

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's condolence speech after terrorist attack at Mosque in New Zealand: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the research is to critically analyze the speech of the President of New Zealand Jocinda Arden which she gave in assembly after terrorist attack at mosques in New Zealand. The researcher examined that how Jocinda Arden's speech shows empathetic elements. The researcher has noticed that this speech is significant for the minorities those who are living in New Zealand. The current research is descriptive in nature. The researcher used qualitative methodology to critically analyze the speech. The data has been analyzed by using Norman Fair Clough's three-dimensional analytical model and conclusion is given based upon analysis. The research will be significant for the future researchers and give some insights to other critics.

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Introduction

The research has been designed to critically analyze the speech of Jocinda Ardern that how does the speech of Jocinda Ardern show the sympathy towards the victim's family and what are the empathetic elements which have been used by Jocinda Ardern. The research is also aims at finding out the hidden meaning of this speech with the help of CDA (critical discourse analysis). Critical linguistics has another name which is called critical discourse analysis (CDA). It was initiated in Britain in 1980s, when the article about language and control was issued. Political discourse analysis is a type of critical discourse analysis which researches the way the language is exploited, social power abuse, dominance, inequality and other things which are used by politicians for the sake of their own benefit. The analysis of political discourse is probably not a new term. The language of classical Western was disguise in different means and this codifying language was used by political figures to persuade common people. The analyst of political discourse analysis tries to understand the meaning of verbal and nonverbal language of politicians and makes fair assumptions.

According to Greco-Roman traditions humans are regarded two types of creature. First they have ability to speak and second they have a nature to live together in groups. For Cicero the refinement of the power of speech is important feature of

human. For others it was the feature of fabrication and deformation of language. Whether it is politician or a preacher, they use rhetorical language for their own benefit even a huckster uses this kind of talent of language for selling his goods, So language without any doubt Critical Discourse effect the minds of other people. The Frankfurt school and other prominent scholars like Benjamin, Adorno, Habermas and Stuart Hall etc. were link the language to politics and culture. Socially concerned scholars like Kress and Hodge and Fowler produced Critical Linguistics in England but later on many renowned scholars followed their way and made a broader term Critical Discourse Analysis. Scholars in this movement did not work on the Chomsky's generative language but they intended to work on systematic function of a language. This theoretical point of view of language use does not investigate language as a mental phenomenon but as a social phenomenon. Critical discourse analysis regards language is a social practice not a mental practice. There were many incidents in history which gave the chance to politicians to prove themselves that they give importance to common man. Through their actions and selection of words they captured the attention of whole world just like the Jocinda Ardern, the Prime Minister of New Zealand has brought the revolution after terrorist attack in mosques. Two back-to-back mass shooting occurred at Al Noor mosque and then Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch. That was very

brutal act in the history because this attack was carried out by a single gunman who entered in mosques with a live streaming on face book and started shooting at Muslims, during their Friday prayer on 15 March 2019 at around 1.40pm. It killed 51 people and 49 were injured in this brutal attack. The motives of this attack were Far-right Extremism, Islamic phobia and white supremacy. The shooter was the extremist and great believer of White Genocide conspiracy theory. PM Jocinda Arden had quietly broken the expectation about the way Western Leaders responded to previous terrorist attacks. She had resisted war rhetoric unlike the other Western Leaders. She understands the emotions of victims and the choice of words which she had been used in assembly were consoling the victims.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

It was observed that politicians use language in order to gain attention of the people. The researcher has noticed that Jocinda Arden the president of New Zealand has used empathetic elements to show the sympathy towards victim's family after terrorist attack in mosques.

1.2 Research Objectives

The research has following objectives to meet.

- To identify the elements of sympathy in Jocinda Arden speech.
- To identify the reasons of using empathetic elements in Jocinda Arden speech.

1.3 Research Questions

The research has following questions to meet.

1. How does the speech of Jocinda Arden show sympathy towards victim's family?
2. Which emphatic elements have been used by Jocinda Arden in her speech and why?

1.4 Significance of the Study

Critical discourse analysis is a method to critically analyze the any kind of text, written or verbal discourse, advertisements, movies, newspapers and even one can use this method for analyzing multi-modals. It helps the linguist to understand the deep meaning of a surface structure. In some way it is also helpful for language learners. It is also beneficial for critics to understand the political language. This research gives the way to other researcher that how language is exploited by politicians.

