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József Balogh
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THE LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF JACQUES CHIRAC’S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECHES

Supervisor: Dr. Árpád Mihalovics

University of Pannonia
Veszprém
PhD-School of Linguistics
Specialised communication:
society, politics, economy, culture subprogram
While extensive researches were and have been conducted in the Western Block countries, the research of political-diplomatic communication could have been started in Hungary only after the political changes of 1989/1990. Consequently, this field is a relatively young and relatively untouched area of linguistics.

The **theme of dissertation** is a special sphere of the specific French communication on politics and diplomacy, the linguistic analysis of a subcorpus of the former French President Jacques Chirac’s (1995–2007) foreign policy speeches by applying the main practical methods of discourse analysis. It should be emphasized that the detailed discourse analysis in a non-classical sense are examinations from a linguistic aspect. The research focuses rather on „parole” and not on the linguistic system but on the individual use of the code.

The **corpus** consists of 19 speeches – all in relation with the globalization - of the chapter 5 titled *Humaniser et maîtriser la mondialisation* of Jacques Chirac’s book titled *Mon combat pour la paix* which contains the collection of the president’s most important foreign policy speeches.

The **aim of the interdisciplinary research** is to understand and interpret Chirac’s above mentioned speeches, as well as the demonstration of the essential linguistic elements and unique features of this understanding and interpretation.

Understanding and interpretation can be linked to different linguistic levels, consequently, the **methods** of this research are *observation, identification, classification* and *description*.

**The structure of the dissertation**: it consists of two main parts and 10 chapters.

**Part 1: The positioning of the dissertation theme**

In this part containing 8 chapters – in accordance with its title – our aim is to position the theme of dissertation. Partly, the theoretical and linguistic background of the research is outlined – with the help of critical assessment of specialised literature –, e.g. discourse analysis and specialised languages, the French political, diplomatic and presidential communication and / or discourse are mentioned. Partly, the external linguistic factors
necessary for the understanding and interpreting the presidential communication and / or
discourse are dealt with, in other words the historical, political, diplomatic and legal context
of the analysed speeches is given. The majority of the syntheses related to the analytical part
of the thesis are based on works of French or Francophone linguists.

Part 2: The methods of discourse analysis in practice
In the two chapters of Part 2 the different methods of discourse analysis are employed in
practice. The speeches of our corpus are investigated on the following linguistic levels:
lexico-semantic and / or terminological and pragmatic. Our aim is to explore the linguistic
components necessary for the understanding and interpreting the above mentioned speeches.

Conclusion
The conclusion summarizes the results based on the aims of research, and contrasts the
research results and the hypotheses.

Theses
The most important research results are summarized in thesis points.

The most important statements of conclusions and theses

Hypotheses (H) and results (conclusions)

H1) Jacques Chirac’s speeches are quite themed.

Result: The hypothesis is true.

As the corpus shows the speeches involve different (main and sub-) themes. The recognition
of the semantic relations helps to identify and separate the main and the subtopics.

H2) The speeches of the corpus are designed around keywords.

Result: This hypothesis has proved to be true.

The vocabulary of speeches consists of lexical fields with keywords in their centers. The
lexical fields are connected to each other.
H3) The political and diplomatic terms are dominant in the corpus.

Result: This hypothesis has not proved to be true.
It is true that in the analysed speeches the rate of political, diplomatic, economic and legal terms is high, however several terms from other specialised languages have been borrowed, e.g. from the field of culture, education, health, technics, etc. The composition of the terms in speeches is determined by the theme itself – in turn there is no theme in which politics and diplomacy would not intervene. Furthermore the rate of common words is surprisingly high resulting from the clarity of messages and the more successful persuasion.

H4) Most words used in the speeches are connoted.

Result: The hypothesis is true.
The reason is the creation of the contrasts.

H5) The directive and promissive speech acts are likely to be dominant due to the nature of politics and diplomacy.

Result: The hypothesis is true.
The personal and interpersonal political and diplomatic will is expressed by directives, while promises are denoted by promissives. Though there are a lot of indirect speech acts in accordance with the nature of diplomacy. In addition all speech acts are important means of efficient persuasion, e.g. declarations (giving facts, outlining and contrasting the own and other viewpoints) expressives and assertives (expressing emotions).

H6) Among personal deixes the 'I' is in the center.

Result: The hypothesis is true.
The Frech President is the governor of the nation’s foreign policy, the head of diplomacy, so he is the main character of the speeches. With regard to discourse strategy the I, me, my, mine etc. are means of individualization and identification. In turn we, you, he/she, they can also be used for identification apart from generalization, keeping distance and collectivization.
H7) The volitive modality is involved in every speech of the corpus.

Result: The hypothesis is true.

The politics and diplomacy as well as the specialized language for politics and diplomacy is the main area of the expression and realization of the mono- and interpersonal will.

H8) The affective modality is present in every speech of the corpus.

Result: The hypothesis is true.

The main goal is to influence the audience’s / readers’ emotions too.

H9) Jacques Chirac’s language use has unique features.

Result: The hypothesis is true.

