntactic emphasis, and thematic structure to encode ideological positions. Political leaders, most of the time, employ positive self-representation alongside a contrasting representation of others to reinforce authority and cohesion. Inaugural speeches such as Trump's 2025 address are strategically designed to convey leadership, national identity, and policy priorities. A closer look at the use of pronouns, evaluative language, as well as the thematic emphasis in the text reveals how the speaker deliberately constructs alignment with the nation and differentiates between the in-groups and out-groups in the American nation. van Dijk's (1998) highlights the interaction between textual organisation and political ideology in a given text.

One other perspective which provides additional tools for examining how language enacts power and authority is Fairclough's model of discourse as social practice. This framework places emphasis on modality, transitivity, and the representation of agency in political texts (Fairclough, 1995). Modality reveals the degrees of certainty, obligation, or possibility, shaping audience perception of leadership credibility. Transitivity analysis, on the other hand, emphasises who is seen as responsible for an action, influencing accountability and persuasion. Grammatical strategies such as nominalisation and others also affect

the projection of authority. In the context of President Donald Trump's 2025 inaugural speech, these tools help to show how language use constructs leadership identity, gives legitimacy to policy direction and also reinforces political authority. A combination of text-linguistic and critical discourse perspectives gives a comprehensive understanding of the President's inaugural speech and how it is structured along ideological and rhetorical dimensions.

4. METHODOLOGY

This investigation adopts a lexico-semantic content analysis of the inaugural speech of President Donald Trump in 2025. The speech is investigated with close emphasis on the lexical choices, semantic fields, collocation patterns, as well as the rhetorical devices that construct themes of not just national identity or authority, but also of political vision. Critical Discourse Analysis aims to help the analyst understand how social problems are mediated by mainstream ideology and power relations through the use of written texts. (CDA) is employed here in order to examine how language reveals ideology, and how it is used to legitimate authority and mediate power relations within the political context of American society. The study further utilizes the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach, which further helps to guide the understanding of the process types, modality, and thematic structures. It also helps to reveal how the textual organization of the text enhances persuasive effect. Other secondary sources, such as scholarly articles, analyses of previous U.S. inaugural speeches, and particular studies on political discourse, help to provide the contextual grounding and also enable comparison with earlier presidential speeches. This methodology provides the advantage of a triangulation of a lexico-semantic theory, discourse practice, and contemporary American socio-political realities, helping to ensure an interpretation of the text's communicative, rhetorical, and ideological significance.

5. DISCUSSIONS

President Donald Trump's 2025 inaugural speech reveals a strategic deployment of language deliberately crafted to communicate his political vision, authority, and ideology. His inaugural speech is a formal political text practically structured to inform, persuade, and mobilize the American citizens. Text-linguistic analysis makes it possible to examine structural and semantic cohesion within a given speech by highlighting how lexical choices, thematic progression, and rhetorical devices construct textured or unified meaning. This approach integrates the micro-level features, such as pronouns and repetition, and macro-level organisation, as well as ideological framing and narrative structure, thereby allowing a comprehensive understanding of a speech's communicative impact (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981).

In terms of lexical analysis, the research identifies frequent use of evaluative adjectives and strong action verbs by the President to emphasise leadership direction and national priorities. For example, lexical words like *strong*, *great*, and *united* keep recurring across sentences. Such words are deliberately chosen to reinforce his key political themes. Some semantic fields related to patriotism, economic revival, and national security dominate the text. Also, the president used some collocational patterns, like *protect our borders* or *restore American greatness*, to create semantic cohesion that underscores central policy messages. The use of these lexical items and their repetition in the text is meant to strengthen the thematic focus of the speech and also to enhance audience recall. This method also serves a certain ideological function, that is, by projecting the president as a leader who is not only capable but decisive, as well (Charteris-Black, 2011).

Cohesion in the text is revealed through the use of grammatical and lexical devices. The use of inclusive pronouns such as *we* and *our* connects the president with the American nation, thereby giving a sense of collective identity, while pronouns like *they* isolate his opponents. Also, the use of the conjunctions *and*, *but*, and *therefore* link the various clauses to maintain a logical flow in the text. The use of ellipsis and substitution condenses his ideas without compromising clarity. The recurrence of his references to groups, institutions, or historical events is used to maintain continuity across paragraphs of the text. The cohesive strategies help to ensure that the speech operates as a unified text by supporting the thematic continuity and reinforcing persuasive and ideological aims (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981).