Literature Review

Many analysts of political discourse analysis examined that language is a medium of

communication and politicians use exaggerated style of language intended to impress other people. Z.S Harris an American structuralism linguist concluded in his article on language that discourse is not only scratches of words but it embodiment of speaker's activity. So this idea was further developed by J.R Firth that language has performative function. Moreover, he focuses on the meaning of discourse in a certain context.

Fowler wrote an article Language and control in 1979 in which he talked about the basic principles of discourse Analysis. According to Fowler it is inappropriate to examine discourse without analyzing its historical, cultural and social factors involving to it. He also emphasized that every language has some ideological meaning and it also reflects some kind of social relation. We can't analyze any language without the consideration of social, cultural and historical background. According to Van Dijk every utterance has meaning in it and language has two formation processes one is text and other is discourse. Text is basically a structure and discourse is focuses on social, cultural and historical conditions. He employed this theory in the study political discourse, academics and the analysis of news.

Politicians prepare and practice their every action by language, not only this rather; they generate a spell of their goodness with the help of language upon common people. This tool of using language is very profitably for the politicians in order to shape the thoughts of people. They present their ideologies to voters by language. Chimbarange, Takavarasha, and Kombe (2014) defined that the basic purpose of politicians is to convince their nation that their political claims are valid. Every politician presents their planning to nation that how they will solve the problems of country and how they are going to transform the society. They exaggerate their language by using different modes of language. Politicians try to win confidence of people through powerful ideologies in this way they shape the minds and behavior of people. This conclude that politicians make extra efforts to convince the people to gain votes urges them to throw away their previous government and persevere to the new ones. That is why, another definition of political discourse analysis is connected that it is a game of power and the practice of that power. It has some different features because it includes theses speeches are delivered at political forums. These political

speeches are given by politicians who come off diverse political status/position on various levels. Several works have been conducted to observe rhetoric language of politicians. Wen Chen (2018) a Chinese wrote a paper on Donald trump inaugural speech and reveal the real intentions of Donald Trump. This paper also concludes that Donald Trump used different forms of language to gain the attention of audience for getting votes. Another work is done by Abbas Degan and Nesaem Mehdi (2016) on Donald Trump's sexist ideology. In their article they examined that how Donald Trump's language shows sexism. In this article it was concluded that Donald Trump negatively portrays women and underestimate them.

Politics is linked to those activities that manipulate the action of people and government policies for a country. Rachman and Yuniarti (2017) aimed to critically analyze Donald Trump's presidential campaign and the main focus of the research was on his utterances. They observed the words of Trump's speech, delivery of political discourse, the foremost aim behind the language and spontaneous influence of his language on people by using CDA's Van Dijk thematic theory. They concluded that Trump's rhetoric language and his own ideology which depicts that his basic purpose was to gain power and to control people's mind. His utmost goal is to win American nation's heart. His political planning of using language strategies made his struggle true and he was elected as the president of America.

Aqsa Noreen and her fellow Muhammad Imran Shah (2018) published an article in which they examined the Prime Minister Imran Khan's First public speech. In their article they concluded that how Imran khan's speech effect the minds of people. PM Imran khan talks about the world which once Quaid-e-Azam had dreamt of, in that way he captures the attention of his voters. They used Fairclough's tri-phased model to analyze Imran khan's speech.

Another work has been done by Arslan Arshad (2019). He also investigated the speech of PM Imran khan's victory and inaugural speech. He concluded that PM Imran Khan's speech shows hope to the masses. He positively analyzes the speech. He also concluded that by using persuasive language one can achieve his goals. He

also uses Fairclough's tri-shaped model in his research.

Most political activities are prepared and effectively manipulated through the use of language and the main purpose of language was the allocation of resources. Sharndama (2015) critically analyzed the inaugural speech of President Muhammadu Buhari. He gave this speech after his swearing into office on the 29th May 2015. Norman Furlough's three-dimensional Analytical Models was used to critically analyze the speech of President Muhammadu Buhari. The model he used in article was consists of description, interpretation and explanation. The result of the study highlighted that an inaugural speech is a revelation of plans and hopes in the new government. President Buhari intends to operate good governance, international relations, foreign policies, and the nation's economy.