Jacques Chirac uses a rich, layered and connotated vocabulary. There are so called chiraquisms too. In his speeches there are a lot of attributive and adverbal structures (caracterization and modality) and infinitive structures (virtuality), listing (emphasis), ellipses, exclamations and rhetorical questions (emotions). Chirac is one of the most effective users of Aristotle’s means of persuasion (Logos, Pathos, Ethos). Altogether it can be concluded that Pathos and Ethos come into prominence, while Logos is more or less in the background.

Summary of results (theses)

1. Discourse – terminological distinctions:

   The notion of discourse is interpreted differently in some language areas.
   • In the English linguistics there is not a sharp terminological difference between the discourse and the text, or discourse analysis and text analysis. Still in practice these two interpretations are differentiated: discourse analysis focuses on the structure of the spoken language, while text analysis deals with the written language.
   • In French-speaking areas the term discours is a more abstract notion, which has become a linguistic term originating from linguistic philosophy, science philosophy, political and social philosophy. It denotes mainly the relationship of the language and thinking, the creation and maintenance of human knowledge and experience, it suggests the semantic-epistemological dimension.
   • In German-speaking areas the notions of Diskurs and Dialog deriving from social and communication theory are important from the standpoint of discourse analysis.
In the **Hungarian** scientific language the term *discourse* is related to the English and German notion of discourse.

### 2. Discourse analysis – the importance of the political-diplomatic discourse analysis

Since the middle of the last century interdisciplinary researches have started to investigate how the series of sentences can form coherent linguistic units. The researchers of discourse analysis state that the discourse / text is also a social phenomenon. Their dual nature, their linguistic and social aspects make the analysis of the written or spoken discourses / texts possible. The production and perception of discourses / texts, as well as the strategies and techniques that help the organisation, furnishing and interpretation of social life via discourses and texts are in the focus of investigations. According to Francophone researchers the analysis of political-diplomatic discourse is important, because it enables, maintains and modifies the political-diplomatic actions, so it is also the goal and the device at the same time. The background of the discourse analysis is a philosophical paradigm shift, a linguistic and narrative change. The discourse analysis is not a homogeneous area, it has different directions. One of the directions is the linguistic discourse analysis, which is not uniform either. The linguistic analysis, political interpretation and historic evaluation of the discourses are not identical categories. The linguistic discourse analysis is not the same as the content analysis – its important field is the subjectivity (person and modality), as well as the effect to be generated.

### 3. Foreign policy:

Each foreign policy speech has a common generating factor that is hidden. In each political speech the unique principles and foreign policy goals can be explored which connect all foreign policy speeches to a coherent whole: the part contains the whole, the whole includes the part. A question is coming up on whether Chirac and his foreign policy is chosen as the theme of the dissertation simply because of sympathy, which could question the scientific justification of the problem. The answer is definitely no, because the Chirac values are viewed in the systemic relation of the global political-diplomatic events: its aims and effects are investigated indirectly concerning the present-day human problems (e.g. globalization, ecology, sustainable development, social cohesion, linguistic and cultural diversity, etc.). Such a problem handling replies to a further question: Why is it necessary for Hungarian researchers to deal with a French President’s foreign policy speeches? Because Chirac’s
foreign policy has both French and global concerns involving everybody, and today France is still important politically and diplomatically, Hungary having an observer status in OIF (International Organization of the Francophonie) also pays attention to its foreign policy.

4. **Lexicology and lexicometry:**
Lexicometric investigations can shed light on the individual use of words. Another advantage of lexicometry is that it explores not only lexicologic but morphologic, syntactic, rhetoric and stylistic features.

5. **Semantics:**
Identifying the semantic relations the main topic and the subtopics of a specialised text can be separated.

6. **Terminology:**
It is a common fact that there are no pure specialised languages. The same is true for the language for political diplomacy which borrows from the terminologies of other specialised languages (law, economy, education, health, techniques, etc.). Besides the terms the rate of common words is surprisingly high, which can be explained with the clarity and the more successful persuasion.

7. **Pragmatics:**
In case of the specific texts on politics and diplomacy the directive (the expression of personal and interpersonal will) and promissive speech acts (promises) have an important role, however it does not mean that the speaker does not use the other speech acts as well. Accordingly, the expressives and assertives are also important because they express feelings, furthermore the declaratives are also essential. The speaker can stress different parts of the sentence with the help of personal deixes, because these elements help the use of more kinds of discursive strategies: individualization, identification, generalization, collectivisation, or even keeping distance.
8. **Levels of linguistic analysis in practice:**
In case of discourse analysis the separation of the linguistic levels is schematic, it is used for simplifying and modelling the understanding and interpretation. The human brain handles these levels simultaneously.

9. **The use of the research findings:**
The research findings can be made use of in translation courses on specialised French for politics and diplomacy, compiling specialised course books, glosses, dictionaries, although it may arouse the interest of laity, political scientists and politicians as well.
Literature used in the theses

Subject-related publications and conference presentations

1) Published paper in a peer reviewed journal


2) Review

3) Conference paper

4) Compiling books

5) Conference lecture


6) Translation