The thematic progression, as noticed in the text, is used to enhance coherence, guiding the listeners towards a logical sequence. The president's inaugural speech starts with an affirmation of some democratic traditions and the idea of national unity, then transitions to policy priorities, and ends with a call for collective responsibility. The intertextual references to other past presidential texts and historical events locate the speech within wider political narratives, to give the speech some credibility. Coherence, again, is sustained through the clear sequencing of ideas and the explicit connections between the themes, to ensure that the audience follows the argument. This pattern of organisation reinforces the speech's rhetorical objectives and also strengthens its ideological positioning (Wodak, 2009; Campbell & Jamieson, 2008).

Repetitive strategies tend to function both as a cohesive and rhetorical device in the text. Phrases such as *America first* and *restore greatness* occur several times, and they are used to link separate sections and also to reinforce key policy messages. The use of repetition aims to strengthen audience recall, to emphasize the central themes, as well as create rhythm and momentum. It also serves to create persuasive impact, appeals to emotion and reinforces authority. This strategic repetition solidifies his ideological messages and ensures consistency of his vision. Such strategies are often employed in political messages for the purpose of maintaining clarity, coherence, and rhetorical effectiveness (Charteris-Black, 2011).

The use of pronouns can play important roles in ideological positioning. Such inclusive pronouns as *we* strengthen levels of solidarity and some sense of collective identity, by connecting the audience with the speaker's objectives. Contrastively, the use of pronouns like *they* and *them* separates political opposition camps or ideological opponents. This type of distinction strengthens group boundaries and establishes authority and leadership capabilities. van Dijk's socio-cognitive framework explains how linguistic choices can encode power relations and social identity, constructing in-group and out-group dynamics. This strategic employment of pronouns can promote audience alignment with the president's political vision and strengthen his ideological influence (van Dijk, 1998).

Modality is employed in the text to convey the ideas of certainty, obligation, and commitment. The presence of modal verbs like *will*, *must*, and *shall* reveals the levels of determination and leadership decisiveness. The deliberate use of these modal verbs is mainly to influence audience perception and to project credibility and authority. Meanwhile, the declarative sentences team up with the modal verbs to emphasise responsibility, policy priorities, and national objectives. Modality again reveals the persuasive intent, thereby highlighting certain obligations and expectations for collective action. From these linguistic devices, we notice that the speech demonstrates both political authority and moral responsibility by ensuring that the audience interprets the statements as binding and meaningful.

The use of metaphor and figurative language is often key to rhetorical strategy in inaugural speeches. Trump uses expressions such as "building a stronger nation" and "fighting for America" to frame certain abstract political ideas as a way to connect or relate with his audience. Metaphorical language also evokes emotional response, which can help in the understanding of policy challenges. Also, some recurring symbolic patterns create cohesion across the speech, thereby connecting the separate ideas thematically. The use of figurative language strengthens not just national identity, as well as collective purpose, but also, political legitimacy. The president's strategic use of metaphor is meant to ensure that his abstract goals are communicated clearly and to enhance persuasive impact, as well as audience engagement (Charteris-Black, 2011).

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) analysis reveals the distribution of process types and thematic organization in texts. Noticeable in his speech are: material processes which describe actions such as "we will secure our borders," relational processes which define leadership qualities and national identity. The mental processes are deployed to convey his intentions and commitments, while the verbal processes reflect a type of dialogue with the audience. Meanwhile, the thematic progression in the clauses ensures elements of cohesion and reinforces rhetorical objectives. This method reveals how the structural and functional features in the text work together to achieve persuasion, coherence, and ideological positioning, providing an insight into the speech's textual organisation and communicative effectiveness (Halliday & Hasan, 1976).

The intertextual nature of the speech is seen in how it connects to American national history and other previous presidential achievements. Such a relationship renders credibility and locates contemporary policy goals within some particular established traditions. Intertextuality anchors shared historical knowledge, thereby reinforcing ideological alignment and legitimacy. Intertextual connections also enhance coherence by anchoring themes in familiar narratives and linking multiple sections of the address. By invoking collective memory, the speech projects the president as not only a custodian of tradition but an agent of progress (Wodak, 2009; Campbell & Jamieson, 2008).