Some politicians use model verbs and personal pronouns which give positive impacts to audience. Massoud Sharififar and her fellow Elahe Rahimi (2015) do a contrastive study on Barack Obama and Rouhani's speeches at UN in September 2013. They analyzed that both used the model verbs which shows their planning to fulfill their task to help the nation and to make developed country. They concluded that these model verbs play an important role in speeches because by these model verbs they persuade their nation to keep firm belief in their Presidents. They also concluded that by using personal pronouns they shorten the distance between audience and the President, which also shows that they are standing with their nation in every thick and thin. The researchers analyzed Obama's and Rouhani's speeches by Halliday's systematic functional linguistic approach.

Discourse may indirectly have impact on people's actions as Ghilzai (2017) perceived language as a foundation of social construction and individual or group relationship. For him, studies related to sociolinguistics attempt to explain the core relationship between use of language and importance of perception.

Methodology

Qualitative method has been used for complete understanding of the speech of Jocinda Ardern which she gave in assembly after a shooting attack at mosques in New Zealand. Qualitative research is basically an exploratory research. It is applied

for the complete comprehension of implicit facts, motives and opinions. The researcher took the speech of Jocinda Ardern which she gave in an assembly after terrorist attack at mosques through internet and then critically analyzed the words which show empathetic elements.

3.1 Population

Speeches of Jocinda Ardern

3.2 Sample

1 Speech of Jocinda Arden in Parliament House

3.3 Theoretical Framework

Fairclough's Three Dimensional Model

The researcher will use the Fairclough(1995) model of CDA which consists of three interrelated phases of analysis. These phrases are linked to three interrelated dimensions of discourse i.e textual, interpretational and social levels. In each level researcher will do a different kind of analysis:

- Text analysis (description)
- Processing analysis (interpretation)
- Social analysis (explanation)

This model enabled the researcher to critically examine the speech of Jocinda Ardern.

Data Analysis

4.1 Textual Analysis

The 1st phase of Fairclough's model is textual analysis. It includes the structure analysis of sentence in terms of morphology, semantics, and syntax and cohesion organization above the sentence level.

The translated version of Jocinda's speech is consisted of more than 2000 words. This long speech can be contextually divided into three parts. In first part of the speech she gives the details of incident in second part she shows sympathy towards victims and in third part she focused on taking measure against arms. The sentence structure is declarative and narrative in nature.

She has started her speech with ASSLAM ALIKUM and closed her speech with ASSALAMULIKUM WA RAHMATULAH WABARAKATUHU which draws the attention of all Muslim community.

She has conspicuously used the name of martyrs to make her words more powerful so that she can seek the attention of all people.

She has used personal pronouns 'WE' 34 times to show that the victims belongs to them.

She has mostly used SOV structure in the form of narration in which she imparts authentic

information of attack through facts and figures to make her speech more powerful and empathetic i.e. *took away the lives of 50 people*.

She has used direct sentences to consolidate the victims i.e. *we cannot know your grief, but we can walk with you at every stage. We can*.

Proximately 40% of her speech is devoted to the victims.

4.2 Processing Analysis

In the phase of processing analysis, it has been observed that formal and contextual links have been used to make the text cohesive. She has used presupposition in her speech by saying that *our collective memories*. The listener and the speaker both know about those horrible memories. She paused many times to show that her speech is natural. Her pauses also show her emotions that narrating this incident was very difficult task for her. While talking about shooter she has used repetition technique to put emphasis that he should be nameless in the history of New Zealand. i.e He is a terrorist. He is a criminal. He is an extremist.

She has also used referencing expression many times in her speech while talking about the martyrs. She has also used conjunction and substitution in her speech to show her speech more realistic related to context.

4.3 Social Analysis

In this final phase of Fairclough(1995 ,p.62) model of CDA, the text has been analyzed in the socio-cultural context of communicative events: economic (i.e. economy of media), political (i.e. power and ideology of the media), and cultural (i.e. issues of value).