Some rhetorical strategies, like parallelism, emphasis, and declarative statements, help to enhance audience engagement and memorability. Emotional appeals help to stir patriotism, hope, urgency, and reinforce thematic focus. Cohesive and lexical devices lend support to the rhetorical patterns by creating rhythm, as well as maintaining continuity. Repetitive patterns, metaphor, and use of pronouns, collectively enhance persuasion and ideological influence. These strategies interconnect with the lexical and syntactic features so as to communicate political authority. They also work to mobilise public support, by illustrating the complex networking between language, ideology, and rhetorical intent in presidential discourse (Charteris-Black, 2011; Fairclough, 1995).

On the whole, the text demonstrates a purposeful combination of lexico-semantic, cohesive, and rhetorical strategies to construct ideas of meaning, authority, and ideological influence. Cohesion, coherence, modality, metaphor, pronoun usage, and thematic progression collectively ensure that the text conveys certain policy priorities clearly while at the same time aligning the audience with the speaker's goals. SFL and CDA perspectives reveal how language enacts power, constructs identity, and engages citizens in shared national objectives. The intertextual references and historical allusions further strengthen credibility. President Trump's speech exemplifies a carefully textured political text crafted not just to persuade or to inform, but also to legitimise authority (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Fairclough, 1995; van Dijk, 1998).

5.1. FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

Analysis of President Trump's 2025 inaugural speech reveals some significant linguistic patterns, rhetorical strategies, and ideological positioning that contribute to how cohesion, coherence, and persuasive impact operate in texts. The following are the key findings in the text:

- Trump heavily employs the use of evaluative adjectives and certain strong action verbs, like *great*, *strong*, and *united*, to reinforce his vision, leadership legitimacy and national priorities.
- The use of inclusive pronouns such as *we* and *our* dominates the text to indicate his ideas of solidarity and collective identity. He also employs the use of pronouns such as *they* to delineate his political or ideological opponents.
- The constant repetition of particular phrases and slogans, such as *America first* and *restore greatness*, operates as a cohesive and rhetorical strategy aimed at enhancing memorability and thematic continuity.
- The deliberate use of modality and declarative sentences is meant to convey degrees of certainty, obligation, and authority, thereby projecting his leadership decisiveness and reinforcing his persuasive intent.
- Noticeable are also the use of metaphors and figurative language. Phrases such as *building a stronger nation* or *fighting for America* are meant to simplify certain complex political ideas, evoke emotion, and link thematic elements across the speech.

6. CONCLUSION

The analysis of President Trump's 2025 inaugural text reveals a deliberate use of language as a vehicle to convey authority, ideology, and national vision. His lexical choices, inclusive of the evaluative adjectives, action verbs, and the recurring semantic fields, emphasize leadership traits, unity, as well as policy priorities. The use of various cohesive devices like the pronouns, conjunctions, and repetition anchors textual continuity. Also, the thematic progression and intertextual references link the speech to its historical and political contexts. On the other hand, the rhetorical strategies, metaphors, parallelism, and modality convey persuasion, engage the audience emotionally, and project decisive measures. The aspects of Systemic Functional Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis in the text reveal how process types, clause structures, and evaluative language construct identity, power, and alignment with the American people. The speech also reveals a complex interplay between specific lexico-semantic, structural, and rhetorical features by reflecting how political discourse functions, not just to inform or mobilize, but also to legitimize authority by conveying ideological meaning in a coherent and organized textual framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings in the text, the following recommendations are made:

- Presidential or inaugural speeches should often employ evaluative adjectives and strong action verbs for the purpose of emphasizing leadership legitimacy, as well as national priorities.
- The use of inclusive pronouns like *we* and *our* should be given priority so as to foster ideas of unity and collective identity. The use of contrasting pronouns should be carefully handled while trying to delineate people in the opposition.
- Repetition of particular relevant phrases, slogans, or certain policy statements should be strategically employed in order to reinforce themes and improve audience recall.
- Modality and declarative sentence structures should be employed in the process of trying to project authority, confidence, commitment and enhancing persuasive impact.
- Figurative language and metaphors should be utilized in order to simplify some complex ideas, to evoke emotion, and to connect the thematic elements across texts.

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