In this terrorist attack the shooter murdered 50 people in the mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in March, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern responded differently than other leaders. She handled all the things in a very compassionate and empathetic way.

She has started her speech by Salam to grasp the attention of all Muslim community and all over the world i.e. .

Mr Speaker, Al salam Alaikum.

Peace be upon you. And peace be upon all of us.

Both slogans are related to Muslims. Muslim community used it but she has not only said Asslam alikum also explained the meaning of Islam has been highlighted. She has basically highlighted that Islam is the religion of peace and

she has delivered that message to whole world that probably other Muslim leaders might not be successful in conveying but she has conveyed that meaning very beautifully in her speech.

She reassures people that the situation is under control. She seems very ashamed as she says that she is not in position to give all answers to those questions of Muslim community but she is courageous enough that she is showing confidence that with unity and faith we will sort out the things and ensure the safety of all Muslim and other people of New Zealand.

I'd like to talk about some of the immediate measures currently in place especially to ensure the safety of our Muslim community, and more broadly the safety of everyone.

She thanked police and other Muslim martyrs who lost their lives by saving other people she mentioned their names in her speech. She gave the bio data of all martyrs who lost their lives by saving other people. She narrated each and every thing related to incident which depicts that how much she concerned about the victims. She feels the sorrows of victims. Even she said that there are many other stories of martyrs that she don't know she feels sorry for them. While narrating the stories of martyrs her voice is over whelming. Her facial expression support what she was saying. The impacts of these narrations are very strong not only victims but on all communities of the world.

Naeem Rashid, originally from Pakistan, died after rushing at the terrorist and trying to wrestle the gun from him.

He lost his life trying to save those who were worshipping alongside him.

Abdul Aziz, originally from Afghanistan, confronted and faced down the armed terrorist after grabbing the nearest thing to hand — a simple eftpos machine.

He risked his life and no doubt saved many with his selfless bravery

Ardern's reaction towards terrorism is differed. She openly expressed her sadness. She asked media to headlines the names of victims and martyrs of Christchurch and refusing to say the attacker's name, denying him notoriety. It shows that how much she feels guilty towards victims and how much she is angry towards attacker that she can't even mention her name in her whole speech. It has a great effect positive on all Muslim community that the names of victims are

highlighted but the gun shooter remained nameless in spite of that he belongs to same white community. While talking about the attacker her voice is shaking due to hearted and she plead to media that they should not speak the name of a man who brutally took the lives of other instead that they should speak the names of martyrs so that they will always remain alive.

I implore you: speak the names of those who were lost, rather than the name of the man who took them. He may have sought notoriety, but we in New Zealand will give him nothing. Not even his name.

Indeed, even the Ardern government's arrangement reactions were ostensibly determined by empathy. Her administration offered to pay memorial service costs and made tax-exempt "survivor awards" accessible for the accomplices, kids and dependents of the victims.

Visas for family members overseas are being prioritized so that they can attend funerals.

Funeral costs are covered, and we have moved quickly to ensure that this includes repatriation costs for any family members who would like to move their loved ones away from New Zealand.

She also thanked the other Muslim countries in a very profound way. Her positive attitudes towards all Muslim community show them she is flexible and non-extremist. She calms down their anger by saying that:

And we are grateful to the global Muslim community who have stood with us, and we stand with the.

She vowed to give justice to the victims. It shows that she was very guilty towards Muslim community that this incident has happened in her country and it's their rite to get justice so that they will be in ease.

He will face the full force of the law in New Zealand. The families of the fallen will have justice.

In the end of her speech she acknowledges the grief of victims. She asked her people to support them so that they can freely worship in New Zealand. In the last line she ends the discrimination of us and others by saying that they are all the New Zealanders.

Let us acknowledge their grief as they do.

Let's support them as they gather again for worship.

We are one, they are us.

Conclusion

After critically analyzing the data the researcher has been concluded that the Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Arden gave very powerful speech in Parliament. Her speech is full of empathetic words. Her choices of words are very profound about 40% of her speech is related to the victims and their grieves. Her facial expression is justifying her words which she has used in her speech. Her speech gave a powerful impact not only Muslim community but on all communities. She has tactfully captured the attention of whole world. She won the heart of all victims. She calmed down their anger with her marvelous speech.

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